

Russell Steinberg

Mauí Slack Key Preludes for solo guitar

Volume 2, op. 69

Plumería

Kula

Paía

Nahíku Beach

Blue Pool

Waihe'e Valley
(Swinging Bridges)

Silversword

Kíhei

BLOWN TO BITS PUBLICATIONS

Maui Slack Key Preludes Vol. 2

op. 69

by Russell Steinberg

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PREVIEW SCORE

PERFORMANCE NOTES

These are "classicized" slack key pieces. They fuse the essence of the Hawaiian tradition's deep resonance, nostalgia, and undulating tonic-dominant harmonies (like ocean waves!) with classical Spanish guitar. They differ from "proper" slack key guitar pieces, both in style and tuning. For instance, traditional Hawaiian slack key C Wahine tuning is C-G-D-G-B-D but most of my pieces tune down just the lower two strings, producing C-G-D-G-B-E (a C major ninth chord).

These preludes should be performed in a relaxed style producing deep sounds in the bass and a full singing melody in the treble. I have specified string numbers and barred passages throughout to make clear where everything is to be fingered on the guitar. Harmonics are sometimes marked with small circles, but many other times notated with diamond notes and specified frets and strings.

The special serenity and nostalgia that characterizes Hawaiian slack key guitar is immediate even for first time listeners. With its European roots, simple harmony, sheer beauty of sound (loosening the guitar's lower strings to give them "slack"), this is music emotionally available to anyone, without special knowledge or familiarity with its traditions. That openness I find to be the magical root of Hawaiian culture.

These pieces reflect my desire to recapture the special relaxed *aloha* that one feels immediately upon arriving on the island of Maui. The titles of the preludes refer mostly to specific island locations, each with its own unique spirit. The two exceptions in this collection are *Plumeria*, the everpresent trees with delicate fragrant white, yellow, or red flowers, and *Silversword*, the rare cactus found only atop Mt. Haleakala. Kula is in "upcountry" Maui with gorgeous views looking across the central valley of the island. Paia is the charming relaxed town that marks the beginning of the road to Hana. Nahiku road is a few miles north of Hana and ends at a beach that is the epitome of paradise. Waihe'e Valley is in the lush West Maui mountains. The trail here follows a river and includes two precarious swinging bridges. Kihei might be regarded "second class" to Kaanipali and other resort areas of the island, but I find it to be a treasure, with a special aloha all its own. Finally Blue Pool, the most idyllic of Maui's waterfall pools (and now off limits to tourists) captures for me the deepest essence of Hawaii and what I'm searching for with these guitar preludes.

PREVIEW SCORE

Prelude 1—Plumeria

⑤ = G

⑥ = C

Tranquil and flowing ♩ = 72

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① ①

p *mf* *p*

3

1.

p

5

CVII
con moto

f *p*

8

mf *espr.* *f* *p*

rit. A tempo

11

1.

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *pp*

14 **A tempo**

p mp p mf

16

p

rit. -A tempo

18

mf < f mp f sul pont.

21 *sonare*

p

rit.

23

mf pp

(CV)-----

17

20 CV-----

23

26 CV-----

29

33

mf *f* *p*

espr. *calm*

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥

4+5 8 4 4 4+5 8

3 2 2

36 *mp* *mf* *CVII*-----

39 *f espr.* *p* *f* *CV*----- *CIX*-----

43 *p.* *mp* *CV*-----

46 *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *pp* *rit.* *molto* *a tempo* *rit.* *sonare* *CXII* *CVII*-----

Prelude 3—Paia

⑤ = G
⑥ = D

Easygoing, happy, with rubato

♩ = 100

1 **C III----**

mp

5 **A tempo**

f > *mf*

9 **accel.**

mp *mf* *p*

12 **C II**

mp

15 *sul pont.* *sul tasto* *sul pont.* *sul tasto*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

18 *sul tasto sul pont.*
p f p f

21 *sul tasto sul pont.*
p f p f p
CVII

24 CII
f p

26 *f*
CV

29 *ord.*
p relaxed
CV CVII

32 *cresc.*
f
CV CVII

34 $\text{ord. } \textcircled{3}$ C V
mp

36 C VII C IX C VII
cresc.

38 C II
f *mf*

41 C II
sfz *f*

43 *rit.* C II **Presto** C XII C VII C XII C XII *ord.*
pizz. *p* *f*

Prelude 4 — Nahiku Beach

⑤ = G
⑥ = C

Deep and peaceful ♩ = 92

1

p *sf*

4

sf *mf*

7

p *mf*

rall. A tempo

CV-----

10

f *p* *sf*

13

sf

Più mosso
cantabile espr.

