

# Troy Fernandez Biography

Na Hoku Hanohano award winner, Troy Fernandez, whose lightning fast picking and innovative style inspired a generation of ukulele players, is one of Hawaii's most influential performers of Hawaiian and Island Contemporary Music.

Like most island children, Troy began playing the ukulele in elementary school. Popular musicians like ukulele master Peter Moon provided enormous motivation and Troy's skills quickly surpassed his peers. At age 13, Troy formed his first group, "Us," with his Palolo housing friends, Chino Montero and Nathan Nahinu. It didn't take long before the trio was so popular that they were invited to open for a Helen Reddy concert in Honolulu.

Troy, Chino and Nathan continued to play together through high school ("Us", "Anuheia" and "Palolo"). Troy also performed with fellow surfer, John Vález ("John and Troy") and Ernie Cruz, Jr. A steady gig at the Elks Lodge opened the door for Troy and Ernie to tour Japan for 6 months. Troy went on to tour Guam, and upon returning, hooked up once again with Nathan and Chino, and "Backyard Ohana," an ever changing group of musicians.

A last minute gig with Ernie Cruz, Jr. a few years later, at Moose McGillycuddy's, became a regular gig for the duo - this time as "E.T." (after the popular film, "ET - The Extra-Terrestrial" and "Ernie/Troy"). Their first album, "Tropical Hawaiian Day," released in 1991, marking the official beginning of Troy and Ernie's 7 year partnership as one of the most successful groups in Island Contemporary music - Ka'au Crater Boys. With the help of Roy Sakuma, they released one creative album after another. "On Fire" garnered a Na Hoku Hanohano award for "Best Contemporary Album of the Year," and their smash hit "Opihi Man" won the Na Hoku for "Song of the Year" for composer Craig Kanehele. Troy also teamed up with Chino and Nathan, releasing two successful Palolo albums.

News of the duo's impending split, to pursue other opportunities, broke the heart of many a Ka'au Crater Boys' fan. Since that time Troy hasn't missed a beat. Under his own record label he successfully produced new island music groups, released his own solo project, "Surfer from Palolo," and two group projects, "Kaiser Surf Crew," "Collaboration: Troy Fernandez and Friends." In 2006 Troy teamed up with Bob St John at Neos Productions for the release of his first instrumental release, the popular "Hawaiian Style Ukulele" series, and "Strumming My Ukulele," an acoustic collection of island-style contemporary favorites and originals featuring Troy on vocals and ukulele.



Considered one of the best ukulele players in the world, Troy's ability to remain on the cutting edge of his craft continues to dazzle and delight his ever expanding fan base. In the midst of all the accolades, Troy is always quick to credit his wife, Rose, and daughters, Tory and Tia, whose love and support remind him every day of how blessed he is. He hopes his achievements will inspire today's kids in the same way, back in the day, Peter Moon's music inspired a kid from Palolo.

