

THE HITCHCOCK INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN AMERICAN MUSIC

presents, in collaboration with the Brooklyn College Composer's Forum,
the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities,
and the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College:

MUSIC IN POLYCULTURAL AMERICA

fall 2021 virtual speaker series

Nahenahe: The Restorative Politics of Hawaiian Music

KEVIN A. FELLEZS

In this talk, Professor Kevin Fellezs discusses the ways in which Hawaiian music has been used by *Kanaka Maoli* (Native Hawaiian) in their struggles for political self-determination since the 1970s, a period that has come to be known as the "Hawaiian Renaissance." Music is a vital part of that critical vision—or sounding—for *Kanaka Maoli* interested in recreating the life-affirming practices and lifeways of their ancestors as a solution for many of the issues we face today associated with, for instance, global climate change. Fellezs contemplates how Hawaiian music recalibrates our imaginations by giving us a glimpse into a way of life that more readily supported and maintained human flourishing because it formalized and institutionalized a more holistic conception of humans on this shared biosphere we all call home. With this broader context in mind, Fellezs's talk speaks to the ways *Kanaka Maoli* have used, and continue to use, music as a signal element in their political struggles.



Kevin Fellezs is Associate Professor in the Music Department and in the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia. He holds the PhD in History of Consciousness (American Studies) from the University of California, Santa Cruz. His recent book titled *Listen But Don't Ask Question: Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Across the TransPacific* (Duke University Press, 2019) shows the ways in which slack key guitar is a site for the articulation of Hawaiian values. In addition, he is the author of *Birds of Fire: Jazz, Rock, Funk, and the Creation of Fusion* (2011).

TUESDAY, 5 OCTOBER, 2:15PM

register here for Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/tjuxyczk>

free and open to the public; this event will be recorded
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