

## Biographies of Panelists

### Odean Pope

Odean Pope is a prolific composer, arranger, multi-instrumentalist, and educator. His musical training and maturation began in Philadelphia, where he was among a remarkable group of young jazz innovators that included John Coltrane, Benny Golson, Jymie Merritt, Shirley Scott, Hasaan Ibn Ali, McCoy Tyner, the Heath Bros., among others. His distinctive voice on the tenor saxophone and composing aesthetic continually extend and refresh compositional and improvisational ideas/ approaches that draw on that fertile musical environment. His music resonates with his experience in the African American church and playing with noted R&B artists, and 22 years of playing tenor with drummer Max Roach. His compositional practice is also influenced by formal academic studies in woodwind technique, orchestration, modern harmony and arranging. Pope expresses his compositional prowess through various-sized ensembles—trios, quartets, sextets, octets, and his saxophone choir composed of nine saxophones and a rhythm section. He continues to perform, lead workshops and give master classes. His extensive discography includes 22 recordings as leader, and an additional 2 dozen as a side man (including 9 with Max Roach) or collaborating/guest artist. In 2018 thru 2019, with support from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, he led *Sounds of the Circle*, a multi-dimensional project that honored the collective genius among jazz innovators who lived and gigged in North Philadelphia in the 1950s-70s. Spring 2021 will bring the long-delayed release of *Metaphysics*, a 1965 recording Pope made with Hasaan Ibn Ali, a pianist whose creative genius is just reaching broad recognition. Among Pope's numerous awards and recognitions are a Pew Fellowship in the Arts for Music Composition, and in 2017 the Mid-Atlantic Arts Living Legacy Jazz Award. <https://www.odeanpope.com>

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### Kamaka Fernandez

If anyone could be described as having “Hawaiian heart and soul,” it is indeed Kamakakehau Fernandez. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, a 6 week old African American infant was adopted and brought to the shores of Maui, Hawai'i by Robyn Nae'ole, It is here that his new family and home shaped “Kamakakēhau” into one of Hawai'i's refreshing talents.

Kamakakehau was one of the featured performers on the 2004 “Aloha Festivals Falsetto Contest Winners – Vol. 5” CD; after winning Richard Ho'opi'i's falsetto contest in 2003, he was the 2012 winner of 4th Annual Kani Ka Pila Grille Talent Search; and he worked with multiple Nā Hōkū Hanohano (Hawai'i's version of the Grammys) award-winning producer Dave Tucciarone on his debut solo album "Wahi Mahalo," for which Kamakakehau won the 2013 Nā Hōkū Hanohano Music Award for Extended Play - EP, Album of the year.

Kamaka's education played a huge part in his love and appreciation for the Hawaiian culture and music. He is a graduate of the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program Also an educator amongst many teaching Hawaiian language, 'Ukulele and many other skills to do with Hawai'i's culture all in effort, to keep Hawai'i's language alive and thriving. He is proud to be a fluent speaker of the Hawaiian language in which Kamaka has also done voice over work for the Hawaiian language version for one of Disney's featured films “Moana”.

Though his heart and soul is Hawaiian, he still holds honor and respect for his African American roots. Each culture is unique in their own way with sacred values and traditions, yet both are of high regard in the eyes of Kamakakēhau Fernandez.

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### **Steven Feld**

I'm a musician/sound artist, filmmaker, and researcher in the global anthropology of sound. I grew up in Philadelphia and as a high school senior witnessed John Coltrane's November 1966 Temple University concert, the lost tapes of which were finally recovered and published as the double CD Offering in September 2014. After 30 years of research in the Pacific, Europe, and Asia, I visited Ghana in 2004 and met multi-instrumentalist Nii Noi Nortey and percussionist Nii Otoo Annan, whose musical experiments, like my own, were inspired by Coltrane's late period artistry. In the fifteen years since we've performed and toured as Accra Trane Station, and documented Coltrane's Ghana legacy in a CD, DVD, and book series titled Jazz Cosmopolitanism in Accra. [www.stevenfeld.net](http://www.stevenfeld.net)

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### **Germaine Ingram**

Germaine Ingram has dedicated a half-century to work in law, public service, performing arts, and arts/cultural strategy and production. Her career in arts and culture, spanning more than 25 years, includes dance and vocal performance, choreography, oral history, writing, filmmaking, and arts/culture strategy at the intersection of art and social change. She creates evening-length, multi-disciplinary works that explore themes related to history, collective memory, and social justice; and designs, directs, and executes, for herself and other artists, arts/culture projects that illuminate community arts/cultural history.

