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Critical final week in the MPSF

Songwriter's showcase

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Feb 26, 2010

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In short, this is not, repeat, not, a songwriter's demo -- it's a finished, ready-for-the-big-time album.

On some selections, Kramer sings in a somnambulant style. Other songs have a more energetic feel. Guitar, synth-track percussion and steel guitarist Greg Sardinha are key components in "Tell the Islands I'm Comin' Home," a zesty, up-tempo number that expresses many a resident's feelings about returning home. With "I'm Sorry" he tells someone who broke his heart to stay away and let him heal in peace; here, too, is a song that will speak for many.

Kramer distinguishes himself with "Forest for the Trees" as he calls for restraint in further exploitation of Hawaii's fragile ecology. The melody almost sounds cheerful, but he reveals in the liner notes that the bird heard singing is the last Kauai o'o -- one of the many species of Hawaiian birds that became extinct due to human greed, indifference or ignorance.

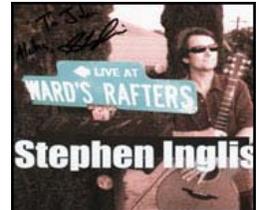
www.sleepingstone.com

- ▶ ["My Island Home"](#)
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'Live at Ward's Rafters'

Stephen Inglis (Aumakua)

Singer/guitarist Stephen Inglis combines the traditions of contemporary folk music and Hawaiian slack key with this collection of originals recorded last fall at Jackie Ward's controversial Kaimuki neighborhood performance venue. There's a bit of audience applause at the end of the tracks, but each cut is distinct from the others. Except for Inglis' narrative introductions, there is no particular sense of this being a "live" performance.



Not that that's a bad thing. Who needs to hear intrusive room noise or drunken chatter? Inglis' instrumentals deserve to be heard without such clutter, and his lyrics are worth a listen.

Inglis speaks to many Americans of a certain age with "Ain't That the Way," recalling the joys of what seems to have been a better time to be a kid -- back when it was safe to play outside, back when kids were free to organize their own activities, and back when there was more to entertainment than playing video games.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann would be well advised to take note as Inglis rebuts critics of Hawaii's only urban metropolis with "Honolulu City." No, there's no political slant; it's a love song to the city from a guy who's still proud to call it "home."

Inglis' slack-key instrumentals showcase the other side of his repertoire. All are pretty -- as good slack key always is -- but "Makapu'u Moonrise" especially catches the ear with its haunting, soothing tones.

www.stepheninglis.com

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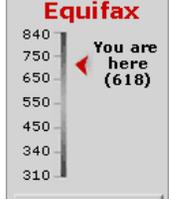
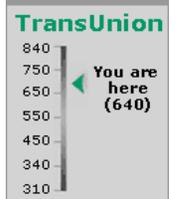
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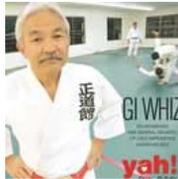
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- ▶ Women rip Lingle over male selections
- ▶ Tentative bill preserves tax breaks and exemptions
- ▶ Nominees for regent face confirmation hearings tomorrow
- ▶ Halau led by Eselu, Reichel sweep honors
- ▶ Ocean Watch: Clean beaches can lead to marine treasures
- ▶ Island Images
- ▶ Newswatch
- ▶ Police and Fire
- ▶ A priest's accuser: Tickling led to sexual abuse
- ▶ San Francisco detours into reality tourism

Features

- ▶ Gardeners learn to grow native plants
- ▶ Cuttings thrill frugal gardeners
- ▶ It's About Time: Large and small acts of kindness have impact
- ▶ App Attack: Capture ideas when inspiration strikes
- ▶ Da Kine
- ▶ Pet Ohana: Sasha
- ▶ Got Nutrients?

Sports

- ▶ Mickelson and Tiger in contrasting light
- ▶ Rainbows shut down the potent Bulldogs
- ▶ Further Review: Capaul's diamond gem salvages lost weekend
- ▶ Hawaii Beat / PacWest Place
- ▶ Scoreboard
- ▶ Television & Radio

Business

- ▶ Business Briefs

Editorial

- ▶ Settlement rightly favors Maui players
- ▶ Letters to the Editor
- ▶ Brief Asides

