



## Island Sounds

By Wayne Harada

Advertiser Entertainment Writer

"MAUI" by Hapa; Hapa.com Records  
Genre: Traditional and Contemporary Hawaiian

## Revised and Revived, Hapa is Happening

**H**ooray for Hapa; the reconvened Maui group, with veteran Barry Flanagan and colleague Nathan Aweau, turns in a majestic album with morsel after morsel of good vibes, reflecting a link to the past but soaring mightily into the future. It's a Hawaiian music disc that will elevate the duo's profile.

Distinguishing notes: Hapa - Barry Flanagan, guitarist, and Nathan Aweau, lead vocalist on all but one track and also bassist-percussionist - has been a pioneering resource of Island sounds for years. In its current status, it also is a band with insight and vision, depending on cultural roots to set its foundation, but open to contemporary elements to forge ahead of the pack. This recent arrival is aurally and visually a stunning package, executed with style and class, embracing Polynesian motifs that inspire and impress. "Haleakala," the opening tune by Jay Kauka, is a natural introduction to this gallery of artistic treasures, with freewheeling abandonment suggesting a joyous trek to the peak.

The fare includes vocals and instrumentals, each defining an exquisite experience in the Hapa journey. "Papa E," with foundations in the Tokelau islands, is an emotional lament about watching the site diminish as you depart via the sea; "Tahiti Manahune," with melody by Flanagan, tells the tale of how Tahiti got its name; "Redemption Song," the lone Flanagan vocal, is the Bob Marley tune reconfigured for a Hawaiian experience, complete with political message that could easily be retrofitted to the Hawaiian landscape; "Lei Manoa," a Flanagan contribution, is a sweet and succulent snapshot of misty and mystical Manoa, with an undercurrent of romance - easily this CD's *Lei Kukui*. "I Ka La'i O Lahaina" keeps to the Maui theme, with charming results. One other entry, with historical perspective, is "Mo'i 'O Lili'u," an Aweau composition that reflects on Queen Lili'uo-kalani, and the emotional voltage at the time the Hawaiian flag was lowered, signaling the fall of her throne.

The CD packaging is stellar with numerous fold-outs, enlightening notes, lyrics and commentary and liberally illustrated by Native Hawaiian artist Solomon Enos - all proving the jacket is just as enticing as the book. The outlook: Surely the disc re-establishes Hapa as a contender for future laurels and an important conduit for Hawaiian culture.

Our take: Hapa is happening again - deservedly so.

---

For booking and more information please contact:

Tim Brattan, West Cliff Productions 831.454.0478 ext.10 tim@hapa.com www.hapa.com