



## FEATURE

# THE MUSIC OF HAWAII

Meets National Core Arts Anchor Standards 7-9, 11

### OBJECTIVES

- Perceive and analyze artistic work. (*Re7*)
- Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. (*Re8*)
- Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. (*Re9*)
- Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding. (*Cn11*)

### MATERIALS

- *Music Alive!* magazine (Vol.40 No.4)
- Computer or mobile device with internet access

### START

Ask your students to read “The Music of Hawaii” on pages 6-9. Then, go over the following highlighted words.

**[This reinforces comprehension and vocabulary.]**

**MELE**—traditional Hawaiian chant telling a story through music and dance

**HULA**—traditional dance music performed as a group

**SLACK-KEY GUITAR**—a method of tuning by loosening or “slacking” one or more of the strings until the six strings form a single chord played without pressing down any strings

**PANIOLOS**—Mexican cowboys brought to Hawaii to manage cattle, but also influenced Hawaiian music through the guitar and falsetto.

**CAVAQUINHO**—small, four-string guitar that was the predecessor to the ukulele

**FALSETTO**—a method of voice technique to sing notes higher than their normal range

**STEEL GUITAR**—a method of guitar playing involving laying the guitar across the legs, playing the strings with a metal bar. The instrument deeply influenced western country music.

**HAPA HAOLE**—an original song using English lyrics and traditional Hawaiian instruments.

**HA’I**—Yodel-like technique that emphasizes the break between falsetto and natural vocal range

**JAWAIIAN**—Hawaiian reggae style

**HAKU MELE**—Hawaiian composers and performers

**HAWAIIAN RENAISSANCE**—a cultural movement in the 1970’s, focusing on bringing back and preserving the traditional music style of Hawaiian natives.

**A CAPELLA**—without instrumental accompaniment

### DEVELOP

**As a class (if possible), listen to the following tracks in Hear the Music:**

#### “Ho’onea” by Lena Machado

How does *ha’i* vocal style compare to other styles of singing?

How does this song make you feel? Why?

How many harmony lines do you hear?

What instruments do you hear?

#### “‘Ahulili” by Raiatea Helm

How does this style of yodeling/falsetto compare to the earlier style of Machado?

How many Hawaiian instruments can you identify?

How would you describe Helm’s voice?

Would this song have a different effect if it used different instruments?

#### “Hi’ilawe” by Gabby Pahinui

How is the style of this song different from the first two?

How does this song make you feel? Why?

How does the guitar playing style differ to “My Little Grass Shack?”

### EXTRA CREDIT

**Watch this short documentary detailing the evolution of Hawaiian guitar:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7C3yytWllp4>

Compare the different playing styles in the video. Can you describe the evolution of guitar playing and how it influenced other styles and genres of music?

#### **Listen to a contemporary mele chant:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDxgWI-ufUs>

How does traditional *mele* compare to *hapa haole*?

### CLOSE

How have other cultures influenced the people of Hawaii?

How did they adapt to create their own unique music?

### ASSESS

**Did the students read the article?**

**Did they review the vocabulary words?**

**Did they answer the supplemental questions?**