

PŪLAMA

Pūlama's mellow, *nahenahe* Hawaiian sound has been described as "like velvet for the heart." Jim Romano and Paula Kauapālaukī Rudman have performed their blend of virtuoso slack-key guitar and close, pure vocal harmonies at tiki bars, concerts, festivals, weddings, memorials, baptisms and canoe-blessings. They present a mix of traditional and modern Hawaiian *mele*, *hapa-haole* songs and Jim's original compositions, arranged with artistry and performed with aloha.

Pūlama has recorded one album, *The Song Within the Song* (2009) and is at work on a second.

Paula Kauapālaukī Rudman's warm, lyrical vocals perfectly complement Jim Romano's scintillating slack-key guitar and rough-smooth tenor. The two met in 2003, on their way to a healing conference, after many years of living in the same neighborhood.

They started singing—and doing healing—together that first day.

Both bring eclectic musical backgrounds and a deep understanding of Hawaiian culture and spirituality to their performance of Hawaiian *mele*. While Jim was playing rock-and-roll and blues guitar like Jimmy Page and learning to scream like Robert Plant, Paula was emulating Joan Baez and Jacqui McShee, singing American and British Isles folk tunes "with not a hint of the vibrato I had to rediscover when I began singing in the Hawaiian tradition."

Both have studied Hawaiian healing, Jim as a massage therapist and Paula as a subtle-energy practitioner. They found in Hawaii and Hawaiian music "a place where *'aina* and *moana* (land and sea) are sacred and there is no separation between the spiritual and the everyday." The accuracy of their *'olelo*, or Hawaiian diction, is an important feature of Pūlama's music, and Jim has composed several songs in Hawaiian.

But it is the synergy between these two performers that is at the heart of Pūlama's sound. Their arrangements have a balance and flow that adds freshness to Hawaiian *mele* while maintaining fidelity to the tradition. And, "we are often told that it is rare to find two voices that blend so beautifully."

"A joy to listen to ...All [Pulama's] harmonies and arrangements are beautiful"

- Kumu Haumea Aynaga

(Hula Halau: Hiva Nui~Na Pua O Ka Honua)



Pūlama

www.pulamamusic.com

pulama@pulamamusic.com

P.O. Box 1268

El Cerrito, CA 94530

Phone: 510-526-8099