



# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



*Photo Credit: Sherry Eti; Performance at Waikiki Beach Walk*

The heritage dances showcase the traditions, stories, and artistic expressions of the Pacific people. Each dance performance is a journey through history, offering a glimpse into the ancestral practices and contemporary adaptations that define the cultural landscapes of the islands.

Amerika Samoa's dance group participated at the FestPAC delivering captivating performances. Their presentations blend traditional, contemporary, and mixed sets, ending with a fire dance. The finale included a farewell tune, celebrating the heritage of Samoan dance customs.

The American Samoa dance group performed at five FestPAC locations: Palama Settlement, Festival village stage, Honolulu Night Market, Polynesian Cultural Center, and at Waikiki Beach Walk.

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



**Tautai Loso l'aulualo**  
**Lead of Heritage Dance**

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The FestPAC has always been an interest to me because of the various Pacific cultures that come together to share, and to celebrate their uniqueness through their cultural dances, traditions and stories.

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Tautai Loso l'aulualo is a native of Afonotele. He is interested in this connection across the Pacific because it showcases the distinctiveness of the Samoan people, which he hopes to share and promote within their Pacific island communities.

Mr. l'aulualo wanted to coordinate and perform the most impactful dances showcasing American Samoa. Having witnessed the songs from specific villages, the fast *fa'ataupati* slap dance, and the drumbeats echoing across the performance area, he sought to connect with individuals from other island nations and hear their stories.

As Samoan dance evolves, l'aulualo hopes it will retain its essence. While traditional dance movements may adjust to current trends, fundamental elements such as the se'e and the rapid movements of the *fa'ataupati* are expected to remain unchanged. These foundational aspects are essential for preserving the identity of Samoan dance amid future developments.

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP

For FestPAC 2028, the focus should be on selecting dances that authentically represent our island's culture, ensuring a strong cultural presence at the event. The delegate must prioritize decisions that benefit the entire group, promoting unity and collaboration. Dedication to rehearsals and group activities is vital for achieving a successful performance. Furthermore, the delegate should exhibit respect, teamwork, and patience to cultivate a supportive and harmonious environment among group members.

## Dance Group Sets

The dance performance begins with a greeting song, introducing dance as both a cultural protocol and entertainment enjoyed by Samoan people of all ages. This segment also highlights the importance of coordinated dance movements, exemplified in the *sasa* or slap dance performed by the group.

Following this, the *mauluulu* features a series of songs that highlight the *vii* or songs of praise from specific villages. These include Lauli'i and Sa'ilele from the eastern side, Fagasa and Pago Pago, the capital of American Samoa in the central area, and Leone on the western side. These songs celebrate the uniqueness of each village and reflect on their progress over the years.

The *sasa* follows, demonstrating rapid coordination through various "body slapping" movements. It requires concentration and agility to synchronize effectively with the dance and other dancers.

Up next is the traditional knife dance known as *Ailao* or the *Nifo 'Oti* which was part of the Samoan culture that dates back to the origins of Samoans as a people. It was performed before Samoan warriors went into battle. In the 1960s, Freddie Olo Letuli from American Samoa, a renowned figure in the entertainment industry, introduced fire to the traditional dance, creating the fierce and dangerous Fire Knife Dance, or *Ailao Afi*. Samoans, along with other Pacific and global ethnic groups, now proudly perform the Fire Knife Dance, not only for entertainment but also in competitions as warriors.

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Noelle Amanda Tavale

**Village(s):** Leone, Pago Pago, Fitiuta & Olosega, Manua

**Best memory at FestPAC:**

My favorite memory is being here to represent my island nation and my family.

My presence here at the festival is dedicated to Napoleon Andrew Tuiteleleapaga, my late great-grandfather and renowned composer of the Amerika Samoa anthem, my late grandmother, my late father and my mother, my siblings and my children.

**Favorite Quote:**

"Your geneology and identity are not negotiable."  
-Aeau Hazelman, Independent State of Samoa

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**Village(s):** Malaeloa & Pago Pago

**Best memory at FestPAC:** I would say my best memory was the opening ceremony of the FestPAC 2024. I got to see and witness other Islands of the Pacific performed their culture in art, dance, music, fashion and especially their language. I enjoyed supporting our brotherhood Island of Samoa as they did for us. SAMOA MO SAMOA!"

Shout to my spiritual Parents Rev. Elderly Faigatā Manase and Faletua Rosapa'epa'e Manase and the Manase Family. My parents Faleitua Fenumiai and Mata Fenumia'i, my Grandma Venise and Grandma Luseane and Mama Violina Toilolo and the Tamaita'i Kuegi'sKreation and my entire family in Malaeloa and Pago Pago my Church Satauro Ole Ola, my beautiful village of Malaeloa and my Family in Seattle, Cali, Utah and my family here in Hawaii lastly, shoutout to my friends that supported me throughout this journey.

**Favorite Quote:** "The harder you work for something, the greater you'll feel when you achieve it."

E l'u Manuia se galuega faifa'atasi.



Tinolepaia Sharon  
Fenumia'i

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Tapuitema Therese  
Carruthers

**Village(s):** From Fagaitua, Masefau, & Sailele

**Best memory at FestPAC:** When our performance ends, I can focus on the faces of the people who have just indulged in our culture and are wishing for more.

Shoutout to my awesome momma, Peter, Gabby, Saiah, my nephew Zealand, and my Fijian Na!

**Favorite Quote:** "We are not small islands. We are caretakers of the largest ocean in the world" - Epeli Hau'ofa. [Paraphrased by A. Hazelman]

**Village(s):** Tafuna, Malaeloa, Aua, Poloa, Vatia, & Pago Pago

**Best memory at FestPAC:** Meeting the lovely Miss Samoa and Miss Pacific Islands, Moemoana Schwenke.

Shoutout to family and friends supporting from home and everyone who are here to represent our island with pride.

**Favorite Quote:** "Unity is strength, when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can happen."



Alyssandra P.  
Tuiasosopo



Aigafealofani G. Tofilau

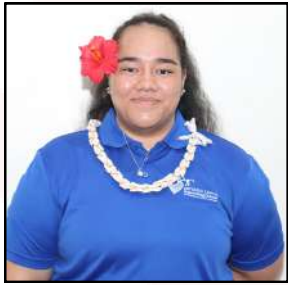
**Village(s):** Aoloau, American Samoa

**Best memory at FestPAC:** The night show was truly miraculous and unforgettable. I enjoyed exploring and learning more about other cultures.

