

# Slack Key Guitar Workshop

With  
**Cyril Pahinui**



*When:* Sunday, August 31, 2008

*Place:* Westin Hotel Long Beach – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Marina Room

*Time:* 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

*Cost:* \$45.00

## **Students must bring their own guitar.**

*Learn: Slack Key Open Tuning in the Pahinui Style • How to develop the slack key sound  
• Hawaiian slack key vamps and scales • Finger picking patterns and alternating bass exercises • Traditional slack key songs both words and music*

Learn to play the sweet and soulful guitar sounds of Hawai'i. Cyril Pahinui, a traditional master of Kīho'alu or slack key guitar, provides the perfect instruction to this rich tradition. Students of all levels will be guided through simple exercises and solos to create the "slack key" sound.

Slack key can be played on any guitar, acoustic or electric. The term refers to both the musical style and the myriad ways the instrument is tuned. Cyril teaches several traditional tunings and focuses on those that originated in his family. In addition, you'll learn the use of vibrato, harmonics, slurs, harmonies in thirds and sixths, legato playing and other musical ideas that have helped create a distinctive guitar sound. This lush finger-picking style will add new sounds and flavors to your entire repertoire.

Musicians will gain a deeper understanding of Hawaiian music and Hawaiian slack key guitar (kī ho'alu), as Cyril Pahinui shares his knowledge of one of the great acoustic guitar traditions in the world. A brief history introduces the student to Hawaiian music styling and slack key's specific context. Featured songs are selections traditionally performed by the Pahinui family. These Hawaiian songs and slack key guitar pieces reflect themes like stories of the past and present and people's lives. Historic and place context, insights on the composer and theme are also explored. Each musical composition has specific techniques and ideas that will enhance and improve the students playing. Different compositions add variety and uniqueness to each individual's music and skills.