



Newsletter 152
CELEBRATING
“BARNEY” ISAACS

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* Various ad sizes are available.
Email us at hsga@hsga.com
for a rate sheet.



Letter From the President

Aloha Members,

There are a lot of exciting news pieces in this issue! There continues to be a lot of moving parts and projects that the board and other volunteers are working on.

First and foremost, we are delighted to announce details for the upcoming Hawaiian Guitar Steel Association Festival in the Bay Area in late September. This year, we're celebrating the 100th birthday of the late Barney Isaacs and featuring one of his premier students, Ed Punua.

This year, we have moved the festival back to the Bay Area. We will be gathering in Emeryville, CA, at the Hilton. Thursday and Friday will again feature many talented club member showcases. And Saturday will have another super Saturday block in the afternoon featuring various Bay Area guests.

Our luau will be at the legendary tiki bar Trader Vic's and will feature the wonderful Bay Area band, the Alcatraz Islanders, for a happy hour, in addition to special guest Ed Punua's luau performance and floor show.

In this issue, you will find an invitation to submit a video for our next virtual festival in July, a nice article Roberto wrote detailing his lunch with Bobby Black, some financial information, and information about upcoming dues increases.

Another important part of the issue is board elections. In this issue, you'll find brief bios of the candidates and voting instructions.

The club continues to grow and move forward with our goals of perpetuating the Hawaiian steel guitar. Thank you all so much for being a part of the club and for your generous donations!

Mahalo,

Christo Ruppenthal

Christo Ruppenthal
HSGA President

HSGA Honors Alvin Kalanikau “Barney” Isaacs, Jr.

By Roberto Alaniz



This year, we are honoring Alvin Kalanikau “Barney” Isaacs, Jr., one of the great Hawaiian steel guitar players of the 20th Century. Barney was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 18, 1924, and this year marks the centennial of his birth.

His father, Alvin Kaleolani Isaacs Sr., was a composer and the bandleader for The Royal Hawaiian Serenaders, a very famous dance band that had a residency in the Royal Hawaiian Hotel in the very earliest days of Hawaiian tourism. Alvin Sr. made sure that Barney and all nine of his siblings learned to play at least one musical instrument.

Three of the children—Barney, Norman, and Atta—learned to play the steel guitar. When the brothers started to work as a trio in their teen years, Norman and Atta switched to guitar and bass, and Barney stayed on the Hawaiian steel guitar.

When Barney was 24, he joined his father’s band and

started his career as an international Hawaiian star. He toured far and wide, collaborated with many other Hawaiian musicians including Alfred Apaka and Gabby Pahinui, and recorded literally hundreds of pieces. His 50-year music career includes 20 years with the Hawaii Calls radio show.

Alvin Kalanikau “Barney” Isaacs, Jr. died in Honolulu on Feb 12, 1996. He is survived by his wife Cookie Isaacs. Barney was inducted into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame in 1999.

The 2024 HSGA Festival, scheduled for September 26–28, will feature Ed Punua as our Special Guest Performer. Ed had the fortune to be taught the Hawaiian steel guitar by Barney many years ago.

In this newsletter edition, you will find links to videos and music recordings that feature Barney. If you are not familiar with his music, you are in for a treat.

“

**HE TOURED FAR AND WIDE,
COLLABORATED WITH MANY
OTHER HAWAIIAN MUSICIANS
INCLUDING ALFRED AKA AND
GABBY PAHINUI, AND RECORDED
LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF PIECES.
HIS 50-YEAR MUSIC CAREER
INCLUDES 20 YEARS WITH THE
HAWAII CALLS RADIO SHOW.**

”

Biography, Videography and Discography for Alvin Kalanikau “Barney” Isaacs, Jr.

By Roberto Alaniz

Not wanting to re-invent the wheel, I searched the internet for a good bio on Barney Isaacs. One of the best that I found was written and published in 2017 by Angel Romero y Ruiz, founder and editor of an amazing website named World Music Central.

For our email newsletter subscribers, please click on the following link to read the article. <https://worldmusiccentral.org/2017/01/01/artist-profiles-barney-isaacs/>

Thanks to Mr. Romero for allowing us to feature this biography as part of our homage to Barney this year.

I also compiled this list of video and audio recordings of interviews, festival performances, CD's and related videos by Barney Isaacs and others that are posted on the internet. Also included are a couple of instructional videos by other steel guitarists related to the Barney Isaacs unique sound and style of playing Hawaiian steel guitar.

