



# SEATTLE UKULELE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

seattleukulele.org • supafb@msn.com

## March 2008

### Today, March 2: Swap Meet, Open Mic, Song Circle

It's that time of year to dust off your old ukuleles and accessories to swap or sell with others. Join SUPA for our annual swap meet featuring musical stylings of our own members during an open mic. Doors open at 1:00p, with open mic starting right away. Song circle from 2:30-4:30p. Only \$3.

### March 22: Lil' Rev - Workshop & Concert

Join us for a Uke Night Out with Lil' Rev at the West Seattle Senior Center (4217 SW Oregon St) for a workshop (3:30-5pm, \$20) and a concert (6:30pm, \$10). The workshop will cover strums, rolls, triplets, novelty numbers, slides, single note melody playing, tremelo, and more! All playing levels welcome. Tickets: (206) 335-6674 (also available at the door).

### Sunday, April 6: Song Circle & Casey McGill Workshop

Join SUPA at the West Seattle Senior Center (4217 SW Oregon St) for a fun day of strumming, singing, and a workshop. Casey McGill will divide the workshop hour in half to look at two strums: a swing strum and a shuffle strum. The song for the swing strum will be an up tempo number written for Shirley Temple, *At The Codfish Ball* and the shuffle strum tune will be the Slim Gaillard classic, *Palm Springs*. All playing levels are welcome. Doors open at 1:00p. Workshop & Song Circle (1:00): \$15; Song Circle (2:30-4:30) only \$3.

### Mid-month Gatherings - Volunteer(s) wanted!

Several SUPA members have gathered mid-month in the past for kanikapila as well as to record songs for posting to the members section of the web site. If there is enough interest to do this regularly, the Ballard NW Senior Center is available. We would also use this time for introducing and practicing new songs, sharing skills, and possibly workshops. The mid-month gatherings would need to be self-supporting (i.e., contributions for space rental fees) as well as need volunteers to help administer the gathering (open up, set up, collect money, deposits, break down, etc.). Please see John Leder if interested in volunteering.

### Dusty Strings Ukulele Workshops/Concerts

**Workshop - Saturday, March 15: Blues Ukulele: Right Hand Techniques Workshop with Lil' Rev** (10:30am - 12:00pm, \$35). In this hands-on workshop with acclaimed Ukulele Master Lil' Rev, you'll learn blues progressions, licks, boogie-woogie, 12- and 8-bar patterns, shuffles, three different triplet strokes, slides, the Basic Blues Scale in C and G, novelty tunes, "One Meatball" (by Josh White), turnarounds, repertoire building, blues history and much, much more.

**Concert - Saturday, March 15: Mark Graham & Orville Johnson with Lil' Rev** (7:30pm, \$18). Mark Graham and Orville Johnson, widely known and respected as longtime performers on harmonica and dobro/blues guitar as well as through their "Kings of Mongrel Folk" duo, join forces with the Midwest's "ukulele and harmonica wizard", Lil' Rev.

**Workshop - Sunday, March 30: Fun With Your Ukulele Workshop with Mark Nelson** (12:15-2:15pm, \$35 or \$60 for both workshops). Learn new ways to play familiar chords, fancy strums and simple picking to spice up your ukulele playing. Along the way, play some classic Hawaiian and hapa-haole songs--and maybe even some rock and reggae!

**Workshop - Sunday, March 30: Ukulele Bossa Nova Workshop with Mark Nelson** (2:45-4:45pm, \$35 or \$60 for both workshops). Nothing swings like the music of Bonfa and Jobim! And it sounds as good on the 'ukulele as in does on the cavaquinho. Learn to play a brace of classic tunes from the golden age of Bossa Nova: Bonfa's "Gentle Rain" and "Manha de Carnival" and the immortal "One Note Samba."

Call (206) 634-1662 or visit [www.dustystrings.com](http://www.dustystrings.com) for more information and tickets.

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## Yahoo! Groups, Music & Events Calendar

For the most current happenings along with message boards and forums, join the SeattleUkulele group at Yahoo. The link is available from the SUPA web site.

A Google events calendar is available on the web site. If you would like events added, please email all pertinent details to John (supafb@msn.com).