Shoutout to my parents for their endless support and to everyone back home in American Samoa who are also rooting for us at this event.

**Favorite Quote:** "The only way to achieve your goals is to believe in yourself and take action. Trust in your abilities and never give up, no matter how challenging the journey may be."

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Silupevaelaangel F. S.  
Kuresa

**Village(s):** Nuuuli, Fagaima, Satupaitea, Puipaa

**Best Memory at FestPAC:** The opening ceremony provided us with an opportunity to explore various island cultures and languages.

Shoutout to my parents Rev.Vaimoli, Miriama and my siblings supporting from New Zealand. Thank you to Mama Valasi Gaisoa, Josie Afu, and Tia, My sister Emmajean Vaimoli, thank you for your support. Finally, a big shoutout to family and friends who supported me throughout this journey.

**Favorite Quote:** "Our unique culture makes the Pacific beautiful and our equal in spirit makes us more powerful"

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**Village (s):** Tafuna, Petesa

**Best Memory at FestPAC:** My favorite memory is getting ready for an amazing experience! We were able to showcase our talents in front of diverse audiences across multiple locations and immerse ourselves in different cultural lifestyles. And that's not all - we've had the chance to mingle with the locals and capture stunning photos along the way. It's been an unforgettable adventure!

Shoutout to my parents Sitanilei and Fafo Fe'a for their unconditional love & support. My grandmother Sone Afualo, My Siblings Nauma, Tamara, Asera, Peaulele and all my other family in New Zealand and Australia. Rev. Alapi Eti and Teuila Eti and the whole EFKS Ierusalem Fou church

**Favorite Quote:** "Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is a success." Henry Ford



Palapala Fea



Aiaiga M. N. E. Fiso

**Village(s):** Leloaloa & Faleniu

**Best Memory at the FestPAC:** My favorite memory is getting to witness the different islands and countries represent their culture and traditions in their own unique ways.

Shoutout to my families & friends back in the 684 for the endless love and support. I also want to acknowledge my families and friends here in the 808 for coming out to support the delegation from American Samoa. Faafetai Alofa. Faafetai Agalelei. Faafetai le manatu mai I alo ma fanau o le tatou atunu'u. Faamanuia le Atua la I la outou foa'i. Fa'atutumumu mea ua fa'agaogoina ona o I matou le fanau. MOTU O FIAFIAGA, SAU IIAAAA!!

**Favorite Quote:** Your genealogy and identity is non-negotiable.  
Aeau Hazelman, Independent State of Samoa Delegation

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Lourdes J. J. Uti

**Village(s):** Leloaloe & Aua

**Best Memory at FestPAC:** My favorite memory would be rowing the canoes at the Pacific cultural center, in the village of Tonga. It was like a fautasi race. Cheeehooo! PAEPAE

Shoutout to my family and friends for supporting us on our journey & a BIG fa'amalo to our instructors for providing for us for the past few months. I can't thank them enough for letting me be a part of this experience alongside my friends who became family.

**Favorite Quote:** "There has never been a greater need to continue to dance our dances, sing our songs, Chant our chants, weave our stories and weave our artifacts. That's what makes us unique & sets us apart from the rest of the world."

**Village(s):** Tafuna & Utulei

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory is performing at the Hawaii convention center and showcasing our passion for our culture to the world through dance. I also enjoyed experiencing the other islands through their diverse displays.

Shoutout to my family and friends back home, as well as to the American Samoa Heritage Dance Group that have become my family throughout the FestPAC activities.

**Favorite Quote:** "We are the caretakers of the largest ocean in the world."  
[Paraphrased by A. Hazelman]



Fagalima A. Pomele

**Village(s):** Faleniu, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Witnessing the awe-inspiring talents displayed by our Pacific island family from art, singing, dancing, crafts, to storytelling. Being part of this celebration is truly an honor. During this incredible journey, I've come to realize that despite our diverse cultures and traditions, we are bound together by our "love" for the Pacific. It's this shared passion that unites us and makes our collaboration so powerful. These moments have woven unforgettable threads of culture and creativity that I will forever cherish.

Let's continue to celebrate our differences while honoring the timeless foundations that connect us all!

I want to shoutout my family and friends in American Samoa/ Siblings Sherry Eti, Shon Satele and the kids/ Mom Carol Fiame and grandma Emily Fiame/ Spiritual Parents Alapi&Teuila Eti for the love and support

**Favorite Quote:** "Ways of doing may change but the foundations remain the same."



Angelina Fidow

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Precious N. Ieremia

**Village(s):** Aua & Leone

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** All the different islands coming together as one and it is like a big family reunion. I love seeing all these different cultures and the way they dress, sing, and dance.

Shoutout to all our families and loved ones back home who are praying and waiting for us. Thank you for your never ending prayers and support!

**Favorite Quote:** "Your identity and genealogy will never be negotiable!"

**Village(s):** Fagatogo, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My most cherished FestPAC memory involves experiencing diverse cultures, sharing laughter and stories with new friends from across the Pacific, and recognizing that, despite our cultural differences, we are united by a shared heritage and the ocean that connects us.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my mother, Ilaisa Mailo, for her understanding and support, especially during those late practice sessions. I also want to acknowledge my younger siblings for their encouragement. A special thank you to my Aunt Tina Mailo Taitin for her invaluable advice and immense support, which kept me going strong. Additionally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to my other wonderful family members: Aunt Iulia Liufau and her family, Uncle Pio Mailo and his family, Aunt Melesete Talaga, Aunt Caroline Talaga Faasavala and her family, and everyone else who has supported me throughout my practices and performances. I couldn't have achieved this without your help. I love you all so much!

**Favorite Quote:** "Preparation is the key to success, and in the journey towards FestPAC, every step is a dance of dedication and passion."



Jada Mailo



Alexis Atoe

**Village(s):** Pavaia'i, American Samoa

**Best Memory at FestPAC:** My favorite memory is witnessing how different people from various cultures can co-exist together in harmony and celebrating one another. Also, sharing these special moments with the people who surround me was a great experience.

Shoutout to my team/friends, sharing this experience with you all is an absolute blessing. My parents, for raising me to be the person I am today. Thank you to our instructors, for believing in us and pushing us to be the best of the best.

