



# SEATTLE UKULELE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

seattleukulele.org • supafb@msn.com

## July 2008

### Today - SUPA Sunday, July 13

Join us for our monthly song circle at the Ballard NW Senior Center from 2:30-4:30p. Doors pen at 1:00. Only \$3.

### Wednesday, July 16, Workshops/Thursday, July 17, Concert

Presently on a West Coast tour, Steven Espaniola (named "New Artist of the Year" in 2007) & Jeff Peterson (multiple Hoku-Award winner) are presenting an opportunity to study with them in an intimate workshop setting, in conjunction with their free concert in Kenmore. See the Yahoo Groups for more information on these events.

### Saturday, July 19 - SUPA @ Day Out with Thomas (3-4pm)

After a 3 year absence, we have been invited back to play at the at the Day out with Thomas event at the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie. The event is completely sold out for 2008, which means a big crowd of kids & families for our event. Meet at 2:00pm at the Gazebo near the museum entrance for a quick rehearsal. A creative mix of Aloha and railroad attire is encouraged. Performance songbooks will be provided the day of the event for those who attend. The song list includes many familiar standards from our regular song books. For directions and more information, visit [www.trainmuseum.org](http://www.trainmuseum.org).

### Saturday, July 26 - Bill Tapia @ Dusty Strings (1:30p)

Workshop 1:30-3:30p. Born 100 years ago, Bill Tapia is the only musician still alive who performed at the opening of the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in 1927. 81 years on, he's still playing, still touring, still going strong. Celebrate a century of his unique music and fascinating stories in an ukulele workshop-and-concert featuring Bill's own blend of Hawaiian and jazz musical styles. He'll share songs and charmingly witty "I was there" tales in an intimate setting, joined by his friend Pat "Palika" Enos. \$35. More info: Hal Smith or [www.dustystings.com](http://www.dustystings.com)

### Sunday, August 3 - SUPA Picnic, Open Mic, Food!

This year's picnic will be held in Woodland Park in Shelter 6, which is still in the same general location as the last couple years. Bring something to cook and something to share. Volunteers needed for setup (hold/reserve the site, decorations), open mic coordinator, cleanup. Map and flyer available from the web site.

### Saturday, August 16 - Country Village

Although still being planned, save the date for SUPA entertaining, as we have in the past, at the Country Village in Bothell. More details to follow. Watch the Yahoo Groups!

### August 23-24 - Kalama Heritage Festival

This years program is sponsored by the Kalama Chamber of Commerce, the Port of Kalama and Hale Halawai o Hawaii Resouce Center. Activities include: Indian and Hawaiian drumming, Hula Shows and Pow Wow Demonstrations in Hawaiian and Native American Culture, Luau/ Pow-Wow Buffet with traditional Hawaiian and Pacific NW tribal foods and entertainment, and evening concerts with artists from Hawaii, Canada and local groups. [[www.kalama.info](http://www.kalama.info)]

### Sunday, Sept 7, Song Circle & Brook Adams Workshop

Join us at the Ballard Northwest Senior Center for an exciting workshop. Brook Adams is a ukulele madman with a strong voice and guitar chops too. He describes his collection of novelty songs, tv themes, modern pop and swing-era classics as a musical cartoon of the 20th century.

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His latest gimmick is playing the Beatles' *Abbey Road* album start to finish on ukulele. Workshop from 1:15-2:15p, \$15 (includes song circle). Song circle 2:30-4:30p, only \$3. Doors open at 1:00.

## Sunday, Sept 7 - Hawaiian Cultural Festival

More details to follow, but join SUPA right after the song circle at the Seattle Center for the first Hawaiian Cultural Festival with a performance at 5:30p.

## Yahoo! Groups, Music, Events, Library

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/>)

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

Date	Location	Description
July 19	Snoqualmie	Day Out with Thomas
Aug 3	Woodland Park	SUPA Picnic & Open Mic
Sept 7	Ballard	Song Circle & Workshop
Sept 7	Seattle Center	Hawaiian Cultural Festival
Oct 5	West Seattle	Song Circle
Nov 2	Ballard	Song Circle & Workshop
Dec 7	West Seattle	Holiday Potluck & Open Mic
Jan 5	Ballard	Song Circle
Feb 1	West Seattle	Song Circle & Workshop
Feb 7	TBA	SUPA-sponsored Concert

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

## Committees

Board. 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 Tid Bits

**Ohta-San stretches the ukulele sound** (San Jose Mercury News, 06/24/2008) – Ukulele master Herb Ohta has been around long enough to witness his instrument cycle through numerous booms and busts.

Known internationally as Ohta-San, the Hawaiian-born virtuoso has carried the uke torch for more than 40 years, and no one has done more to keep the diminutive four-string instrument in the spotlight. At 74, he's playing the jazz-inflected music that he loves, rather than the sophisticated pop arrangements that made him famous, and he's enjoying the ukulele's latest resurgence.

"In 2002, when I played at Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, they asked me to perform and do a workshop," Ohta-San says by phone from his home on Oahu. "Fifty guitarists came to the workshop, and not one ukulele player."

A close friend and student of legendary Hawaiian ukulele master Eddie Kamea, Ohta-San decided at the beginning of his career to expand the instrument's stylistic range. When Kamea set about reviving traditional Hawaiian music with the group Sons of Hawaii in the early 1960s, Ohta-San cast a wider musical net. He first gained attention on the mainland with his 1963 hit "Sushi," a pop number "When I had my hit record, nobody knew that it's a ukulele; they thought it's a classical guitar," Ohta-San says. "Today they'll tell you it's a ukulele, and the instrument can show up anywhere. But in 1963 nobody on the mainland even knew what sushi was."

Over the years, Ohta-San has recorded more than five dozen albums, including a Japanese release playing Bach with his own arrangements for the uke. A regular on network television in the 1960s and '70s, he gained his widest exposure when French composer André Popp wrote "Song for Anna" as a showcase for his instrumental prowess. An international hit in the mid-'70s, the tune is considered the bestselling ukulele recording in history.

In recent years, Ohta-San has concentrated on his first musical love, American Songbook standards. He grew up in the 1940s listening to big-band hits in his aunt's record shop, and he readily rattles off the orchestras and singers who entranced him (Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Peggy Lee and Frank Sinatra, for starters).

"The standards are something that remain in your mind," he says. "At that time, melody was the king. I still think that melody is the most important thing."

In the 1950s he studied with Kamea, who was then playing the jazz-inflected pop music of the day. But Ohta-San started to develop his own voice, he began to look beyond the ukulele. He found his primary source of inspiration in modern jazz.

"I wasn't listening to guitarists, that's the strange thing," Ohta-San says. "I tried to play the ukulele like a piano player. I listened a lot to George Shearing. And Bill Evans had a great concept of harmony."