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## Interviews

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**Title:**  
The World of Paul Hanna

**Artist:**  
Paul Hanna

**Interview By:**  
Patricia Wysopal

**Intro:**  
Patricia chats with the world scene next great artist in the making; Mr. Paul Hanna

**Interview:**  
Tell us a little about your history. How were you first introduced to music?

I grew up in Hawaii. I spent the majority of my life there. I got my civil engineering degree from the university of Hawaii and loved my home, the islands...

I was fortunate to leave on trips, mostly for adventure and work. This allowed me to grow up seeing that there is a lot going on in this world... Misfortunate people, rich people. Beautiful places, poverty stricken places. Oppressed people, free people. Fast life, slow life...

Music? I grew up with it... I greek danced all my life, I also tried to take lessons. Piano, Violin, guitar. But I was never a "good student." I wouldn't read the notes, I wasn't

Technical... I played by ear. Till now, I do all my tracks by ear. I used to strum my instrument, put it down, pick up my upright bass, and play the bass lines for it, then go back and forth.. Then, I went to sound engineering school. This was my eye opener to the recording world.. Multitrack recording... Then I started to record, and here I am.

Aside from your skills as a musician, you seem to have a way with children and speak their language. What is the biggest lesson you have learned from children and how have they enriched your life?

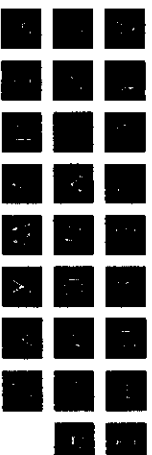
Children need a friend. They need someone who understands them, who knows that they too have a say, have thoughts, have

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The World of Paul Hanna

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a drive. Also young adults. Teens. They need ears, they need love and friendship.. not scoldings... So I don't talk in a baby voice when I talk with children, not at all.. I speak normal. But on their terms. I don't set restrictions on them, letting them make their own decisions, mistakes, with boudries of course ;)

All children have white hearts. They are honest and are loyal. But they expect the same in return. They joke, they laugh, they play. In the midst of some of the fog we live in, they clear up the sight to the real things that matter...

What have been the highlights of musical career thus far?

My music till now has remained a way to spread me... each song is a piece of me... Don't get me wrong, when a fan writes a nice thing to me about the music, I appreciate it. But I think that my true joy comes from knowing that I get to share with people, connect with them, be there with them you know? I do believe that more highlights are on their way...

You grew up on the island of Oahu and have spent a lot of time traveling, how have your travels and upbringing influenced your relationship with music?

The Hawaiian music is very special and precious. The language and the instruments and the simplicity and elegance to the music. Gabby Pahinui is just one of the many fathers of Hawaiian music. Big influence on my music. He made me fall in love with the upright bass... On O'ahu there is a sense of Ohana (family), and love (aloha). It spreads fast when you live there...

Aside from my island upbringing, a lot of the music I listen too reigns from outside of the US. A lot from South America, Northern Europe, and Africa... I am Egyptian, so that also has been an ally of music. Even the church has influenced my music...

What is the theme of your music? Is there a particular message that you hope to share with fans? What sort of mood do you hope to invoke with your tunes?

The theme changes with each song... I do believe the music is a cry out to all of us, yes, including me, to live in a conscious, simple, peaceful manner. The music should strike the listener for action...

What are your thoughts on the current state of the industry and how it is affecting independent musicians?

I think the industry is in the musicians hands... Just like anything in life. I do believe we can reach where we want to reach, or at least where we are supposed to reach...

What is your mantra as an artist? Are there any particular words you live by?

I had to look that word up...I am rooted by my beliefs... They are all mentioned in the music...

Based on your own experiences, do you have any advice for fellow independent artists?

I'm the one who needs the advice...

Your music reveals an immense love for people and life, what three things could you never live without and why?

Its nice that you noticed that Patricia... Really I do. I need people.. My connection with them is one MAJOR thing that keeps me going. For whatever reason, I need them. The next thing I need to live is music. My ears are very demanding. Music is a huge part of each section of my day. The last thing? I need my god. For my direction, fuel, and protection.

What can fans expect from Paul Hanna in the coming years?

They can expect that I will be the same Paul no matter where I am in the music world...

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