

mark kailana nelson

Hawaiian slack key guitar & 'ukulele Appalachian dulcimer

"Every once in a while a musician comes along who can make an instrument speak in tongues."

~ Deseret News, Salt Lake City.

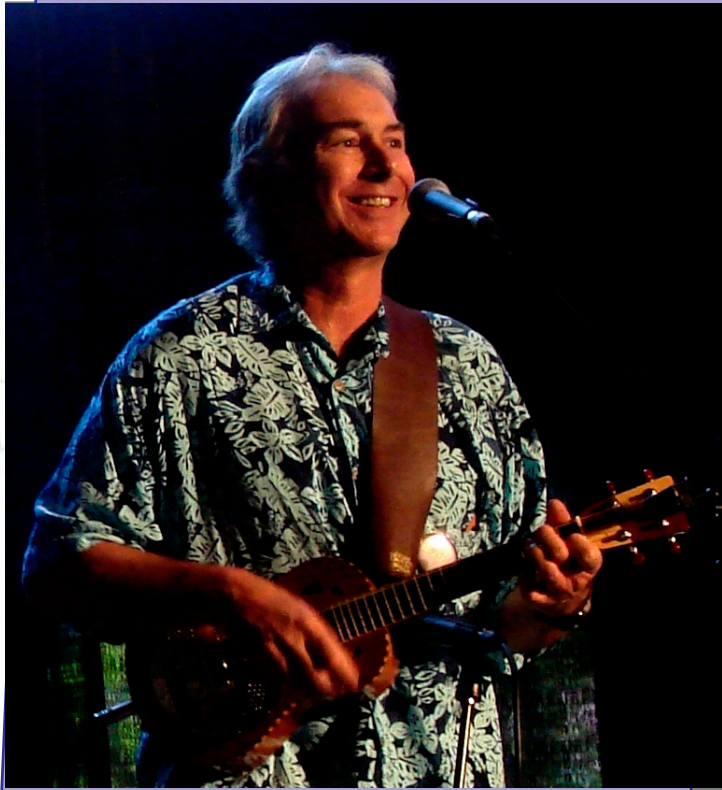
Bringing together two of the world's most beautiful instrumental styles – the Hawaiian slack key guitar and 'ukulele with Mark's ground-breaking dulcimer – Mark Nelson creates an enchanting new sound as soothing as an island breeze.

In the early 1970's Mark was one of a handful of free-spirited musicians who created a whole new vocabulary for the Appalachian dulcimer and guitar. He created a driving flatpicking dulcimer style, playing the instrument with a force and passion seldom heard before. A first place win at the National Mountain Dulcimer Championships in Winfield, Kansas in 1979 led to appearances at festivals, colleges and coffeehouses across North America and Europe, and a recording career spanning over 25 years.

Ki Ho 'alu, or slack key guitar, is a uniquely Hawaiian music. Legend has it that Spanish cowboys hired to teach cattle handling in the 1830's brought the first guitars the Polynesians had seen. Until very recently, slack key was almost unknown outside of the Islands.

Mark's lifelong interest in slack key led him to write the first widely available instruction method for this gentle art. Mark's recent CDs continue to explore the nahenahe sounds of slack key guitar, 'ukulele and the sweet sounds of the dulcimer.

He's an engaging performer, artfully weaving stories and humor with heartfelt music to transport the audience. Mark has performed just about everywhere – from Barrow to Boston; Sligo to San Diego. He's shared the stage with performers as diverse as Grover Washington, Jr.; Norton Buffalo; Phoebe Snow, Doc Watson, George Winston and many others. He once worked as a banjo playing gorilla in Dublin, but that's another story...



"Nelson is a musician who possesses that rare combination of insight and talent necessary to successfully transcend conventional concepts of genre and culture."

John Berger, Honolulu Star-Bulletin

"Mark Nelson seems to be on to something new and sweet with his marriage of Appalachian dulcimer and Hawaiian slack key guitar. Drizzle is one of the most achingly beautiful slack key numbers heard in years."

Danny Carnahan, Acoustic Guitar Magazine

"It's my sunset-have-a-martini-on-the-lanai soundtrack every night!"

