

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kim Sueoka: vocals, 'ukulele, hula 'ili'ili

Vocalist Kim Sueoka is passionate about creating musical insights into the human experience. Lauded as “radiant” (Cleveland Classical), she is an active performer of Hawaiian historical music, early music, chamber music, and new compositions. She has appeared as a soloist with the Neuss Chamber Orchestra, Glorious Revolution Baroque, and the National Lutheran Choir. She has been featured on The Schubert Club’s Courtroom and Summer Songfest series, Minnesota Guitar Society’s Local Artist Series, The Owatonna Arts Center Chamber Music Series, and The Royal Hawaiian Band's 'Iolani Palace Outdoor Concert Series. She currently performs locally and internationally with The Rose Ensemble and Silver Swan Chamber Ensemble.

In 2005 Kim received a Cultural Community Partnership grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board for research and performance in Hawaiian historical music. She received a McKnight Performing Artist Fellowship finalist award in 2007. This concert season, she received a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Initiative grant to arrange, record, and perform *Nā Mele Wai*, a collection of Hawaiian songs on the theme of fresh water.

Originally from Koloa, Kaua'i, Kim presently resides in the Twin Cities, where she has developed a great respect for snow shovels and mittens. She earned a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal performance at the University of Evansville under the instruction of Joseph Hopkins, and completed a Masters degree at the University of Minnesota, where she studied with Lawrence Weller. She studied Hawaiian chant and hula with the late Kumu Pohaku Nishimitsu.

David Burk: guitar, 'ukulele, lap steel

Starting on the guitar at an early age and long fascinated by the endless palette of sounds found throughout the world, David Burk has endeavored to learn to play various stringed-instruments, among them those of the Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Latin, African, Carribean, and American musical traditions. Born in Augusta, GA and residing in Minneapolis, MN since 1990, David has performed with the Rose Ensemble, Voices of Sepharad, Robayat, Intergalactic Contemporary Ensemble, Georges Lammam Arabic Orchestra, Vanessa Paloma, Sattar, Ethnic Dance Theatre, BraSamba, Shangoya, Marimba Africa, Lorraine Klaasen, Keith Secola, Voice of Liberia, Saharan Nights, Fuego Flamenco, RaiAction, and the Melismatics, among numerous others.

Having earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations at the University of Minnesota, David has also received grants from the Jerome Foundation and the MN State Arts Board. He continues his studies of Arabic music with Bassam Saba and has studied with Simon Shaheen, Dr. Ali Jihad Racy (UCLA), and Sakhar Hattar.

Maintaining a full, private lesson schedule of his own students, he has also written instructional columns for *Guitar Player* magazine and www.truefire.com. He has composed or arranged music for Mixed Blood Theatre as well as numerous commercials, movies and television programs.

Rahn Yanes: bass

Playing bass since age 11, classically-trained Rahn Yanes has had the opportunity to explore a wide range of musical genres and styles. As a symphony bassist, Rahn got his first job at age 16 with the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra, and played up and down the San Joaquin Valley of California for 5 years before moving to Monterey and playing up and down the Central Coast for 5 more years. Rahn then moved to Mexico City, where he played for 3 years with Mexico's National Chamber Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra as Assistant Principal Bass, performing for numerous national tours, festivals and television broadcasts.

After returning to California, Rahn became Principal Bass of the Fresno Philharmonic Orchestra for 9 years and taught bass at California State University, Fresno. Eventually seeking change for his young family, Rahn moved to his wife's home state of Minnesota, where he began free-lancing in the Twin Cities, becoming Principal Bass of the Wayzata Symphony Orchestra and exploring various outlets as a bassist, such as playing in the rock band "L.A. Cowboy", the jazz-rock horn band "Brass Menagerie", the "Good News Big Band", the tango band "Mandragora Tango", and currently with the Hawaiian freshwater music trio, "Lau".

Rahn has recently accompanied VocalEssence, National Lutheran Choir, Michael W. Smith, Tony Sandler of "Sandler and Young" fame, and most recently played for Loyce Houlton's "Nutcracker Fantasy", and "Guys and Dolls" and "Cinderella at The Ordway Theater. He has also performed at Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center and toured Europe with "America's Youth in Concert".