

Jason Uesato

Award-winning Guitar Virtuoso



"Jason Uesato is perhaps the best overall guitarist in Hawai'i," Kevin Hopkins, *Hoku Award Nominee and friend*.

Award-winning Guitar Virtuoso, Jason Uesato, was the first-place winner of the *Gordon Biersch, Island Guitars*, and *Star 101.9* guitar contest in September of 2001.

Jason Uesato began guitar lessons in 1971 at the age of 11. In addition to formal training through teacher Tomo Fukui, he was encouraged to play and was mentored and inspired by his cousin Allen Uyesato, and uncle and Battle of the Bands winner Wayne Uesato. A year later, Jason's musical gift and outstanding talent became apparent as he joined the ranks of professional musicians.

Jason credits guitar teachers Tomo Fukui, Bill Valdez, and Ron Loo, as well as mentors Allen Uyesato, and Wayne Uesato, for guiding his primary development as a guitar player. He also credits vocal instructor Eunice Demello with developing his singing style.

Jason composes and performs original songs, and also specializes in a mixture of different musical styles, including jazz, classical, blues, ragtime, folk, slack key, and Brazillian-jazz. Among fan favorites are Classical Gas, The Girl From Ipanema, Peter Gun, Manha De Carnaval, The Star Spangled Banner, and many more outstanding spectacular pieces.

Jason graduated from Castle High School where classmate Teresa Bright agreed with Jason's teachers that he is perhaps the best overall guitarist in Hawai'i. He earned a master's degree in political science from University of Hawaii. He completed his undergraduate work at International College and Graduate School of Theology.

Most Recent Public Performances:

- Honolulu Academy of Arts — December 2003
- Can-Do Conference, Hilton Hawaiian Village, October 2003
- Deaf Artist Daniel Wang, Solo Art Show, Volcano Joe's, September 2003
- "Live It Up Live" Concert Series, Hawaii Public Radio Atherton Studio, Hard Rock Café Honolulu, VSA arts of Hawaii-Pacific, August 2003