



# One Voice

THIS IS NO ORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

# One Voice

The Kamehameha Schools Song Contest, a tradition of 90 years, is a celebration of Hawaiian music.

For the student song directors, the countless hours of research and rehearsal culminate in an unforgettable performance where thousands of high school students showcase their culture and heritage and sing in harmony. One night, one chance, ONE VOICE.

Every year in Hawai'i, 2000 high school students compete in the Kamehameha Schools Song Contest where young leaders direct their peers in singing Hawaiian music in four-part harmony. The Contest is a unique cultural celebration that has become a major local event, broadcasted live on TV, played on the radio, and streamed on the Internet. ONE VOICE shares the thrill of the competition via the personal stories of the student song directors. Through the eyes of these young Hawaiians, the documentary celebrates a culture as it has survived and flourished through the power of music and song.

Funded solely by Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC), ONE VOICE is a one-of-a-kind presentation of Hawaiian music. The melodies of a cappella choral music performed in harmony by thousands of high school students are unforgettable. Filmed in High Definition, this feature length documentary follows the student song directors as they experience the trials and tribulations of competition in this annual high school event. Given a front row seat for a unique contest in a unique setting, the audience is lead through a process that demonstrates a love for community, passion for Hawaiian music, and the story of a people who nearly lost their language and culture.

Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system for Native Hawaiian children of pure or part native ancestry that was founded in 1887 and endowed by the legacy of Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, a direct descendant of Kamehameha the Great. In 1888, the use of the Hawaiian language was prohibited at Kamehameha Schools. Subsequently, Hawaiian language was banned from Hawai'i's public schools through "English-only" legislation enforced in 1896. Just over eighty years later, in 1978, the Hawaiian language was made the official language of the State of Hawai'i. Today, there is a tremendous resurgence of the Hawaiian language, enabling the people to experience a deeper connection to their Hawaiian identity, culture, and homeland, which is reflected in the fierce spirit of competition surrounding the Song Contest.

The annual competition involves tremendous amounts of preparation and rehearsal. Following the elected student song directors, we see how the tradition creates an indelible experience that builds class unity, instills cultural pride, and builds character. Song Contest is the event students anticipate all year long, and each year the competition among the classes is intense.



There is no other place in the world where you can find this kind of musical competition. All students at the High School in grades 9–12 participate in the performance. While the film follows the lives of several song directors as they prepare for the Song Contest, it also explores their world outside of school by meeting their families, or 'ohana, and revealing their hopes and dreams for the future.

ONE VOICE embodies the aloha spirit that is at the center of a dynamic and thriving Hawaiian society in the 21st century, while paying tribute to the long and glorious history of Hawaiian music and culture. For the students, it all culminates in one night of competition, when they sing with one voice. The documentary is a testament to their song, a film that is a living, breathing, singing celebration of the Hawaiian people.

In the style of *Mad Hot Ballroom* and *Spellbound*, ONE VOICE follows the song leaders for an entire year as they prepare for the competition held in March 2008. The theme for that year was Ola Ka 'Ōlelo 'Ōiwi O Ka 'Āina or celebrating Hawaiian Language revitalization. During the film we experience Hawaiian culture not only as it lives in the children and their families today, but also as it has survived, grown, and flourished. By the time the documentary reaches the culminating performance, the audience is as invested in who wins the competition as the students themselves. One night, one chance, ONE VOICE.

ONE VOICE is a production of Juniroa Productions, Inc. and Pacific Islanders in Communications.



### Lisette Marie Flanary

As a filmmaker and a hula dancer, Lisette Marie Flanary creates documentary films that celebrate a renaissance of traditional Hawaiian culture in the modern world. A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, she is the writer, producer, and director of Lehua Films based in New York City. Her award-winning film, *Na Kamalei: The Men of Hula*, broadcast on the *Independent Lens* series on PBS in 2008 and screened in numerous film festivals both in the U.S. and abroad. In 2007, *Na Kamalei: The Men of Hula* received the Emerging Director Award at the New York Asian American International Film Festival, the Audience Award at the San Francisco Asian American Film Festival, Best Non-Fiction Feature at the VCFilmFest, and Best Documentary at the San Diego Asian American Film Festival. The film celebrates the revival of men dancing hula by following legendary master hula teacher Robert Cazimero and the only all-male hula school in Hawai'i. Premiering at the Hawaii International Film Festival's Sunset on the Beach in 2006, Lisette received the Hawaii Filmmaker Award and an Audience Award for Best Documentary.

