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QUICK TAKE



Guitarists master Hawaiian sounds

Ledward Kaapana and Cyril Pahinui are two Hawaiian musicians who play the slack key guitar. The two artists represent a younger generation of slack key guitar players.

Kaapana and Pahinui's latest releases are part of the *Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Masters Series*.

Kaapana's *Led Live - Solo* features his great fluidity on guitar and his beautiful voice. Kaapana is one of Hawaii's most popular slack key guitarists and a widely traveled Hawaiian performer.

Six and 12 String Slack Key is Pahinui's newest release. It is endowed with a feeling that Hawaiians call mana (soul). Half of the tracks include Pahinui's husky, gentle voice, and the other half are varied solo instrumental pieces.

This music is beautiful and soothing. Its sound is somewhat foreign, but it shouldn't be. Hawaiian slack key guitar playing is just another part of our American culture.

MUSIC

Pumpkins have a smash with 'Pisces'

Following the major label debut and smashing success of *Siamese Dream*, Smashing Pumpkins have taken a little breather and released *Pisces Iscariot*, an impressive collection of B-sides, outtakes and previously unreleased material.

The fact that the Pumpkins agreed to share these gems with their adoring fans is a milestone in itself. Billy Corgan, the self-critical perfectionist, writes and records anywhere from 20 to 25 songs for an album and then discards those that don't meet his high standards.

This has created a wealth of great music sitting in the vault collecting dust. Although most of *Pisces* songs are demos and rough-cuts, Corgan has taken the liberty of rerecording and polishing up a few tracks.

The album begins with the sweet lullaby "Soothe" and then shifts gears into "Frail and Bedazzled," a riff rocker's wet dream from the *Siamese Dream* sessions.

"Pissant" is full of the teenage angst typical of many alternative bands: "Talk revolution, as if it matters now/ I don't care anyway/ Just give me what I want." Corgan's expert ability to go from a whining howl to a quiet, cool whisper is further evidenced in "Hello Kitty Kat"



Pisces Iscariot
Smashing Pumpkins

★★★★

recorded during the infamous John Peel session.

Of course, not all the tracks are equally impressive. "Plume's" lyrics ("My boredom has outshone the sun/ It's so dumb/ I just want to have a little fun") are a bit tired, albeit honest. Corgan wrote them while waiting for his dad to pick him up at the airport. But James Iha's delicious guitar licks fill the void.

Insatiable fans will appreciate the extensive liner notes detailing the story behind each song.

All things considered, *Pisces* is a compelling testament to the Pumpkins' exceptional artistry and broad spectrum of music in their short history. It is a requisite for even the casual fan.

— DREW HALL

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

'Nativity' a true tribute to Black Sabbath

Just when you thought Black Sabbath was dead, the band finds new ways to rise from the ashes. *Nativity in Black* is a tribute to the glory days of Black Sabbath, when some guy named John was on vocals. (That's Ozzy for those of you who didn't get that.)

Out of all the tribute albums released in the last several months, this one is a tribute. Great bands like White Zombie playing "Children of the Grave," Megadeth screaming "Paranoid" and Faith No More doing "War Pigs" are just the tip of the iceberg.

Many artists joined forces to ignite new flames under aging classics like Al Jourgensen from Ministry. His side project, *1,000 Homo DJs*, does an awesome job version of "Supernaut." Rob Halford (Judas Priest, Fight) and Bruce Dickinson (Iron Maiden) join forces with up and coming bands to pay their own homage to the mighty Sabbath. We even have Type O Negative putting its own, tripped-out spin on the song "Black Sabbath"



Nativity in Black
Various Artists

★★★★★

album stay true to the original spirit of Sabbath's music and don't slaughter the songs like we had on the Kiss tribute.

There is one thing that bothers me about this album. Ozzy Osbourne (that John guy I was talking about) teams up with Therapy? to play "Iron Man." In a sense, he is paying tribute to himself. That's tacky!

Despite this anomaly, *Nativity in Black* is too good of a record to miss out on. If you are a fan of the classic Black Sabbath, this album is a must.

— STEPHEN WOODWARD

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

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