

KEOLA BEAMER & JEFF PETERSON: With kumu hula* MOANALANI BEAMER

Sunday, January 12, 2020; 2 pm



Songs will be announced from the stage.

Please, no video or audio recording of any kind.
The artists will be available after the show to sign CDs.

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*hula master

KEOLA BEAMER & JEFF PETERSON: With kumu hula MOANALANI BEAMER

Keola Beamer: "The Quintessential Hawaiian Slack-Key
Guitar Master"— *The New York Times*
Jeff Peterson: "His manner is impeccable, his style
exquisite"... "Brilliant" — *Honolulu Advertiser*

Keola Beamer is a Hawaiian legend who has stretched the boundaries of slack key guitar music while remaining true to the soul of its deeply Hawaiian roots. Says Willie Nelson, "There's no better slack key player than Beamer."

Jeff Peterson is one of the most versatile musicians in Hawaiian music today. Specializing in Slack Key, Classical, and Jazz guitar, he has contributed to two Grammy Award-winning recordings and has been honored with nine Na Hōkū Hanohano Awards (Hawai'i's "Grammys").

Together, they present an evening of superb guitar, accompanied by Beamer's rich and soulful vocals, as they explore the beauty of Hawaiian music as it reflects its native land and the range of Hawai'i's many cultural influences. Their styles feature the complexity of technique that has shaped the distinctively resonant sounds of Hawai'i, slack key guitar or ki-ho'alu, with playing that encompasses classical and jazz guitar as well.

They are joined by lovely dancer Moanalani Beamer, who brings hula and Hawaiian chants to the stage, and adds musical texture with ancient Hawaiian instruments.

These two guitar virtuosos continue to wow audiences around the world. Their impeccable playing, playful stage banter, and rich repertoire of original songs and slack key classics make them some of the most highly respected performers in Hawai'i.

KEOLA BEAMER & JEFF PETERSON:

With kumu hula MOANALANI BEAMER continued

ARTIST BIOS



KEOLA BEAMER on slack key guitar: “The art of the Hawaiian slack key guitar is trying to match the composition with the tuning. When you really get into it, you discover that each tuning is kind of a tonal palette. You can really present a piece in a different light than it’s ever been seen before.”

Keolamaikalani Breckenridge Beamer was raised on Hawai‘i Island, born into one of Hawai‘i’s most illustrious and beloved musical families. He established himself early as the family’s youngest standard-bearer. A child of the rock & roll era, he was at the vanguard of Hawaiian contemporary sound. Yet he also helped drive what became the Hawaiian Cultural Renaissance, recording many songs written by his ancestors, including his legendary great-grandmother Helen Desha Beamer and his mother Nona Beamer.

Keola Beamer has been an influential figure in the recognition of *kī hō‘alu* as one of the world’s great guitar traditions. In 1973, he created the first ever comprehensive instruction book on the subject. Keola continues to remain committed to teaching, through seminars, tablature, instructional books and videos. He was one of Hawai‘i’s first recording artists to integrate Hawaiian chants and instruments, like the tiny gourd whistle and the nose flute, with contemporary forms of music. Keola has recorded and produced more than a dozen albums, has won numerous Na Hoku Awards (Hawai‘i’s “Grammy”), including the Lifetime Achievement Award, and appeared on Sesame Street and NBC’s “Today Show.” In recent years, he was honored as a Native Arts & Cultures Foundation Fellow and was inducted into the Hawaiian Music Hall of Fame.

Keola Beamer’s performances on his double-ported nylon and steel string guitars provide the foundation for each of his concerts. These are unique, hand crafted instruments made of hand selected, native Hawaiian wood. These instruments represent a different paradigm in guitar construction. The double-ported design was created by Keola with the help of Maui-based luthier Steve Grimes, a design that he feels more accurately portrays the coloration of his art. He describes this open resonance as *ka moe‘uhane* or more specifically “the language of dreams.”



JEFF PETERSON grew up on the slopes of the Haleakala volcano on Maui, and was introduced to the rich heritage of Hawaiian music and to guitar by his father, a *paniolo* (Hawaiian cowboy) on Haleakala Ranch. Early on, he began to pick up influences from such Hawai‘i slack key greats as the Gabby Pahinui Band, Leonard Kwan, and

Sonny Chillingworth. As his interests broadened, he delved into a wide variety of musical genres and went on to study jazz

and classical guitar at the University of Southern California and at the University of Hawai‘i-Manoa, as well as studying and performing with renowned guitarist Benjamin Verdery.

Jeff’s deep knowledge of open as well as standard tunings has allowed him to collaborate with a wide variety of artists and orchestras. He uses the open tunings of Hawaiian slack key to explore multiple genres with both a sureness of technique and a passionate style. As a performer, Jeff has worked with such artists as Eric Clapton, Led Kaapana, James Galway, Michael Feinstein, Ethel, jazz bassist Rufus Reid, shakuhachi master Riley Lee, soprano Dana Hanchard, and many other artists in Hawaiian, classical, and jazz music. Jeff has written a Concerto for Slack Key Guitar and Orchestra, *Malama Aina*, which premiered in 2016 with the Raleigh Civic Chamber Orchestra and which he performed with the Hawai‘i Symphony in 2017.

He has recorded nine solo CDs to date, garnering the multiple Na Hoku Awards (Hawai‘i’s “Grammy”) in Best Slack Key and Best Instrumental, as well as a Grammy nomination. He is a featured artist on two Grammy-winning compilation CDs in Hawaiian Music, as well as the soundtrack for the award-winning George Clooney film *The Descendants*.

Jeff has a unique and transcendent voice on the guitar while being deeply rooted in the traditions of his Hawaiian heritage. In 2018, he was awarded a Native Arts & Cultures Foundation fellowship. Notes the *Maui News*, Jeff Peterson is “one of our leading, innovative exponents of Hawaiian slack key guitar. An exceptionally talented guitarist, fluent in a variety of styles from jazz and classical to slack key.” — *Maui News*



MOANALANI BEAMER began her hula training at the early age of four with Kumu Hula (Hula Master) Johnny Hokoana, and continued training extensively with several different hula masters; she herself became a “Kumu Hula” in 2011, following a rigorous process of study and graduation (“*uniki*”). Winona Kapualilohia Beamer,

noted elder, culture historian, and mother of her husband Keola, was Moana’s treasured mentor and teacher over two decades until her passing in 2008. Since 2004, Moanalani has been a member of Maui Halau (hula group), Na Hanona Kulike O Pi‘ilani, under the direction of Kumu Sissy Lake-Farm and Kumu Kaponoi Molitau. Her performing career included starring in several hula revues on Maui. In performance with Keola, she dances, chants, sings background vocals, and plays several ancient Hawaiian percussive instruments, including *‘ili ‘ili* (river stone “castanets”), *ka`eke`eke* (cut bamboo) and *lpu* (gourd drum). She remains firmly committed to sharing her cultural knowledge worldwide and continues to teach, sharing her hula knowledge with students on Maui as well as in workshops across the U.S., Japan, South America, and Europe, often when she is on tour with Keola.