**Favorite Quote:** "Although we are all from different parts of the pacific, we are one body, one people, one ocean."



# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Faranisi F. Leota

**Village(s):** Fagaima, American Samoa

**Best Memory from FestPAC:** My favorite memory was our performance at the Polynesian Cultural Center. It was impressive how we were able to multi-task, performing at different venues and touring the island at the same time.

Shoutout to my family and friends, faafetai mo le tapuaiga

**Favorite Quote:** "We are the caretakers of the Pacific Ocean" Epeli Hau'ofa. [Paraphrased by A. Hazelman]

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**Village(s):** Tafuna, Fagaima

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory was learning more about the island cultures and meeting different people from all the diverse countries.

I want to acknowledge my family and friends who are always there to support us as we go.

**Favorite Quote:** "WE ARE ONE!"



Travis B. W. Pavihi

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**Village(s):** Kokoland, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Spending time with those around me. We continuously put 120% effort into our performances and into interacting and making memories with friends and family.

Shoutout to our instructors for the endless lessons day by day. I also want to thank our families near and far for their continuous support.

**Favorite Quote:** "We are not invited to the table because we are already a part of the table."



Take S. Masina

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Aisoli C. Tiatia

**Village(s):** Fagatogo & Lauli'i

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory is the opening ceremony, seeing different cultures showing love & support for one another. The performances brought unity in diversity. It was a reminder of the power of cultural exchange.

Shoutout to all my family & friends back home.

**Favorite Quote:** "Everyday is an opportunity for Samoa to shine the lights of Culture."

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**Village(s):** Nuuuli, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory is witnessing the diverse island nations performing at the opening ceremony & spending time with our dance group.

Shoutout to everyone back home who are continuously showing support for our team American Samoa.

**Favorite Quote:** "The Festivals are in honor of our elders who have maintained traditional connection & direct link to our ancestors."



Suliaso P. Loumoli

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**Village(s):** Pago Pago & Utulei

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Interacting and learning about the different Pacific cultures and all the indigenous people.

Shoutout to our amazing leaders Eki, Noelle, and Loso for holding it down for the group.

**Favorite Quote:** "There are no boundaries, nor borders. We are one body, one people."



Siona N. Tusiofo

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Bahnlannery P.  
Vaofanua

**Village(s):** Aasu/Aoloau, Pago Pago, Sailele, Poloa, Aoa, Fatu ma Futi, Fagasa, Siumu & Afega, WS

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My best memory is when we walked out of the tunnel for the FestPAC opening ceremony and finally seeing our 5 months of hard-work.

These performances are all dedicated to my Uncle Maiko who's currently admitted in the hospital after his valve replacement surgery. We love you Mikey and we pray that you pull through so we can all laugh under the same roof again. Love you!

**Favorite Quote:** "We are not small island states, we are the caretakers of the largest ocean in the world." Epeli Hau'ofa. [Paraphrased by A. Hazelman]

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**Village(s):** Aasu, Aoloau

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** I enjoyed our performance for the Opening ceremony. We waited for a while and the anticipation showed when we walked out with all the energy to represent our beautiful island & all our people back home.

Shoutout to my family back home in AS, our leaders, and all the Pacific Islanders out there!



Vaina Vaofanua Jr.

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**Village(s):** Masausi

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** I enjoyed spending time with the dance group. I know we've put in 120% of our efforts in performances just like we do with our practice runs.

Shoutout to our group leader Loso, Eki, Noelle, Charles and Toalima for putting up with the dance group ever since January. It was worth all the hardwork and time we invested in bringing this day to a reality.

**Favorite Quote:** "Don't judge a book by its cover."



Christopher Mailo

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP

**Village(s):** Leone, American Samoa



Tovia B. Alapati

**Best memory at FestPAC:** I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn about all the different cultures & languages from all our Pacific islands.

Shoutout to all the American Samoa people living in Hawaii. To all my families and friends for supporting our dance group.

**Favorite Quote:** "We are all brothers and sisters! We are one family!"

**Village(s):** Iliili & Fagasa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory is the different islands performances at the night of the opening ceremony.

Shoutout to the state of Hawaii for hosting FestPAC 2024

**Favorite Quote:** "Your tupuaga & faasinomaga is non-negotiable."



Charles B. Aselemo

**Village(s):** Tafuna & Amouli

**Best memory of Festapac:** My favorite memory is the Opening Ceremony where different Island nations and culture stand and unite as one, feeling the mana from the people of the Pacific.

Shoutout to our Families and Friends, to my spiritual Parents, and my Family back in Samoa for the love and support. Big shoutout to all Samoans who came out to support not just American Samoa, but also our Independent Samoa Nation.

**Favorite Quote:** "In our OHANA, in islands of the Pacific too often and around the world they look at us as small island states. But in the words of great late 'EPELI HAU'OFA, from Tonga; We are not small island states," we are the caretakers of the largest ocean in the world."



Toalima Tasi

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP



Eti U. Eti

**Village(s):** Petesa, Tafuna, Papa Sataua, Savaii, & Paia, Savaii

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My Best Memory of FestPAC is the opening ceremony. When Samoa entered the arena, the entire American Samoa delegation stood up, singing, dancing, and cheering. Then, during American Samoa's turn in the Tualuga, Samoa did the same. It was an unforgettable moment that I'll always remember.

Shoutout to every Samoan back home and around the world cheering from afar, also shoutout to my family, loved ones, le tapuaiga a si o matou Ekalesia, faapea le matou ofisa. Faafetai faafetai tele!

**Favorite Quote:** "IA MANUIIAAAA"

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**Village(s):** Tafuna, Petesa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My Best Memory of FestPAC is the opening ceremony. The excitement from our Pacific island nations' performances gave us the adrenaline to leave an outstanding first impression. And we did just that!

Shoutout to my SEKI FAM, my parents, families, friends and every SAMOAN out there for their never ending love and support they've shown since the beginning of the FestPAC. "O faiva e tapua'ia, O faiva e manuia."

**Favorite Quote:** "Your identity and geneology is non negotiable."

Aeau Hazelman, Independent State of Samoa Delegation



Misionare Eti

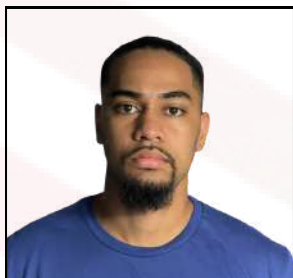
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**Village(s):** Mata-utu, Apia Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory is representating American Samoa through fire dancing. I'm grateful to be a part of the Amerika Samoa delegation & heritage dance group.

