

Kimo was born in Amityville, New York, and spent much of his childhood divided between Air Force bases, urban neighborhoods of Baltimore, and rural Mississippi on his grandparents' sharecropper farm in North Carolina. Moving to Hawaii with his father in 1967, he volunteered to serve in the military and was deployed to Vietnam in 1970.

He holds an MA in Management from Webster University and a BA in Composition from Berklee College of Music in Boston. In addition, he has taught Applied Marketing, Management, Decision Making, and other arts management courses at Columbia College Chicago.

As a composer, Kimo has released four CDs of original works, including two with his fusion ensemble "*Kimotion*." His symphonic works have been performed by the symphonies of Detroit, Atlanta, Savannah, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Alabama, Lancaster, PA, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Czech Republic, and others. His string quartet "Into the Liquid" was commissioned by the New York-based Ethel quartet and premiered at the 2013 *BAM Next Wave Festival*. His AT&T commission, "*Fanfare for Life*," was performed July 7th, 2018, at the Antietam Battlegrounds in Sharpsburg, MD, by The Maryland Symphony Orchestra to celebrate Independence Day.

His photography has won several awards dating back to the early 1980s. His images have been featured in *The Smithsonian Magazine* and the *National Vietnam Arts Museum* in Chicago, where from 2003 to 2004, he served as its Executive Director. In August 2018, Kimo opened his photo gallery "KimoPics" in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. This gallery features his art photography through themed exhibits and a permanent display. In 2019 his work was selected as a *National Geographic* Editor's Choice. In addition, Kimo's photography has been jury-selected and curated at; The *Berkeley Arts Center* in West Virginia, *The Scarab Club* in Detroit, MI, the *Cooperstown Art Association Galleries* in New York, the *Delaplaine Art Center* in Frederick, MD, and chosen to exhibit at the 2019 *Outsider Art Inside the Beltway* at Art Enables in Washington DC.

As a Vietnam Veteran and composer, many of his compositions are inspired by his experience and interest in the military, including the award-winning "Symphony for the Sons of Nam" and his "Buffalo Soldiers/American Soldier," which was commissioned by the West Point Military Academy in 2002 to celebrate their Centennial.

In 2003, he co-founded and directed the "Lt Dan Band," performing for the USO worldwide. During these tours, he captured images from around the world to include Afghanistan and Kuwait.

He has received numerous awards: the Vietnam Veterans of America's *Excellence in the Arts Award*; People To People International's *Presidents Award*; the Lancaster Symphony's *38th Recipient - Composers Award for Contributions to American Music*, and the League of Black Women's *Black Rose Award*.

He is a *Fulbright Specialist* and *Encore Purpose Prize Fellow*.

In 2018 He was selected as a *National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences* (Grammy Organization) Advocacy member, representing the State of West Virginia to the 116th US Congress.

Recently his photography was selected for inclusion in the 2022 new Apple TV+ series, *RIPPLE EFFECTS*, starring Emmy Award winner Elisabeth Moss, with Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio as executive producer.

Kimo and his creative partner and wife Carol (an exhibited artist and opinion writer for several newspapers) live in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, on a cliff overlooking the Potomac River.