



## Fact Sheet — Aloha Plenty – Doug & Sandy McMaster

*“Tunes Your World to Aloha!”*

Musical style: Hawaiian slack key guitar & ukulele – traditional style.

Hometown: Hanalei, Kauai, Hawaii

Current CD: “SWEET HAWAII DREAMS” (January 2012) “IN MY HEART” (April 2011)

Awards:

- Hawaii Music Foundation’s People’s Choice Award – Best Slack Key (Hanalei Tradition II CD)
- Hawaii Music Foundation’s People’s Choice Award – Best Slack Key (Hanalei Tradition CD)

Members/Instruments:

Doug McMaster: guitar, engineer

Sandy McMaster: ukulele, guitar, engineer, artist

Record Label: Aloha Plenty

Web site: <http://www.McMasterSlackKey.com>

Points of note:

Keeping the tradition alive and “*tuning the world to Aloha*”, Doug & Sandy McMaster’s 12<sup>th</sup> slack key CD release, “**SWEET HAWAII DREAMS**”, is a selection of 14 soothing instrumentals from the dream guitar to help people maha (rest), and experience deep, rejuvenating sleep.

In April 2011, the duo released, “**IN MY HEART**”, homage to the old Hawaiian way of life. “Ha’ale’ale i ka pu’uwai” means ‘heart full to the brim with love’.

According to an old Molokai family parable, each of us is born with a perfect bowl of light. It is the light of our unique soul. It is up to us to tend our light, keeping our bowl clear of stones. With our bowls full of light, we can do or be anything. Stones are added to the bowl when we are jealous, envious, hold grudges, harbor ill will, etc. A stone and light cannot hold the same space and a little light goes out. If we fill our bowls with stones, we become a stone unable to move or grow. If we tire of being a stone, all we have to do is turn the bowl upside down letting the stones fall away and our light will fill our bowl once again. Hearts filled with love.

Slack key music was born in the taro fields from the heart of the Hawaiian islands. Like Hawaiian language, slack key music expresses many levels of meaning. The story of the song is key to its proper playing. Ho’olohe o pepeiao – Listen and pay attention. Remember where you and the song come from. Know what your hand is made for – what your mission is this lifetime. Live your talents and gifts.

When Doug & Sandy were preparing to move back to Kauai from Molokai in 1999, Kelii (see below) took them aside. He looked at Doug and said, “You and me are the same. We play old style. There are only a handful of people still playing old style. It’s up to you to make sure it lives on.” We both looked at Kelii saying, “How are we going to do that?”. Kelii responded, “As long as people keep hearing the songs and the stories, they will carry the music in their hearts and take with them all over the world. It will live on.”

Settled back on Kauai, Doug & Sandy started a slack key concert series to live up to that mission. People flock to their performances show after show, year after year to spend an afternoon connected to old Hawaii and embraced by the sweet sounds of ki ho’alu and stories. They’ve performed over 1200 concerts to date.

“Our friend, Kelii, slack key caretaker of Molokai took us under his wing. He learned ki ho’alu (slack key) from his tutu (grandmother), in the old way. As it would be getting dark, he’d find her sitting in the taro patch playing her guitar for the taro, the land, everyone and everything. Ho’oponopono, “making things right”, at the end of the day. As everything readied for sleep and maha (rest), she taught him that we are all connected... ancestors, plants, animals, land, pohaku (stone), humans, waters, ... all connected. What you do to one, you do to all.”