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PBS features Brothers Caz in fine style **Simple camera work captures interviews and music by the duo**

By John Berger
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PBS Hawaii began documenting Hawaii's music in 1974 with its "Mele Hawai'i" series (when the station was known as Hawaii Public Television). Forty-nine years and many, many productions later, the station continues that work with "Na Mele: Pure Caz," which documents the current music of the Brothers Cazimero in predictably fine style.



The show is about the brothers — Robert, 63, and Roland, 62 — and the musical traditions they both preserve and perpetuate. The music, an assortment of original compositions and island standards, is captured with simple, straightforward camera work.

There's Robert, playing his electric stand-up bass and occasionally piano, while Roland, aka "Boze," plays 12-string guitar. It is always interesting to hear the Cazimeros revisit staples like "Pua Hone" and "He'eia."

Program producer Robert Pennybacker's concept of the show being "pure" extends to the interview segments.

We hear Robert and Roland recall their childhood in Kalihi, confess their youthful opinion of Hawaiian music, describe their creative relationship with Peter Moon in their trio The Sunday Manoa, and share their hopes for the future.

Robert speaks of the time he realized that his voice was a gift that he needed to care for, and admits that he and Roland enjoyed "pushing the envelope" and "bebopping" Hawaiian music in the early years of the Brothers Cazimero.

Both say that now, almost 40 years later, they are willing conservators of the music but feel that the time has come for younger musicians to step forward as their successors. "You don't choose (responsibility); it chooses you," Robert explains.

'NA MELE: PURE CAZ'

The special featuring the Brothers Cazimero will air at 8 p.m. tomorrow on PBS.

Longtime friends and fans of the duo will enjoy seeing Sky Perkins Gora, a member of the Cazimero musical ohana for several decades, guest as a hula dancer on a couple of numbers and join them as a vocalist on "One Small Favor."

Several male hula dancers join the brothers and Gora for the finale.

The sound quality is excellent throughout; the distinctive textures of the brothers' voices are heard clearly.

If an "audio-only" CD soundtrack of the show is released, it will be a welcome addition to the brothers' discography and a Grammy Award-worthy Hawaiian album.

Hopefully, PBS Hawaii will release the show on DVD as well.