

# Apokolani & the Maker Brothers June 2025



**Keoki Apokolani Carter** is a songwriter and musician performing as “Apokolani”—a trio—with Paul Lindbergh on saxophone and Yvonne Yarber (Carter) vocals & songwriter. Multiple Na Hoku Hanohano Awards nominee 2013-2025; a jazz and slack key finalist. Songs paced through ancestors, place and living. “Pili ‘Aina” songs take lots of global makani (wind/air) and ocean sway: blend with kihoalu add some folk, jazz, blues, Latin, island—shake it all up and there you have Apokolani originals. When asked what style, “I can only say, Any-kine music that moves through me and the ukulele or guitar to tell the story and feeling. Songs come as gifts. It’s in the koko, the blood—Hawaiian island soul. So, I call it easy, Hawaiian blood music. The kind you can sit down, listen and take time to eat some poi.”



**Yvonne Yarber Carter**, sings with husband Keoki, sometimes writing lyrics or songs strongly influenced by kuleana relationships to the land, wind, waters and each other. She describes “Hele On Kinda Day,” a Hoku nominated single, as “a song the river wrote after a joyful holoholo morning”. “Oh So Many Doors” by contrast is the self-destruction of bad choices and redemption possibilities. The dry-side of Waimea is home to Yvonne & Keoki who grew up in Nanakuli and Waianae on O’ahu.



**Paul Lindbergh**, an accomplished Hawai’i island saxophonist, has been part of the Apokolani musical journey and ‘ohana since 2012. We are honored to feature his tenor saxophone on many songs that brings a rich layer of energy to the Apokolani compositions. As a young teenage transplant from New York in 1962, Paul quickly became part of the island and ocean pulse. No doubt, years of surfing, fishing, Aikido and making boards for Hawaii Paipo Designs have influenced the ebb and flow he brings to the music—disciplined yet fluid and emotive. Music credits include: Maggie Heron, Michael Macdonald, Patty Austin, Petula Clark, Al Green, Ernie Watts, Gabe Balthazar, Ollie Mitchell, and jazz guitarist Phil Upchurch.

## Maker Brothers



**Elliot Maker**, is a familiar music figure in Honolulu at places like Jazz Minds, Blue Note and Dragon Upstairs playing piano, flugelhorn, trumpet and percussion. Apokolani has had the pleasure of playing together with Elliot in Honolulu, at Ward Rafters and Pakele Live at the Willows. Elliot’s love of rhythm and sound is infectious as he seems to dance sitting at the piano bench as he plays. Another bond is that Elliot teaches at Waianae High School, the alma mater of Yvonne and Keoki. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Elliot has played with David Sanborn, Tom Scott, Patrice Rushen, Bill Watrous, The Manhattans, Stylics, The Sherells, The Crystals, Pete Escovedo and Lenny Castro. Also, part of the music scene in Japan for years before making his home in Hawai’i where he currently teaches Japanese and Spanish.



**Gregory “the bass player” Maker** is Elliot’s brother and a special guest in between world travels. Island visits gift music making with Apokolani. A live recording session in the Kohala upcountry resulted in the seemingly magical Kumau Barn Jazz Sessions. Gregory has worked as a musician/bass player in New York City and internationally for more than 40 years in a variety of venues and genres that include jazz, fusion, classical orchestras and Broadway musicals. Credits include: Lonnie Liston Smith and the Cosmic Echoes, The Symphony of the New World, Harlem Festival Orchestra, New York City Housing Authority Orchestra, Hubert Laws, Frank Foster’s Loud Minority, Billy Harper, Buddy Rich, Peggy Lee, Jerry Lewis, Chuck Berry, and Marvin Gaye. Broadway credits include “Evita”, “A Raisin in the Sun”, “Eubie”, The Royal Shakespeare Company, and off Broadway “The Great McDaddy”.