

From instrumental tracks to modern Hawaiian songs, Hawaii musicians turn out new tunes

By [John Berger](#) May 2, 2021

“Aloha Ku‘u Hawai‘i Aloha Ē”

Maui Jam Band

(Maui Jam)

Al Nip is the core and leader of the aptly named Maui Jam Band. Nip is one of the group’s several vocalists; he also plays guitar, slack key guitar and ukulele in studio, and contributed two original songs. Geronimo Valdriz (steel guitar) and Wayne Purdy (bass) are the other primary musicians. Anyone searching for old-style Hawaiian music can expect to enjoy their work.

Vocalist Patti Kuwaye stars in two memorable spotlight numbers — “Hula O Makee” and “Nani Nani.” Jon Toda delivers another Hawaiian standard, “Henehene Kou Aka,” in great style. Toda sings and plays lead ukulele; Nip and Valdriz are excellent behind him.

The final song, “Lei Na Honoapi‘ilani,” is credited to Mima Apo but uses the melody composed and published as “I Left It With Jesus” by James McGranahan in 1875. In 19th-century Hawaii, it was not considered plagiarism to take a popular melody and put new words to it.



Info: Mauislackkey.com