PBS HAWAII CLASSICS: HAWAIIAN STEEL GUITAR
(REBROADCAST OF SPECTRUM HAWAII)
<https://www.pbs.org/video/107-mranzo/>

Barney Isaacs Appearing at the 1988 (Aloha International) Hawaiian Steel Guitar Convention
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HWHwR7DjHM>

Barney Isaacs (Aloha International) HSGConvention 1988 ends with Yellow Ginger Lei
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKS04WxHz6w>

Barney Isaacs Inspired Fancy Chord Intro - C6 Tuning (Troy Brenningmeyer)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHBiMWzAOuY>

Barney Isaacs & the Boys Clip 3 1988 HSGA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=IQA-0VZk9_il

Hawaiian Touch – Barney Isaacs & George Kuo
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhPRB6KXGlo>

Hawaii's Greatest Hits Volume 1 The New Hawaiian Band
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_kwtWcXG-bliDpu_5eeMzlvHw6JGM793W3Q

Hawaii's Greatest Hits Volume 2 The New Hawaiian Band
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_mT4o-YN-UDUTo7_tQmNZd-EOPzF9TkZU

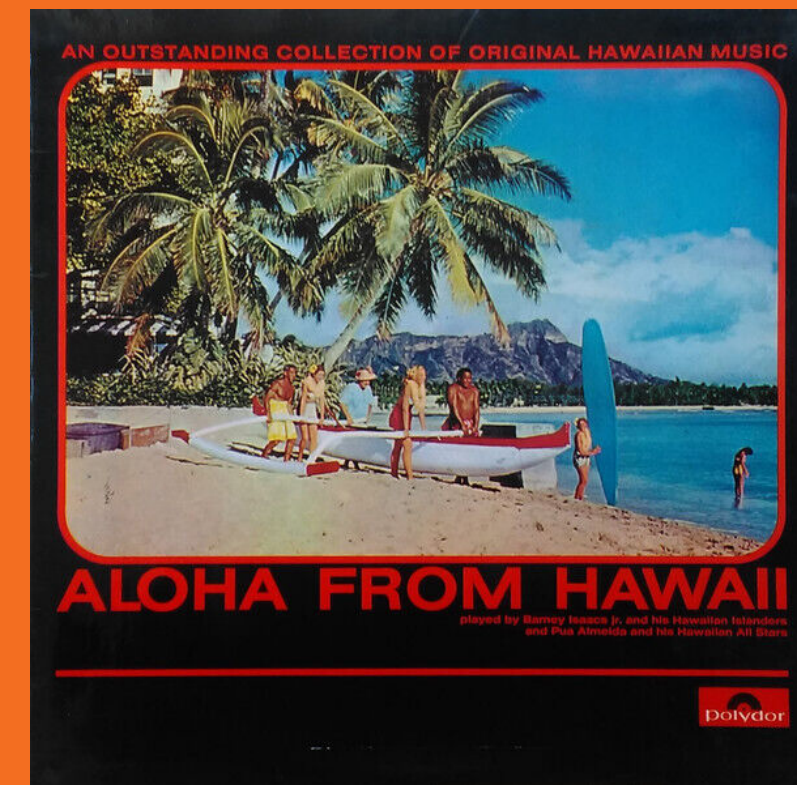
Jack De Mello Presents Steel Guitar Magic Billy Hew Len & Barney Issacs, Jr.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pgmnm0OM5cc>

