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May 2009

Today (May 3): Northwest Folklife Rehearsal

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

Today (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. Only \$3.

Sunday, May 17: Northwest Folklife 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. (Visit <http://www.nwfolklife.org/> for general information about Northwest Folklife.)

Summer Ukulele

In addition to SUPA song circles and events all summer long, look for the following.

Boulder Acoustic Society:

Their tour dates hit Washington from July 29 through August 5 at various venues including the Snohomish Artist Guild, Conor Byrne Pub (Seattle), Anacortes Arts Festival, and Everett's Music in the Park. (Visit <http://boulderacousticsociety.net> for more information)

Dusty Strings Workshops and Classes: (<http://www.dustystings.com>)

- Brook Adams - EZ Pop: Ukulele for Beginners & Flexi-Chords for Ukulele. (Saturday, May 9)
- Dave Mullany - Pop Music for the Uke & Beginning Blues Uke. (Sunday, May 17)
- John Leder - Ukulele: Discover Your Upper Frets! (Saturday, June 6)

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.

MAY 2009						
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SEPTEMBER 2009						
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2009 Calendar: Song Circles & Ukulele Wikiwiki

Date	Location	Description
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!

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
July 31	Conor Byrne Pub	Boulder Acoustic Society (Seattle)
October	Issaquah	Salmon Days
Dec 12	Green Lake	Pathway of Lights Festival
Mar 12	Edmonds	Jake Shimabukuro

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 Club of Santa Cruz has turned a once laughed-at musical instrument into a tool to build community (By Wallace Baine, *San Jose Mercury News*, April 23, 2009).

Santa Cruz has yet to declare an Official Musical Instrument. And while the guitar has always been the even-money favorite - considering one of the world's most respected high-end acoustic guitars goes by the brand name "Santa Cruz" - there is an intriguing dark horse coming up strong on the outside: the ukulele.

Once a punch line, the "uke" has now become a powerhouse instrument, and nowhere it is more popular than in Santa Cruz. In fact, an anthropologist looking for a quick way into the uniquely free-spirited culture of Santa Cruz only has to circle the third (sometimes fourth) Thursday of the month on his calendar. That's the day of the monthly meeting of the Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz, a group of give-or-take 200 colorfully dressed locals who've made the uke a tool for instant community-building - which, to these folks, is just a fancy word for good clean fun.

The Uke Club began back in 2000 when uke lovers Andy Andrews and Peter Thomas started a club dedicated to jamming together on the tiny Hawaiian instrument. The first meetings were at Thomas's house, but eventually the club found a simpatico home at Bocci's Cellar in Santa Cruz. Since its beginnings, Andrews and Thomas have remained as pied pipers of the club, providing much of the daffy energy that characterizes the club's racuous meetings.

Still, said Andrews, the focus is not on performance, but on participation. The key to the Hawaiian ukulele's enduring popularity is its relative accessibility for musical newbies. One club meeting and someone who's never picked up a uke before can come away with a decent competence with two or three songs.

A typical meeting at Bocci's is packed with smiling uke kooks, many in aloha shirts, and the ratio of ukes to people is close to 1:1. Andrews and Thomas lead the activities by frantically handing out song sheets and yelling out instructions. Volunteers act as the "Chord-ettes," who, at the appropriate point in each song, hold up enormous cardboard signs on which are drawn chord diagrams.

The club operates on an ethic that music is meant to be shared communally rather than as a gift from a single performer to an attentive audience.

"The musicians that come," said Andy Andrews, "many of them the very best musicians, they'll be incredibly generous in showing people how to do things on the ukulele."

As clubs go, the Uke Club is a rather loose confederacy of crazies. It's a club with no invitations or club dues. "There are no rules at the Uke Club," said original member Vince Tuzzi. "If you show up and play with us two times, you're a member."