Lisette's first feature documentary, *American Aloha: Hula Beyond Hawai'i*, broadcast nationally on the award winning non-fiction showcase *P.O.V.* on PBS in 2003 as well as internationally on ITVS' *True Stories* series in 2007. Winner of the CINE Golden Eagle Award, the film focused on hula and Hawaiian communities living on the mainland in California. It screened in numerous film festivals and is now available on Netflix.com. Currently, Lisette is in pre-production on the final film of her hula trilogy entitled *Tokyo Hula*, which focuses on the popularity of hula in Japan.





### Heather Haunani Giugni

Heather Haunani Giugni is a passionate Hawaiian media content collector that celebrates her community through the lens of a camera. She has been the guiding force behind Juniroa Productions for over 25 years, producing hundreds of short and long programs about Hawai'i and its native people. She describes herself as a Hawaiian media activist who practices *malama kākou* (caring for all). She also mentors, produces, directs, writes, and connects the Hawaiian dots that help to tell the story of Hawai'i's native people to a global audience.

Since 2006, Heather has produced the Kamehameha Schools Song Contest's live broadcast. She is also a producer of the highly acclaimed Merrie Monarch Festival, which is broadcast locally and can be seen worldwide on the Internet. Her most recent effort is the establishment of a digital film and video archive for the State of Hawai'i. Her success can be attributed to great collaborations, one of which is her partnership with Pacific Islanders in Communications on the documentary ONE VOICE.

As a proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools and a lifetime storyteller, Heather has always seen the power of the message in the frames of her Pacific Island life.



### Ruth Bolan

Ruth Bolan is executive director of Pacific Islanders in Communications, a national not-for-profit media arts organization established in 1991 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The organization supports film, video, and new media reflective of the Pacific Islander experience in order to build greater voice and visibility for Pacific Islanders in the national and international arenas.

A graduate of Harvard University, Bolan is a 30-year veteran of the film and television industry and has produced for *American Playhouse* and HBO. In Hollywood, she ran the film division of Overland Entertainment and founded her own media development company. In 2005, she took over the helm of PIC, a part of the National Minority Consortia, which collectively addresses the need for national programming reflective of America's growing ethnic and cultural diversity. Other Consortia members serve the Asian American, black, Latino, and Native American communities. PIC produced *Holo Mai Pele*, the first time ancient hula was presented on the PBS series *Great Performances*, and brought the film *Whale Rider* to PBS primetime.

PIC receives primary funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private not-for-profit that distributes federal funds to public broadcasting. Other PIC funding and support comes from individuals, corporations, and foundations.



# One Voice

## Credits

**Director**

Lisette Marie Flanary

**Producers**

Heather Haunani Giugni  
Ruth Bolan

**Editor**

Zelda Greenstein

**Director of Photography**

Brian Wilcox

**Second Unit Camera**

Na'alehu Anthony

**Additional Cameras**

Heather Haunani Giugni  
Dennis Burns

**Production Sound Mixer**

John McFadden

**Unit Production Manager**

Jennifer Tracey

**Additional Song Contest Crew**

Beau Cuizon  
Travis Hoover  
Scott Kanda  
Brian Makanoa  
Ken Sato  
Dave Valdez  
Mike Yasutaki  
Mike Zimmerman

**Off-Line Editing Facility**

Radical Avid Inc.

**On-Line Facility**

Prime Focus NY

**On-Line Editor**

Anthony Matt

**Colorist**

Alexander Berman

**Re-record Mixer**

Kevin Wilson

**Project Manager**

Bridget Carroll

**Music Supervisor**

Jennifer Tracey

**Publicity Stills**

Renea C. Stewart

**Pacific Islanders in  
Communications Staff**

Leann Yeung  
Leanne K. Ferrer  
Kerryn Carland

**Archival Photographs**

Kamehameha Schools Archives

**Additional Footage**

KGMB9

**FEATURING****Senior Song Directors**

Joshua "Baba" Tavares  
Kahala Rowe  
Truman Ray Chun

**Junior Song Directors**

Brolin-Duke Kawewehi  
Nadia Le'i  
Sienna Achong

**Sophomore Song Directors**

Zachary Lum  
C. Ka'ai'ohelo McAfee-Torco  
G. Maxwell Mukai

**Freshman Song Director**

Isaiah Pamatigan

**Kamehameha Performing Arts Staff**

Les Ceballos  
Liz Makuakāne Hansen  
Bailey Matsuda  
Erin Morita Regua  
Bowe Souza  
Kalua Tataipu  
Kaleo Trinidad  
Alika Young