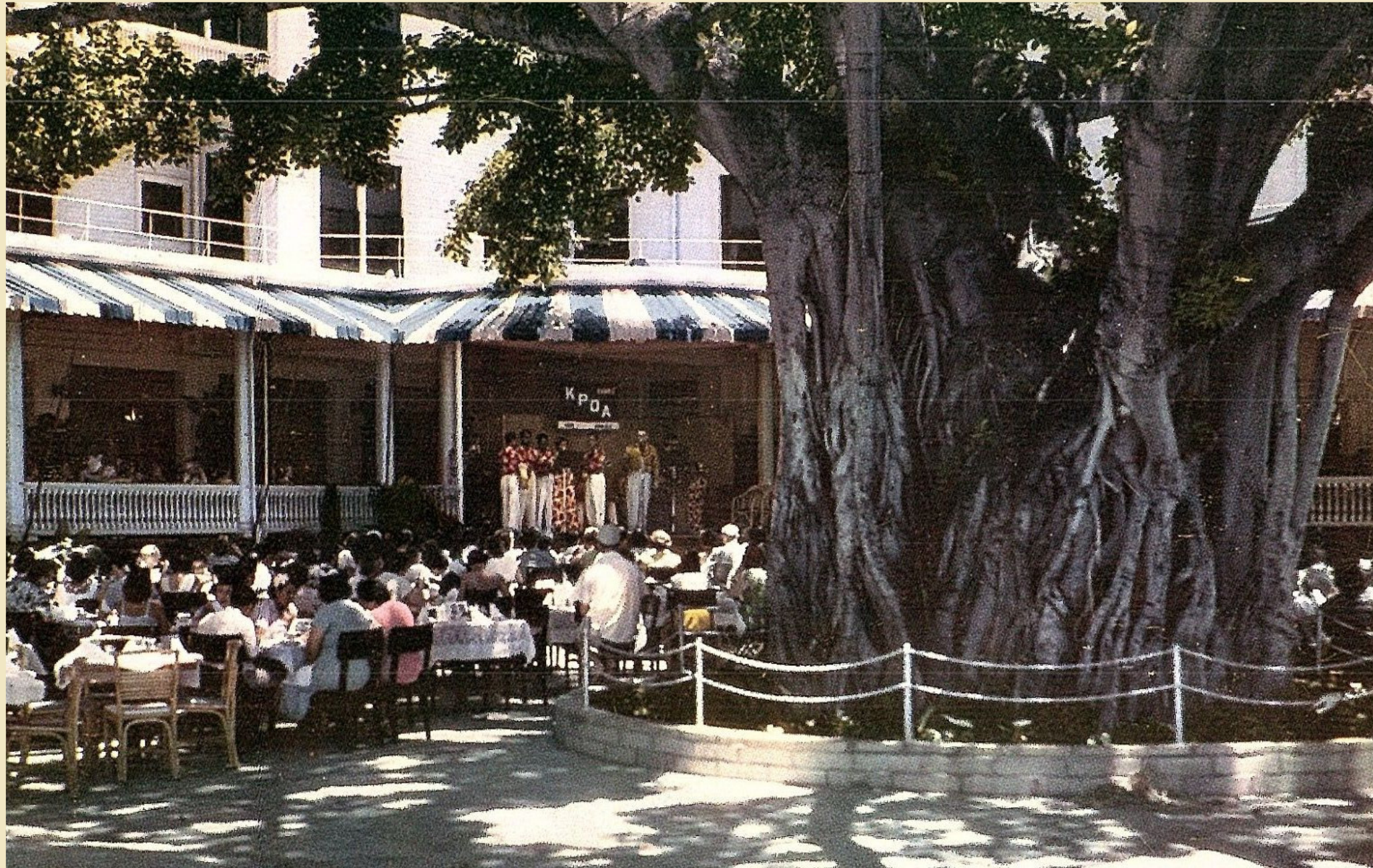
06 - Barney Isaacs & George Kuo - Winter Wonderland (CD: Ki Ho 'Alu Christmas)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0z7hhpgQj10>

Maui Medley - Barney Issacs And George Kuo (CD: Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Masters)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8Oq8pOtKn8e>

Acoustic Steel Guitar (daddystovepipe)-Hawaiian Medley-Tribute to Barney Isaacs-TAB available
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNR5m2EPOjI>

Blue Hawaii, a version by Barney Isaacs Jr (Alvin Kalanikau Isaacs Jr) (Analysed Pt. 1 of 3 By Basil Henriques)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqNBsIt1qWM>





Broadcasting "Hawaii Calls" radio show under the banyan tree at the Moana hotel in Waikiki.

“On A Tropic Night”

By Phill Walker



Alvin Kalanikau “Barney” Isaacs, Jr - was a legendary Hawaiian musician specialising in acoustic & electric steel guitar, in fact he became known as Hawaii’s “ambassador of steel guitar.” An excellent, detailed biography by L Katz can be accessed here: <https://www.allmusic.com/artist/barney-isaacs-mn0000115082#biography>

“Barney” was born in Honolulu in 1924 & was blessed to be one of 10 children in an exceptionally talented musical family. Barney & his brothers, Atta & Norman, were taught steel guitar by their father, Alvin Kaleolani Isaacs, Sr when still in elementary school. When Barney was 24, he joined his father’s band and started his career as an international Hawaiian star.

Barney Isaacs is possibly best remembered for his wonderful steel playing over 25 years as part of an 11-piece orchestra supporting the weekly radio program “Hawaii Calls.” This program provided a regular touchpoint for lovers of all Hawaiian music and was broadcast, live from Waikiki Beach, from 1935 through to 1975!

