

The story of *Cuddie Wuddie*

It all started in the summer of 1879, when Manuel Nunes, José do Espírito Santo and Augusto Dias, three Madeira cabinetmakers who had knowledge of violin making and who apparently transported their cavaquinhos, landed in Hawaii. They all came to collect sugar cane. While waiting to find work, they began to play their instruments on the docks. The locals fell in love with this noble little instrument and instantly renamed it ukulele, the jumping flea, because of the rapidity of finger movements!

Very quickly, our three friends started to create instruments since everyone was under the spell and wanted to play them. Manuel, José and Augusto became so famous that their music even enchanted the king, David Kalākaua, known as “the joyful monarch”. The latter, a music lover, allowed the introduction of the ukulele within Hawaiian hulas (traditional dances). And this is how our three Madeiran friends officially entered the royal court as musicians. They married there and had many children. The story could have ended there but the king died in 1891 and his sister Lili’uokalani became the new queen. She continued and perpetuated her brother’s musical heritage. Unfortunately, American expansionist aims ended up defeating the small kingdom of the Pacific and, in 1893, the queen was overthrown.

She began a long exile to plead the cause of her lost kingdom. Certain members of the court accompanied her, including Manuel, José and Augusto as well as all their families. The queen then decided to perpetuate the conservation of the memory of her people, in particular by the realization of some 160 traditional Hawaiian songs. Her songs still resonate today; notably his title Aloha ‘Oe which became the national Hawaiian anthem.

The queen died in 1917 but the children of Manuel, José and Augusto decided to dedicate their lives to the conservation and transmission of this beautiful Hawaiian music. Their exile led them first from Portugal to France, Italy and Germany. Eventually, in 2020, their great great great grandchildren finally settled in Mau’razi’i, in the canton of Vaud in Switzerland. They decided to create a free republic dedicated to the perpetuation of Hawaiian music, its spirit and its virtue. This is how **Antonio, Enno, Tibo** and **Flavio** formed **Cuddie Wuddie**.

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Tibo (bass, vocal)
Enno (guitar, banjo, vocal)
Antonio (hawaiian guitar, lap steel, vocal)
Flavio (ukulele, vocal)

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