

## **Keola Beamer and Ray Kane will perform the music of Hawaiian slack key guitar on Nov. 11**

**November 4, 1994**

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KEOLA BEAMER AND RAY KANE WILL PERFORM THE MUSIC OF HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR

Two of the most respected performers of Hawaiian slack key guitar will appear at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, in the Mandeville Auditorium, University of California, San Diego.

Tickets prices are: \$14, general admission; \$12, seniors, and \$10 students. They may be purchased at the UCSD Price Center Box Office or from TicketMaster outlets.

Slack key guitar (ki ho'alu), is a Hawaiian tradition, relatively unknown outside of Hawaii. When the Spanish and Mexican cowboys worked the cattle in the islands in the early 1800s, Hawaiians adopted the guitar into their culture, slacking the strings to suit their music and dances. The thumb is used to play bass, while the other fingers play melody, or improvise.

The entire movement is a "finger picking" style unique to performers of the slack key method.

Some of the most recognized performers of slack key are Ray Kane, the Beamer brothers (Keola and Kapono), Sonny Chillingworth, Ozzie Kotani, Cyril Pahinui and Ledward Kaapana.

On Nov. 11, UCSD University Events Office will present Ray Kane and Keola Beamer, who are touring the country in the Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Master Series. Kane (pronounced 'Kah nay) was reared on the island of Oahu. At an early age, he took up slack key guitar from two Hawaiian masters, Albert Kawalo and Henry Kapuana. Kane made his first recording in 1961. Now retired, he has performed his art under several arts fellowship awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship.

Beamer's family, who live on the Island of Hawaii, is a highly musical one. Keola, who was born in 1951 and grew up under the influence of rock and roll, has been one of the chief contributors of what might be considered the Hawaiian Cultural Renaissance. Keola has recorded many of the songs written by his ancestors; his albums have won numerous Hoku Awards (equivalent to a Grammy). Keola was one of the first Hawaiians to integrate the traditional Hawaiian chants and instruments with contemporary forms of music. His 1994 release, "Wooden Boat," mixes traditional elements with contemporary sound. The album was co-produced with George Winston, the noted Windham Hill recording artist and executive, on Winston's Dancing Cat label.

For more information call University Events Office at 534-4090.

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