Shoutout to my wife Angel Anivaolepo Laban, my family and friends, and my in-laws in Melbourne Australia. God Bless!

**Favorite Quote:** "There are many wonderful things that will never be done if you do not do them. Live what you Love."



Jacktai Laban

# HERITAGE DANCE GROUP





## CHORAL HERITAGE GROUP



The "Aufaipese a Amerika Samoa" consists of thirty-three musically talented individuals from American Samoa, coming from diverse social, religious, vocational backgrounds, and age groups. What binds them together is their shared passion for music, particularly singing.

Under the leadership of Mr. Pati Pati, the choir sung a blend of traditional and modern Samoan choral music created or adapted by individuals with connections to American Samoa through birth, upbringing, work, or family. Some performances commemorated significant events in the lives of the American Samoan people, while others will bring memories of early childhood. Additionally, a few pieces will highlight the talent and versatility of the "Aufaipese a Amerika Samoa."

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE

## Music Selections

1. Ina faaea ia outou ulu - Matautia P. Solomona
2. E lelei o mea uma - Arr. Flo Wendt
3. Tatalo a le Alii - by Dr. Robert Engle
4. Le Alii e ua ou faalogo Samoan Methodist Hymnal #65 arranged by Talalelei Mata'u -
5. Lota nuu moni (w/Hawaiian verse and chorus)
6. Mua ō - Namulauulu Dr. PV Pouesi
7. Faliu le la - Arr. Pati Pati
8. Fatu se pese - From 'Faatafai ma 'Aiaiaiga poem by Koke Aiono Music by Namulauulu Dr. Paul Pouesi
9. Manu o le vaveao - By Maiava P. Hunkin, Arr. Pati Pati
10. Pusi nofo - arranged by Christopher Marshall - Arr. By Christopher Marsall
11. Fonuea Fonuea - Arr. by Ueta Solomona
12. Lo'u moega i le papa - Arr. By Pati Pati
13. Vi'i o aoga
  - Manu'a HS
  - Fagaitua HS (David Malepeai)
  - Faasao HS (Senio Salave'a)
  - Samoana HS (Rev. Malo Tuiasosopo)
  - Tafuna HS (Antonio 'King' Tupuola)
  - Leone HS (Afamasga Ofisa Afamasaga)
  - American Samoa Community College (Tauiliili Pemerika & Namulauulu Dr. Paul Pouesi)
14. O oe o le Rosa - By Viliamu Taouma, Arr. by Pati Pati,  
Male soloist: Emanuel Paulo Junior Laina
15. Toa o Samoa - By Fofu Sunia
16. Eleni (men) - By Jerome Grey
17. Samoa o la'u fesili - Arr. Pati Pati
18. Samoa ma si ana aganuu - By Toilolo Elama Palemene
19. Higher and higher - Jackie Wilson, Arr. Pati Pati
20. Dance a Cachuca (from "The Gondoliers") - Arr. by Henry Clough-Leigher
21. O oe o Amerika Samoa - Lyrics by Fofu Iiga I. F. Sunia; Melody composed by Tauese Vaaomala Sunia  
Female Soloist: Sekai Teletolio-Fauo'o  
Male Soloist: Palemene Fagaima



# CHORAL PERFORMANCE

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When I was asked to put together a choir for FestPAC, I thought about the legendary HTC Pulefaasisina Brownie Tuiasosopo and his powerful Arts Council choirs of the past. The task seemed daunting and challenging, but to have an opportunity to represent American Samoa at the international and pacific stage is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

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**Pati Pati**  
**Lead of Choral Performance**

Mr. Pati Tautua Pati, one of American Samoa's most renowned music directors and musicians, stood at the forefront of cultural representation as he led the American Samoa choir at the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture (FestPAC). Pati, who comes from the villages of Malaeloa and Fatumafuti, has left an indelible mark on the islands' cultural landscape.

Married to Zenora Rosa Laolagi-Pati, Pati is the proud father of five children: Zemirah, Zephaniah, Zondervan, Zanna, and Zoeh-Thea. His educational background is impressive, holding a BA in Music from Iowa Wesleyan College and an MA in Curriculum and Instruction from San Diego State University. This strong foundation fueled his passion for music and his commitment to nurturing young talent.

Pati's career was distinguished by significant contributions to the musical education of American Samoa's youth. From 1996 to 2013, he served as the music teacher for the Leone High Choir (LHS Taumafai Choir), leading them on tours to Samoa, New Zealand, and California, and producing 10 music CDs. His tenure at Samoana High School (SHS Tautua Choir) from 2013 to 2021 saw similar successes, including a tour to Samoa and a first-place win at the 2019 ASDOE Music Festival. In his current role at the Office of the Governor, Pati spearheads the "Reviving Marching Band" initiative, a project aimed at rejuvenating and promoting the rich musical traditions of American Samoa. His leadership and vision have been instrumental in revitalizing the island's marching band culture, fostering a renewed sense of pride and enthusiasm among young musicians.

As the director of the American Samoa choir for the 13th FestPAC, Pati brought his extensive experience and deep understanding of Samoan musical traditions to the international stage. Before attending FestPAC, the group established several goals: to create a disciplined, committed, and passionate ensemble capable of producing a balanced and harmonious sound, to represent American Samoa with distinction, and to **praise and honor GOD** through their talents.

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Vicky Fauolo Mataafa  
Soprano

Vicky Auomanū Fauolo Mataafa, daughter of Auomanū Mataafa and Siala Fauolo, is a singer who is passionate about Samoan music. She participated in the Pacific Arts celebration in American Samoa in 2008 and now represents American Samoa in the choral group. She values the cultural aspects of the festival, especially the Ecumenical Service message about Pacific Islanders deserving a seat at the table.

“Everyone deserves a seat at the table. Pacific Islanders are part of that table and no one deserves it more than us. Take your rightful place and claim your values, traditions, and heritage.”

She is most thankful for the gift of family and their support. Even though they are miles away, the support they’ve shown has been heartwarming. Malo tapua’i, faafetai le fai tatalo ina ia manuia o matou faiva. O la outou pule lea. She’s hopeful about the future of the Pacific and its indigenous values especially in music and singing.