Duke Walls, Hana, Maui

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In demand as a session musician, touring artist and workshop leader, Mark is an outstanding player of the dulcimer, `ukulele and the Hawaiian slack key guitar. His newest book, "Favorite Old Time American Songs for `Ukulele" (Mel Bay Publications) presents over 100 great American folksongs arranged for ukulele players.

Mark has spent many years immersed in the music of Hawai'i—playing with and learning from some of the masters of Hawaiian slack key guitar. Revered kupuna Auntie Nona Beamer gave him the name *Kailana*, which means "floating gently on the surface of the sea" - not a bad description of the sound Mark's music.

"Soothes with visions of swaying palms and inspires with driving energy and virtuosic flair"
Advocate, Fairfield Country, CT

"Drizzle is one of the most beautiful things ever recorded..."
Music and Media Report

CONCERT AND CLUB APPEARANCES

Lincoln City Cultural Center, OR
Passim's, Boston, MA
No Exit, Chicago, IL
Maggie May's, Austin, TX
Freight and Salvage, Berkeley, CA
Ryan's, New Orleans, LA
Down Home Guitar, Anchorage, AK
Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Eugene, OR
Baltimore Friends of Traditional Music, Baltimore, MD
The Palms Playhouse, Davis, CA
California Traditional Music Society, Tarzana, CA
Second Fret, Oklahoma City, OK

FESTIVALS

BankoH Slack Key Festival, Moloka'i HI
Vancouver Folk Festival, Vancouver, B.C.
Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Elko, NV
Walnut Valley Festival, Winfield, KS
Common Ground, Westminster, MD
Housatonic Dulcimer Festival, CT
Britt Bluegrass Festival, Jacksonville, OR
Song of the Sea, Bar Harbor, ME
World Music Festival, Mt. Shasta, CA
Northwest Folklife Festival, Seattle, WA
Oklahoma City Arts Festival
Salt Lake City Arts Festival
Festival of Fools, Amsterdam

WORKSHOPS

Mark has taught all levels of slack key guitar, `ukulele & dulcimer for festivals and organizations across the country. In addition, he offers instruction in Irish bodhran & bones, folk and jazz guitar, children's music making, and stagecraft.

An Appalachian Summer, Boone, NC
Acoustic Alaska Guitar Camp
Puget Sound Guitar Workshop, WA
Dulcimer Symposium, Blue Mountain Lake, NY
Lark in the Morning, Mendocino, CA
McCabes Music, West LA, CA
Dusty Strings, Seattle, WA
Libertyville School of Folk Music, Libertyville, IL
Da Vinci Days, Corvallis, OR
Aloha Music Camp, Molokai, HI
Artichoke Music, Portland, OR
Common Ground on the Hill, Westminster MD
Great Black Swamp Dulcimer Festival, Lima, OH
Appalachian Dulcimer Workshop, Mountain View, AR
Winterfest, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX
Swannanoa Gathering, Ashville, NC
Kentucky Music Week, Bardstown, KY

RESIDENCIES AND ARTS COUNCILS

Utah Rural Arts Consortium
Arts Alaska
Oregon on Tour
Western States Arts Foundation
Young Audiences of Oregon and Washington
Champagne Arts Council, Urbana, IL
Southeast Island Schools, Ketchikan, AK

RECORDINGS

"Juke'n The Uke"
"Slack Key Style `Ukulele"
"Funtime Uke-A-Rama"
"Oldtime Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar"
"Ke Kukima Polinahe"
"The Water is Wide"
"autumn..."
"The Faery Hills"
"Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer"
"Southern Light"
"After the Morning"
"Fiddle Tunes for Dulcimer: The Rights of Man"

BOOKS

"Favorite Old Time American Songs for `Ukulele"
"More Fingerstyle Solos for `Ukulele"
"Juke'n The Uke: Blues, Ragtime & Hokum for Ukulele"
"Learn to Play Slack Key Style `Ukulele"
"Oldtime Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar"
"Ke Kukima Polinahe~Hawaiian & Polynesian Music for Appalachian Dulcimer"
"Learn to Play Fingerstyle Solos for `Ukulele"
"Favorite Old Time American Songs"
"The Complete Collection of Celtic Music for Appalachian Dulcimer"
"Learn to Play Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar"

BOOKING INFORMATION:

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