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June 2008

Today - 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*.

June 28-29: Ukefest @ Dusty Strings

Dusty Strings welcomes all ukesters for the 7th Annual Ukefest, Saturday-Sunday June 28-29. Ukefest is now a weekend-long ukulele extravaganza packed full of workshops for players of all levels and backgrounds. Learn from a line-up of great ukulele performer-teachers including **James Hill**, **Jim Beloff**, **John King**, **Casey McGill**, and **Greg & Jere Canote**, and special guest **Herb Ohta Sr.** Also, don't miss the Saturday night Ukefest Concert at 7:30 p.m. From Bach arrangements and Hawaiian history (John King), to the creator of Fleas and Flukes - the new wave of ukes (Jim Beloff), and "the Wayne Gretzky of ukulele" (James Hill), this will be an event filled with variety and talent. Even the audience will take part, with an opportunity to pull out their ukuleles and play and sing along. For more information about the weekend's concert and many workshops, call Dusty Strings at (206) 634-1662, or visit www.dustystings.com

Sunday, June 29: Ohta-San & Herb Ohta, Jr.

Hawaii Music Live and Pumehana Productions are proud to present `ukulele legend OHTA-SAN (Herb Ohta), internationally renowned for his exceptional Jazz and Bossa Nova sound. Ohta-San has made history by showcasing his incredible talents and the abilities on the `ukulele beyond what many thought possible for this tiny four-stringed instrument. With over 60 albums recorded and 300 tunes played on national radio, Ohta-San has taken the artistry of the `ukulele to new heights over almost four decades. His impeccable timing, diverse technique and unique style bring to life the romance and love of his music. Joining him on stage is the incredible guitarist Nando Suan, and the concert will also feature, as a special guest, Ohta-San's son, Herb Ohta, Jr., an acclaimed master of Hawaiian music on `ukulele in his own right. Town Hall Seattle (1119 8th Ave) - \$25. Tickets available from www.BrownPaperTickets.com (800/838-3006).

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.

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/>)

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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>
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

SUPA Song Books

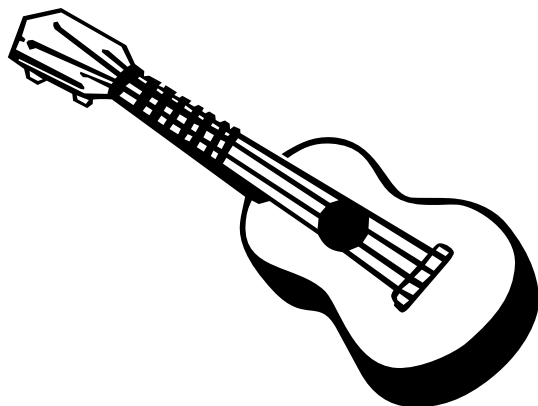
Song books (Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Winter 2007) are available at the Ave Copy Center (4141 University, Seattle, 206-663-1837), where you can also buy the Santa Cruz song book.

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 & gang



Uke News Briefs

Musician Bill Tapia, 100, stars at temporary closing of Royal Hawaiian (Honolulu - May 30)

In 1927, Hawai'i-born Bill Tapia already had a lifetime's worth of musical experiences under his belt. He was 19 years old and criss-crossing the Pacific Ocean playing jazz guitar for steamship passengers.

During a trip home to see his parents, though, band leader Johnny Noble offered him a few extra dollars to stay here for a special job: Playing on opening night of a new hotel in Waikiki: The Royal Hawaiian.

Last night, 81 years later, as The Royal Hawaiian prepared to shut down for six months and an \$85 million renovation project, Tapia was back home, playing his first love, the 'ukulele, for hundreds of adoring fans in one of Honolulu's most storied musical venues, the Monarch Room.

And if you didn't already know that Tapia was 100 years old, you'd never guess it from the way he handled the instrument and crowd with high-powered energy, enthusiasm and wit.

"I opened The Royal Hawaiian hotel, and now here I am closing it, too," Tapia said to a roar of approval from the crowd.

Playing the 'ukulele and telling jokes, Tapia thrilled the crowd with an easy musical style, a constant smile and a remarkable memory.

Tapia, who was born in 1908 across the street from what is now The Queen's Medical Center at a time when Honolulu had neither paved roads nor street lights, bought his first 'ukulele for 75 cents at the age of 7. But by age 15, he had traded the 'ukulele for guitars and banjos and a life in the jazz community and teaching music, mostly on the West Coast, where he settled in 1946.

It wasn't until more than 50 years later, after the deaths of his wife, Barbie, and daughter, Cleo, that he started playing the 'ukulele in public again. He's been selling out concerts and lifting the spirits of listeners ever since.

Six years ago, he helped celebrate the 75th anniversary of The Royal Hawaiian, and he performed there again last year on its 80th anniversary for staff members and their guests. He released his first album in 2004 at the age of 96 and followed that a year later with another. He celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this year along with 900 fans at a performance in San Pedro, Calif. Last night, though, was the first time he had performed for the public at the Monarch Room with his 'ukulele.

Royal Hawaiian General Manager Jon Gersonde invited Tapia to perform last night and send the hotel off on hiatus in musical style. Tapia was joined on stage by Jeff Peterson on guitar, Ernie Provencher on bass and Hawaiian singer Mihana on vocals.

On the night in 1927 when the hotel opened at a cost of \$4 million, the Honolulu Symphony performed for 1,200 guests who paid \$10 each to be there. Tickets for last night's show were \$48 —not bad considering all the history that came with the event.