Rosemarie Faalogoifo Uli is the daughter of Tuise’e Anaua & Ioana Toilolo Uli. She hails from the village of Leone, Tutuila American Samoa. Her talent in music is due to her direct lineage from the great composer of American Samoa’s National Anthem, her great grandfather, the Late High Chief Tuiteleleapaga Napoleone.

Singing has been her passion since childhood, being part of various choirs. She accepted an invitation to join the American Samoa Delegation’s Choir for the FestPAC, feeling deeply honored and proud.

So far, the best memory of the festival is singing at the Ecumenical Service. “The music resonated with me, and I was overcome with emotions of joy and pride to be able to represent American Samoa at this monumental occasion. It was a very humbling experience, and I was very honored to have had this opportunity.” All the hard work and dedication put forth reminded her of a quote by Dr. Michelle Gordon - “Preparation is the key to success. Invest time in preparing for the things in your life that are important to you! You will never regret being overprepared.”

Rosemarie, also known as Duchess to most friends and family, would like to send a shoutout - to her parents Tuise’e and Ioana Uli, twin brothers Marlon and Merlin Uli, sister Iutita V. Savali, Aunt Florina Scanlan, and last but not the least to the Leone Holy Cross Catholic Parish!



Rosemarie Uli  
Soprano

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Joanne F. Toma-Fuataga  
Soprano

**Village(s):** Pago Pago

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** "Walking through that tunnel getting ready to enter the center stage for our first debut was a whole different experience. I remember, in my soul, praising our almighty Father for blessing me with such an opportunity to represent my people, my family, my village, my church, my island, Amerika Samoa. I had never been so proud to be a child of Pasefika and being able to share our culture with all our sisters and brothers from the vast Oceania. This will be a memory I will forever cherish and share with my family."

**Favorite quote:** The wise words of Aeau Chris Hazelman, "O lou tupuaga ma lou faasinomaga, your identity and genealogy are not negotiable...we are here to ensure that our identity will never be negotiable."

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**Village(s):** Leone, Moataa, Falelatai, Afega, & Falevao,

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** There is not just ONE Best Memory of FestPAC. Reconnecting with old friends from Fiji and Samoa, and making new friends from other cultures before the Opening. Also, spending more time with our choir family here in Hawaii.

Shout out to our Pacific communities who showed up to celebrate FestPAC with us. To families (My siblings and their families; the Samuelu and Manase families, the Taulapapa and Tuivaiti families, the Savea and Ilemaleota families) and friends back home and around the world for your tapuaiga and prayers for our AS delegation and for a successful and safe FestPAC2024.

**Favorite Quote:** Psalms 115:1 "Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."

"Aua ne'i ia te i matou, leova e, aua ne'i ia te i matou, a ia tuuina atu le viiga i lou suafa, ona o lou alofa ma lou faamaoni."

Since January, the choir group preparing for FestPAC aims to represent American Samoa and glorify the Lord through singing, hoping to bless others. Their progress and unity are attributed to the Lord's favor and guidance, not their own efforts.



Latalata Reupena  
Samuelu  
Soprano

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Sekai Teletolio-Fauoo  
Soprano

**Village(s):** Malaeloa, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** There were many interesting things about the FestPAC, but It is a pleasure to be able to witness the traditions of other countries of the Pacific. This is the first time for me that I have participated in the FestPAC and I am proud to be able to represent my country of American Samoa.

Shout out to all my families and friends who have supported us since day one, especially to my Hubby and my two boys back home

**Village(s):** Leone & Vaitogi

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** The first day of FestPAC, the Opening ceremony, was my favorite highlight. Being in one place with a diverse group of people who all have one commonality of being a resilient dweller of the Pacific Islands, I was reminded of our journey in the past six months preparing for FestPAC as part of the choral group. We were completely oblivious to how transformational this event was going to be for all of us.

Being in that arena gave me an overwhelming spiritual experience and gave the name Pacific Islander so much more weight. I will never forget this experience, and will always remember the words of the late 'Epeli Hau'ofa from Tonga, quoted by Aeau Hazelman from the Independent State of Samoa's delegation, "We are the caretakers of the biggest ocean in the world."

I give a huge Fa'amalo and Faafetai to the American Samoa Delegation. You have all done so well to represent our island. I will never forget your faces.

I dedicate this entire experience to my dear parents, the late talking chief Vaiausia Eliko Yandall and Sinuanua Tolu Yandall.

**My Quote:** FestPAC is a celebration of God's intricate design for His children of the Pacific. All the glory belongs to God!



Deeannah Loia  
Soprano

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Naomi Sipili  
Galea'i Matagi  
Soprano

**Village(s):** Fagatogo & Faleāsao, Manu'a

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory would be the Ecumenical Service. Worshiping God uniquely while highlighting the different islands. was the epitome of the service. As we echoed our, "Lo ta Nu'u" song selection, in both Hawaiian and Samoan. We sang with so much joy in our hearts. Altogether paying tribute to past, present and future stewards and protectors of our heritage. Nothing beats praising God as one big pasefika family and that was everything to me! Vi'ia le Ali'i!

Shoutout to my mom Ruth Sipili Matagi and siblings. My spiritual parents Rev. Iasepi & Leone Ulu of the CCCAS Fagatogo "Ole Ki ole Malo ole Lagi".

**Favorite Quote:** Proverbs 27:17 "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

The performances that we've been able to showcase, were from long practices, creativity, originality, authenticity and woven through the power of prayer. As a choir member we all knew how to sing, but Mr. Pati Pati taught us how to sing as ONE. We did what we could and left the rest to God. Throughout FestPAC we've been able to sharpen one another to perform the best of the best and nothing less. Through our culture, God's talent and a little bit of faith in each other we were able to do exactly what this year's FestPAC theme states, contributing to "Regenerating Oceania". Chhheehooooo!!!!

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**Village(s):** Laulii, Faleniu, & Afega, Samoa

Shoutout to all the dedicated leaders in each FestPAC Programmatic area. Special thanks to Dr. Aaron Sala for his efforts to ensure Amerika Samoa's programmatic needs are met. Grateful for the current and new support system I have come to build during new ventures. Grateful for the best supporter, Fred, who is constantly cheerleading me through and through in during timid moments of my career.



Antonina Pselio-Toilolo  
Soprano

**Favorite Quote:** "Be I lack in terms to share yet abundant with love and care. May the reader kindly read and hear...the figments of my wish to endear." - Peseta Tialuga Sunia Seloti "Invocation" Poem.