Taking us back to 29 December 1949, Barney’s musicianship can be enjoyed on an “Hawaii Calls” broadcast accessed by the link here: <https://www.angelfire.com/ky2/cumberland-gapbc/491229HawaiiCalls.mp3>

“Hawaii Calls” is credited with making many Hawaiian performers household names across the US and around the world. Among the regulars of the show were Alfred Apaka, John Kameaaloha Almeida, Haunani Kahalewai, Barney Isaacs Jr., Nina Keali’iwahamana, Boyce Rodrigues, Lani Custino, Jules Ah See, (a major Barney Isaacs’s influence), and Pua Almeida. Other well-known Hawaiian performers such as Martin Denny, Hilo Hattie, Ed Kenney, Benny Kalama, hula dancer Beverly Noa and Arthur Lyman also made appearances. During the height of the show’s popularity (1950s and into the early 1970s) Webley Edwards, the host of “Hawaii Calls” assumed a producer role, releasing

numerous records on the Capitol Records label, under the title of “Webley Edwards presents Hawaii Calls.” The albums contained renditions of popular Hawaiian and hapa haole songs as arranged by the Hawaii Calls musicians.

As well as a busy live performance schedule, Barney served as the musical director for Waikiki Records in the 1950s and even operated his own club, The Palm Tree Inn, turning it into a locally celebrated musician’s hangout. He also found time in the early 1990’s to pass on his experience to selected up & coming “apprentices” on the steel guitar.

Barney had many recording credits over the years including groundbreaking electric steel and slack key duets in the 1950s with Gabby Pahinui and Atta Isaacs, (Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Volumes 1 & 2) - Waikiki Records 319 & 320. Barney can also be seen playing his steel (with cheesy acting) in the 1959 movie “Forbidden Island”.

Possibly the best of his later work can be found on the 1995 Dancing Cat release “Hawaiian Touch”. This album features Barney playing acoustic steel with George Kuo on guitar & an example, the medley “Ahulili & Nani Wale Na Hala” can be accessed here: <https://dancingcatrecords.bandcamp.com/album/hawaiian-touch>

Barney’s amazing life ended in 1996 but his music lives on. I have been fortunate to have discovered a Barney Isaacs arrangement of “On A Tropic Night” that is included in this Newsletter. The song was written by Agustin Lara in 1938 for the movie “Tropic Holiday” featuring Dorothy Lamour, her recording can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7Qur2J7sZc>

The tune is interesting as Barney takes a Latin (beguine) style & adapts it to AM7/C6 tuning – great fun to play along with the backing track that can be accessed here: [https://hsga.org/wp-content/uploads/On A Tropic Night \(Am Backing\) MP3.mp3](https://hsga.org/wp-content/uploads/On A Tropic Night (Am Backing) MP3.mp3)

On A Tropic Night

Composer Augustin Lara - 1938
English Lyrics - Ned Washington
Barney Isaacs Arrangement

Am7/C6 Tuning ECAGECAC
bpm = 100 (Beguine feel)

5

Gm Cm D7

E	10	8	10
C	10	7	9
A	10	6	8
G			
E			
C			

5

Gm Cm

6	6	6	5	3	6	6	6	5	3	3	3	3
6	6	6	5	3	6	6	6	5	3	3		

How lovely is the moon on a tropic night,

9

D7 Gm D7

8	8	8	6	5	8	8	8	6	5	2	2
8	8	8	6	5	8	8	8	5	5	1	
										2	2

No heart can be immune, on a tropic night,

13

G7 Cm

11	12	14	12	11	14	12	11	12	14	12	12	13	14	15
10	12	14	12	10	14	12	10	12	14					
										11	11	12	13	15

As a lonely guitar plays a serenade.

2 On A Tropic Night

17

Gm A7 Am Am7 D7

6	6	6	5	3	9	9	7	12		
6	6	6	5	3	9	9	7	12		
									12	13
									12	13
										14

There's music in the heart of each man & maid.

21

Gm Cm

6	6	6	5	3	6	6	6	5	3	3	3	3
6	6	6	5	3	6	6	6	5	3	3		
										3	3	

Stars always linger low, on a tropic night,

25

D7 Gm D7

8	8	8	6	5	8	8	8	6	5	2	14
8	8	8	6	5	8	8	8	5	5	1	
											14
											12
											14

What lips can answer no, when two lips invite,

29

G7 Cm

11	12	14	12	11	14	12	11	12	14	8	8	11
10	12	14	12	10	14	12	10	12	14			10
										8		

When there's wine in the air, lips are always careless,

On A Tropic Night

3

33 Gm D7 Gm E7

6 8 10 6 3 | 5 6 8 2 5 | 10 | 1 4 4 4 4

TAB 6 8 10 6 3 | 5 6 8 2 5 | 10 | 1 4 4 4 4

Lover's find their delight on a tropic night.

Musical notation for measures 33-36, including a triplet in measure 36.

37 Am Dm

8 10 8 7 5 | 8 10 8 7 5 | 5 5 5 | 5 5 5

TAB 8 10 8 7 5 | 8 10 8 7 5 | 5 5 5 | 5 5 5

Musical notation for measures 37-40, including triplets in measures 37 and 38.

