

Russell Steinberg

Mauí Slack Key Preludes

For Guitar

Op. 46

I. Kaupo

II. Hana

III. Makawao

Duration: 8 minutes

Blown To Bits Publications

Maui Slack Key Preludes Vol. 1

by Russell Steinberg

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PREVIEW SCORE

NOTES

These are "classicized" slack key pieces. They fuse the essence of the Hawaiian tradition's deep resonance, nostalgia, and undulating tonic-dominant harmonies (like ocean waves!) with classical Spanish guitar. They differ from "proper" slack key guitar pieces, both in style and tuning. For instance, traditional Hawaiian slack key C Wahine tuning is C-G-D-G-B-D but most of my pieces tune down just the lower two strings, producing C-G-D-G-B-E (a C major ninth chord).

These preludes should be performed in a relaxed style producing deep sounds in the bass and a full singing melody in the treble. I have specified string numbers and barred passages throughout to make clear where everything is to be fingered on the guitar. Harmonics are sometimes marked with small circles, but many other times notated with diamond notes and specified frets and strings.

The special serenity and nostalgia that characterizes Hawaiian slack key guitar is immediate even for first time listeners. With its European roots, simple harmony, sheer beauty of sound (loosening the guitar's lower strings to give them "slack"), this is music emotionally available to anyone, without special knowledge or familiarity with its traditions. That openness I find to be the magical root of Hawaiian culture.

My Maui Slack Key Preludes reflect my desire to recapture the special relaxed *aloha* that one feels immediately upon arriving on the island of Maui. *Kaupo* is inspired by the spectacular arid ranchland on the southwestern tip of the island. It is home to cattle, horses, and stirring vistas of mountain and ocean. Just around the parched landscape of Kaupo is Hana, the wettest lush tropical area of Maui, famed for its beauty and special tranquility. My Hana prelude was written in memory of Dr. Laurie Bottoms, a writer and educator whose calm, nurturing inspired me as a teacher. Makawao is "upcountry" Maui, a town originally famed for its ranchland and paniolos (Hawaiian cowboys). Slack key guitar was in fact first created by Hawaiian paniolos in the 19th century. Today Makawao has a vibrant arts community and... many chickens and roosters roaming the streets! The harmonics and trills in this prelude capture the delightful energy of this locale.

PREVIEW SCORE

C Wahine Tuning
Tune Lower Strings
to C and G

I. Kaupo

in Hawaiian Slack Key Style

Russell Steinberg

Allegretto ♩ = 92
Peaceful, with a full deep sound

p a m i p *p a m i p*

p a m i p *p a m i p* ♩ = 112

molto cantabile

11 *sul pont.*

14 *ord.* *f*

17 *CVII* *CV* *mf* *mp*

21 *f*

25

29 *f*

32

mp *f*

35

p a m i p *p a m i p*

37

p a m i p *p a m i p rit.*

39

A tempo *mf* **rit.**

43

A tempo **rit.** **A tempo** **meno mosso**

f *mp* *p* *mf* *p*

CIV CII

47 **A tempo** *mp* *allarg.* **CII** *ten.* *f* **rit.**

51 **Lento** *p* *pp* $\text{♩} = 92$ **accel.**

54 **rit.** *p* *ten.* **accel.** *mf*

$\text{♩} = 100$ *p* *a* *m* *i* *p* *a* *m* *i* *p* *mf*

p *a* *m* *i* *p* *p* *a* *m* *i* *p* *dim.*

61 *p* *a* *m* *i* *p* *poco a poco sul tasto* *p* *a* *m* *i* *pp*

63 *p* *a* *m* *i* *espress.* *mp* *f*

65 *i* *accel.* *poco a poco sul pont.* *p* *f (metallic)*

PREVIEW ONLY

In loving memory of
Dr. Laurie Bottoms

Tune Lower Strings to C and G
(C Wahine tuning)

11. Hana

in Hawaiian Slack Key Style

Russell Steinberg

Slow with gentle expression ♩ = 76-82

0 *p* *pp* *mf* *accel.* *rit.* *a tempo* *mp serene*

4 *p* *mf*

7 *accel.* *rit.* *a tempo* *serene* *p*

10 *mf* *p*

14 *mf* *ten.*

17 *CIII* *CVI* *CV* *p*

20 CII CIII CII CIII deep and resonant
mp *f*

24 CII CIII CV CVI CVII CIX brighter; piu mosso
mp *f* *mf*

28

30

32 *f* *mf*

34 III

36 rushed and marked
ff

39 *mf* *ff*

42 *sf p* a tempo CIII ① ② 6

44 rit. A tempo gentle and relaxed CV *p* serene

47 CIII CV *mf* triste

50 CIV CII

53 *p* *mf* sonore ④ ⑤ ① ②

57

f *p* *f* *p*

61

mp *mf*

65

L.H. Hammer

f *mp* *p* *mp*

68

pp *p* *mf* *pp* *sul tasto*

17 *CV*

20 *CV*

23

25 *rit. meno mosso*

27 *accel.*

29 *A tempo*

32

Allegro ♩ = 120

poco a poco accel.

35

6

6

poco a poco cresc.

38

♩ = 92

mf *pp* *p* *sonoro* *i* *i* *i* *i* *p* *i* *i* *i* *i*

♩ = 120

rasgeado

42

a m i *i* *i* *i* *i*

rasgeado brillante

43

mf *e a m i* *i* *i* *i* *i*

44

rasg. *pulgar* *pulgar*

ff *sf* *p* *sf* *p* *sf*