



Posted on: Friday, April 13, 2007

ISLAND SOUNDS

## Natural Vibrations' 'Heart' has tug power

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"**From the Heart**" by Natural Vibrations; Natural Vibrations Records

- **Genre:** Reggae, world music.
- **Distinguishing notes:** Natural Vibrations' fifth album — in stores Tuesday — goes from roots music to a bit of funk with some detours en route. The title song, for example, is a feel-good energizer with reggae rasta riffs midway, potentially appealing to reggae newbies and die-hards alike. The harmonies in the opening of "How Would I Know" and the gently romantic "Love You Too Much" sweeten the pot.
- **Our take:** This could be the one that puts Natural Vibrations on the national map.



🔊 Sample song: "You and I" by Natural Vibrations

"**Comin' Atchya**" by Ho'okoa; Kelpua Productions

- **Genre:** Island rhythms, Jawaiian.
- **Distinguishing notes:** The Big Island sextet's 17 tracks project an easy-going style. They sing of evaporating love ("Last Night"), hope ("Saving Grace"), and romance from afar ("Perfect Day"), sharing harmonic blends with occasional raps. Ho'okoa has the moves and the modes to woo and jam.
- **Our take:** Ho'okoa's comin' atchya, with a vengeance. Are you ready?



🔊 Sample song: "Rock The Show" by Ho'okoa

"**Thankful**" by Jon Almosara; Jon Almosara

- **Genre:** Christian pop.
- **Distinguishing notes:** Jon Almosara, a native of the Philippines, was raised as a "pastor's kid." He shares song and family values as performer, worship leader and youth pastor at Brethren of Christ International in Waipahu. This album — his second, but the first targeting local audiences — includes duets with a couple of local faves, Shanna Masuda ("Up Where We Belong") and Maila Gibson ("Somewhere, Somehow"), and ex-Sunland performer Chad Guerrero ("Will I Ever See You Anymore?"). A Ben Gutierrez ballad, "Could You Say for Me," has crossover potential. His "Give Me Your Love" is not as proficient but projects earnest desire. With his



wholesome good looks, Almosara is a messenger that young folks (and oldsters, for that matter), would welcome. The CD is available at CDBaby.com and should soon be released locally and on iTunes.

- **Our take:** Be thankful for this newcomer who shares faith, love and other positive values.

🔊 Sample song: "I'm Thankful" by Jon Almosara

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