



SEATTLE UKULELE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

seattleukulele.org • info@seattleukulele.org

August 2009



Sunday, August 2: SUPA Picnic, Open Mic, & Song Circle

Join SUPA for an afternoon of food, open mic, and song circle at our annual picnic in Woodland Park. Enjoy the conversation, the scenery, ukuleles in the park, and the sound of the Blue Angels flying overhead. Reservation is from 10:00am to dusk - come any time. Song Circle from 2:00-4:00p. Open mic usually starts at around noon. Woodland Park Shelter 6 - see the SUPA web site for maps and information.

Sunday, August 16: Ukulele Wikiwiki @ Wing Luke

No Wikiwiki this month. Instead, head on over to the Wing Luke Museum and join SUPA and others for a community song circle on the last day of the exhibit. Show your ukulele to get in free.

Sunday, August 16: Song Circle at the Wing Luke Museum

SUPA has been invited to conduct a song circle at the Wing Luke Museum as part of their exhibition, Ho'omau Ka Huaka'i: Native Hawaiians in the Pacific Northwest, which is the last day of the exhibit. The song circle starts at 2:00p, and show your ukulele at the entrance to get in free! Visit the SUPA web site for links to the museum with directions and exhibit information.

Sunday, September 13: SUPA Song Circle

Moved a week later to accommodate the Labor Day holiday, join SUPA at the Ballard Northwest Senior Center for the monthly ukulele song circle. Doors open at 1:00p. Only \$3.

Sunday, October 4: Workshop & Song Circle

Join us for a workshop with Jim D'Ville - creator of the Natural Way to Music, incorporating ear training, solfege, strumming, picking, and more. Jim's last workshop for SUPA was in 2006 with great success. Many of you may know of his musical style with Caravan Gogh. Workshop starts at 1:15 (\$15 - includes song circle), and song circle from 2:30-4:30 (only \$3) at the West Seattle Senior Center.

Sunday, November 1: Workshop & Song Circle

Join us for a workshop with the legendary Jere Canote who will provide his unique brand of teaching and singing as only he can! More details to follow. Workshop starts at 1:00p (\$15 - includes song circle), and song circle from 2:30-4:30p (only \$3) at the Ballard Northwest Senior Center.

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.

AUGUST 2009						
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2009 Calendar: Song Circles & Ukulele Wikiwiki

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
August 2	Woodland Park	SUPA Picnic
Sept 13	Ballard	Song Circle
Sept 20	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
Oct 4	West Seattle	Song Circle & Jim D'Ville Workshop
Oct 18	Ballard	Ukulele Wikiwiki
Nov 1	Ballard	Song Circle & Jere Canote Workshop
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!

July 31	Conor Byrne Pub	Boulder Acoustic Society (Seattle)
August 16	Wing Luke	SUPA Song Circle
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

Ukuleles have gone viral

(July 25, 2009; Dan Frost, Los Angeles Times)
YouTube videos, online how-tos and social networking fuel the musical instrument's renewed popularity.

Thanks to the Internet, the humble ukulele is pushing its recent popularity well beyond anything that old-time performers Don Ho, Arthur Godfrey or even Tiny Tim could imagine. From YouTube to manufacturers' websites, from bulletin boards to iPhone and BlackBerry applications that mimic ukes and teach chords, the Internet has been stoking the craze for nearly two years and unveiling fresh talent. "The number of new players keeps going up," said Mike DaSilva of Berkeley, who ditched a 20-year software career to make ukuleles. Guitar maker C.F. Martin & Co. stopped producing ukes in 1994 because they had become so unpopular, but resumed in 2001 and is selling some of the handmade instruments for as much as \$10,000 -- even in these tough economic times.

C.F. Martin wouldn't release sales numbers, and no one has kept track industrywide since 1980, when the ukulele numbers were folded into overall guitar sales. But uke makers say they are busier than ever.

"Monthly, we're selling more and more. Demand is exceeding the supply," said Michael Upton, whose Kala Brand Music Co. in Petaluma, Calif., sells ukuleles made in China. Artisan ukulele makers such as DaSilva, who makes ukes that sell for \$600 to \$3,000, said they have waiting lists stretching out more than a year.

Uke makers are riding the wave of popularity that began around the time of former Beatle George Harrison's death in 2001. Harrison was well-known in uke circles, but it was former bandmate Paul McCartney who reignited the public's fascination by playing the instrument in the 2002 tribute Concert for George and in other performances.

Though big stars helped spur the instrument's latest round of popularity, the Internet has been "more important than anything" in the uke's resurgence, said Jim Beloff, a leading publisher of ukulele songbooks and a major promoter of the sweet-strumming, four-stringed, long-maligned uke.

And ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro, already big in Hawaii, the uke's homeland, became a nationwide sensation with his wailin' on Harrison's "My Guitar Gently Weeps," which has attracted more than 3 million hits on YouTube since 2006 and earned him tours with Jimmy Buffett, a recording session with cellist Yo-Yo Ma and various television appearances.

Shimabukuro now autographs young people's ukuleles at his shows, where he plays mostly his own compositions in a variety of genres: flamenco, bluegrass, Latin jazz and even Eddie Van Halen-style hard rock.

"If everyone owned an ukulele," he said, pronouncing it "ooh-koo-LAY-lay" in the Hawaiian fashion, "this world would be such a peaceful place."

