

*Tuesday Evening, October 23, 2001, 6:00pm*

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

presents a

## **Hawaii Musical History Program**

Known for perpetuating traditional Hawaiian slack key guitar styling (kiho'alu), **George Kuo** started playing slack key in the 1970s at garage-jam sessions, bars, concerts and parties with friends and old-time slack key masters Raymond Kane, Sonny Chillingworth, Gabby Pahinui, Leland "Atta" Isaacs, Leonard Kwan, Tommy Solomon, Uncle Fred Punahoa, and steel guitar master Barney Isaacs. In 1980 Kuo formed the Kipapa Rush Band, and joined Eddie Kamae and the Sons of Hawaii in 1986. He currently performs steadily at the Waikiki Marriott Hotel and in concerts across the United States and Japan with Martin, Steven, Dennis and David Kamakahi. Kuo has made several slack-key recordings, most recently on the Dancing Cat/Windham Hill label.

**Martin Pahinui** is known for his bass playing and his unique voice, which is reminiscent of his legendary father, Gabby Pahinui. He grew up listening and watching his dad and other famous performer friends gather at their home for rehearsals and memorable jam sessions that sometimes lasted for several days. Pahinui played bass on his father's recordings and with his brothers Cyril, Bla, Philip, and master slack-key guitarists Leland "Atta" Isaacs and Sonny Chillingworth. Pahinui performed at nightclubs on Maui for several years before coming home and playing with the Peter Moor Band in the 1980s and 1990s. He has made many recordings, including Hui Aloha on Dancing Cat/Windham Hill Records and a solo CD.

**Danny Akaka, Jr.**, is known for his traditional ukulele and slack-key guitar playing, as well as his smooth baritone-tenor. In addition to his musical talents, Akaka is also a Hawaiian language speaker and cultural authority, and he perpetuates the old traditions through his music, ceremonial blessings, and hosting of Hawaiian heritage tours and events for the Mauna Kai Bay Hotel. He also performs as a musical ambassador around the world for Aloha Airlines promotions. He was performed with his brother, Alan Akaka, and with many legendary performers such as Nina Keali'iwahamana and Danny Kaleikini.

**Alan Akaka**, considered by many to be the world's leading Hawaiian steel guitar artist and entertainer actively performing today, is president of the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association, an international membership organization of Hawaiian steel guitar players and other Hawaiian stringed instruments. In addition to performing and recording, Akaka teaches intermediate school students Hawaiian music, language, and appreciation at Kamehameha School and the Kamehameha Performing Arts Academy.

**Greg Sardinha** is experienced on guitar, bass, ukulele, and steel guitar. With credits such as playing with Na Hoku Hanohano award-winning artists such as Ipo Kumukahi, the Pahinui Brothers and Amy Hanaiali'i Gilliom, he has staked his claim as one of Hawaii's finest musicians. Presently, Sardinha has his own entertainment and recording company and performs regularly throughout Waikiki.

*Presented in collaboration with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs*

*Through Rowena Akana*