

Take in 'Iolani fair performances once again

By Wayne Harada

"Live! At the 'Iolani School Fair, Vol. 1" by various artists; No Hum Yet

- **Genre:** A mix that includes adult contemporary, jazz, Hawaiian, blues, reggae, rock.

- **Distinguishing notes:** 'Iolani School has a fundraising fair each April; this compilation of a dozen titles by as many acts reflects a gamut of talent in the community eager to kokua the school.

This compilation is a mirror to past fairs, culled from hours of recordings. Pure Heart (now defunct) performs "Moloka'i Sweet Home," the Malani Bilyeu original, dating back to 1999, bringing bird calls to the scene and reminding fans of the sweet joys of this now-only-a-memory group. This one has historical significance: It's the group's only live rendering on a CD.

The three most recent cuts are from 2007, including Kelly "Boy" DeLima 'Ohana's "Whatcha Talking 'Bout," complete with a gentle reggae flavor; Kaipō's "Trouble in the World," with its spell of lament; and Shawn Ishimoto & Friends' "Change the World," giving a new edge to the familiar tune.

Chant provides a measure of cheer and optimism on "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow," the classic from Carole King and Gerry Goffin; and Bruce Hamada with Jim Howard and Brandon Tucay render the lone instrumental, "F.S.R. (For Sonny Rollins)," with a creative and comforting jazz bounce. Azure McCall and Tennyson Stephens provide more organic jazz riffs with "Basia Medley" combining "Time and Tide" with "Astrud" — two voices, two tunes, a triumph on how it's supposed to be done.

Other acts represented: Weldon Kekauoha and Tapa Groove, whose "Freestyle" is the lively opening track; Kona's "Why Now"; Round and Round's "Round and Round"; Thick Tubes' "6 Men"; and Opihi Pickers' "Victim."

The Vol. 1 in the CD title suggests more to come, presumably based on how this maiden voyage fares. Fred B. Li produced and engineered; CDs are \$15, available at www.iolanistore.org/faircdvol1.html. Note: This year's fair is happening April 18 to 19.

- **Our take:** An ambitious effort worthy of support — a memory-maker, if you caught one of the acts at the fair and a musical quiltwork for everyone else who might be fans.