Recent and ongoing projects include an exploration of the history and evolution of performative expressions of Yoruba-rooted ritual in Philadelphia since the mid-20th century, and a performance/archival project honoring the environment of collective genius in North Philadelphia that galvanized the careers of world-class jazz innovators in the 1950s-70s.

Her work has been supported by the NEA, The Pew Center for Arts & Humanities, the Independence, Leeway, Lomax Family, and Wyncote Foundations, and the Pennsylvania Councils on the Arts and the Humanities. Among other awards, she was a 2010 Pew Fellow in the Arts, Leeway Foundation Transformation awardee, and a 2014 resident fellow at the Sacatar Institute in Itaparica, Bahia, Brazil. For more than a decade she has regularly moderated public forums on a variety of civic issues under the auspices of the Penn Project on Civic Engagement.

She received her BA in Political Science from Syracuse University (1968) and her JD from the University of Pennsylvania (1971). She was a Fellow in Law and Humanities at Harvard University (1974-75).

## **Kevin Fellezs**

Kevin Fellezs is an Associate Professor at Columbia University, where he shares a joint appointment in the Music and the African American and African Diaspora Studies departments. His work focuses on the relationship between popular music and identity, particularly within African, Asian, and Pacific Islander American communities. He has written on a wide range of music from jazz to Hawaiian slack key guitar to heavy metal to *enka* (a Japanese popular music genre).

His book titled *Birds of Fire: Jazz, Rock, Funk and the Creation of Fusion* (Duke University Press) is a study of fusion (jazz-rock-funk) music of the 1970s framed by insights drawn from popular music studies, jazz studies, and ethnic studies. *Birds of Fire* is the co-winner of the 2012 Woody Guthrie Book Award from the International Association for the Study of Popular Music-US Branch (IASPM-US) for the most distinguished English language monograph in popular music studies published during 2011.

His second book, *Listen But Don't Ask Question: Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Across the TransPacific* (Duke University Press, 2019) is a transPacific study conducted in Hawai'i, Japan, and California, into the ways in which Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) and non-Hawaiian guitarists articulate Hawaiian values and notions of belonging through their performances of *kī hō'alu*, or Hawaiian slack key guitar, in those three distinct locations.

Fellezs received his B.A. (Music, with an emphasis in jazz studies, 1998) and M.A. (Humanities, 2000) from San Francisco State University and his PhD from the University of California, Santa Cruz (History of Consciousness, 2004). In 2004-6, he received a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellowship for a residency in the Music department at the University of California, Berkeley. He was a Tsunoda Senior Fellow at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan, in 2015-2016.

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## **Harold E. Smith**

Harold has been a life-long musician and has followed the love of art and culture of the world all over. His unique style of drumming, a kind of spiritual energy style allowed him to play with and learn from some of the world's finest Jazz musicians. Including Larry Young Jr., Sam Rivers, Gary Bartz, Odean Pope and so many more.

Bebop was the style that set Harold in playing motion as a lad in Pittsburgh, a process that involved studying flute as well as being banished to a metal oboe that only produced three distinct pitches. This minimalist approach to musical study continued with Harold's first drum teacher, none other than the giant Elvin Jones, who handed his student a rubber ball to practice with rather than a drum.

In 1994 his focus turned to the Didgeridoo and other indigenous instruments, Conch shells, Indonesian gongs, Tibetan bowls and bells. Learning to circular breathe the first time he started playing the didgeridoo led him down the path of deep meditation and conscious breathing.

He has developed a style of energy work with his music that has helped thousands of people change your life and help them with their health. Harold he's very proud of his CD titled "In The Valley Of Sacred Sound" featuring Steve Turre and Badal Roy. Harold says "Learn to breathe with consciousness and meditate so you can love the true you."

### **Steve Rowland**

Steve Rowland has spent a career using media, music, theater and art as windows to explore issues in American history, society, race relations, human creativity, spirituality, aesthetic beauty, the nature of change and human possibility. All of his work examines the intersection of culture and social justice. He is a veteran story teller committed to social change and believes that open communication and personal accounts are powerful tools. He taught Oral History at Columbia University and won a Gold Medal from the Oral History Association for his documentary about Leonard Bernstein.

Rowland is the producer/director "Leonard Bernstein: An American Life, narrated by Susan Sarandon" (11 hours); "The Miles Davis Radio Project, narrated by Danny Glover" (8-hours) and "Tell Me How Long Trane's Been Gone" narrated by Professor Michael S. Harper (5-hours). As an oral historian, Rowland has interviewed hundreds of musicians including Bob Marley, Fela Kuti, Art Blakey, Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Rollins, Max Roach, Betty Carter, Lester Bowie, Cachao, Kenny Barron, Steve Coleman, Wynton Marsalis, Smokey Robinson, Dionne Warwick, Stephen Sondheim, Mstislav Rostropovich, John Lee Hooker, Carlos Santana, Ahmet Ertegun, Leslie Uggams, and many others.

