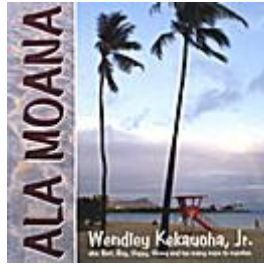


Mp3 Wendley Kekauoha Jr - Ala Moana



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Ala Moana's songs are contemporary Hawaiian that will have you snapping your fingers and tapping your feet. Baltimore's jazz guitarist legend, O'Donel Levy lent his talent, heart and ears to the music of singer/songwriter, Wendley "Bert" Kekauoha. 9 MP3 Songs EASY LISTENING: Lounge, WORLD: Island

Details: Thirty four days past my fifty sixth birthday I became a proud papa for the first time. The package had been in the works for two years and on November 3, 2005 UPS delivered my "baby", my first CD. I couldn't be there for the delivery but when I received the call I couldn't wait to get home, though I waited until my work day was done, to see the baby for myself. When I first laid eyes on it I knew why I had named it after the beach park that I loved so much. It just seemed so right. I've always enjoyed writing. I've kept a journal over the years as well as written poetry including haiku but five years ago I began adding music to the lyrics. It began when me and two friends were returning from a gig in New Jersey. They suggested we get together the following week to rehearse. Each of us was to bring a song that we had written. We all agreed. I had begun a song sometime earlier and the only thing I needed to do was to find the right words for the final verse. I knew I'd have a song. We did meet the following week for rehearsal but I was the only one who had brought a song. My two friends had excuses as to why they hadn't written a song. I thought this would be a good time for the sharing of ideas but we didn't we rehearsed. We are still friends and enjoy getting together and "kanikapila" play music. That little incident started me on a writing spree. I wrote lyrics whenever I had the chance on whatever would come to mind. Sometimes I'd wake up at three in the morning with an idea that I knew I had to put to paper because if I waited I wouldn't remember it. One of those songs is titled "Crazy about you". The challenging part for me was putting music to the lyrics. I play some guitar, enough piano to get myself into trouble and electric bass. I had a basic understanding of music theory but that wasn't going to help me remember the songs if

I couldn't hear them or change them until I thought they were okay in my mind. I decided after some reading to get me a small recording machine. I bought a Tasca, four track recorder and made my first audio tapes on it. I still use it when I'm doing new material. It also helps to see if I'm becoming too lazy and repetitive with all the songs sounding alike. I try very hard to give each song a different rhythmic feeling and life. Sometimes I'm successful, a lot of times I'm not but I enjoy the process. I find I write better when I'm in a quiet space, like my basement at home or at the lookout above the Makapuu lighthouse on the Windward side of Oahu. It is an incredible view looking down on Makapuu Bay, Rabbit Island and all along the Waimanalo coastline. It was beautiful. The song I wrote atop that mountain was titled Makapuu. It was a man contemplating suicide after his fiancée leaves him. How does it end? I'll guess you'll have to wait until the song is recorded. Growing up in Hawaii in the 50's and 60's I was into rock and roll. I also loved soul and funk. I liked Elvis but people like James Brown, Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, Sam and Dave, Joe Tex, Eddie Floyd, Aretha Franklin, Booker T and the MG's, Jackie Wilson, Purify Brothers and Ray Charles got my feet tapping. I also enjoyed the singers like Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Perry Como, and Ella Fitzgerald just to name a few. Groups I liked the Kinks, Rolling Stones, Dave Clark Five, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Beau Brummels, Zombies, and the Beatles. I also like the folk movement with the New Christy Minstrels, Kingston Trio, Peter, Paul and Mary, Joan Baez, Judy Collins and Pete Seeger. Hawaiian music was always there but when I started playing with a garage band that is not what we played. We knew the songs but we did not make an effort to add it to our repertoire. Until that day. We were playing a birthday party for a Hawaiian family. We just completed setting up and doing a sound check when the father of the family came up and introduced himself. We said "Hello" and told him how happy we were to be playing at the party. He then asked if he could make a request. We said, "Sure." He then asked us to play a Hawaiian song. We replied "We don't know any Hawaiian songs. We are a rock band. He said, "Play Tiny Bubbles." Again we replied "We don't know any Hawaiian songs." He turned around, shaking his head as he slowly walked away. It was at that point that we realized that if we were to continue playing music then we would need to add songs of our culture. We were sure that there would be more similar incidents. And there were.

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