16 *sf* *mp*

19 *poco rit.* **A tempo** *f* *p espr.*

22 CII

25 *sul pont.*

28 *poco rit.* **A tempo** *sul tasto* CII *ord.* *f* *p*

31 CII *rit.* **A tempo** *mf* *f* *mp*

34

f *p* *f*

rall. A tempo

CV

37

p *sf* *p*

40

p *sf* *f* *sul pont.* *espr.*

43

p *sul tasto* *p* *p*

intimo
CVII----- CIII-----

46

mf *f* *mf* *f*

ord. CV----- CIII----- Rit.

49 **A tempo**

Musical notation for measures 49-51. The piece is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. Measure 49 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measures 50-51 feature a crescendo to a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a decrescendo to a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The notation includes slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

Musical notation for measures 52-53. Measure 52 begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 53 features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The notation includes slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

Musical notation for measures 54-55. Measure 54 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 55 features a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The notation includes slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

Musical notation for measures 56-57. Measure 56 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fingering numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. It features a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and a *sul pont.* instruction. Measure 57 features a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes the instruction *R.H. harm. sonare*.

Prelude 5—Swinging Bridges

(Waihe'e Valley)

⑤ = A

⑥ = D

Joyful and relaxed ♩ = 120

1

④ etc.

p *p* *p* etc.

5

⑥ ⑥ *p* *p* *p* etc.

mp

8

pull off

f

11

pull off

cantabile

p *mf* *mp* *mf*

15

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a guitar piece titled 'Prelude 5—Swinging Bridges (Waihe'e Valley)'. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Joyful and relaxed' with a quarter note equal to 120 beats per minute. The piece is divided into five systems of music. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melodic line with a circled '4' above the first measure and a circled '5' below the first measure, with dynamics *p* and *p* *p* etc. The second system (measures 5-7) has a circled '6' above the fifth measure and a circled '6' below the sixth measure, with dynamics *p* *p* *p* etc. and *mp*. The third system (measures 8-10) includes a 'pull off' instruction above the eighth measure and a dynamic of *f*. The fourth system (measures 11-14) has a 'pull off' instruction above the eleventh measure, a *cantabile* marking, and dynamics *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *mf*. The fifth system (measures 15-18) continues the melodic and harmonic patterns. A large red 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

19

p p p p p p

f p molto f p

22

pull off pull off

molto f p molto f mp

26

3 0

30

mf f mp mf

Maestoso meno mosso

34

ff

38

CII

sonare ord.

mp ff

59 *p* etc. *mf* *f* pull off

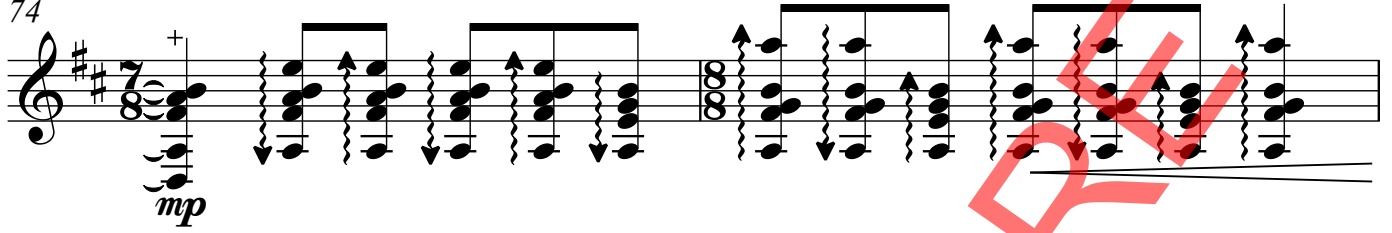
62 *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *mf*