Rowland is currently completing a feature documentary film – "Time Out of Joint: Prison Reflections on Shakespeare" based on interviews and classroom work he conducted in a NY State Prison.

Rowland's documentaries can be purchased at [www.ArtistOwned.com](http://www.ArtistOwned.com)

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### **Amiti Bey**

Amiti Bey, aka Marvin Lewis is an activist and educator. He spent 40 years in prison as a political prisoner, and was released August, 2020. He earned his GED, BA and Master's degrees in prison. He is collaborating with Steve Rowland on the film "Time Out of Joint: Prison Reflections on Shakespeare" and an educational project connected to it.

## **John McCaskill**

John W. McCaskill brings dynamic public speaking presentations in Washington, DC and across the country.

A true Renaissance man, John is an educator, historian, lecturer, coach, and inspirational speaker, who inspires and captivates his audiences by teaching the principles of leadership and teamwork by using history as a vehicle through which to do it; he answers the “so what” question by illustrating why particular lessons in history are relevant to us today.

History has been John’s passion since he was eight years old. He has presented historical interpretations from various time periods including World War I, World War II, the Cold War, the American Civil War, Reconstruction, and the American Civil Rights Movement 1955-1968. During the summer of 2015 he developed the curriculum for an eight-week class on the topic “From Civil War to Civil Rights” and instructed interns for an HBCUI program. To authenticate his Living History presentations, McCaskill adorns period dress attire including impressions for Colonial, USCT, Buffalo Soldier, Reconstruction, WWI, WWII/Tuskegee Airmen, and the 1960’s.

He owns over 2,700 books in his library. He completed an undergraduate degree in history while minoring in music, and he has completed three Master’s programs in Military History, American History, and Civil War Studies. He is a member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society, Golden Key International Honour Society, and the Sabre and Scroll Historical Society, Toastmasters International. He currently works for the National Park Service.

As a popular public speaker, John's presentations have received rave reviews from many of his audiences, including the Army Corps of Engineers- Norfolk Division, Northern Nevada Social Studies Educators, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Federal Trade Commission, and others.

<https://jwmhistoryalive.com>

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## **Njoroge Ngoroge**

Njoroge Njoroge, PhD, is associate professor in the Department of History at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. He works on musics of the African diaspora, Caribbean and Latin American history, Marxism, and critical theory.

“I am an associate professor of history at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. I edited a short volume of essays for the journal *Biography* dedicated to Malcolm X, "He the One We All Knew."

## **DELORIS GUTTMAN**

President & Chief Executive Officer **OBAMA HAWAIIAN AFRICANA MUSEUM** dba African American Diversity Cultural Center Hawai'i (aadccch.org). She conducts the day-to-day business with board member support. Volunteers give their time to sort and prepare archival documents for cataloging and data entry. The museum regularly prepares exhibition displays to engage the public and share the untold stories. Obama Birthday Walk Save The Date! The 4th Annual Obama Birthday Walk is February through August

2021. 'Ae hiki no! Yes We Can!

Our goal for the next 3 years, is to raise \$3 million to save and acquire Obama's childhood home to anchor the BIRTHPLACE of the first person of African descent to become 44<sup>th</sup> U.S. President. All donations, pledges, and membership fees are tax deductible, will go directly to the non-profit museum. Join the Obama Pledge Walk! Help to preserve this structure.

([www.obamabirthdaywalk.com](http://www.obamabirthdaywalk.com) DONATE TODAY!

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Deloris is a Member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, American Alliance for Museums, Hawaii Museum Association, Hawaii Historic Foundation, and African American Association of Museums. She served on numerous board of directors, help establish the first after school program at the YWCA on Richard Street; and established the local African Chamber of Commerce. In her personal time she has completed seven Honolulu Marathons and participates in numerous community organizations around O'ahu.

## **EDUCATION**

Deloris Guttman earned both her Masters of Arts degree in Museum Studies & Graduate Studies in Historic Preservation and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Business from the University of Hawai'i.

Deloris is the author of Images of America: African Americans in Hawai'i which takes the reader on a visual journey documenting the presence of African Americans in Hawai'i. "Since the 1770s, the Islands have been home to people of African descent, who have made tremendous contributions to Hawai'i for over two centuries," says Guttman.

## **Contact Us**

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Website: [www.obamabirthdaywalk.com](http://www.obamabirthdaywalk.com) "It's there, it's just not talked about. My job is to make it available to the public, make it a more visible history." Guttman