The "members only" (for copyright reasons) section of the website is available for PDF and MP3 music downloads for playing along at home! Check regularly for updates and new music. (<http://www.seattleukulele.org/members/>)

## Library

See Susan Howell to check out information for the library. Song books, DVDs, CDs, and more are available for review.

## Future Workshops, Song Circles & Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
Mar 15	Dusty Strings	Lil' Rev Workshop & Concert
Mar 22	West Seattle	Lil' Rev Workshop & Concert
Mar 30	Dusty Strings	Mark Nelson Workshops
April 6	West Seattle	Song Circle & Casey McGill Workshop
May 4	Ballard	Song Circle (Folklife Rehearsal)
May 18	Ballard	Folklife Rehearsal
May 23-26	Seattle Center	Northwest Folklife Festival
June 1	Dusty Strings	Song Circle
June 18-22	Portland, OR	Portland Ukefest
June 21	Fremont	Solstice Parade
July 13*	West Seattle	Song Circle & Workshop
Aug 3	Woodland Park	SUPA Picnic & Open Mic
Sept 7	Ballard	Song Circle & Workshop
Oct 5	West Seattle	Song Circle & Workshop
Nov 2	Ballard	Song Circle
Dec 7	West Seattle	Holiday Potluck & Open Mic

\* 2nd weekend to avoid 4th of July weekend

Senior Center of West Seattle, 4217 SW Oregon St, Seattle

Ballard Northwest Senior Center, 5429 32nd Ave NW, Seattle

Dusty Strings, 3406 Fremont Ave N, Seattle, (206) 634-1662

## SUPA Song Books

Song books (Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Winter 2007) are available at the Ave Copy Center (4141 University, Seattle, 206-663-1837), where you can also buy the Santa Cruz song book. (Combined 2005-2007 will be available soon.)

## Committees

Executive Committee. As required by WA law for a nonprofit corporation, the following members are filed annually as officers: Tobin Hess, President; Peter Palisbo, Vice President; John Leder, Secretary, and Carel Neffenger, Treasurer.

Steering Committee: A volunteer group running the monthly operations of SUPA that consists of the Executive Committee, Rod Higuchi, Gregg Porter, and Pat Klopich. (Suggestions, comments, and ideas are always welcome!)

Door Corps: Pat Klopich

Folklife Committee 2008: Winfield Hobbs

## Uke News Briefs

**Old dog's new licks: Bill Tapia, at 100, keeps his edge as an uke virtuoso and delights the crowds** (Hawaii Star Bulletin) - With 90 years experience as a professional entertainer, Bill Tapia knows that it's good to have new material, especially when you play a town as often as he's been playing Honolulu.

Folks love him and with good reason. Not only is Tapia, at the age of 100, a living link to the Hawaiian music of a century ago, but he is also a virtuoso musician and a thoroughly engaging entertainer on stage. If nothing else, the chances are slim to none you'll find another entertainer anywhere in the world who can introduce a song as "something I learned during World War I."

It's a fact of life that when an entertainer reaches a certain age, there's a sense that they may not be around for much longer. There are also entertainers who continue on until they reach the point of being a novelty act, where loyal fans hope and pray their heroes can get through their show without forgetting where they are.

But that's not Tapia, no how, no way! For him, being 100 is maybe the new 50, in terms of playing music and entertaining a crowd.

To hear Tapia play is to hear a man who was born barely one generation after the ukulele evolved out of the Portuguese braguinha or machete, and whose first teachers came out of that first generation of Hawaiian ukulele players.

There is, then, a definite element of historical interest when Tapia takes the stage. He's older than most of the pop standards he plays, but over and above that, he's a delightful entertainer.

For Bill Tapia, age really is nothing but a number.

**Will that be a kantele or a ukulele?** (Helsinki Times) - If only Finnish schools would buy ukuleles in the same number as they presently buy kanteles - a five-string instrument like a small guitar played flat on the floor or table top and plucked (or carefully strummed) like a harp.

A growing number of teachers in Britain are reporting that the ukulele is taking over as the most popular musical instrument in primary schools. As one child from Holway Park primary school in Taunton put it: "It's a lot better than a recorder 'cause you can't sing with that. The ukulele is a happy instrument. My parents prefer it to the recorder".