



**Island Sounds**

By Wayne Harada



# Tunes, tales offer retreat into local fun

Here is a pair of CDs that offer only good times. One's a gentle journey through original tropical tunes while the other revisits classic fairy tales with a pidgin spin.

## Tropical relaxation

"Middle of the Ocean"

■ **Artist:**  
Coconut Joe.

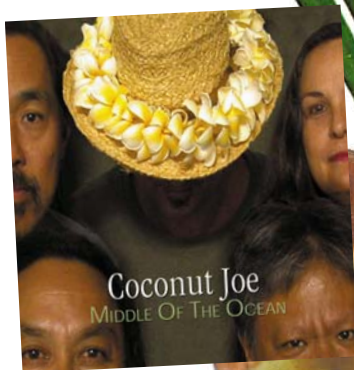
■ **Label:**  
Turtle Bay Records,  
00865-2.

■ **Genre:**  
Contemporary Hawaiian, hapa-haole.

■ **Distinguishing notes:** This is an easygoing, tropical treat, with songs that relate to fun in the sun, joy in the water, memories of an island paradise by daylight and by night.

■ **The outlook:** "All About Love," "Sweet Angelina," "Island Rendezvous" and "Haupia" are laid-back tracks projecting a lifestyle in the tropics; it's the perfect companion while relaxing beneath a coconut tree, on a sunny summer afternoon at the beach.

■ **Our take:** Good-fun listening.



"Our little baby is starting to grow"



## island mele

CD REVIEWS BY JOHN BERGER



"Middle of the Ocean"  
Coconut Joe  
Turtle Bay Records

COCONUT JOE IS actually a band led by composer Bob Rogers. The group's second album offers a blend of tropical rock, acoustic blues and modern hapa-haole music that is probably too eclectic for local radio but a rare find for fans of the unconventional.

With aid from a handful of guest musicians, Coconut Joe becomes a blend of Bob Brozman, the Emerson Brothers, Jimmy Buffett and Stealers Wheel, with a dash of Dixieland jazz.

All the songs are originals, and although Rogers' lyrics don't get as whimsical as those of Wiki Waki Woo, several are flavored with somewhat similar nostalgia for tropical yesterdays. Consider "Haupia," the ironic misadventures of a coconut, and "Sweet Angelina," a love song that drifts into calypso territory.

"Sands of Silver And Gold" is a smooth and swinging tune sweetened by studio guest Noel Okimoto on vibes. "Evolution of Joe" strikes a more somber note as the band lists things that Hawaii has lost, or is in danger of losing: sugar cane, a favorite drive-in and a coconut grove.

STAR BULLETIN WEEKEND / MAY 10, 2002

# Aloha JOE

COCONUT JOE - Middle of the Ocean

"Middle of the Ocean" is a collection of Island-inspired tunes composed by Bob Rogers and performed by the band known as "Coconut Joe." In this, CJ's second album, we find a variety of rhythms - tropical bounce, swing, jazz, light rock and lyrics that sing of bays and beaches we'd all like to visit again. Keep your ears open, as you WILL hear selections from "Middle of the Ocean" on our Aloha Radio Network. It's a contemporary side of island music that I'm sure our listeners (in 100+ countries) will enjoy. Aloha JOE®