

WAITIKI

Classic Exotica for Modern Listeners

WAITIKI is a Boston-based classic exotica group that takes audiences on South Pacific sound adventures like no other! Along with its own library of original **exotica music**, WAITIKI also pays tribute to the classic tiki sounds of **Martin Denny**, **Arthur Lyman**, **Les Baxter**, and Robert Drasnin.

Started on a whim in 2003 by Honolulu musicians **Randy Wong** and **Abe Lagrimas Jr.**, WAITIKI has since garnered praise and critical acclaim throughout the world. In 2005, the group headlined the **Hawai'i International Jazz Festival**, performing a musical homage to Martin Denny.



In 2006, the group became known in Mexico when their side project, the WAITIKI “Orchestrotica” performed original big band arrangements inspired by **Juan Garcia Esquivel** at Mexico City’s Festival de Mexico, an annual international event that celebrates Mexican culture and the arts.

Recently, WAITIKI won **Hawaii Music Awards** for its first and second albums; the group’s first win (in 2006) was a dual honor, in that the category (**Exotica Album of the Year**) was created for the group, in recognition of their efforts for bringing exotic tiki music back to popularity.

WAITIKI is also known for its original drink menu and exotic tiki collectibles created in its honor, such as: cocktail recipes by **Jeff “Beach Bum” Berry**, comic books by *Hey Boy!* *Hey Girl! Designs*, and prints by master tiki illustrator Sam Gambino.

FOR BOOKING, MERCHANDISE SALES, OR JUST TO “TALK STORY”, CALL RANDY WONG:
617.771.7971 OR 808.554.5042 (808 \$ FOR HAWAII CALLERS ONLY PLEASE)

E-MAIL: INFO@WAITIKI.COM • ONLINE: WWW.WAITIKI.COM

WE TRAVEL TO ALL STATES AND COUNTRIES!

Notable Performances



WASSERMUSIK Festival 2008

Berlin, Germany

RETRO COCKTAIL HOUR 500th Broadcast

Lawrence, KS (Kansas Public Radio/PBS)

TIKI OASIS Festival 2008

San Diego, CA

NORTH EAST TIKI TOUR (2007-2008)

Boston, MA

THE LONDON LUAU 2008

London, England

THE HUKILAU FESTIVAL (2005-2007)

Fort Lauderdale, FL

FESTIVAL DE MEXICO 2006

Mexico City, Distrito Federal, Mexico

HAWAII INT'L JAZZ FESTIVAL 2005

Honolulu, HI

"WAITIKI is the best new exotica band in the world right now."

Otto von Stroheim

Publisher, *Tiki News*

Organizer, Tiki Oasis Festival

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Awards & Honors

WINNER, Exotica Album of the Year

Rendezvous in Okonkuluku

2007 Hawaii Music Awards

WINNER, Exotica Album of the Year

Charred Mammal Flesh: Exotic Music for BBQ

2006 Hawaii Music Awards

NOMINEE, Best Song from the U.S.A.

“Cave of Uldo” by Randy Wong

2007 Ontario Independent Music Awards



FEATURED on NPR's *Weekend America*

December 22, 2007

FEATURED as “Artist-Teacher-Scholars”

Journal for Music-In-Education 2007

“Hawai‘i is big on the spirit of *ho‘okipa* (to entertain): The high-energy WAITIKI band was afire with irresistible music . . . Randy Wong and Abe Lagrimas guided the WAITIKI crew with lots of ukuleles, gongs, African percussion and Hawaiian exotica, added to bass, saxophone and vibes. They were a huge success.”

The Lowell Sun, Feb. 3, 2004

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Meet The Band

WAITIKI performs in a variety of configurations, ranging from a trio to a septet. Here are bios from our cast of musicians!

Randy Wong

Double Bass and Musical Director/Bandleader; WAITIKI co-founder

A classical double bassist and educational researcher by training, Randy's arrangements of *hapa-haole*, traditional Hawaiian, and exotica tunes appear on both WAITIKI albums and "Paradise Lost & Found," a compilation released by Flea Market Music. Randy's dedication to restoring exotica as a familiar musical genre, coupled with ensuring high-quality musicianship in exotica performances are cornerstones of the WAITIKI philosophy. Randy is a graduate of Iolani School, New England Conservatory, and Harvard University.

