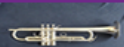


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Kanoa Kaluhiwa

Featured Musician for March



One of New Mexico's finest and most respected tenor saxophonists, **Kanoa Kaluhiwa** was born in Hawaii, but spent his formative years in Las Cruces, New Mexico. While still a high school student, Kanoa played professionally and was awarded two scholarships to the **Eastman School of Music** Summer Sessions in New York.

(photo courtesy of Victoria Rogers)

Upon graduation from high school, he was awarded a scholarship to the Berklee School of Music in Boston, Massachusetts where he spent three years studying jazz performance and music theory under various teachers, including **George Garzone** and **Joe Viola**.

Subsequently, Kaluhiwa has studied with **Dave Liebman**, (Sax Master Class 2002, Stroudsburg, PA), **Eddie Daniels**, (Santa Fe, NM), **Chris Potter** (NYC), and **Kevin Hayes** (NYC). He continues to study jazz with **Charlie Banacos** (Boston, MA), and to explore African rhythms through study and performance with **Heidi Alina** on the Djembe. A fairly new endeavor is his study of the Mbira, a Zimbabwean instrument indigenous to the Shona people. Master musicians **Jennifer Kyker**, and **Mike Cox** were influential in his Mbira studies. He continues to study the Mbira with **Alyson Steinman** and **Joy Shulman**.

Since returning to Albuquerque in 1982, Kaluhiwa has performed with a broad array of musicians locally, nationally, and internationally. Musically multifaceted, Kaluhiwa is equally at home with straight ahead jazz, modern jazz and African jazz groups. He has recorded and toured with **Ottmar Liebert**, and is featured on recordings with **Sparx**, the **Manzanares**, **Barret Martin**, and **Jon Gagan**, as well as his own band **Soul's Desire**.

Additionally, Kanoa teaches and performs at the **Outpost Performance Space** in Albuquerque and has standing gigs

Kanoa can be heard on the following CDs:



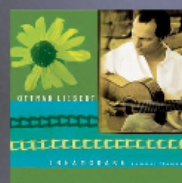
Jon Gagan - Transit

Paul Gonzales - Warm Valley



Ron Hellman - Reflections of Beauty

Ottmar Liebert - Little Wing



Ottmar Liebert - Innamorare

Kanoa has also recorded on two songs that won NMMA awards:



Bulletin Board



Discography



with Ron Hellman and the Manzanares in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Among the many instruments Kaluhiwa plays are the tenor sax, the piano, the Djembe, and the Mbira. He provides professional music instruction on the saxophone and jazz theory for all instruments. For more information about Kanoa's teaching, please check the "News and Music" page of this website.



"Saxophonist Kanoa Kaluhiwa—whose rich, immediately identifiable sound has refreshed New Mexican ears for more than 20 years—never hurries his work. As he solos, you can see him listening to some inner wellspring of ideas and emotion, exploring for the right sound, the right note, the right phrase to express

the moment.

Sometimes he'll pause at the end of a phrase, take the horn out of his mouth and reflect, cocking his head to one side. No, nothing to say; and instead of adding something, anything, to fill the space, he waits. He moistens the mouthpiece to prime the pump, shifts his weight from one foot to the other, glances quickly at his bandmates before turning his gaze back inward.

After a moment, it comes again. The horn goes back between his lips, and he blows into what he's hearing—and what he's hearing is worth listening to. It is soulful, to the point and elegantly constructed with a rich harmonic palette and a well-developed rhythmic sensibility.

"One distinguishing characteristic of Kaluhiwa's playing is emotional truthfulness and intensity. He focuses on communicating from the heart, but however intensely emotional his playing gets, there is almost always an intriguing underlying stillness.

"I try to get there. It's not easy," he says. "It involves some really serious listening. That's a whole other instrument."

That explains the stillness—a requirement for hearing well—and the pauses he sometimes takes. "I have to stop myself to listen to myself every once in a while," he says, and because the flow of sound and feeling is authentic, the listener finds himself listening to Kaluhiwa's listening. "Space counts for a lot."

What's he listening to? "Everything and nothing at the same time," he epigrams. "It's full of paradoxes, you know, this playing. Like Bird said, you learn it and forget it."

Kaluhiwa's learning has an omnivorous character to it. After proper schooling at Berklee College of Music, he dropped into the '80s rock scene in Albuquerque, playing with the progressive rock band Kobayashi Maru. He explored African-influenced jazz with the popular band Panjea, and toured and recorded with Ottmar Liebert. He even diligently studied African and Latin music, playing the mbira and djembe to strengthen his rhythmic side, which he felt was a personal weakness. He's still studying today, working with Bauvallet on the batá drum.

It all gets folded in to whatever he's doing, and whatever it is, count on the music to be authentic, unforced and satisfying". -----Mel Minter

awards.

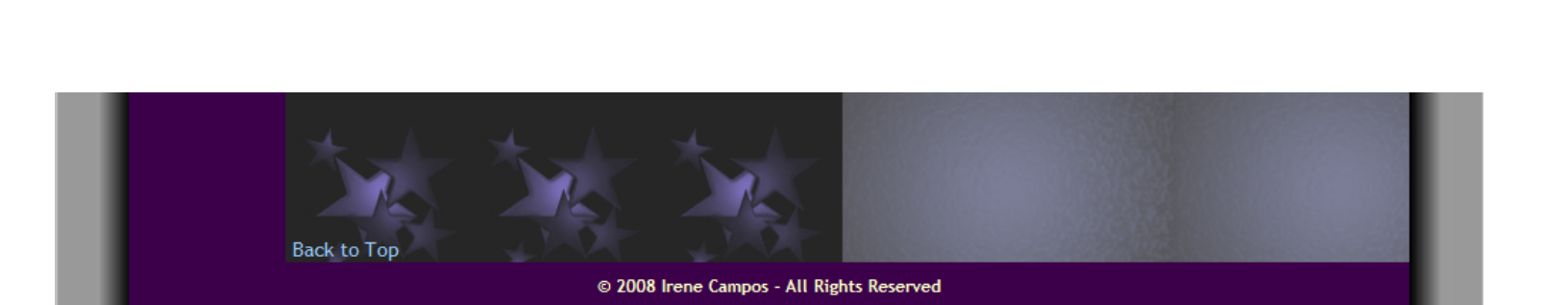


2007 - Kito Peters - "Empty", and 2008 - Busy McCarroll - "Peace By Piece" (Best Song)



You can catch Kanoa every Thursday from 7:30 - 9:30 as part of the Pat Malone Trio at La Posada. For more info, see the "Events" page.





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