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ISLAND SOUNDS

Guitarist rounds up friends to jam

By [Wayne Harada](#)

Advertiser Entertainment Writer

"Five Years and Many Miles" by Darin Leong; Hawaii Guitar

- **Genre:** Acoustic guitar, 'ukulele instrumentals.
- **Distinguishing notes:** Darin Leong has had a long association with guitar and 'ukulele; here, he has exceptional support from award-winning bassist Nathan Aweau, who's also a member of Hapa.

The reflective, melodic compositions have folk, classical and pop seasoning, with an occasional Island influence. "Five Years," the featured tune, was composed by Leong on the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. Andrew Wang, one of his guitar guests, co-wrote "Aloha Papalua," which clearly has Island resonance.



Leong has a romantic flair, with performances that are tranquil and emotive, and he's able to send images and remembrances of times and themes that touch the soul. Surely, you'll find the beauty of his imagery in cuts such as "Prayer for the City," "Manoa Morning," "Passing Showers," "Sunday" and "Ukulele Etude." As implied by the CD title, this journey travels well, no matter how near or far you are from home.

- **Our take:** Add Leong to the roster of artists who talk through fingers — a master communicator through chords and strums.

Reach Wayne Harada at wharada@honoluluadvertiser.com.

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