

Artist Partner Program presents

KEKUHĪ KEALĪKANAKA'OLEOHAİLILANI &  
KAUMAKAIWA KANAKA'OLE  
with SHAWN PIMENTAL

THE CLARICE AT UMD

APP

ARTIST PARTNER PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 18 & 19, 2016 . 8PM

KOGOD THEATRE  
at The Clarice



*Artist Partner Program presents*

## **KEKUIHI KEALI'IKANAKA'OLEOHAILILANI & KAUMAKAIWA KANAKA'OLE**

WITH SHAWN PIMENTAL

**Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole**, vocals, percussion  
**Kekuhi Keali'ikanaka'oleohaililani**, vocals  
**Shawn Pimental**, guitar & vocals

*Songs to be announced from the stage*

*This performance will last approximately 2 hours with no intermission.*

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*My daughter, Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole & I are reared in the art & ritual of Hula 'Aiha'a. Hula is a life practice more than it is choreography. Hula or 'aiha'a is an embodied and ecological practice. It is the dance of environment--which means hula & chant keeps us in constant attunement with our island-universe. And so we have, both independently and as a team, embedded this being-hula into our music experience.*

*Our producer and guitarist Shawn Pimental is one of the top producers/engineers in Hawai'i music—Our form of music, the vibration that it creates, resonates with Shawn's own Buddhist and love of ocean practices.*

**—Kekuhi Keali'ikanaka'oleohaililani**

Kaumakaiwa and Kekuhi were very generous with their time this week. On Wednesday, Kaumakaiwa was a guest in the combined ethnomusicology classes of faculty members Nick Tochka and Melanie Pinkert from the School of Music. On Thursday, she spoke in the Honors Seminar, *Exploring Homophobia: Demystifying Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues*. Later on Thursday, she was joined by Kekuhi and Shawn Pimental for a conversation called *Maintaining Native Identity and Connections*, in partnership with the Asian American Studies Program and the Office of Multicultural Involvement and Community Advocacy. Yesterday the trio performed for 150 students, parents and teachers from several area schools as part of The Clarice's K12 School Partner Program's student matinee series.

## KEKUI KEALI'IKANAKA'OLEOHAILILANI

*"[Kekui] sings and chants in a style often described in terms such as "primeval," .... Nonetheless, she is as comfortable negotiating the arcane procedures involved in applying for academic research grants...[Kekui] says the family considers innovation and evolution to be important in keeping traditional practices alive."* –Honolulu Star Bulletin

Kekui Kanae Kanahele Kealiikanakaoleohaililani is a force: mother - daughter - wife - educator - scholar - dancer - musician - vocalist - composer - cultural leader - powerful role model. She has trained in the tradition of Hula Aihaa for 39 years and has been ritually elevated to the status of Kumu Hula (hula master), of Halau o Kekui by her mother, Kumu Hula Pualani Kanahele and her Aunt Kumu Hula Nalani Kanakaole. Under the direction of her mentors, Kekui has co-produced some of Halau O Kekui's most significant contributions to oral and ritual arts performances.

Kekui has also forged a singing career, with 3 solo CDs and 3 compilation CDs, and was honored with a Na Hoku Award (Hawai'i's "Grammy") as Female Vocalist of the Year in 1999. Kekui is an assistant professor and coordinator at Hawai'i Community College's I Ola Haloa Hawai'i Life Styles Program, and was honored as 2013 Educator of the Year by the Native Hawaiian Education Association. She also serves as the executive director of the Edith Kanakaole Foundation, a family foundation dedicated to heightening and expanding indigenous Hawai'i consciousness through oral and ritual arts and traditions and education, as well as research activities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and a Master of Education from Heritage University. She is pursuing a doctoral degree.

## KAUMAKAIWA KANAKA'OLE

*"Kanaka'ole... vaulted through various registers and timbres, from bass to witchy contralto rasp to sweet soprano (his "skinny girl" voice, he said), a traditionalist tour de force."* –The New York Times

Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole, a five-time Nā Hōkū Hanohano [Hawaiian Grammy] Award-winner, is the eldest child of Kekui Kanahele, the eldest grandchild of Pualani Kanaka'ole, great grandchild of Edith Kanahele Kanaka'ole, and great-great grandchild of Mary Keali'ikekuewa. Since birth, Kaumakaiwa has dedicated her life to her family's practice and passion - the art of hula. As an 'olapa (dancer) of Hālau O Kekui, she has been able to experience all aspects of hula, oli [chant], haku mele [poetry & lyrics] and choreography, qualities are nurtured within the family and the hālau [hula group]. In December 2014, she had an 'aha ni'o, an ascension ritual to inherit the role of kumu hula (hula master) of Halau O Kekui alongside her grandaunt and aunt. She has been involved with the prestigious Merrie Monarch Hula Festival since the age of 12. She has also appeared on stage and in film productions

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

including Holo Mai Pele by the Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation and Hālau O Kekuhi; Kamehameha Pai'ea; Kilohi: Nā Akua Wahine; Hānau Ka Moku, a collaboration with the Tau Dance Theatre; and the documentary about Hawaiian chant Mana I Ka Leo. Kaumakaiwa has released 3 CDs to date, for which she has won multiple awards. Kekuhi and Kaumakaiwa are currently at work on a joint album. She was honored with an NACF (Native Arts & Cultures Foundation) Fellowship Award. She was the first Hawaiian performer to appear at New York's globalFEST 2011. In 2013, Kaumakaiwa began to identify female with the support of her family and Hawaiian cultural tradition (māhū wahine). Her tour with her mother Kekuhi is the first mother-transgender daughter performance duo in Hawaiian music, and perhaps anywhere.

**Kekuhi and Kaumakaiwa's** shared intellectual, educational, performance, chant, ritual, innovation, dance, and inherent ties to their Hawai'i and global consciousness comes through in their music; in their being. In addition to the family's Halau O Kekuhi, whose hula and Hawaiian cultural practices have been passed down through eight generations and beyond, each has established a singing career with deep roots in ancient traditions colored by their modern awareness. Kekuhi's vocal power syncs seamlessly with her daughter Kaumakaiwa, who enjoys a solid reputation as "the voice of Hawai'i's new generation."

They grew up on the slopes of the volcano Mauna A Wakea and Mauna Loa, and in the daily influence of Kilauea, regarded as a family ancestor. Fluent in Hawaiian as well as English, surrounded by Hawaiian music and all types of Western music, educated in Hawaiian tradition and earning advanced degrees in Western universities, they define what it means to be indigenous intellectuals in a contemporary world. Their vision is to engage indigenous thought and knowledge to address today's issues and challenges through music, chant, and sharing of the spirit.

**Shawn Pimental** (guitar, vocals) is a consummate musician and award-winning record producer. He has performed with some of Hawai'i's leading recording artists, offering his talents on guitar, drums, bass, and vocals. He is co-owner of Studio Ala Moana, a prime recording studio in Honolulu, and owner of the record label Koops2 Entertainment, which represents both premier artists and emerging independents from Hawai'i, in styles ranging from traditional Hawaiian to contemporary to reggae.

## THE CLARICE

The **Artist Partner Program** engages national and international visiting artists who are committed to sparking exploration and discovery through participatory arts experiences.