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Zenora R Laolagi-Pati

**Village(s):** Fatumafuti, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Ecumenical Service - I loved how all different island nations came together in one accord worshipping God, SINGING praises unto HIM in their own native languages. God's spirit moving within our hearts brought tears of joy ... The message shared was anointed and on point!! How great thou art!!

Psalm 117:1-2

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles. Laud Him, all you peoples! For His merciful kindness is great towards us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

Our families and friends for their unending love and support, most importantly their prayers over us as we represent not only our island nation, but GOD as well!!

We give great honor, praise and ALL glory unto GOD for without HIM we would not be able to experience this wonderful blessing. All God, never us!

**Favorite Quote:** 1 Corinthians 13:13 "So now faith, hope and love now abide, these three; but the greatest of these is LOVE binds us all together.

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**Village(s):** Fagasa, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** I enjoy spending time with my roommate and meeting new people of the Pacific.

I would like to shoutout to Mr. Pati Pati for the opportunity to be a part of the AS combined choir representing our island for the Pacific Festival, also to my family parents HC Tupuola Laniselota & Suitupe Sopoaga, my siblings, uncles, aunties, nephews, nieces, especially my daughter Lita Faauliuli Sopoaga Alo for their support and believing in me.

**Favorite quote:** " Believe in yourself and have Faith in God."



Minioneta Laniselota  
Sopoaga-Alo

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Taumaia S. Tima  
Alto

**Village(s):** Matu'u & Faganeanea

**Best Memory of the FestPAC:** My Best Memory of FestPAC is the ecumenical service, where our singing felt so sacred and powerful, as if we were uplifted by the Holy Spirit and joined by our ancestors and loved ones who have passed.

Shoutout to my Families and Friends back home and abroad and my Spiritual Parents (Rev. Elder & Mrs. Asiata) for their support, Love and prayers.

**Favorite Quote:** It was said a lot during our practices. "Expect the Unexpected " and were able to do it without any doubt or any negative thoughts that would weaken us from all the challenges we faced during the PacFest. "GOD is Good, All the Time."

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**Village(s):** Leone & Pagai

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My best memory of FestPAC is being part of the American Samoa Choir and sharing the love of music with people from across the vast Moana.

Alofaaga & Shout out to my students of Fagaitua High, My family in Pagai & Baby DJ, especially my fan club in Nasareta, Leone, all my brothers & sisters ( to many to name all of you) and to my #1 supporter and prayer warrior - LOVE YOU TOE !!

**Favorite quote:** "O lupe sa vao ese'ese, ae ua fuifui faatasi" : We come from different islands, have different languages, dances, and cultures but we are connected in this "MOANA" that connects us all as one " tagata o le vasa pasefika."



Hertha-Lina  
Aumoeualogo  
Alto

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Senerivi Jewelyn  
Gago  
Alto

**Village(s):** Nua & Se'etaga

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory would be the opening ceremony. This was one of the most beautiful and most powerful experiences I have ever witnessed in my life, the coming together of Nations and families of the Pacific and the cultural exchange.

Shout out to my family back home in American Samoa, my family in Hawaii, and shout out to my choir family.

“Your genealogy and identity is not negotiable. We are the caretakers of the largest ocean in the world. We are one people, we are the Pasefika”

- Aeau Chris Hazelman

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**Village(s):** Vatia, Nuuuli & Taputimu

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory so far has to be the opening Ceremony, seeing the pride and humility of our delegation echo through the arena is a feeling that I can't describe.

I would like to give God the glory for the talent and opportunity he's given me to be a part of such an amazing experience. I would also like to shoutout my parents, siblings and children- Aaria, Levi & Harmony for allowing me to experience this once in a lifetime opportunity.

**Favorite quote:**

“It takes a village to raise a child”. There is nothing you can't do without God and your village.



Sivā Fiaavae Kolopa  
Tuiasosopo  
Alto



# CHORAL PERFORMANCE

**Village(s):** Fagatogo, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** All time best memory was the opening ceremony. I have always been a supporter of American Samoa and loved sharing videos or pictures of people representing our home at any events, so being here in Hawaii and being a representative is an honor. I'm just so blessed and grateful for such an opportunity, thank You God. I feel so proud to finally represent home alongside such amazing and beautiful souls and especially doing something that I love, singing. I will never forget how I felt when I walked out singing and dancing when they called American Samoa, now I know how it feels to represent HOME!



Diana Theresa  
Moe  
Alto

Shoutout to my family and my kids especially back home in Fagatogo, my spiritual parents and church family. This is for my parents the late Saunoa & Annatasia Moe who have had the best seats at witnessing this trip.

**Favorite quote:** 2 CHRONICLES 15:7 "But as for you be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded"

It has been a long journey filled with practices and preparations, reminding us to persevere and enjoy the process. The reward lies in witnessing the pride and joy of being Samoan in the crowd during performances, sharing knowledge, and creating lasting memories at this year's FestPAC.



Susie Terry  
Tasele Tarray  
Alto

**Village(s):** Malaeloa and Iiili

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Opening Night- I got to witness and feel the presence of all the indigenous pacific people and the cultures, as well as their unique challenges they face but yet remain steadfast.

Shout out to my Family for the support - To my people for the Love - and to Pati Pati for allowing me to part of this wonderful experience

**Favorite quote:** "God is Good at All Times"

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Salima Eucharist Elisara  
Reupena  
Tenor

**Village(s):** Vailoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Fellowship & sharing between all Pacific Island - Oceania People and Cultures. Remembering all the preparations and witnessing God's Blessings upon each and everyone involved in serving as ambassadors of Amerika Samoa and Christianity... "SAMOA, MUAMUA LE ATUA"

Dedication to my late Beloved GrandAunt Leala Elisara Pili who has served American Samoa and Arts Council for many years and represented and lead American Samoa to numerous FestPACs. Faafetai tele to my Spiritual Parents Rev. Alama & Osana Solofa and my CCCAS Vailoa Church Family and my Reupena, Elisara, Manase, and Hunkin Families for their Prayers, Love, and Support. Faafetai tele Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga and your awesome Office, especially Chief of Staff Loa Tauapai, Executive Assistant Antonina Paselio Toilolo, HOD Fuata Tiumalu, and of course our Choir Master Pati Pati, Jr. for your wonderful leadership and talent and our American Samoa Choir Family. Vi'ia Le Ali'i.

