



## Aloha Plenty Fact Sheet • Doug & Sandy McMaster

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

Hometown: Hanalei, Kauai, Hawaii

**Current CD:** "UKULELE, Slack Key Style" – *LIVE on the LANAI* (July 2017)

### Awards:

- 2017 Honored by Kauai County with **Proclamation of McMaster Slack Key Day – August 6th**
- **#1 BEST LIVE SHOW** – Kauai – Hawaii Magazine Readers' Choice 2017
- **TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellent 2015 – 2017**
- BEST LIVE SHOW in Hawaii – Hawaii Magazine Readers' Choice 2015
- **#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, kīkū, 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 14<sup>th</sup> slack key CD release, "**UKULELE, Slack Key Style**", is 16 joy filled selections performed on a kīkū and tenor 6 string ukulele inviting ukulele players to get hooked on traditional slack key.

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. A family friend tuned the little guitar to a slack key tuning, handed it to Doug, and said "See what you can do with this." 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 making him realize 'this is what his hand was made for'. On Maui, they were guided by Leonard Kwan, Uncle Sol Kawaihoa, and others.

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 an educational and entertaining 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 of Aloha. They've performed over 2000 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.