41 E7 Am E7

10 10 10 8 7 | 10 12 10 12 7 | 4 | 2 4 4 4 4

TAB 10 10 10 7 7 | 10 12 12 12 7 7 | 3 | 2 4 4 4 4

Musical notation for measures 41-44, including a triplet in measure 44.

45 A7 Dm

13 14 16 14 13 | 16 14 13 14 16 | 10 | 10 11 12 | 13

TAB 12 14 16 14 12 | 16 14 12 14 16 | 9 | 10 11 12 | 13

A B 8 | 7

Musical notation for measures 45-48, including a triplet in measure 48.

4

On A Tropic Night

49 Am B7 Bm Bm7 E7

8 8 8 7 5 | 11 11 9 | 14 14 14 17 | 16

TAB 8 8 8 7 5 | 11 11 9 | 14 14 14 17 | 16

A B 11 11 9 | 14 14 17 | 16

Musical notation for measures 49-52.

53 Am Dm

8 10 8 7 5 | 4 5 8 7 6 5 | 5 | 5 5 5

TAB 8 10 8 7 5 | 2 3 4 5 8 7 6 5 | 5 | 5 5 5

Musical notation for measures 53-56, including a triplet in measure 53.

57 E7 Am E7

14 14 14 12 11 | 14 12 14 12 11 | 4 | 4 4 4 4

TAB 14 14 14 11 11 | 14 12 14 12 11 | 3 | 4 4 4 4

Musical notation for measures 57-60, including a triplet in measure 60.

61 A7 Dm

9 10 12 | 14 13 | 16 14 13 14 16 | 10 | 10 11 12 | 13 13 7

TAB 9 10 12 | 14 12 | 16 14 13 14 16 | 9 | 10 11 12 | 13 13 7

A B 8 | 7

Musical notation for measures 61-64, including a triplet in measure 64.

On A Tropic Night

5

65

Am E7 Am Dm

8 10 12 8 5 | 7 8 10 4 7 | 5 5 10 10 | 10 10

T 8 10 12 8 5 | 7 8 10 4 7 | 5 5 10 10 | 10 10

A 8 10 12 8 5 | 7 8 10 4 7 | 5 5 10 10 | 10 10

B 8 10 12 8 5 | 7 8 10 4 7 | 5 5 10 10 | 10 10

69

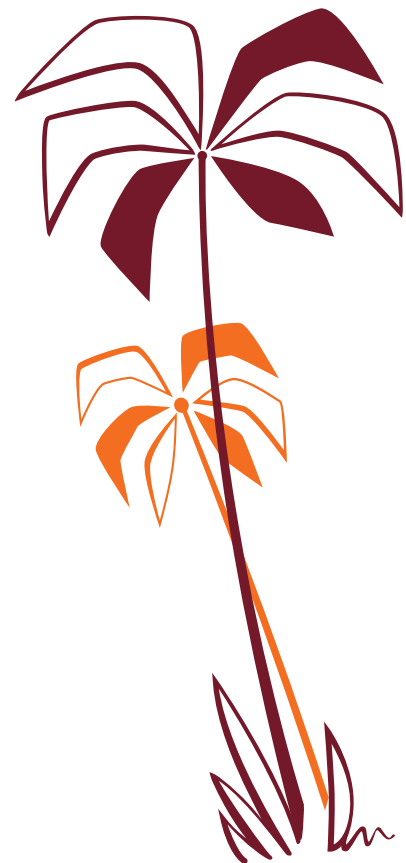
Dm Am (Am6)

17 17 12 3 2

T 17 17 12 3 2

A 17 17 12 3 2


B 0 0 0 0 0



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HAWAIIAN
STEEL GUITAR ASSOCIATION

Membership Application and Renewal 2024-2025

Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association
2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca, CA 95336

- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWAL
- ADDRESS CHANGE?
(If so, indicate address below)

Name (Please Print)	Associate Member	Referred By (For New Members)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Name (If Changed)	Phone Number (If Changed)	Email Address (If Changed)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City	State / Country	Zip / Postal Code
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES OPTION

- Membership with electronic newsletter \$35
- Membership with hard copy newsletter \$50

MEMBER PAYMENT INFO

Please renew your membership by July 2024 (the upcoming membership year runs from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025). Dues are \$35 for all members. If you wish to receive a printed, hard copy newsletter through the mail, there is an additional \$15 subscription fee to cover printing and mailing costs. **All members who provide an email address will receive your newsletter electronically.**

A \$15 Associate Membership allows a spouse or other family member to vote in board elections and get discounts at certain HSGA functions.

