

Lincoln Center's

January 22–February 29, 2020

American Songbook

Lead Support provided by Holland America Line

The Program

Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 8:30 pm

Kalani Pe'a

Aiau Koa, *Guitar*

Wailau Ryder, *Bass Guitar*

Nālei Pokipala, *Vocals*

Alex Otey, *Piano*

With special guests Pua Ali'i 'Ilima o Nuioka, Hula

This evening's program is approximately 75 minutes long and will be performed without intermission.

Please make certain all your electronic devices are switched off.

Endowment support provided by Bank of America

Corporate support provided by Morgan Stanley

This performance is made possible in part by the Josie Robertson Fund for Lincoln Center.

Steinway Piano

The Appel Room

Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

American Songbook

Additional support for Lincoln Center's American Songbook is provided by Christina and Robert Baker, EY, Rita J. and Stanley H. Kaplan Family Foundation, The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund, The Shubert Foundation, Great Performers Circle, Lincoln Center Patrons and Lincoln Center Members

Public support is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature

NewYork-Presbyterian is the Official Hospital of Lincoln Center

Artist catering provided by Zabar's and Zabars.com

UPCOMING AMERICAN SONGBOOK EVENTS IN THE APPEL ROOM:

Friday, February 28 at 8:30 pm

Ali Stroker

Saturday, February 29 at 8:30 pm

Martin Sexton

For tickets, call (212) 721-6500 or visit AmericanSongbook.org. Call the Lincoln Center Info Request Line at (212) 875-5766 or visit AmericanSongbook.org for complete program information.

Join the conversation: @LincolnCenter

We would like to remind you that the sound of coughing and rustling paper might distract the performers and your fellow audience members.

In consideration of the performing artists and members of the audience, those who must leave before the end of the performance are asked to do so between pieces. The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not allowed in the building.

Meet the Artists



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Kalani Pe'a

A singer of power, sensitivity, and charisma, Kalani Pe'a made Hawaiian music history when his debut album, *E Walea*, took home the 2017 Grammy Award for Best Regional Roots Music Album. In Hawai'i that same year, he was awarded the Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award (Hawai'i's "Grammy") for Best Hawaiian Contemporary Album, becoming the first Hawaiian recording artist to receive both awards for the same project.

Accolades continued with his critically acclaimed second album, *No 'Ane'i*, which won the Regional Roots Grammy in 2019, topped the iTunes world music charts, and reached No. 11 on Billboard's world music charts. In 2019, he achieved another first: he made his debut appearance at the prestigious Merrie Monarch hula competition, singing one of his original songs for the hula group that went on to take home the top honor. Tonight he makes his New York City debut as part of Lincoln Center's American Songbook, the first Hawaiian artist to be featured on the series.

Self-described as "Hawaiian contemporary soul," Mr. Pe'a was awarded a Native Arts and Cultures Foundation Fellowship in 2018, and in 2019, he received the Artist in Business Leadership Fellowship from First Peoples Fund and was honored with the distinguished alumni award by his alma mater, Colorado Mesa University. With his passion for perpetuating Hawaiian language, his albums feature his original Hawaiian songs alongside his affectionate arrangements and Hawaiian interpretations of some of his R&B favorites, reflecting the western music he grew up with.

Aiau Koa (*Guitar*)

Aiau Koa is known for his performances with many of Hawai'i's leading artists for more than 30 years. He is also an instructor and practitioner of the martial arts style of 'Ai Pilau Kenpo, drawn to its heart and soul which exemplifies the spirit of 'ohana (family). Mr. Koa has been Kalani's lead guitarist for more than five years. Together they have performed at numerous sold-out shows across the U.S. and Japan. Mr. Koa is a contributing recording artist on Kalani's latest Grammy-winning album, *No 'Ane'i*.

Wailau Ryder (*Bass Guitar*)

Wailau Ryder was born on O'ahu and grew up in the Puna region of the Hawai'i Island. One of his major influences was his aunt, the well-known musician and Hawaiian educator Lei'ohu Ryder. He is a gifted vocalist and slack key guitarist. Mr. Ryder is also known for playing music with the Lim Family from Kohala, Hawai'i.

Nālei Pokipala (*Vocals*)

Nālei Pokipala has been singing and entertaining for more than a decade. She was born and raised on the island of Maui and grew up in a musical family connected to their Hawaiian roots. Ms. Pokipala has performed on stages worldwide with Hawaiian music and contemporary acts. She is also trained in traditional hula and oli or Hawaiian chant. She has performed at the Merrie Monarch hula festival (the "Olympics" of hula) as a hula dancer as well as a vocalist for multiple hālau/hula groups that took home top honors at the competition.

Alex Otey (*Piano*)

A singer-pianist, songwriter, trumpeter, composer, and contributing artist on a Grammy-winning and two Grammy-nominated projects, Alex Otey performs regularly throughout central New Jersey and the Philadelphia area, as well as at such venues as the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, World Cafe Live, Feinstein's/54 Below, BB King's Blues Club, Harrah's Casino, and Bethlehem's Musikfest, among other festivals. He received a master's degree from Berklee College of Music.

