

NEWS RELEASE

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MASTERS OF HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR SERIES BEGINS FOURTH YEAR WITH SECOND GRAMMY AWARD NOMINATION (49th Annual Grammy Nominations Announced)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LAHAINA, MAUI—The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has named the *Legends of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar, Live from Maui* album as a nominee for Best Hawaiian Music Album of the Year. Featured on the CD is music by top slack key artists Ledward Kaapana, Cyril Pahinui, Dennis Kamakahi, Martin Pahinui, George Kahumoku Jr, Ozzie Kotani, Daniel Ho and Keoki Kahumoku. Also performing on the album are Bobby Ingano on steel guitar, Richard Ho'opi'i with Hawaiian falsetto and Peter deAquino and Garrett Probst on ukulele. This is the third Grammy nomination for Keoki Kahumoku.

Like the previous album of this series, which won a Grammy in 2006, the *Legends* CD is a compilation of live music captured at the weekly Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Concert Series at The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua on Maui.

Producers of the album are Daniel Ho, Wayne Wong, George Kahumoku Jr and Paul Konwiser. “One of the beautiful things about honoring a compilation album like this one is that so many wonderful artists are showcased, including two Pahinui brothers,” Konwiser said. “I’m particularly happy to see this recognition go to Uncle Richard Ho'opi'i, a legendary musician in his own right. And I can't say enough about the Ritz-Carlton, whose support has made all of this possible.”

“There's a saying that lightning never strikes the same place twice,” said producer Wayne Wong. “Making the final Grammy nominations list after last year's award is a

confirmation of our love for the music and the Hawaiian culture. *Mahalo nui* to our artists, to the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua for their support and to our *ohana*.”

George Kahumoku was smiling from ear to ear. “It was great bringing home the Grammy earlier this year. If you loved last year's winning CD, The Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar, you'll go bananas over this year's *Legends* Album. We are so fortunate that on this album we were joined by National Folk Legend, *Leo Ki'eki'e* and ukulele Artist Richard Ho'opi'i, as well as stellar steel guitarist Bobby Ingano. One of the goals of our Hawaiian Slack Key Concert Series has always been to promote the next generation of Hawaiian music. We're really happy to again feature 'The Ukulele Boys,' Hawaii's youngest Grammy winning performers, Peter deAquino and Garrett Probst.” Kahumoku also added that he wishes all this year's nominees good luck in the upcoming Grammy awards in Los Angeles in February.

The concert series recently began its fourth year in operation by welcoming the 20,000th guest to the theater at the Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua. The hotel General Manager, Javier Cano, is pleased with its role in the Grammy nomination as well as the success of the concert series. “Warmest congratulations to everyone with Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Concert Series. It has been an honor to have these gifted artists play here at The Ritz-Carlton.”

Clifford Nae'ole, the hotel's Cultural Affairs Advisor was instrumental in bringing the show to Maui. “The Slack Key Masters concert has now enlisted 20,000 aficionados and allies who spread the word and continue to grow in number.”

The 49th annual Grammy awards will be presented in Los Angeles on February 11, 2007. The on-going performance schedule for the Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Concert Series can be found at www.slackkey.com.
