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**DANCING CAT TO RELEASE TWO NEW CLASSIC  
SLACK KEY TITLES, CYRIL PAHINUI “HE’EIA”  
& CINDY COMBS “SUNNY RAIN”**

Dancing Cat Records is proud to announce the release of new albums by noted Slack key guitarists Cyril Pahinui and Cindy Combs – two new additions to the label’s acclaimed Slack Key Master series.

Cyril Pahinui grew up in Waimanalo, a small town on the coast on Oahu, where his father, Gabby Pahinui, was one of Hawaii's preeminent and most influential slack key guitarists. Growing up in the Pahinui home, Cyril was nurtured in an environment that provided food, shelter, rehearsal space, concert hall, and playground for many of Hawaii's foremost traditional musicians. The jam sessions there often went on all day – sometimes all week.

*He’eia*, Cyril’s third solo album for the Dancing Cat label features deep and soulful solo guitar instrumentals, and vocals accompanied by his solo acoustic guitar. Cyril’s outstanding improvisational ability on some of Hawaii’s most beloved songs is showcased on this album.

Cindy Combs unique style is influenced by her early exposure to Hawaiian music and American music, as well as from her lessons with the great Slack Key guitarist Keola Beamer in 1971. Since then, Cindy has shown herself to be a gifted composer and vocal stylist. *Sunny Rain* displays her ability to seamlessly combine traditional Hawaiian music with occasional jazz stylings, creating a sound all her own. For more information see [www.dancingcat.com](http://www.dancingcat.com) or [www.slackkeylady.com](http://www.slackkeylady.com).

In addition to the release of *Sunny Rain*, Cindy Combs will be one of the artist’s featured at the 25th Annual Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival on O’ahu, taking place August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Honolulu.

Slack Key Guitar is the unique finger style guitar technique originating from the Hawaiian Islands, and considered one of the world's great acoustic guitar traditions. The English term is a translation of the Hawaiian *kei hō'alu*, which means "loosen the [tuning] key", hence "slacking them" from the standard guitar tuning (E-B-G-D-A-E) to many other tunings, such as the popular Open G Major "Taro Patch" Tuning (D-G-D-G-B-D). The bass lines are played by the guitarist's thumb while the other fingers play the melody with improvised fingerpicking.

The roots of slack key can be traced back at least to the 1830s, when the Mexican cowboys originally brought the acoustic guitar to the Hawaiian Islands. The Hawaiians quickly embraced the guitar and adopted it into their culture, with the Slack Key style adapted to accompany vocals as well as *hula* dancing, and later developing as an instrumental guitar tradition on its own.

The Slack Key guitar tradition has been increasingly popularized through Dancing Cat Records, featuring releases by luminaries such as Keola Beamer, Sonny Chillingworth, Cindy Combs, Led Kaapana, Moses Kahumoku, George Kahumoku Jr, Dennis Kamakahi, Ray Kane, Ozzie Kotani, George Kuo, Leonard Kwan, Cyril Pahinui, James Pahinui, Martin Pahinui, and others.

For publicity information or interviews please contact Jennifer Gallacher at Dancing Cat Productions - office # 831-429-5085 x.215  
[jennifer@dancingcat.com](mailto:jennifer@dancingcat.com) - [www.dancingcat.com](http://www.dancingcat.com)