Abe Lagrimas Jr

Vibraphone, drum kit, exotic percussion, ukulele; WAITIKI co-founder

Born in Guam and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, Abe Lagrimas is in high demand as a multi-instrumentalist. At age 10, Abe was Grand Prize Winner of an international competition sponsored by *Modern Drummer*. He has since become an Artist Endorser for Paiste Cymbals, Vic Firth and Ko'olau. Abe is signed to Sony/BMG, Universal, and Pass Out Records. He is a graduate of Waipahu High School and Berklee College of Music.

Tim Mayer a.k.a. "The Mayor of Exotica", "Sumotori Sam", and "Drank Sumatra"

Saxophones, flutes, clarinets, vocals

Tim Mayer is known internationally for his work in Latin jazz and exotic lounge. Aside from WAITIKI, Tim performs regularly with Eguie Castrillo, Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, Giovanni Hidalgo, Danilo Perez, & Francisco Mela. Recent tours have brought him to the Heineken Jazz Festival, and to Key West & Cape Verde. He is on Faculty at Berklee College of Music.

Zaccai Curtis

Piano

Zaccai Curtis is a recognized composer and pianist in jazz and Latin jazz circles, playing regularly with Ralph Peterson, Christian Scott, Sean Jones, Jimmy Greene, Kendrick Oliver, and the Donald Harrison Quintet. He has won multiple ASCAP Young Jazz Composer awards and is pianist on the GRAMMY-nominated jazz album "Rewind That" led by Christian Scott. Zaccai is an alumnus of New England Conservatory where he studied with Danilo Perez, Jerry Bergonzi, Steve Lacy, and Michael Cain.

Lopaka Colon

Percussion

Hawaii-born percussionist Lopaka Colon defines the sound of exotica percussion. Lopaka carries on the legacy and tradition of exotica and its birdcalls once performed by his father Augie Colon in the original Martin Denny band. A key member of the exotica show group DON TIKI, Lopaka also performs frequently with Henry Kapono and leads his own band, Intoxica.

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The Band (cont'd.)

Helen Liu

Violin

Helen Liu is a respected chamber musician, period/Baroque specialist, and solo violinist who has worked with the Emerson String Quartet, Colin Carr, Arthur Haas, James Buswell, composer Angel Lam, and others. A champion of contemporary music, the *Palm Beach Post* praised Helen for her “sure technique and huge sound”, and in 2003, was Assistant Concertmaster of the National Repertory Orchestra. Helen holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from SUNY-Stonybrook, and is also a graduate of New England Conservatory and University of Maryland. She can be heard on both of WAITIKI’s self-released albums.

Jim Benoit

Vibraphone

Jim Benoit is a twenty-one year old native of Niskayuna, NY and is a student at Berklee College of Music. Jim has received awards from Yamaha Corporation and Zildjian Cymbals in recognition of his abilities on vibraphone and percussion. He has attended Eastern Music Festival and Music Academy of the West.

Mikey Connors

Drum kit & vibraphone

Drummer Mike Connors tours worldwide with several Broadway shows, including *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Anything Goes*. Mikey is also known in the lounge scene as drummer and vibraphonist for Combustible Edison; his music can be heard on Quentin Tarantino’s Oscar-nominated film *Four Rooms*. As a sideman, Mikey has performed with Gary Burton, Mike Stern, and other jazz visionaries.

Our Collaborators

WAITIKI collaborates with some of the world’s foremost authorities on the “tiki culture”. Here’s a taste of some of our past and current projects/partnerships.

Brother Cleve

Production & Guru

Cleve’s ears helped us produce our two Hawaii Music Award-winning exotica albums in 2005 and 2007.

Jeff “Beachbum” Berry

Mixology & Tiki Historian

We presented “A Beantown Sippin’ Safari” in November 2007, featuring ‘period’ hand-mixed cocktails reverse-engineered by Jeff Berry.

Sam Gambino

Tiki Illustration & Graphic Design

Jason Goodman

Photography

Hey Boy! Hey Girl! Designs

Comic Book Production

First Issue due out, Sept. 2008!

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