

Mahalo to: Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Puakea Nogelmeier, Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole, 'Aukai Reynolds, 'Iwalani Ho'omanawanui Apo, Uncle Eddie and Aunty Myrna Kamae, Keola Donaghy, as well as Lihau and Kellen Paik, for your mana'o as we researched the various mele for this album; Andrea Weymouth-Fujie of East Honolulu Clothing Company for over a decade of aloha shirts, kindness and aloha; the KoAloha Ukulele and Kamaka 'Ukulele 'ohana for our cherished instruments; Ryoji and Motoko Soranaka of Ogo's International; Karen Fischer of Pasifika Artists; Patrick

Landeza, Baldeepak and Hiroko Karanjit, Honu Kameda, Garo Green and Jared, Ryan Iwasa and Sachi Ishida, Moulds 'ohana, and the many Kumu Hula, dancers and friends far and wide for the aloha that you have shown us over the years. Saving the most important for last, mahalo to all of our 'ohana, especially David's grandmother, Nancy Umeyo Yanagawa, who have supported us throughout the years and provided a foundation for Waipuna to be able to share our music around the world. We love you all very much.



Please scan the QR code for complete liner notes, song lyrics and translations or email waipunamusic@gmail.com.



Waipuna
ULLUWEHI

To mark **FIFTEEN** incredible years of music making, the men of **WAIPUNA** have woven mele honoring an alluring assortment of pua into a commemorative lei. Their stunning creation pays literal tribute to each blossom and reveals heartfelt emotions of the composers.

Hawaiian haku mele are masters of metaphor, double entendre and veiled references. Their works flourish with figurative expression artfully crafted to cloak private desires, heap praise upon the object of their affection and fantacize fulfillment of passionate yearnings. Their poetry engages the listener, teases our imaginations and leaves us pondering...



The hinahina that grew at the shore in Waipi'o with whom Sam Li'a had a lifelong love affair;

The enchanting scent of the lokelani that beautified Puakea Nogelmeier's garden and adorned him with perfume;



The aromatic lei maile sought by Kawaikapuokalani Hewett in the uplands of Lanihuli, as well as the cherished, sparkling lei māmane of Lilinoe he caressed on Mauna Kea;

The lingering memory of a beloved pua in the chill of misty rain as fondly recalled by Kale Hannahs;



The sweet never fading flower of Queen Lili'uokalani, with soft eyes as black as jet and pink cheeks so delicate of hue;



The flirtatious hinahina that satisfied Johnny Almeida's pangs of desire before falling to the ground with a throbbing ache;



The sunny disposition and resilience of a daisy reflected in 'ukulele stylings of David Kamakahi and Jake Shimabukuro;

The tender bud of sandalwood that captured the affection of Bill Ali'iloa Lincoln and aroused dew drops of love;



The revered plumeria of Edith Kanaka'ole, possessing beauty like that of a rainbow and a sweet fragrance that embraces the land; and

The verdent ahupua'a 'Aukai Reynolds found at Waipā, resplendent in palapalai, embraced by the kou and hau, treasured by nā kupa o ka 'āina.

DREAMY POETS are realists, too. They revel in the moment, knowing, “Hala a'e kēia pō, uhi mai kapa 'ele'ele...This night will pass, black kapa will spread forth.” But the conclusion of each life cycle holds the promise of a new season. It is a universal concept that Kale Hannahs and Yoko Koike observed in the sakura of Japan. “In the Spring sun, light shines, the snow will melt, the birds will sing joyful songs and I will know that wounds will heal when a thousand sakura bloom again.”

Waipuna has entitled this collection of mele “Uluwehi”. It celebrates the verdure of our world and entwines sentiments of aloha and gratitude into a “lei hiehie mau, ē, a lei of unfading elegance.”

- Neil J. Kaho'okele Hannahs