65 rit. *p* etc. *mp* *mf*

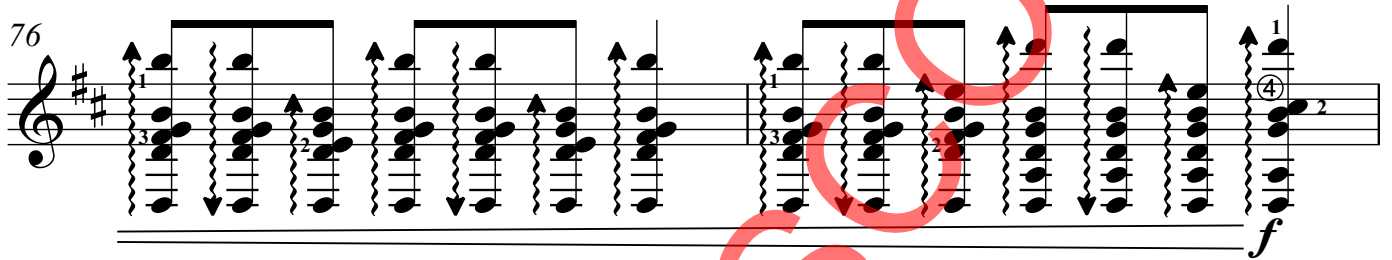
68 *f* *mp* *mf* *A tempo* CVII CXII etc.

71 rit. *p* art. harm. (CXVIII) *A tempo* *p* etc.

