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April 2009

## Today - SUPA Sunday, April 5

1:00p - We will be rehearsing for the Northwest Folklife Festival show. This year's theme will be Doo Wop, using songs with the doo wop progression.

2:30-4:30p - Join us for our monthly ukulele song circle at the West Seattle Senior Center. Only \$3.

## Sunday, April 19: Ukulele Wikiwiki

Join Pat (wiki\_pk@yahoo.com) at the Ballard Northwest Senior Center for the monthly Ukulele Wikiwiki beginners workshop from 1:30-3:30p. Recommended for beginning players or ukulele dreamers - all ages and abilities welcome. Doors open at 1:15p. Only \$3.

## Sunday, May 3: Northwest Folklife Festival Rehearsal

Starting at 1:00p, SUPA will rehearse the Ukulele Doo Wop show for the Northwest Folklife Festival. We'll run through the songs and show a few times to continue getting everyone up to speed with the performance. All are welcome.

## Sunday, May 3: SUPA Song Circle

Join us for our monthly ukulele song circle at the Ballard Northwest Senior Center from 2:30-4:30p. Only \$3. Doors open at 1:00p - come early and rehearse for the Folklife Festival!

## Sunday, May 17: Ukulele Wikiwiki

Join Pat (wiki\_pk@yahoo.com) at the Ballard Northwest Senior Center for the monthly Ukulele Wikiwiki beginners workshop from 12:00-2:00p (Note the earlier start time to share with SUPA and the Folklife Festival rehearsal). Recommended for beginning players or ukulele dreamers - all ages and abilities welcome. Doors open at 1:15p. Only \$3.

## Sunday, May 17: Northwest Folklife Festival Rehearsal

Join us for our final rehearsal in preparation for the Ukulele Doo Wop performance at the Northwest Folklife Festival. Rehearsal is from 2:30-4:30p at the Ballard Northwest Senior Center.

## Sunday, May 24: Northwest Folklife Festival Performance

11:35a-12:05p: SUPA performs the Ukulele Doo Wop at the Northwest Folklife Festival on the Seattle Center Theater Stage. More details to follow - check the web site and the Yahoo Groups.

## 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 web site 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.

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.

APRIL 2009						
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## 2009 Calendar: Song Circles & Ukulele Wikiwiki

Date	Location	Description
April 5	West Seattle	Song Circle
April 19	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
May 3	Ballard	Song Circle
May 17	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
May 17	Ballard	NW Folklife Rehearsal
June 7	(TBD)	Song Circle
June 21	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
July 12	Ballard	Song Circle
July 19	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
August 2	Woodland Park	SUPA Picnic
August 16	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
Sept 13	Ballard	Song Circle
Sept 20	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
Oct 4	West Seattle	Song Circle
Oct 18	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
Nov 1	Ballard	Song Circle
Nov 15	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
Dec 6	West Seattle	Holiday Potluck, Open Mic, Song Circle
Dec 20	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki

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

## 2009 Save the dates! Watch for more info!

April 13	Jazz Alley	Jake Shimabukuro
May 22-25	Seattle Center	Northwest Folklife Festival
May 24	Seattle Center	SUPA NW Folklife Performance
June 20	Fremont	Solstice Parade
July	Snoqualmie	Day Out With Thomas
October	Issaquah	Salmon Days
Dec 12	Green Lake	Pathway of Lights Festival

## Committees

Board. As required by WA law for a nonprofit corporation, the following members are filed annually as officers: John Leder President; Gregg Porter, Vice President; Pam Mandel, Secretary, and Carel Neffenger, Treasurer.

Steering Committee: A loose volunteer group running the monthly operations of SUPA that consists of the board, Rod Higuchi, and Pat Klopich.

(Suggestions, comments, participation, and ideas are always welcome!)

Door Corps: Pat Klopich & gang

Equipment Mule: Dan Schindler

Yahoo Groups Moderator: Tobin Hess

Founders: Peter "Pekelo" Palisbo and Tobin Hess



## Uke Tid Bits

**Ukulele players seek appreciation for quirky music** (By Alexandra Palombo, *The Ithican Online*, March 19, 2009).

At more than 6 feet tall, Ithaca College junior Nick Bombicino is physically intimidating, but the broad-shouldered funnyman is also a natural performer with a silky, deep voice who plays piano, drums and brass instruments. His large hands look as though they could crush his tiny ukulele. But for Bombicino, that sight gag is part of the Hawaiian instrument's appeal.

"It's small, and I'm a bigger guy, and I'm tall, so holding this tiny little thing is a little bit ridiculous," he said.

It's a gag that Bombicino and fellow ukulele player junior Connor Franklin aim to share with other students. They have played their original mash-ups at concerts, since both are members of the college's coed a cappella group, and late at night at weekend parties. "It was very unexpected, and I was pretty impressed," she said. "It's a really strange addition, but it sounds adorable," said senior Danielle Hendrickson who caught the duo's performance.

Bombicino first picked up the ukulele in high school in order to teach an actor in a play he directed and met Franklin in 2008. Franklin, who is known for performing barefoot, received his baritone ukulele as a Christmas gift from a relative ("I think by mistake," he said). He also plays the guitar and the piano but said he's partial to the ukulele.

"It's a lot of fun to perform with because you can focus more on your performance," he said. "There's two less strings to worry about than if you're playing a guitar."

Because the ukulele is seen as more of a humorous instrument, its credibility is always questioned. Both Franklin and Bombicino agree that while there is potential to be taken seriously with a ukulele, like famous Hawaiian artist Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, there is also a tonal quality inherent to the ukulele that makes legitimacy difficult outside of Hawaii, where the instrument is used for traditional island ceremonies and rituals.

"There is an element of difficulty in being serious when you do have the 'rinky-dinky-dink' of the ukulele because, try as hard as you can, it's very hard to get the 'rinky-dink' out of the ukulele," Bombicino said.

Sophomore Lena Weinstein, who also plays the ukulele, said it has an image that is different from many other more conventional instruments.

"The ukulele is sometimes passed off as a comedy instrument," she said. "But there's definitely a chance to be a serious musician."

"In England, there is a group of people who do this very seriously called the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, and it's very well-received over there," Bombicino said. "The question is, how would it translate in the U.S.?"