



SEATTLE UKULELE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

seattleukulele.org • supafb@msn.com

May 2008

Today - Sunday, May 4:

Northwest Folklife Rehearsal & Song Circle

Join SUPA at the Ballard NW Senior Center for our monthly song circle. Doors open at 1:00p to start practicing Northwest Folklife Festival Songs, followed by the song circle from 2:30-4:30p. Only \$3.

Sunday, May 18: Northwest Folklife Rehearsal

Join SUPA at the Ballard NW Senior Center for a rehearsal of the Northwest Folklife Festival songs and performance. Feel free to come and sing along even if you are unable to attend the festival. No charge for this mid-month rehearsal. Doors open at 1:00 and will probably rehearse and song circle until about 4:30.

Sunday, May 25: Northwest Folklife Performance

SUPA performs *Ukenalia!* at the Northwest Folklife Festival in the Charlotte Martin Theatre from 7:05-7:30pm. Also joining us will include Da Uddah Guyz, Olo Kani (which includes several SUPA members), and the Kimball Elementary & Rosa Parks Elementary kids. More details to follow.

Sunday, June 1: Song Circle @ Dusty Strings

We move to Dusty Strings for the month of June to celebrate where we were originally founded with our first song circle back in January 2003. Song circle from 2:00-4:00p, and feel free to come early to look around their shop. Only \$3.

Saturday, June 21: Solstice Parade

Join SUPA for their annual participation in the Fremont Solstice Parade at the center of the universe. This year celebrates the 20th anniversary of the parade. Help build the float (or decorations, or whatever!) the weekends before the parade. Contact Monica Rockwell (mrockwell73@aol.com or 425/643-4792) and watch the web site for more information. The parade starts at noon. Our theme this year is "hobo" and we'll be playing *King of the Road*.

Saturday, July 19 - Thomas the Tank Engine

After a brief hiatus, we're back on the schedule to participate in the Northwest Railway Museum's annual Day Out with Thomas the Tank Engine. This is a fun time to get out of the city and play for all the kids.

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/>)

MAY 2008						
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SEPTEMBER 2008						
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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>
May 4	Ballard	Song Circle (Folklife Rehearsal)
May 18	Ballard	Folklife Rehearsal
May 23-26	Seattle Center	Northwest Folklife Festival
May 25	Charlotte Martin	Ukenalia!
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
July 19	Snoqualmie	Day Out with Thomas
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

SONG BOOKS TODAY!

Limited numbers of Fall 2004 and the Combined 2005-2007 song books are available today. When they're gone, they're gone! Get yours, today!

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.

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

Door Corps: Pat Klopich

Folklife Committee 2008: Winfield Hobbs

Uke News Briefs

Jumping fleas! It's uke time. (Daily Gagette, Schenectady, NY) — The ukuleles come in all shapes and sizes. There's a banjo uke that looks like, yes, a miniature banjo. There's the Fluke, a contemporary twist on the ukulele that features a flat base and triangular body and vaguely resembles a lute. There's the 26-inch tenor ukulele, and the slightly smaller soprano ukulele.

Ukulele guru Ron Gordon shows off one of his ukuleles, a sleek, almost futuristic looking model. "It's unique, because of its cedar top and this design," Gordon explains. This, he says, is a concert ukulele, a mid-sized ukulele that produces a deeper, more guitar-like sound than other ukes.

These ukuleles were all on display last Monday at Moon and River Cafe in Schenectady, which once a month hosts Ukulele Night, an informal jam session and teach-in for ukulele aficionados of all skill levels. They are led by Gordon, a Schenectady resident who had long played the guitar, mandolin and banjo, but took up the lower-impact ukulele after getting tendinitis in his wrist.

In recent years, the ukulele has been undergoing something of a resurgence, said Gordon, who teaches ukulele courses and attends ukulele festivals. He decided to start hosting Ukulele Night a couple of years ago, after learning of similar gatherings from uke players throughout the country.

"This is growing," Gordon said. "This is great. When I started teaching the ukulele five years ago, I would have five people in a class. Now I have 30. When I started Ukulele Night, I'd have two people here."

The ukulele is definitely becoming more mainstream, said Jim Beloff, president of Flea Market Music, a Connecticut-based company that sells ukuleles, songbooks, CDs and other items. "This has been going on since the early '90s, but it's been picking up steam lately," he said. "The reasons are varied and interesting. ... Especially in the 2000s, there's an appreciation for something that's thought of as a happy instrument. It's associated with Hawaii, a beautiful part of the world."

"All the chops you had — all the experience you had playing the guitar pretty much applied to the ukulele," said Beloff. "And then there's the happy thing, due to the higher pitched tone. There's kind of a sweetness and innocence to it." The gentle sound, as well as the small size, makes it easier to make music with your children, he said.

"We've seen the healing power of this little instrument," Beloff said. "There's something about the uke — it doesn't come with stress and fear and pressure. There's no special way to play it. It's however you feel like playing it. It's comfortable." He said he often hears from people in their 30s, 40s and 50s who thought they'd never learn to play a musical instrument, but then acquired a ukulele. "We've seen how much joy it brings people," he said. "Something happens when people get together and play it."