

Interviews

Articles

Columns

Reviews

Culture Vultures

Gallery

Archives

## Find Harmony

by [Kat Avila](#)

*Reviews may contain information that could be considered 'spoilers'. Readers should proceed at their own risk.*

### Recording label

**Na Leo Pilihemana**

<http://www.naleo.net>

### Credits

Artist/Band: Na Leo Pilimehana

### Grade: 6

**Find Harmony** is an album of easy listening music from Hawaii. While kinder, gentler music is not on my top 10 list, it's not totally unpleasant to insert some retro moments from a carefree place into a wearisome day.

Of course, my immediate reaction to hearing sweet melodious voices is pretty cynical, not much unlike my smirking "Do they really drive 55 miles per hour?" as I blasted past the locals on a Hawaiian freeway when I moved there for a couple years. Eventually I discovered there was nowhere to go but in circles; I learned to slow down and laugh at the mainlanders speeding past me, "Where do ya think you're going, idiot!"

The all-woman trio Na Leo Pilimehana, made up of Nalani Choy, Angela Morales, and Lehua Kalima Heine, was celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2004 with the release of **Find Harmony**. There are some Christian religious references in the CD insert, not unexpected given the

conservative climate of the colonized islands. (In fact, the title track from their ***Friends*** album created controversy in the early '90s when a Honolulu high school graduating class was told the cover of the Christian hit song could not be sung; this decision was later overturned.)

Na Leo's taste in music is middle-of-the-road, apple-pie mom's music. An adaptation of Paul McCartney and John Lennon's *Blackbird* is on this album. Still, there's enough island flavor to put this CD in the Hawaiian music section, e.g., an old local favorite, smoky lounge tune *Jungle Rain* by David Kupele:

No arms to hold  
Lonely and cold  
Wishing you'd be kind  
Jungle rain

It's followed by Sol K. Bright's classic slack-key swing *Sophisticated Hula*:

Hands on your hips  
Do your hula dips  
Sophisticated Hula  
It's the talk of the town

After that is Heine and Kenneth Makuakane's *Hanauma Bay*, a romanticized picture of an area I always saw overrun with tourists. Only Francis K. Beamer's *Ku 'u Hoa* is in the native Hawaiian language.

My own preferences in Hawaiian music run toward indigenous culture celebrators and preservers like Israel Kamakawiwo'ole or Keali'i Reichel. Then, there is the music of the Brothers Cazimero; their 2004 ***Some Call It Aloha ... Don't Tell*** album is highly recommended. But your average tourist could be pretty happy and satisfied with the crossover aloha in Na Leo's ***Find Harmony***.

Written: October 25, 2005

Published: November 1, 2005

RELATED REPORTS

**Tart:** [Kat Avila](#)

**Music:** [Find Harmony](#)

**November 2005:** [All](#) | [Music](#)

---



Starlight Children's Foundation brightens the lives of seriously ill children and their loved ones.

[Join the discussion at the Tartsville Message Boards](#)

[Send us your thoughts!](#)

[Home](#) | [Features](#) | [Columns](#) | [Culture Vultures](#) | [Report Card](#)  
[Tart Store](#) | [Indicia](#) | [Contact](#) | [Archives](#)

© [Sequential Tart](#), 1998 - 2005