The easiest way to pay member fees is via our website—just go to the Membership Menu and select Renewals. It's a snap! We also accept checks payable to 'HSGA'. Overseas members, please use PayPal, Int'l Money Orders or USA bank checks. Checks drawn on non-USA banks are not accepted.

OPTIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Associate Membership (\$15)
- Donation to Scholarship Assistance Fund
- Donation to General Fund
- Membership List (\$1.50 each, e-mail version free)
- Quarterly Back Issues, if available (\$3 each)

Total Enclosed

MEMBER PROFILE (If changed, please check all that apply.)

I am a:	I play:	I travel to Hawaii:	My age group is:
<input type="radio"/> Professional Musician <input type="radio"/> Amateur <input type="radio"/> Novice <input type="radio"/> I don't play but love to listen	<input type="radio"/> Non-pedal steel <input type="radio"/> Pedal steel <input type="radio"/> I don't play steel	<input type="radio"/> Occasionally <input type="radio"/> Seldom <input type="radio"/> Never been there!	<input type="radio"/> Under 20 <input type="radio"/> 20-39 <input type="radio"/> 40-59 <input type="radio"/> 60-over

MEMBERSHIP LIST RELEASE (Sign to be included on membership lists.)

I hereby give HSGA permission to include my name and address on Membership Lists that are circulated to the general membership on request. (If you've signed the Release before, you need not sign again.)

Name (Print Please) _____ Signature _____
(If you've signed the Release before, you need not sign again.)

Meet Isabella Bertelmann, HSGA Scholarship Recipient

By Daryle Brooke



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE HSGA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

The HSGA Scholarship program provides funding for select students who are serious about learning to play the Hawaiian steel guitar, and who qualify under the scholarship program guide lines. This issue of the HSGA newsletter provides a focus on one of these remarkable scholarship students: Isabella Bertelmann.

Isabella is not only an outstanding student but has also become quite the steel player! I encourage you to read about her background, and equally as important, check out the YouTube video recordings of her performing as one of Alan Akaka's NextGen students. Isabella points to where to find the recordings in her article.

- Mahalo! Daryl Brooke
(Chairperson, HSGA Scholarship Program)



Aloha! I am Isabella Bertelmann.

I have been playing the Hawaiian steel guitar for 5 years now, and have been to numerous performances with Kumu Alan Akaka. I have been fortunate to attend outer island festivals, such as the Kona and Kaua'i festivals, and many showcases on Oahu as well. I really enjoy listening to the music of Uncle Bill Ali'iloa Lincoln currently, which was the theme of Kamehameha Schools Annual Song Contest this year (editor's note: held March 15, 2024 in Honolulu, <https://www.ksbe.edu/images/song-contest/2024/2024-KS-SongContest-Program.pdf>). It really opened my eyes to the many varieties of Hawaiian music, and I enjoy listening for the steel guitar in his songs. I hope to continue playing the Hawaiian steel guitar through Kumu Akaka's Next Gen for as long as I can!

Some of my hobbies include reading, roller skating, and many ocean activities such as diving and surfing, and even paddling a one-man canoe. In school, I am in the aviation club and enjoy taking automotive classes. I currently participate in jiu-jitsu, and dancing hula for Halau Ilima Ku Kahakai outside of school.

Performance videos can be found through the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Showcases Facebook page:

- * Hawaii Island Steel Guitar Experience at Mauna Lani: 1:52:29
- * Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival Keiki Kine at Kahala Mall: 46:35



Lunch with Bobby IV

By Roberto Alaniz

I hope that my fellow HSGA members and their families had a happy and healthy holiday season. I am writing this in February for the newsletter that will be published in April, so Spring greetings to you as well.

After a brief hiatus during the holidays, Bobby Black and I resumed our lunch visits in January. To start the New Year, we went to the City Café in Manteca, a small diner in a shopping center at the west end of town.

On the drive over to the restaurant, Bobby talked about a recent conversation with his old friend Lucky Oceans. Lucky was the first pedal steel guitarist with the Western Swing group, Asleep at the Wheel, and Bobby followed him. (NOTE: Our fellow HSGA member and former newsletter editor John Ely also played with Asleep at the Wheel for a period

of time.) Lucky now lives in Australia and has a full life with children and grandchildren. Aside from reminiscing about the “good old days”, much of their conversation was about the differences in playing pedal steel and non-pedal steel. Both Lucky and Bobby played pedal steel guitar for Asleep at the Wheel.

While Bobby’s professional music career was based on his amazing pedal steel playing, he rarely plays pedal steel these days. His go-to instrument is a custom built eleven-string lap steel. His primary tuning is C6 (same as for 10 string pedal steel) with a D on the high eleventh string.

