



DANCING CAT RECORDS

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OVERVIEW

Dancing Cat Records' dual mission is to produce and promote the music of George Winston, as well as Hawaiian slack key guitar. The production wing of the company, Dancing Cat Productions, is the in-house management for George Winston and also assists in the marketing of slack key guitar recordings and concerts.

HISTORY

Pianist George Winston founded Dancing Cat Records in 1983. His goal was to record both the musicians who have influenced his music and musicians whose music he felt needed to be preserved for future generations.

In the mid 1980s, Dancing Cat released solo guitar recordings by Brazilian guitarist Bola Sete, classical guitarist Michael Lorimer, folk guitarist George Cromarty, the reissue of the classic ROCK 'N' ROLL GUMBO album by the late New Orleans rhythm and blues pianist Professor Longhair, an album by the New Orleans singer/songwriter Shad Weathersby, and an album by vocalist Sylvia Kohan. Dancing Cat also released the soundtrack to the children's story THE VELVETEEN RABBIT, with narration by Meryl Streep and solo piano accompaniment by George Winston.

After releasing these albums, George and Dancing Cat began concentrating on recording albums of the masters of the fingerstyle solo guitar tradition from the Hawaiian Islands known as ki ho'alu or slack key guitar, which George had been listening to and studying since 1974. These albums became Dancing Cat's HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR MASTERS SERIES.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As of 2007, Dancing Cat has produced and released 39 recordings in the ongoing HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR MASTERS SERIES, the first of which was released in April of 1994. The guitarists recorded to date include: Keola Beamer, Bob Brozman, the late Sonny Chillingworth, Cindy Combs, the late Barney Isaacs, Ledward Kaapana, George Kahumoku, Jr., Moses Kahumoku, Ray Kane, Dennis Kamakahi, Ozzie Kotani, George Kuo, the late Leonard Kwan, James Bla Pahinui and Cyril Pahinui. Eight of these recordings have appeared on Billboard's World Music Chart, with the HAWAIIAN SLACK KEY GUITAR MASTERS INSTRUMENTAL COLLECTION making it to #4. Eight recordings have won Hawaii's prestigious Na Hoku Hanohano Award for Instrumental Album of the Year (also awarded for album cover design and) . The holiday compilation KI HO'ALU CHRISTMAS was awarded best Christmas Album.

Dancing Cat's website features biographies of all the artists, the recording liner notes, the history of slack key guitar, and also audio samples from each release, as well as up to date concert tour information for all of our artists.