**Favorite quote:**

"Na faia e le Atua le lagi ma le lalolagi i le amataga." Kenese 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

FestPAC provided us all an opportunity to share, sing, dance, and praise God's Wonderful Creations.

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**Village(s):** Nu'uuli, Lano (Sava'ii)

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** "Performing on the international stage and sharing our culture with the world. The energy of the crowd was electric, and it was incredibly humbling to see our traditions celebrated on such a grand scale."

"First and foremost, to my incredible wife and kids - your love and support are my foundation. To my family back home in American Samoa, your strength and spirit give me wings. A special shoutout to my amazing relatives in Hawaii, for lending a hand and helping me survive in paradise! I also want to thank my ekalesia family back home for their unwavering prayers. Rev. Sailiai and Tava'e Tumaai, your guidance and faith mean the world to me.

Deepest gratitude to the American Samoa Government for their support of our choir. And of course, a huge thanks to the maestro himself, Mr. Pati Pati, for bringing this whole FestPAC vision to life.

But above all, this wouldn't be possible without the grace of God. Thank you for this incredible opportunity, for the talent to sing, and for the chance to share our culture with the world."

**Favorite quote:** "We need to bring THEM to US as they are really a part of US!" This quote reminds me of the deep connection we all share as Pacific Islanders. FestPAC was a powerful testament to our shared heritage and our strength in unity."



Konelio Semi  
Tenor

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Mapusua Papalii  
Venitura Taeao  
Atofau Tauanuu  
Tenor

**Village(s):** Leloaloe and Leone

**Best Memory of FestPAC:**

In addition to the endless laughter and lifetime memories our group has been making, I am most honored to represent my home country of Amerika Samoa being a small part of this delegation on a world stage, along side our Independent Samoa, and our Pacific brothers and sisters, is an honor and privilege I do not take lightly. My children and grandchildren will one day see that their father represented their country in something of this magnitude, and they too will realize the importance of keeping our culture, language, genealogy and identity alive.

Being a part of our Amerika Samoa Choir has allowed us to grow in our musical talent and set the standard for ourselves. Thank you Lord, all You!

Shoutout to my churches, Leone EFKAS Siona o Le Mauga Paia, and Leloaloe Methodist Church. My Villages and Family. Especially my wife and children as they've had to adjust to our practices and many other responsibilities to make this journey a memorable one. This, to them, is also their honor and not a sacrifice, and I couldn't be more thankful and proud. I love you my Family. THIS choir...up up up!!

**Favorite Quote:** "O la'u poloa'iga lenei 'iā te 'outou, 'ia 'outou fealofani."  
Ioane 15:17  
"This is my command: Love each other"  
John 15:17

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**Village(s):** Nuuuli & Failolo

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My favorite memory is being able to sing in front of a thousands of people from different delegations and representing LOUD & PROUD!

Shoutout to all our families and friends back home for their continuous support! Our people here in Hawaii for all the love shown upon us.

This year's FestPAC is entitled "Regenerating Oceania, " as Polynesians we are being submerged in the ocean, pacific cultures that encourages us to embrace the islanders in us and rejoice our uniqueness and resemble. I am Polynesian, and I am proud of my Polynesian Heritage!

**Favorite Quote:** GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GREAT, EVERYDAY,  
123 ASA



Palemene Fagaima  
Tenor

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Nelson Aleli Jennings  
Tenor

**Village(s):** Laulii, American Samoa & Swains Island

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** The best of FestPAC was when we were given the opportunity to represent our Island nation. Experiencing all the different indigenous cultures, communities, and delegations gave this FestPAC meaning and hope for our people to relive the past to where we were all from. Gave us a spark that ignited the flame within all of us. The very first time within 8 years and seeing all of our indigenous people setting a blaze within the stadium was the best moment of them all. Looking at each other with different faces but same hearts.

Shoutout to my Jennings, Te'o, Aulava, and Vaimaona family for your love and sending your support throughout the days. I love you all!

**Favorite quote:** "Our Genealogy and Identity is Not Negotiable" and "We are not small Island states but we are the caretakers of the largest ocean in the world"

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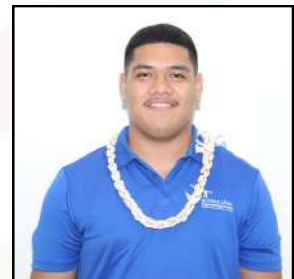
**Village(s):** Pago Pago & Leloalua

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** The fellowship that I have with my team, singing and dancing and learning about other pacific islands cultures and their religions, how they worship, the languages, the outfits, the foods, and everything. So glad that I got the chance to be in this journey with my delegation, my Amerika Samoa, and this will be something that I will never forget.

Shout out to God, for his never ending love and protection through out this event, shoutout to my family back home for their never ending support, and the love that they've shown while I'm here.

**Favorite Quote:** "The great gift of human beings is that we have the power of empathy, we can all sense a mysterious connection to each other".

-Meryl Streep



Luteru Karama  
Itamua  
Tenor

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Rudy Joseph Fiso  
Tenor

**Village(s)** Leloaloe & Faleniu

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My best memory of FestPAC is the performance and the incredible reaction from everyone, but most of all, the joy and unity it brought to everyone involved.

To the most high and my Amerika Samoa but especially my family and church EFKAS Ala ile Faaolataga Petesa Uta and Le Fetu Ao Pupula Leloaloe

**Favorite quote:** "Can you take us to wal-mart please?"

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**Village(s):** Pago Pago, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** My Best Memory of FestPAC this year is the opening ceremony, where all the Islands of the Pacific showcase their cultures and traditions on the big stage. This moment was beautiful and touching to me. It provided a sense of belonging and peace knowing that our brothers and sisters from all over the Pacific are gathered together to regenerate Oceania. The vidances, the harmonious songs, and the colorful traditional attire created an atmosphere of unity and celebration. It was a reminder of our shared heritage and the strength we draw from our collective identity.

A huge shout out to God for His unwavering love that made this event possible. His guidance and blessings have been a constant source of strength. Also, a shout out to my parents and my family for their love and support. Their encouragement has been my driving force. To my spiritual family - Thank you for your prayers and faith in me. To everyone that provided or supported me - Thank you and God bless. Your contributions, whether big or small, have made a significant impact on my journey.

