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George Kahumoku to receive Lifetime Achievement Award

'Renaissance Man' never stops moving between music. farming, writing, teaching

By JON WOODHOUSE

For The Maui News

Acclaimed as Hawaii's "Renaissance Man," longtime Maui musician George Kahumoku Jr. will be honored in Waikiki on Dec. 4, when he will receive the 2022 Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts Lifetime Achievement Award.

Recognizing many years of accomplishments and contributions to Hawaii's music industry, this year's awards recipients also include Dr. Randie Kamuela Fong, Cecilia Mona Joy Lum, Jim Linkner and Glen Smith.

Kahumoku said, "I know some of the other guys that have my passion, but I'm trying to dom. been awarded before, so I feel honored. It's because of the drawing. I'm writing more stomusic, and the teaching, and ries now and doing more drawfor sharing our culture."

A multi-Grammy and Na ished." Hoku Hanohano award-winning master slack key guitarist,

artist, author, filmmaker, chef and farmer, who has dedicated his life to perpetuating traditional Hawaiian ways.

Besides hosting his weekly Masters of Hawaiian Music shows at the Napili Kai Beach Resort (now available on video on demand), he tours the Mainland, presents annual workshops, operates a large organic farm in Kahakuloa, mentors music students, plants thousands of native trees with the Rotary Club, and is in the midst of publishing a raft of books.

How does he juggle so many projects?

It takes a supportive team, he said.

"I'm lucky I have a team, a network of people," he said. "Number one, I've got my wife Nancy. She keeps reminding "I just feel honored," me the things that are priority. The farm has always been on songs and a book of native wis- of students, one by one, all the spend more time writing and ing, and books I haven't fin-

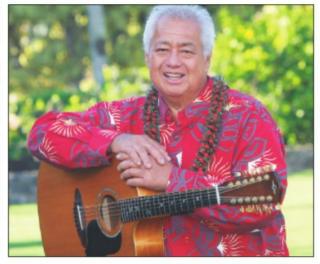


Photo courtesy George Kahumoku Jr.

Longtime Maui musician George Kahumoku Jr., a master of slack key guitar who stays busy with his craft as well as side projects of writing books and farming, will be honored with the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts Lifetime Achievement Award next month.

"I'm writing about native practitioners, ways of planting passed on by my elders, my

things that I know. But I think I write it down."

As for the song book, it feagreat-grandfather," he ex- tures, "songs that are written plained. "I want to leave a lega- over the last 50 years with mu-He estimates he has about cy as much as I can. Planting sical notation, and that's kind 38 books in the works, and by the moon, hunting, fishing, of new so that other people can this energetic dynamo is also a he's currently focused on illus- all that stuff, and just getting it play your songs. We're going respected songwriter, teacher, trating a compilation of his down. I've been teaching a lot to have photographs and I'm

meaning."

Kahumoku's most recent albums have included "Priest of Oahu, so I want to do somethe Land," "Reminiscing" and thing more homegrown, a celefans can expect a collection of money for the Institute of audience favorites.

dio in LA with Daniel Ho," he some of our farm debt," he reported, "My next album is said. called 'By Special Request,' songs that everybody asks for. this iconic Maui musician feels They ask, do you know this or especially proud to have menthat song?"

He recently teamed with Grammy winners Ho and Tia est joy is seeing all the students Carrere for a successful Mainland tour in September and Oc- out on their own," he said.

"It was kind of like a reset but- Hokus when he was a sophoton for all of us. Because of more (at Lahainaluna High COVID, I was kind of stuck School) and now he's been listfarming. Now, with Daniel and ed in the Hokus. There's Peter Tia's suggestion, I'm trying to D'Aquino from my show and get more back into the art. Our the Ukulele Sisters, and Anthocan reach more people if I legacy is to the stories and the ny Pfluke. I'm so blessed that writing, the drawing and songs. they continued the music." For the last 20 years, I've been feeding the homeless and doing stuff for nonprofits, planting trees. I planted 10,000 trees for the last 12 years with Hawaiian Resort on Dec. 4. the Rotary Clubs of Maui."

In conjunction with the Life- www.harahawaii.com.

doing illustrations about the time Achievement Award, he songs with a little story and the plans to present a special concert on Maui.

"On December 4th it's on "Renaissance Man." Next up, bration on Maui, and raise Hawaiian Music and the Bai-"I was in the recording stu- ley House, and help us pay off

> Looking back over his life, tored so many students.

"What brings me the greatthat I have mentored in the past "One of my students, Marvin "It was fabulous," he said. Junior Tevaga, I took to the

> The 2022 Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts Lifetime Achievement Awards ceremony will be held at The Royal Tickets are available at