

# E Ho'omau Benefit Concert 2009

Benefiting "Ukes for Kids" of Molokai and Pacific Music Foundation

## "Ukes for Kids" History

The "Ukes for Kids" (UFK) project originates from the Ukulele Hall of Fame. In 2004, Norman Takeya attended the Santa Cruz ukulele festival and learned of the program. Upon returning home, he immediately took steps to develop a similar organization here in Hawaii, with the support of the 'Ukulele Guild of Hawaii and permission from the Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz and the Ukulele Hall of Fame.



The program's first large project occurred in that same year, with the help of the Big Brothers Big Sisters foundation. Needy children received both 'ukulele and lessons from Roy Sakuma and Kimo Hussey.

In 2005, UFK donated 'ukulele to Hale Kipa, a non-profit organization that serves troubled teenage girls. Terry Browne offered his team and taught them to play. The Department of Education also teamed up with UFK to provide 'ukulele to Lunalilo Elementary School as part of an incentive program for at-risk students. Students were given the opportunity to learn to play and the 'ukulele and keep the instrument—as long as they kept their grades up.

The first ever benefit concert for the sake of UFK was held by KoAloha 'Ukulele Company, who graciously coordinated the entire event, and donated \$2000.00 to the project. The Fourth Annual 'Ukulele Guild of Hawaii Exhibition saw a UFK benefit raffle, with 'ukulele donated by Kamaka, KoAloha, G-string and Kala Music. This marked the first time the "Big Three" in 'ukulele making had ever come together to support the program.

Kamaka Ukulele celebrated their 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a concert to benefit the Ukes for Kids program. The Ukulele Guild is grateful for the donation and will put it to good use.

Bradda Sam, known as a local television personality, also gives free lessons to underprivileged children and works to obtain grants so that they can buy 'ukulele of their own. UFK has provided 20 ukulele for his students.

Ozzie Kotani, slack key wizard, donates his time at the Boys and Girls Club of Papakolea and requested ukulele for them. UFK donated 20 'ukulele to this program. Casey Kamaka and Norman Takeya were on hand to present the ukulele.

UGH President Jason Young delivered the ukuleles to Hickam Elementary School, with a student body consisting mostly of military dependants, is making an effort to instill an appreciation of the Hawaiian culture in its students. They plan to introduce Hawaiian music to the children via the 'ukulele. UFK gave 20 'ukulele to support their cause.

Wailua Elementary School teacher Tina Matsuo received 24 ukulele for her elementary school class. She plans to incorporate the ukulele into her curriculum. Most of her students have never held a ukulele.

Palolo Elementary School received the first installment of 30 ukulele to start a grade wide ukulele program. Next year the UGH will provide an additional 30 ukulele to fulfill it's commitment.

Maui Police department received 10 ukulele to provide to underprivileged kids thru recommendations from the community. Chris Kamaka represented the UGH in the presentation of the ukulele.

Puuhale Elementary School received 40 ukulele and will start an after school program for their kids. Executive Director Mike Chock presented the ukulele.

2008's "Ukes for Kids" concert proceeds went towards the following programs

- 25 - Ukulele donated to Hawaii National Park Summer Keiki Program via Ken Makuakane who volunteers his time to teach approx 400 keiki that attend this every summer.
- 25 - Ukulele donated to Sam and Lina Girl who work with homeless keiki and teach them ukulele lessons and if their report cards are B or better they get to keep a ukulele.
- 20 - Ukulele donated to a UH program helping keiki out at Makaha Elementary
- 25 - Ukulele donated to Boys and girls club Kaneohe.

**This year's benefit concert proceeds will go to the Molokai branch of "Ukes for Kids" and the Pacific Music Foundation**

The Boys and Girls Club of Kailua will receive 30 ukulele for their program. They will be offering lessons to area keiki.

Our Molokai Branch of Ukes for Kids, headed by UGH director Dan Ryerson gave out 160 ukulele. They also had a free concert to help publicize and raise money for the program.

The Molokai Group of UFK supporters organized a one day ukulele camp for the keiki of Molokai and taught them how to play the instruments that were given to them. The parents were also treated to a concert by the keiki and the teachers in the afternoon.

## **Pacific Music Foundation (<http://www.pmfhawaii.com>)**

### **WHY, WHEN AND HOW WAS PMF STARTED?**

Pacific Music Foundation was started as a non-profit organization in 2005. Our mission statement is to facilitate music that soothes. (Kimo Hussey serves as Executive Director)

### **WHAT ARE PMF'S LONG-TERM GOALS?**

Our long term goals are to secure facilitation of music that soothes through development of programs in music instruction, language instruction, dance appreciation (especially dance/motion therapy) and worldwide cultural exchange activities.

### **WHAT ARE SOME PRIOR AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

Our first musical activity was singing at Castle Hospital, Hale Ku'ike (a rest home located in lower Nuuanu) as well as a Kupuna Hale in Waimanalo. Prior to formal inception of Pacific Music Foundation, Mr. Hussey was invited to organize and present a workshop in Music Therapy at Castle Hospital. This invitation was based on documented work in music Mr. Hussey had previously accomplished at Castle Hospital. Our facilities presentations were reduced in order to satisfy other musical initiatives and address organizational issues. We have also played in several different venues including Merrie Monarch, where our music was received quite well by everyone. Our first full-length concert was held at Mission Memorial Auditorium on May 4, 2006. We have raised funds to support a trip to Alaska this July, 2006, to participate in a folk festival. One of the reasons Alaskan planners coordinate these festivals is to bring Hawaiian music and dance to the growing community of Hawaiians living in Alaska. Pacific Music Foundation's involvement with promotion of ukulele has been significant. We have already made several mainland appearances to support workshops and performances

### **WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF SOME PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS?**

To date, Pacific Music Foundation's services to community have reached a minimum of 250 youth. The number of adults we've influenced through music and instruction exceeds 4500. Though our "clients" have come from Hawaii, various states on the mainland, Alaska, Japan, China, Korea, Australia, Canada and Germany, a significant majority are local and native Hawaiians. Students have departed our workshops determined to work toward proficiency goals we've established jointly. Those who have experienced our music leave in awe and appreciation of "nahenahe" stylings of Hawaiian music. Most importantly, kupuna have raved, tapped their feet, smiled, relaxed themselves to slumber, sung with us, clapped their hands, danced and even prayed with us for guidance and strength to promote our mission.

### **WHAT DOES PMF SEEK TO CHANGE OR IMPROVE?**

Scientific research as well as empirical information gathered over centuries indicate with certainty that music has the capability to soothe and even heal. Seventy universities on the mainland have degree programs in music therapy, so we are well-aware of music therapy's capabilities. Many hospitals on the mainland utilize specially recorded music in their neo-natal care units to soothe newborns. This same kind of technology is practiced in Europe as well. If music for therapy were to be similarly practiced in Hawaii, so many benefits would accrue. Hawaii is blessed to have so many people who love music and enjoy performance ---- and music therapy would be a wonderful means of permitting interests to flourish, whether through education, performance or listening.

### **WHO ARE PMF'S BENEFICIARIES?**

Pacific Music Foundation's primary beneficiaries are communities and citizens . We provide Native Hawaiians special consideration and deserved recognition by using the music they developed since it so readily portrays those values and disciplines which give music therapy its wonderful integrity. The application of our work does not presume there is a problem, but promises it can take a person in almost any state and enhance that person's sense of calm.