

NEWS

Accident lucky for some

by Sharu Delilkan

A nasty accident ensured one of the artists performing at this year's Groove in the Park concert could make the gig.

In 1999, Tama Waipara had just scored the financial backing he needed for a second year studying classical music at New York's Manhattan School of Music.

But then, he recall, "a metal fuse box outside my apartment dropped on my head. I heard the sound before I felt the pain.

I was more in shock than in pain at first. I remember putting my hand on my head, which was covered with blood, and the first thing that came to mind was 'have I been shot?'

"I wasn't able to do much for the first nine months and I definitely couldn't play the clarinet. I started singing in local bars because I was

bored." While working with jazz combos, an interest in writing and singing grew. Even though he eventually finished his classical degree in 2001, singing felt like a more comfortable fit.

In 2004, Waipara released a solo album, *Triumph of Time*, with Obliq Sounds. Come February 6, the 31-year-old singer will make his New Zealand debut. He'll be in good company.

The headline act is Supergroove, who took the country by storm a decade ago.

Fate almost dealt Waipara a catastrophic hand. But the cards have turned out to be winners.

■ **Groove in the Park 08, Western Springs, Feb 6. See www.grooveinthepark.co.nz. To book, see www.ticketmaster.co.nz**



TAMA WAIPARA WILL MAKE HIS NEW ZEALAND DEBUT ON FEBRUARY 6

The New Zealand Herald

INFAMOUS UNSOLVED MURDERS

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Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

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