

NEWS RELEASE

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MASTERS OF HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR SERIES WINS THIRD GRAMMY AWARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LAHAINA, MAUI - Los Angeles. *Treasures of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar – Live in Concert from Maui* has been awarded the 50th Annual Grammy Award for Best Hawaiian Music Album. The CD contains music recorded from the Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Concert Series at Napili Kai Beach Resort on Maui. The concert series is now in its fifth year, and CD's of music recorded live at the shows also won Grammys in 2006 and 2007. Among the artists attending the awards ceremony were Sterling Seaton who turned twenty the day before the Grammys, and Uncle Richard Ho'opi'i, who is the oldest of the group. Producer Paul Konwiser said, "In our concert series on Maui and in these recordings, we try to support and encourage the established artists as well as bring recognition to the next generation of Hawaiian musicians."

The album showcases music from some of the very best Hawaiian slack key guitar artists, including George Kahumoku Jr. and Daniel Ho (both of whom also produced), Ledward Kaapana, Cyril and Martin Pahinui, Dennis Kamakahi, Owana Salazar and Keoki Kahumoku. Keoki has been a performer on each of the four CD's that have won the Hawaiian Grammy. Also included on the album is legendary Hawaiian falsetto singer Uncle Richard Ho'opi'i, top Hawaiian steel guitar player Bobby Ingano, and popular young ukulele artists Peter deAquino and Garrett Probst. This is the first recording for newcomer Sterling Seaton. Wayne Wong and Paul Konwiser are the other two producers of this year's winning compilation.

This album includes the first Grammy-winning track by a *wahine* artist. “We were delighted when Owana Salazar agreed to come on board. She is a most gifted female slack key vocalist, and she plays both Hawaiian steel and slack key guitar,” said Kahumoku. In addition to slack key guitar and other instrumental music, eight of the Treasures album’s twelve tracks are vocals sung in the Hawaiian language. “There’s been some controversy about vocal vs. instrumental albums in the Hawaiian category. We want people to know that our album is primarily vocal, and the songs are sung in the Hawaiian language.” said Konwiser.

The concerts take place every Wednesday evening at Napili Kai Beach Resort on Napili Bay in West Maui. Tollfree Reservations can be made by calling (888) 669-3858. Tickets are priced at \$45. More information and the artist schedule for the Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Concert Series can be found at www.slackkey.com.

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About Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Productions, Inc

Founded for the love of the music and grounded in the concept of aloha, Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Productions, Inc is dedicated to perpetuating and preserving traditional Hawaiian music, especially the unique Hawaiian acoustic guitar art form known as “*Kiho’alu*” (Hawaiian Slack Key). The Hawaii corporation develops programs, events and concert series to create a deeper awareness and understanding of this authentic Hawaiian cultural art form.

Digital photos of the artists are available on request.