**Favorite quote:** "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." - Henry Ford

This quote perfectly encapsulates the essence of our preparation for FestPAC. The journey began with the coming together of diverse talents and spirits, each bringing their unique strengths. Keeping together through the challenges and triumphs was a testament to our commitment and unity. Finally, working together towards a common goal has led us to success, not just as individuals, but as a community. It reflects the hard work, dedication, and teamwork that went into every rehearsal, every costume, and every performance.



Emanuel Paulo  
Junior Lāina  
Tenor

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Faasaviliga Austin  
Saifoloi Asiata

Bass

**Village(s):** Matu'u & Faganeanea; Nua & Seetaga

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Singing at the ecumenical service. It was such a beautiful and magical experience I'll cherish forever. #AmerikaSamoaPride

Shoutout to my parents Rev. Elder Fouvale & Simoa Asiata, my siblings, CCCAS Matu'u & Faganeanea Church, my workplace, and especially my Falelua youth kids.

**Favorite quote:** "Pese pei o lau toe pese na e oti lea" ["Sing as if you die tomorrow." ] - Dad

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**Village(s):** Masefau and Sale'imoa, Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Attending the 2024 Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture was an unforgettable experience. My most cherished memory of FestPAC is undoubtedly the opening ceremony, which set the tone for this unparalleled celebration of art, identity, and community. Despite language barriers, the atmosphere was infused with a profound sense of unity and shared joy, highlighting our collective identity as Pacific Islanders. This has filled me with immense pride in my heritage, especially as a Samoan.

I extend my heartfelt Fa'afetai ma Fa'amalo to my island home and the people of American Samoa for their tremendous love and support throughout this journey with my fellow delegates. I am deeply grateful to the family and friends who came out to see our performances. Finally, I want to thank our entire delegation for representing our people to the world; you all have been nothing short of amazing. Malo fa'afetai le fa'aeaea!

One major takeaway from FestPAC 2024 is the reaffirmation of our Pacific Island identity mentioned at the opening ceremony:

"We are not small island states... we are the caretakers of the largest ocean in the world," (Eveli Hau'ofa).



Laufili Time  
Stanley Loia

Bass

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Jermaine Tipeni  
Tuiasosopo  
Bass

**Village(s):** Malaeloa, American Samoa & Tokyo

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Late night 7-Eleven runs...  
Shoutout to Danté, Kratos & Bandit from Tokyo, American Samoa.

**Favorite Quote:**

If you do good things with pure intentions, the speed limit needs to be decreased. Jackie Chan is getting old and pineapples do go on pizzas.  
-anonymous

**Village(s):** Fagatogo, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Participating in the program, meeting delegates from various islands, experiencing diverse languages, connecting with family from Cook Islands, and witnessing the unity of our Samoa mo Samoa family during performances. Understanding the challenges of being away from home and loved ones, but grateful to FestPAC and Hawaii, our extended family.

**Favorite Quote:** "Our identity and heritage are invaluable and non-negotiable." God bless.



Sala Launiuvao Vaa  
Bass



Malosi  
Tanielu Lui  
Bass

**Village(s):** Pavaia'i, American Samoa

Some of the best memories during preparation were when everyone stood together to rehearse songs. It was wonderful to collaborate on costume preparation, from the oldest to the youngest participants. Despite challenges, our strength persisted during choir practice. We are eagerly anticipating the preparations for the next few days.

**Favorite Quote:** "I will prepare and some day my chance will come"

**Village(s):** Nu'uuli, Falealupo, Leauva'a, Fugalei, Solosolo

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** "Singing in the massed choir finale with all the other Pacific Island nations. It was a moment of pure magic, a powerful display of unity and cultural pride. I want to thank my fellow choir members from across American Samoa. We come from different villages and backgrounds, but together we created something truly special."

**Favorite quote:** "We need to bring THEM to US as they are really a part of US!" This quote challenged me to see beyond cultural differences and embrace the idea that we are all part of a larger Pacific Island whanau (family)."



Tuala Patrick Ah  
Fook  
Bass

# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



Ross Maalo Filivaa

Bass

**Village(s):** Taputimu, American Samoa

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** I dont know where to begin:

1. Walking down the tunnel during the opening ceremony while singing " E ui ina palapala(not literally) o Pago Pago ma le ma'ama'a ae peitai o le taulaga o Amerika Samoa."
2. All the sites that we've visited for our performances (Palama Settlement, Hawaii Convention Center, Waikiki, etc) and many more to come.
3. Seeing the outpouring of support from samoan friends, families and other pasifika islanders at the venues that we've performed at.
4. Lastly, the close bond and friendship that weve developed amongst our delegation(especially the choir It has been a great honor and privilege to represent American Samoa.

**Shoutouts:**

1. Hawaii-Thank you for being amazing hosts. The "Aloha Spirit" is alive and well amongst the Pasifika Islands and Nations.
2. Families, Friends and Supporters of the American Samoa delegation. Faafetai mo le nonofo tatalo ma le tapuaiga ina ia manuia taumafaiga a alo ma fanau a si o tatou atunuu. Faafetai le alofa tula'i ma le lagolagosua. Im so humbled and blessed to have been given this once in lifetime oppotunity.
3. Amerika Samoa Choir-My 2nd family. I love you guys. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You for the journey and the many memories. The friendships made and the many laughters. Faafetai, faafetai tele lava!

**Favorite Quote:** "Times have changed but the essence and foundations that make each pasifika island culture unique remains. (E sui le taimi ma faiga ae tumau pea le faavae o tu ma aga o atunuu taitasi o le pasifika."

**Village(s):** Nu'uuli, AS & Faleasi'u, WS

**Best Memory of FestPAC:** Witnessing various countries across the South Pacific come together to support each other sharing their heritage and culture, best shown by the American Samoa delegation's support of Samoa's delegation during the Opening Ceremony. A great reminder of the fact that although we are separated by the ocean, we are still one.

Shoutout to all my family and friends who have been and still are praying and supporting me throughout this journey.

**Favorite quote:** "FestPAC is bigger than any of us...you are not representing just yourself or your family..."



Edgar Apulu

Bass



# CHORAL PERFORMANCE



# AMERIKA SAMOA



2024 FESTIVAL OF PACIFIC ARTS & CULTURE - HAWAII



## HO'OU LU LĀHUI Regenerating Oceania

13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture • Hawai'i 2024