



Aloha Plenty Fact Sheet • Doug & Sandy McMaster

"Tunes Your World to Aloha!"

Musical style: Hawaiian slack key guitar & ukulele – traditional style.

Hometown: Hanalei, Kauai, Hawaii

Current CD: "POINA 'OLE" – *Never To Be Forgotten* (January 2013)

Awards:

- **#1 BEST LIVE SHOW in Hawaii** – Hawaii Magazine Readers' Choice 2014
- **Official Best of Hawaiian Slack Key Music** 2012
- Hawaii Music Foundation's People's Choice Award – Best Slack Key (Hanalei Tradition II CD)
- Hawaii Music Foundation's People's Choice Award – Best Slack Key (Hanalei Tradition CD)
- 3 Time Finalist Nominee – Na Hoku Hanohano Awards

Members/Instruments:

Doug McMaster: guitar, engineer

Sandy McMaster: ukulele, guitar, engineer, artist

Record Label: Aloha Plenty

Web site: <http://www.McMasterSlackKey.com>

Key Points:

Keeping the tradition alive and "**tuning the world to Aloha**", Doug & Sandy McMaster's 13th slack key CD release, "**POINA 'OLE**", is a selection of 16 traditional slack key instrumentals honoring the kupuna (elders) and ancestors who guided them to know 'what their hands were made for'.

Doug began playing slack key guitar when he was 6 years old and mail ordered his first guitar – a little Roy Rogers and Trigger guitar. Doug hooked Sandy ("just like a fish" she says) when he played slack key on her roommate's guitar. Although she had studied American and World folk music, she had never heard anything like Hawaiian slack key. They've been playing and teaching together ever since. Raymond & Elodia Kane rooted Doug's feet to the slack key path over 30 years ago.

When Doug & Sandy were preparing to move back to Kauai from Molokai in 1999, Kelii (see below) took them aside. He looked at Doug and said, "You and me are the same. We play old style. There are only a handful of people still playing old style. It's up to you to make sure it lives on." We both looked at Kelii saying, "How are we going to do that?". Kelii responded, "As long as people keep hearing the songs and the stories, they will carry the music in their hearts and take it with them all over the world. It will live on."

Settled back on Kauai, Doug & Sandy started a slack key concert series to live up to that mission. People flock to their performances show after show, year after year to spend an afternoon connected to old Hawaii and embraced by the sweet sounds of ki ho'alu and stories. They've performed over 1600 concerts to date.

"Our friend, Kelii, slack key caretaker of Molokai took us under his wing. He learned ki ho'alu (slack key) from his tutu (grandmother), in the old way. As it would be getting dark, he'd find her sitting in the taro patch playing her guitar for the taro, the ancestors, the land, everyone and everything. Ho'oponopono, "making things right", at the end of the day."

Slack key music was born in the taro fields from the heart of the Hawaiian islands. Like Hawaiian language, slack key music expresses many levels of meaning. The story of the song is key to its proper playing. Ho'olohe o pepeiao – Listen and pay attention. Remember where you and the song come from. Know what your hand is made for – what your mission is this lifetime. Live your talents and gifts.

Hawaiian slack key music is comprised of 3 key aspects:

- Always played in an altered guitar tuning... never standard tuning.
- Uses a special fingerstyle technique with the thumb playing rhythms and the fingertips simultaneously playing melodies and harmonies.
- Played from the heart with great aloha... heart filled with love.