

There was silence as the lights dimmed and more than 300 students took the stage at the sold out Aurora Centre last week.

It hadn't been an easy road to the stage.

Due to February's earthquake, the cultural in the town hall could not go ahead and an alternative venue for the festival could not be found.

But the teachers of Cotswold School, Isleworth School, Harewood Primary and Breens Intermediate were determined to plan a concert to allow the kapahaka and choir groups an opportunity to perform.

About 195 kapahaka children and 110 choir children took part in the performance. Kapahaka tutors Travis Cooper and Norm Paul, along with poi tutor Erica Whall, ensured that each school had a different waiata selection, and unique haka performances.

Cotswold senior teacher Liz Davies said: "While there were a few slight technical glitches due to no dress rehearsal, the concert was enjoyed and appreciated by parents and students. It was the first time on stage for many children, and watching other groups was also a highlight."

Pupil Cheyla Tahi said: "It was fun! Breens' performance was loud and they were good singers."

Chloe-Rose Vrhovnik said: "I liked singing the solo part with Maddison, so many people watching me."

Ms Davies said teachers and parents alike were very proud of the

Tough road to stage for talented pupils

