

Fort Collins 2015 Preview

By Festival Coordinator, Tony Fourcroy

The annual HSGA Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival is on again this year. The event will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Fort Collins the same as last year. For this year's festival we are bringing back the Saturday Night Lū'au. Those of you who attended last year's festival may remember Janna Yoshimoto, who danced for Mark Kehalekulu's set and a couple of others. Janna runs a local hula halau and will be bringing dancers for our festival. Our own Uncle Duke Kaleolani Ching has once again graciously stepped forward to produce our Saturday Night Lū'au.

The festival format will be similar to previous years with playing sessions and workshops on Thursday through Saturday. I've been working with the hotel on the menu, which will include a roast pig this year. I will be looking for volunteers to help with the workshops, festival registration desk and other related tasks. Let me know if you want to help out. As of this writing we don't yet have a guest artist committed but we're working on it.

We've raised the prices a little this year to try to cover the expenses of the festival and hopefully break even. The festival registration will be \$50 for all three days, and \$20 for Saturday only. The Saturday Night Lū'au will be \$35 and I promise the food and entertainment will be worth it (did I mention the roast pig?).

The Hilton room prices are the same as last year (the single rate is \$109) and the hotel registration site is up. You can book your rooms through the hotel's website (www.tinyurl.com/HSGA2015-HiltonRes) or you can call the hotel

At our 2014 Fort Collins festival, HSGA Secretary-Treasurer Kamaka Tom with an old UH classmate, Miriam Pumehana Paisner, who currently lives in Boulder, Colorado and teaches hula.



At Ft. Collins last year: (l. to r.) Mark Kahalekulu, Ed Punua, Vic Punua and Janna Yoshimoto, who danced for Mark's set and runs the hula halau that will supply the dancers for this year's lū'au.

directly at (970) 482-2626. Make sure you mention that you are with HSGA to get our special room rate. Registration for the festival can be done through the Brown Paper Tickets website (www.tinyurl.com/HSGA2015-Festival) or you can fill out the registration form and mail it to Tony (see the insert included with your newsletter).

You may have heard that we were having problems booking the hotel due to conflicts with the Colorado State University football team. I've worked out an agreement with the hotel so that in the future we will always be able to get one of two weekends around the end of September. This is absolutely the best time of year in Colorado because the weather has cooled down and the aspen are all turning gold.

We will get the HSGA website updated with all the festival information and I will also post the information on the HSGA forum and the HSGA Facebook page. You can check those sites for the most up-to-date information, or you can send me an email (tony.fourcroy@gmail.com). ■