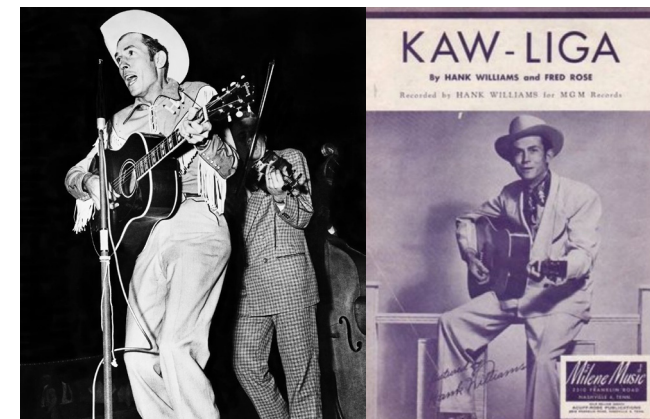
The motivation for his transition from pedal steel to lap steel was practical: less weight to carry. Pedal steels have many more metal parts and weigh a lot more than lap steels.

For the most part, Bobby has also stopped using heavy Peavey or Fender tube amps for gigging. Thank goodness for micro circuit amps and neodymium speakers. As we get older....well, many of you know the rest of the story.

Beyond this practical issue, Bobby points out that he gets much more personal satisfaction from playing lap steel. In his opinion, lap steel is more challenging in some ways and brings out greater creativity.

During lunch, Bobby shared a story of his first meeting Hank Williams. It was in the early 1950’s in San Jose, California. Bobby and his brother Larry had already started their professional career by that time. (by my calculation, Bobby was 19 and brother Larry was 17.) The Black Brothers were contracted to open for Hank Williams at the Palomar Gardens in San Jose.

On the day of the show, Bobby and Larry went to the club in the early afternoon to check out the stage. When they walked in, some of the Williams crew were already setting up. Bobby asked if Hank Williams was around and someone told him that he was in the dressing room. Bobby and Larry knocked on the dressing room door and they heard a voice say “come on in”



They introduced themselves to Hank and he invited them to have a seat. Not too far into the conversation, Hank invited the boys to bring their instruments in and play some music with him. Bobby declined, but younger brother Larry jumped at the chance and got his guitar from the car. Larry brought in his recently acquired Fender Telecaster electric guitar. Hank offered the boys a swig from his whiskey bottle. Bobby declined, but little brother Larry gladly accepted. (Oh those little brothers!)

Larry and Hank played for quite a while. At one point, Hank said “here’s a song that I’ve been working on.” He proceeded



to play and sing “Kaw-Liga”. Bobby believes that he and brother Larry were among the first to hear that famous song by Hank, before it was recorded and became a big hit.

After the jam session, Hank was so impressed by Larry’s playing that he offered him a job as part of his backup band. Bobby is not sure how serious Hank was, or if it was just the whiskey talking. Regardless, Larry was just seventeen years old at the time. His parents were not about to let him leave home. Hank also asked if he could borrow Larry’s new guitar for the gig that night. Of course, Larry said yes.

I am amazed and impressed by all of the famous musicians and singers that Bobby met during his music career journey. He is working on his memoirs and I am hopeful that he will someday complete and publish a book.



Trader Vic's Emeryville, California.



HSGA 2024 Festival Will Take Place in Sunny Emeryville, California.

By Christo Ruppenthal



The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association will hold its 2024 Festival on September 26, 27 and 28, 2024 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Emeryville, California. Emeryville is a city bordering Berkeley and Oakland, just across the bay from San Francisco. The Saturday night Luau Dinner and Show will be held at Trader Vic's Polynesian Restaurant in Emeryville, just a half mile from the hotel.

This year, the festival will honor the late Alvin Kalanikau "Barney" Isaacs, Hawaiian steel guitarist and entertainer. Barney Isaacs was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 18, 1924, and this year marks the centennial of his birth. Barney had a long and storied music career as a steel guitar player, including 25 years with the Hawai'i Calls radio show. His playing style was unique and true to the traditional Hawaiian steel guitar sound. Please see the brief biography on Barney Isaacs that is included in this newsletter.



According to Barney's wife, Cookie Isaacs, Barney loved to play the steel guitar but was not as enthusiastic about teaching others to play the instrument. He only taught a couple of young people to play during his career.

Ed Punua, steel player and vocalist from the island of Kauai was one of those people. Ed will be our special guest performer for this festival honoring his Kumu, Barney Isaacs. We are happy to welcome Ed back to the festival stages since his last Ft. Collins HSGA festival appearance in 2019.

Saturday afternoon will again feature local guest professional steel guitar players. Super Saturday, as we have tagged this portion of the three-day festival, has attracted many newcomers during the past two years and has become a highlight of the annual event.





