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REVIEW

"Live at the 'Iolani School Fair Vol. 1"

Various artists (No Hum Yet)

'Iolani School embarks on a fresh fundraising campaign with the release of this compilation made during the school's annual fundraising fair. Someone had the foresight to roll tape when Pure Heart performed in 1999; the other cuts date from 2004 or later.

One of the gems in terms of rarity is "Basia Medley" by Azure McCall and Tennyson Stephens. They used to be a major force on the Honolulu jazz scene; having something by them here is a coup indeed. Another great track, also jazz, is "F.S.R. (For Sonny Rollins)" as interpreted by the Bruce Hamada Trio. Not only does the group swing, but the liner notes reveal that Hamada is an 'Iolani grad, and that drummer Brandon Tucay was an 'Iolani junior when the group played the fair in 2005.

The Kelly Boy DeLima Ohana adds a Jawaian standard with "Whatcha Talking 'Bout," a staple of DeLima's repertoire for years, and still a crowd-pleaser. Weldon Kekauoka and Tapa Groove blend Jawaian and soul in "Freestyle," and Chant's imaginative rearrangement of "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" reminds us that it's possible to successfully apply new ideas to pop-chart oldies.

At least two selections capture the work of defunct acts. Jon Yamasato abruptly quit Pure Heart later in 1999, and Jake Shimabukuro and Lopaka Colon subsequently changed the name of the group to Colon. The Opihi Pickers recently announced that they will be taking "a long and significant break" from working together, so "Victim" could be the last we'll hear of them as well.

The album is available only from 'Iolani School. Call 949-5355 or visit www.iolanistore.org/faircdvol1.html.