Pua Ali'i 'Ilima o Nuioka *(Hula)*

Established in 2010, Pua Ali'i 'Ilima o Nuioka is the New York City extension of Pua Ali'i 'Ilima, the hālau hula (hula school) founded by Vicky Holt Takamine in 1977. It is a resident company of La MaMa theater and has performed at the Prince Lot Hula Festival in Honolulu, La MaMa Moves! festival, the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out series, National Museum of the American Indian, Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, Highline Ballroom, and various other New York City venues. Pua Ali'i 'Ilima o Nuioka is co-organized by Carol Noelani Lau and Roberta Māpuana Uno.

Ka Lei Hali'a O Ka Lokelani *(Hula)*

Ka Lei Hali'a O Ka Lokelani, meaning "the cherished ones of the yellow rose," is a hālau hula located in Aloha/Hillsboro, Oregon. Kumu Hula [director] Leialohaokēanue Ka'ula grew up on Hawai'i Island.

American Songbook

In 1998, Lincoln Center launched American Songbook, dedicated to the celebration of popular American song. Designed to highlight and affirm the creative mastery of America's songwriters from their emergence at the turn of the 19th century up through the present, American Songbook spans all styles and genres, from the form's early roots in Tin Pan Alley and Broadway to the eclecticism of today's singer-songwriters. American Songbook also showcases the outstanding interpreters of popular song, including established and emerging concert, cabaret, theater, and songwriter performers.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) serves three primary roles: presenter of artistic programming, national leader in arts and education and community engagement, and manager of the Lincoln Center campus. A presenter of thousands of free and ticketed events, performances, tours, and educational activities annually, LCPA offers a variety of festivals and programs, including American Songbook, Avery Fisher Career Grants and Artist program, David Rubenstein Atrium programming, Great Performers, Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Awards, Lincoln Center Out of Doors, Lincoln Center Vera List Art Project, LC Kids, Midsummer Night Swing, Mostly Mozart Festival, White Light Festival, the Emmy Award-winning *Live From Lincoln Center*, which airs nationally on PBS, and Lincoln Center Education, which is celebrating more than four decades enriching the lives of students, educators, and lifelong learners. As manager of the Lincoln Center campus, LCPA provides support and services for the Lincoln Center complex and the 11 resident organizations: The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Film at Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Juilliard School, Lincoln Center Theater, The Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, School of American Ballet, and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

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For American Songbook

Matt Berman, *Lighting Design*

Scott Stauffer, *Sound Design*

Paloma Estevez, *Company Manager, Contemporary Programming*

Roshni Lavelle, *House Seat Coordinator*

For Kalani Pe'a

Allan Cool, *Manager*

Matt Berman

Matt Berman is the resident lighting designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook. He most recently designed the lighting for Kristin Chenoweth's *For the Girls* at the Nederlander Theatre. In the summer he designs in Provincetown for producer Mark Cortale's concerts and shows at the both the Art House and Town Hall. This past spring, Mr. Berman had the honor of designing the lighting and sound for South Florida Symphony Orchestra's remarkable production of *Porgy & Bess*, directed by Richard Jay-Alexander. This past summer he designed a small promotional tour of the U.S. with Meow Meow and Thomas Lauderdale of Pink Martini for their collaboration album, *Hotel L'Amour*. Additionally he has designed shows with Meow Meow for the London Philharmonic Orchestra and many other concert appearances.

Mr. Berman's international touring with stars such as Liza Minnelli, Kristin Chenoweth, Alan Cumming, Meow Meow, and Elaine Paige has allowed him to design for such iconic venues as Royal Albert Hall, the Paris Opera, Olympia Theater in Paris, Royal Theatre Carré in Amsterdam, the Sporting Club in Monte Carlo, The Acropolis, the famed amphitheater in Taormina, Sicily, Luna Park in Buenos Aires, the Sydney Opera House and, closer to home, the Hollywood Bowl, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall. Other Broadway credits include Kristin Chenoweth's *My Love Letter to Broadway* at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, the Tony Award-winning *Liza's at the Palace*, *Bea Arthur on Broadway* at the Booth Theatre, Nancy LaMott's *Just in Time for Christmas*, and *Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony* at the Belasco Theater.

Scott Stauffer

Scott Stauffer has been the sound designer for Lincoln Center's American Songbook since 1999. His Broadway design credits include *A Free Man of Color*, *The Rivals*, *Contact* (also in London and Tokyo), *Marie Christine*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. Off-Broadway Mr. Stauffer has worked on *Mother Freaking Hood*, *Subverted*, *Promises*, *Hereafter*, *A Minister's Wife*, *Bernarda Alba*, *Third*, *Belle Epoque*, *Big Bill*, *Elegies*, *Hello Again*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Pageant*, and *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. His regional credits include productions at the Denizen Theater, Manhattan School of Music, Capitol Repertory Theatre, University of Michigan, Hanger Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Alley Theatre. His concert credits include many Lincoln Center galas, as well as the Actors Fund concerts of *Frank Loesser*, *Broadway 101*, *Hair*, and *On the Twentieth Century*. At Carnegie Hall he has worked with Chita Rivera and Brian Stokes Mitchell. As a sound engineer, Mr. Stauffer has worked on *The Lion King*, *Juan Darién*, *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*, *Carousel*, *Once on This Island*, and the original *Little Shop of Horrors*.