



NEWS FROM ONE OF JAYNE'S GANG!



**ASPIRION/NORTHWIND RECORDS**  
**MIKE AIKEN STARTS 2009 AT PERFORMING ARTS**  
**PRESENTERS CONFERENCE**

**ENDS 2008 ON HIGH NOTE AFTER SUCCESSFUL**  
**EUROPEAN TOUR!**

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Singer-songwriter-musician and sailor, Mike Aiken is launching 2009 with an appearance at the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) Conference January 9-12, 2009 at the New York Hilton. The event brings top talent together with talent buyers from around the country.

For those attending the conference Aiken will be performing two shows Sunday the 11th in the Lincoln Suite at 3:50 p.m. and 9:50 p.m. Aiken is represented by [Producers Inc](#) who also handles CeCe Winans, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, and Roger Williams among others.

Aiken's brand of Caribbean flavored roots rock is a popular draw at performing arts venues and festivals. He is even the host of his own, ***Aiken and Friends Fest*** an Americana roots music festival in Smithfield, Virginia which features top names and draws in big crowds to the seaside town every year in October.

Mike became a musical voice to be listened to with his 2007 Aspirion/Northwind record, ***Just Add Salt***.

Last summer he released his sophomore record, ***Hula Girl Highway*** and ended 2008 on a high note spending December on a tour of the Netherlands, France and Belgium playing shows and conducting print and radio interviews.



Aiken's blend of roots-rock-Americana brand of country music, along with his stellar musicianship and songs about his sea-faring life hit the right chord with listeners across the pond. ***Hula Girl Highway***, received airplay on more than 40 European stations and landed in the top 50 (Italy) and top 100 (Australia) Americana Records of the year.

This was his second tour through Europe. Highlights included a spur of the moment concert in Hechtel, Belgium. "It was one of the most touching and memorable events ever," says Aiken. "It was a put together on short notice by our "biggest fan" in Belgium as a brain cancer research benefit in honor of her late brother-in-law. It was held on their St. Nicholas day. Everyone showed up from families, to teachers, radio djs and even priests. Some folks couldn't understand English, but it didn't seem to matter. It just goes to show you that music is the international language."

While Aiken, who makes his life aboard his 42-foot cutter may be comfortable circumnavigating the globe, Europe's roundabouts proved a little more challenging. "The last tour we averaged two times around until we figured out the right street," laughs Aiken. "This time we were smarter and had an extra "crew member" (a GPS), in the car to help with navigation. While she was spot on with directions, her pronunciation of the streets was a hoot. Great for comic relief."



### **What People Have Said About Mike and his Music!**

**"Aiken's tropical music is reminiscent of the young Jimmy Buffett, when the Parrothead thing was new, fresh and not yet a parody of itself. "**

***Mike Regenstreif -Montreal Gazette***

**"*Hula Girl Highway* is a showcase of Mike's very genuine, unpretentious and laid-back style. He can roam from Allman-ized Southern Rock, to Jackson-ized Country, to Buffett-ized pop and Texas Swing, without skipping a beat or losing energy."**

***Robert Lindquist, Singer Magazine***



"Mike is something of a floating John Prine crossed with Ry Cooder."  
*Charles Doane, Sail Magazine*

"Play this on a hot summer day with a long cool drink in your hand and allow the music to take you on a musical cruise around the world."  
*David Knowles, Maverick Magazine \*\*\*\**

### **About Mike Aiken**

Not many people get to live life on their terms. But that is exactly what Mike Aiken has been able to do combining his three greatest passions in life, music, sailing and adventure. Mike, a modern day troubadour, makes his home aboard a 42 foot cutter "Ocean Girl" with his wife Amy. With *Hula Girl Highway*, Mike continues to cement his place as an authentic voice of a wayfaring lifestyle that most of us will only just dream about. A modern-day troubadour, Mike's sailed the waters less traveled entertaining people from Canada to the Caribbean and beyond. A believer in giving back, his philanthropic activities include being a sponsor of the Great Chesapeake Bay Schooner Race benefiting the area's environmental interests, as well as founder of the "*Aiken and Friends Music Festival*" which helps fund music education.



For a complete list of tour dates and more information:

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