

Mp3 Mike Aiken - Hula Girl Highway



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A twelve track record filled with a signature breezy feel good sound. Americana, country, roots with an ocean view. 12 MP3 Songs in this album (43:16) ! Related styles: COUNTRY: Americana, ROCK: Trop Rock People who are interested in Lyle Lovett Jimmy Buffett Kenny Chesney should consider this download. Details: Not many people get to live life on their terms. But that is exactly what singer/songwriter/sailor Mike Aiken has been able to do combining his three greatest passions in life, music, sailing and adventure. Now, with the release of "Hula Girl Highway," Mikes sophomore record for Northwind/Aspirion Records, he continues to cement his place as an authentic voice of a wayfaring lifestyle that most of us will only just dream about. Mike is truly one of the lucky ones, living the life he sings about with his wife and musical partner, Amy, aboard a 42-foot cutter in the Norfolk, Virginia area. Hes as adept at tying nautical knots as he is painting musical memories and images of the places and people hes met along his journey. Strangely enough, for a die-hard sailor that journey began very landlocked. Mike grew up outside of Buffalo in rural Western New York, his love affair with the sea kindled at the young age of eight when a family friend introduced him to sailing. Around the same time Mike started developing his natural musical ability, learning to play acoustic and electric guitar. His musical metaphors are a mix of those two worlds. 'I come from those back roads, dirt under my boots, now I live on the water with a country point of view,' Mike sings in his first single "Find Me" off the new record. I wrote this like I write all my songs, says Aiken, From the heart and from what I know. This one came to me while anchored in the Bahamas, holed up during a hellacious storm. Amy and I weathered it for three weeks, taking odd jobs to survive. We had wind generators to make drinking water and were better off than most. It was then I knew I was one of the luckiest SOBs in the world to have the chance to live this lifestyle. While luck may have something to do with it so does hard work. It all started to pay off last year

with Mike having a banner musical year touring all over the country and in Europe. Highlights included opening shows like the Sunset Festival in Newport, Rhode Island for Bruce Hornsby to appearing at the Hampton Coliseum Winter Blast with Ashton Shepard and Chris Cagle. He was also invited to participate at the prestigious Frank Brown International Songwriters Festival in Gulf Shores, Alabama. 2007 also saw the release of his Aspirion/Northwind debut "Just Add Salt." Mikes mix of country, and roots rock with a Caribbean flair struck the right chord with listeners, charting on both the Americana and Roots Music Country charts. And his two singles also made waves as up and coming on the New Music Weekly charts. Mikes success on the other side of the pond proves that music knows no boundaries and borders. He toured Europe and France plus hit 24 on the Euro/Americana Charts, with the single "No Fishin Pole" reaching the top spot on the Euro Indie Hot Disc Chart. The song is part of a Universal Records Country Compilation CD along with tunes from Tim McGraw, Joe Nichols, Gary Allen, Phil Vassar and Trisha Yearwood. Mikes previous recordings were made at sea almost literally, aboard a converted 1941 Navy Tugboat. However when it came time to track songs for this latest record, a change in latitude, but not attitude was in order. I didnt want to reinvent the wheel and compromise who I am musically, I just wanted to ramp it up a bit. To do that I recorded the project in Nashville with the best players possible. The result, a twelve track record filled with Mikes signature breezy feel good sound along with his strong song sensibility and musical muscle (Mike plays most of the stringed instruments). Eight of the songs are original compositions, the rest are covers which he selected with great deliberation. When writing and picking the music I think of the folks and fans who have supported me along the way. I chose the covers, Blowin Like A Bandit by Guy Clark, Banana Republic by Steve Goodman and This Here Mandolin by Michael Smith to reflect who I am and who my listeners are. Like the ever-changing sea that he loves, there are many sides to Mike. Besides recording and touring, hes also a contributing writer for Singer and Musician Magazine and a music producer for Raceline TV (syndicated NASCAR series). Mikes six-string dexterity earned him a Takamine Endorsement and the creation of his signature guitar, the Travelin Bone. A believer in giving back, his philanthropic activities include being a sponsor of the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race, benefiting the areas environmental interests, as well as founder of the Aiken and Friends Music Festival which helps fund music education. Whats on the horizon for Mike this year, besides the release of Hula Girl Highway? Well making music and traveling of course. Mike and his band have been playing around the country and are set to go to Europe again in the fall. I am one of the lucky

ones, muses Aiken. With my music, my boat and my friends I am ready for wherever the winds blow. For the rest of us thats a good thing, a chance for us landlubbers to close our eyes and live a life on the high seas vicariously through Mike Aiken and his music.

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