

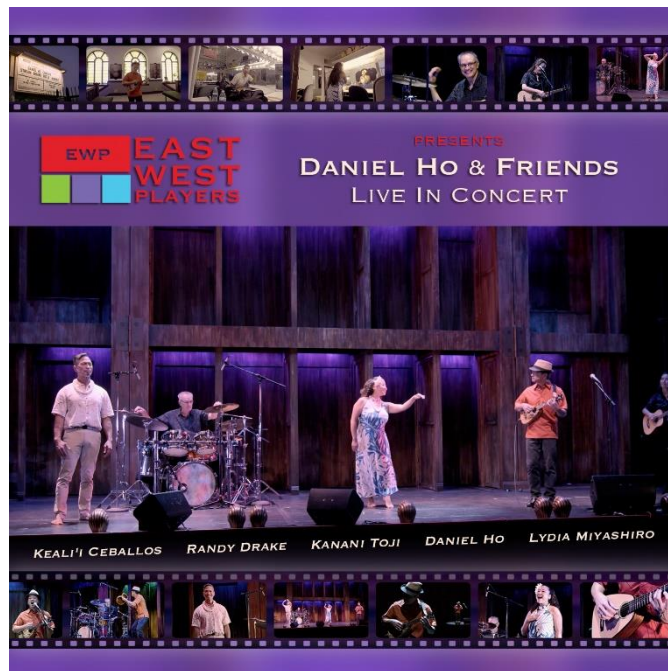
'Ukulele Ambassador, Composer and Producer DANIEL HO

Receives 64th GRAMMY® Award Nomination for

Best Global Music Album

East West Players Presents: Daniel Ho & Friends Live in Concert

Always looking to further expand musical boundaries and possibilities, recording projects by **six-time GRAMMY-winning artist and producer Daniel Ho** span Hawaiian, world, classical, and contemporary instrumental music. His latest album, ***East West Players Presents: Daniel Ho & Friends Live in Concert*** is the convergence of many avenues he has explored during his thirty years as a musician.



This is Ho's twelfth GRAMMY Award nomination, and his third nomination in the World Music category, which was recently renamed **Best Global Music Album**.

The album's all-original repertoire spotlights the 'ukulele and includes some of Ho's favorite pieces on piano and Hawaiian slack key guitar. The compositions date as far back as 1986, when Ho wrote "Pineapple Mango" as an assignment in music school for TV main titles. The goal was to write a catchy, one-minute melody, and that he did! This simple calypso-inspired three-chord song has taken on a life of its own, and is played by 'ukulele enthusiasts all over the world. At the other end of the musical spectrum is "Nā Pana 'Elua (The Two Heartbeats)."

For Immediate Release



Ho explains, “In all my years as a composer and musician, *Nā Pana ‘Elua (The Two Heartbeats)* is the most rewarding and challenging piece I have ever recorded. **It represents what I love most about this intriguing art form—the depth of rhythms, harmonies, and melodies—and the ability to explain the intent and function of every note.**

Nā Pana ‘Elua (The Two Heartbeats) is **based on a magnificent Indian polyrhythm.** The first rhythm is made up of ten-and-a-half quarter notes phrased in four beats, two beats, three beats, and one-and-a-half beats ($4 + 2 + 3 + 1.5 = 10.5$). The other, also an odd meter, is phrased in seven dotted quarter notes. I simultaneously play the ‘ukulele melody in ten-and-a-half and the accompaniment in seven. The most exciting part about it is that these cycles meet up at every twenty-one beats (10.5×2 and 7×3)!

I used traditional world music rhythms and instruments to establish a subliminal familiarity. The *ipu heke*, a Hawaiian percussion instrument made from a gourd, provides the rock heartbeat in ten-and-a-half, while the ‘ukulele and Ohana bass ‘ukulele define the melody and harmony. The African *udu*, or *ibo* drum, has a rhythmic conversation with the *ipu heke*, over which the shaker, triangle, caxixi and agogo bells dance to the *Partido Alto* rhythm. **The meeting of Indian, African, Latin American, and Hawaiian rhythms takes the ‘ukulele on a journey around the world!”**

The vocal tracks on the album celebrate the land of Ho’s birth—diverse and multi-cultural Hawai‘i—with songs in both English and ‘*ōlelo Hawai‘i* (Hawaiian language) about life on the Islands, and always-prevalent themes no matter where in the world one might be, like beloved foods (SPAM... mmm...) and love. The CD closes with Ho’s delicate ‘ukulele arrangement of a holiday favorite, “Pō La‘i Ē (Silent Night),” sung by *Kumu Hula* (Hula Master) Keali‘i Ceballos.

The “Friends” with whom Ho performed are a talented group of confidants and collaborators: Randy Drake (percussion), Keali‘i Ceballos (vocals, hula), Kanani Toji (vocals, hula), and Lydia Miyashiro (bass). Supported by faithful and newfound friends at East West Players, the oldest Asian American theater company in the nation dedicated to preserving Asian and Asian American/BIPOC arts, the *East West Players Presents: Daniel Ho & Friends Live in Concert* event last December has become a beacon of light and positivity in a year of unbelievable circumstances.

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Ho has always strived to develop his skills in every aspect of the creative process—from composition, to playing various instruments, singing, recording, mixing, mastering, graphic design, and video production. He feels it has allowed him to realize his art with utmost sincerity. **“I believe albums are audio diaries of who we are and what we value at a particular point in time. Live albums are especially revealing, which is probably why I’ve shied away from recording one until now. However, I’ve found great motivation in the uncertainty the pandemic has shed on our existence, and wanted to try anything I was once hesitant about while I still can.”**

It’s a fresh sense and style that earned Ho **six successive GRAMMY Awards for “Best Hawaiian Music Album”** from 2005 to 2010, including *Masters of Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar, vol. 1* (2005) and *Huana Ke Aloha* (2010), and the many nominations during and in the years to follow.

***East West Players Presents: Daniel Ho & Friends Live in Concert* also showcases five signature instruments Daniel created with Romero Creations and Ohana Ukuleles:** the Tiny Tenor ‘ukulele (which has been on display at the GRAMMY Museum since May 2021), the DHo Six String (baritone ‘ukulele), the Bongolele and Shakerlele percussion line, and Daniel’s new Ohana signature ‘ukulele bass. **Ten years ago, Ho set out to create an “‘ukulele band” using all ‘ukulele-themed instruments. This album is the culmination of his imaginative efforts and a testament to the quality and artistic uniqueness of his vision.**

“My philosophy about music and sound and instruments is that I want to do something that hasn’t been done before, and something that challenges me, such as a particular variation with ‘ukuleles and slack key guitar and Hawaiian percussion instruments and World Music influences. Beyond that, I need to find a way to put the notes together so it’s not just a crazy mish-mash of disparate musics, and it’s something that *works*.”

It turns out that *East West Players Presents: Daniel Ho & Friends Live in Concert* works. And there’s no better way to explore and delight in a musical journey than in the company of good friends!

A NOTE ON EAST WEST PLAYERS:

Founded in 1965, East West Players is committed to raising the visibility of the Asian American experience by presenting world-class theatrical productions, developing artists of color, and providing impactful youth education programs.

Daniel Ho Creations
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Daniel Ho Creations & Wind Music Co-Promotion

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