**Family of Song Contest Directors**

Ku'uipo Tavares  
Walter Tavares  
Charlotte Rowe  
Ka'ula Rowe  
Kimberly Brown  
Lee Brown  
Renee Williams  
Cheryl Chun  
Clayton Chun  
Temple Olayan

Caleb Olayan

Truly Chun

Tithing Chun

Treasure Foalima

Kalei Kawewehi

Dawn Kawewehi



Kaipo Kawewehi

Bronsen Kawewehi

DJ Kawewehi

Drayden Kawewehi

Lavaun T. Le'i

Mari Le'i

Stephen Achong

Laura Achong

Randy Lum

Janine Lum

Nick Lum

Ryan Asato

Tracy Asato

Wilma Ikeda

Gordon Yoshida

Ty Torco

Bonnie McAfee-Torco

Ka'aha McAfee-Torco

Eleanor McAfee

Dawn & Scott Mukai

Mara Mukai

Melissa Bautista

Cindy Shizuru

Richard Shizuru

James Shizuru

Nancy Shizuru

Nanea Clemens

Patrick Pamatigan

Sanoe Pamatigan

## Additional Featured

Alan Akaka  
Lawrence Aki  
Andrew Arakawa  
Blayne Asing  
E. Nu'ulani Atkins  
Gussie Bento  
Robert Cazimero  
Dr. Michael J. Chun  
Hailama Farden  
Brandon Foster  
Kim Gennaula  
Robert Harmon  
Kealoha Ho'omana-Heffernan  
Edward Kam  
Dennis Kamakahi  
Māpuana Kobashigawa  
Ke'ala Kwan  
Kāwika Mahelona  
Kēhaulani Mahelona  
Aaron Mahi  
Lynnete Mercado  
Nathan Nishimura  
Puakea Nogelmeier  
Lynette Paglinawan  
Richard Paglinawan  
Brian Riggs  
Ronald "Jiggy" Sai  
Aaron J. Salā  
Kalehua Simeona  
Pilipo Solatorio  
Todd Takahashi  
Keahi Tucker  
Lehuanui Watanabe  
Robert Whiting

## Composers On-Air at Contest

Kihei de Silva  
Kainani Kahaunaale  
Dennis Kamakahi  
Kaumakaiwa Kanaka'ole  
Larry Kimura  
Keali'i Reichel

## Song Contest Presenters

Julian K. Ako  
Ciera Cummings  
Fred Kramer  
Renee Martin  
Mrs. Calvin C. McGregor  
Donald P. Sato, Jr.  
Keenyn Won

## Song Contest Judges

Haunani Apoliona  
Lehua Heine  
Keiki Kawai'ae'a

Florence Lolena Nicholas  
Sybil Schoenstein

## Special Thanks/Mahalo Nui Loa

Kamehameha Schools Kapālama High School Faculty, Staff, Students, Parents, Family, and Alumni  
Dr. Michael J. Chun, KS President and Headmaster  
Julian K. Ako, Kapālama High School Principal  
Erin Morita Regua  
Liz Makuakāne Hansen  
Les Ceballos  
Randie Kamuela Fong  
Marsha Bolson  
PIC Board of Directors  
Lisa Altieri Sosa  
New Hope Diamond Head  
Rick Blangiardi, KGMB9 TV GM  
Philip Bertelsen  
Peter Bavaro  
David Dawkins  
Anne Yao

## Executive Producer for Pacific Islanders in Communications

Ruth Bolan

## Executive Producer for Juniroa Productions, Inc.

Heather Haunani Giugni



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Film Contact Info

Ruth Bolan  
rbolan@piccom.org  
(808) 591-0059 ext. 14

### Media Contact Info

Chimaine Pouteau  
chimaine@hawaiipacificentertainment.com  
(808) 237-3678

## FESTIVAL HISTORY

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival  
April 29–May 8, 2010 in Los Angeles

Hawaii International Film Festival  
October 14–24, 2010 in Honolulu



## TECHNICAL SPECS

### CATEGORY

Documentary Feature

### RUNNING TIME

84 minutes

### ORIGINAL SHOOTING FORMAT

HD

### SCREENING FORMAT

HDCAM & Digital Betacam

### ASPECT RATIO

16 x 9

### SOUND

Stereo

### ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$550,000

### COMPLETION DATE

November 2009

### WEBSITE

[www.onevoicemovie.org](http://www.onevoicemovie.org)