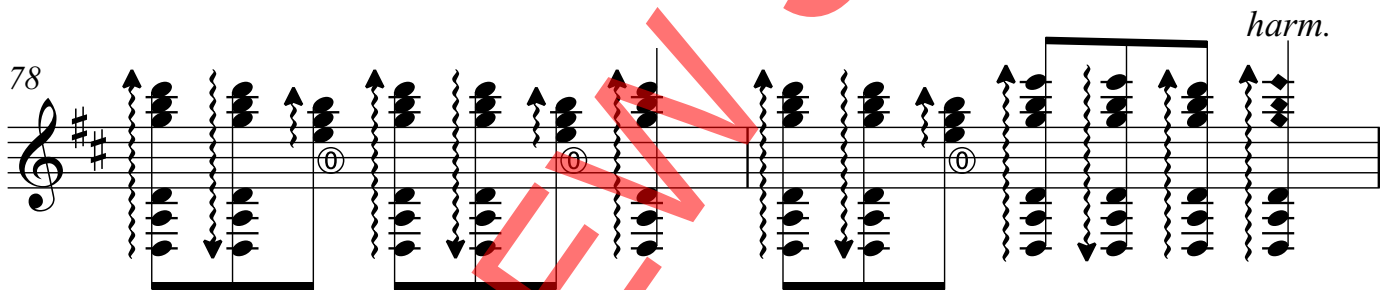
74 *i etc.*



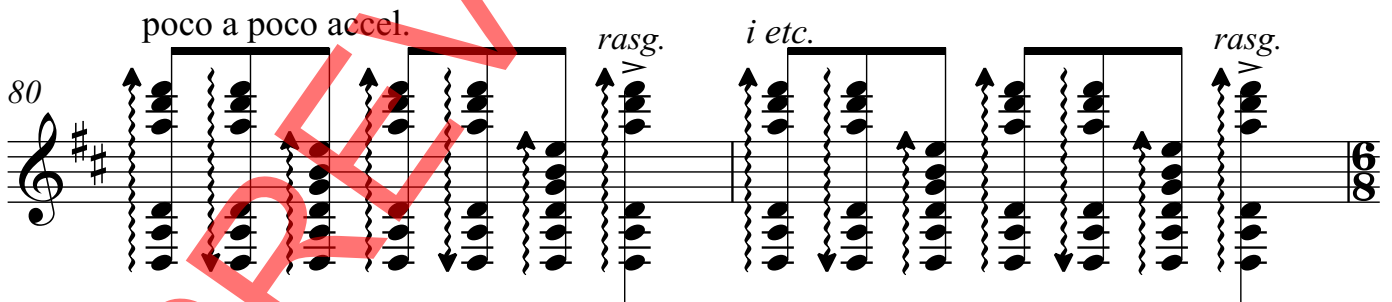
76



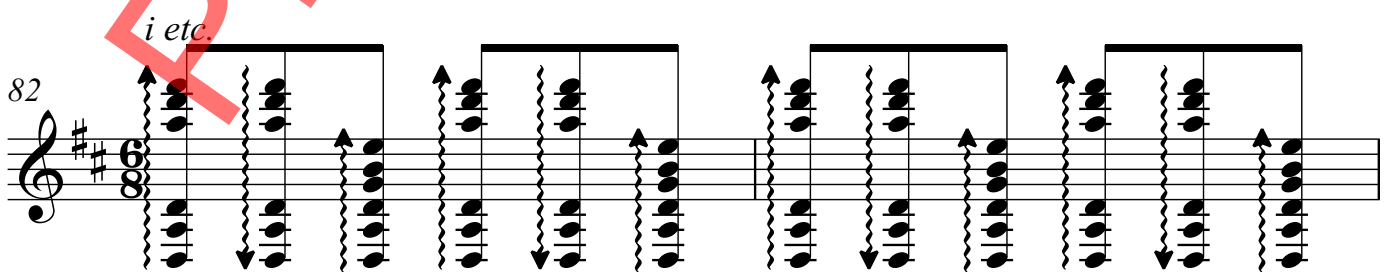
78 *harm.*



80 *poco a poco accel.* *rasg.* *i etc.* *rasg.*



82 *i etc.*



84 **Presto** *i etc.*

Musical notation for measure 84, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 7/8 time signature. The notation shows a series of chords with wavy stems and arrows indicating strumming direction. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is placed below the first chord.

Musical notation for measure 85, continuing the treble clef, two-sharp key signature, and 7/8 time signature. It features a dense sequence of chords with wavy stems and arrows. A circled number 2 is placed above the final chord, with the instruction "strum all fingers together" written below it. A circled number 4 is placed above the first chord of the second half of the measure.

Musical notation for measure 86, featuring a treble clef, a two-sharp key signature, and a 6/8 time signature. The notation includes a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic marking, a "Pesante Slap" instruction with a downward-pointing wedge, and a *fff* (fortississimo) dynamic marking. A *rasg.* (rasgueado) instruction is placed above the final chord, which has wavy stems and upward-pointing arrows.

PREVIEW SCORE

Prelude 6—Sword

(Conventional Tuning/ Slurs are phrase marks except where specifically marked)

Simply, flowing

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score for "Prelude 6—Sword" is presented in five staves of music. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The piece begins with a treble clef and a tempo marking of quarter note = 120. The first staff (measures 1-3) starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes slurs and fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4). A circled 0 is above the first measure. The second staff (measures 4-6) continues with slurs and includes fingering numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and a circled 5. The third staff (measures 7-9) features a "CII-----" marking, a "ten. slur" (tension slur), a "rit." (ritardando) marking, and dynamics of *mf* and *p*. The fourth staff (measures 10-12) includes slurs and dynamics of *mp* and *mf*. The fifth staff (measures 13-15) begins with a slur and a forte (*f*) dynamic, and concludes with a 4/4 time signature change and slurs. A large, diagonal red watermark reading "PREVIEW SCORE" is overlaid across the entire page.

16 CIV----- rit. accel.

p *p*

19 A tempo rit. A tempo

mp *mf* *p*

22

25

28 CVII----- slur CVII----

Più mosso

31 *stacc.* *f* VII VII

34 *rall. Pesante sul pont.* *ff*

37 *poco a poco ord.* *f* *p*

Prelude 7—Kihei

⑤ = G
⑥ = C

Carefree, lightly ♩ = 120

1 CV-----

5 CV-----

9 CV----- CII

13 CXII

17 C VII

21 CV-----

p *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

25 pull off

mf *f*

28 pull off accel. CV

mf *f*

31 A tempo CXII CXII②

p

34 CV

f

37 CV Rit. CIII RH harm. CXV accel.

f *p* *mp*

40

mf *f*

42 **Allargando** R.H. Harm.
CXII sul pont.

45 **accel.** **Fast**

ord.

48

52 **rit.** **A tempo** **sul pont. ord.**

ord.

56 **rit.** CXII

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Prelude 8—Blue Pool

⑤ = G

⑥ = C

Serene with deep calm ♩ = 76

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1 *p* *pp* *p simile* *pp* *simile*

4

7 *mf* *p* *mp* CV

10 *p* *mf* pull off *p*

13 *mf* *sonare* *f* *p*

16 *f* *p*

19 *pp* *mp* *mf* *p*

(CIV)-----

22 *mf*

(CIV)-----

25 *cantabile* *mp*

rit. A tempo

CIV----- CVIII-----

28

mf *f*

(CVIII)-----

31

(CVIII)-----

34

mp *mf*

37

f pull off

CXII

40

ff *mp*

57

8va

8va

8va

CXII CV--

CIX CVII

CXII--- CIX CVII---

CIX CXII CV CIV CV

poco a poco morendo

④ ⑤

p < *mf* > *p*

Fine

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