**Hawaiian
Steel Guitar
Association
Festival '24**

September 26-28
Emeryville, California



**Hawaiian
Steel Guitar
Association
Festival '24**

September 26-28
Emeryville, California



2024 HSGA Festival Schedule

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	Check-In / Registration
12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm.	Welcome / Annual Member Meeting
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Member Performances
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Ed Punua
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Break (Dinner on your own)
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Workshop (TBD)
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Kanikapila / Jam Session

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	Member Performances
12:00 Noon – 1:30 pm.	Break (Lunch on your own)
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Member Performances
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Ed Punua
5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Break (Dinner on your own)
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Talk Story with Ed Punua
8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	Kanikapila / Jam Session

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	Member Performances
12:00 Noon – 1:00 pm.	Break (Lunch on your own)
1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Saturday Super-Show
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Social / Happy Hour (Trader Vic's Restaurant)
6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Dinner & Luau Show Music by Mikiya Matsuda & The Alcatraz Islanders, with Special Guest Ed Punua (Trader Vic's Restaurant)

2024 HSGA Festival Registration

FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

Members who plan on attending the festival must complete and return the festival registration form by August 30, 2024. If you would like to perform at the festival, please complete the Performer portion of the registration form, Both forms can also be completed online at the [hsga.org](https://www.hsga.org) website. For those who wish to perform, keep in mind that you do not have to play an entire 25 minute set. Just let us know on the registration form how much play time you would like. If possible, we do request that you include one song by Barney Isaacs in your set.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The hotel of choice for this event is the Hilton Garden Inn-Emeryville. The hotel has set aside a block of suites for our Festival guests at the rate of \$179 per night. (daily breakfast buffet for two included). Please reserve by no later than September 7, 2024.

Reservations may be made online using the following link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/sfobbgi-hsga-d2f84ed3-002e-4e7d-9823-b2fabd236671/>

or, you may call 510-658-9300 and select the option for the front desk. The front desk person should be able to help make the reservation. Please mention the event dates (for reservation purposes, September 25 through September 29 and the group code "HSGA."

If the front desk is busy and transfers you to the Central Reservations Line, mention that you want to book at the Hilton Garden Inn San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge in Emeryville, as well as the HSGA group code.

TRANSPORTATION

The City of Emeryville operates a bus service which stops at the hotel. The bus connects with the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) Train, which in turn connects with Oakland and San Francisco Airports, as well as most major cities in the Bay Area, including downtown San Francisco.

FESTIVAL TICKETS

Ticket prices for the festival are as follows:

Members:

- \$150 for 3 day pass (not including Saturday Luau Dinner)
- or**
- \$60 per day (Thursday/Friday)
- \$30 Saturday only
- and**
- \$100 per person Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show

Non Members:

- \$180 for a 3 day pass (not including Saturday Luau Dinner)
- or**
- \$70 per day (Thursday/Friday)
- \$40 Saturday only (\$15 for new members who join on Saturday)
- and**
- \$110 per person Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show (HINT for non-members: Join HSGA before July 1 and get the festival member rate and the benefits of membership for 12 months.)

Students:

- \$10 per day (not including Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show)

Tickets may be purchased online through Zeffy.com at the following link: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/79008d56-4368-48ab-8870-f4e3bc984473> (Zeffy is a free service for non-profit organizations, but they do request a donation from the ticket buyer.)

Tickets may also be purchased by check, payable to The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association. Mail to:

HSGA 2024 Festival c/o: Roberto Alaniz
2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca, CA 945336-9555

If you have any fun and interesting items that you would like to donate for a festival raffle, please contact me (roberto.alaniz@comcast.net). Mahalo.



VIRTUAL FESTIVAL 7 COMING JULY 2024

By Roberto Alaniz

The HSGA Virtual Festival series was established in 2019 when COVID-19 caused most public gatherings to be canceled. We were not able to hold our in-person festivals for a couple of years, so we took to the internet waves to share our music. Three of the last six video festivals have featured videos submitted by many of you. Members were invited to record up to a 15 minute performance and submit it, and to date we have had an enthusiastic response, with more than 30 participants.

These days, video recording is not such an arduous task; even digital cameras and cellphones are equipped with video capability. So please put your devices in video recording mode and share your talent with us.

HSGA has established a goal of producing two Virtual Festivals per year: one featuring video from the annual in-person

gathering, and the other featuring "home" videos submitted by our members. Our most recent Virtual Festival 6 featured video from our 2023 Festival that was held in Cupertino, California. You can always view this and other past festivals on the HSGA.org website (click on the Membership tab, and then log into the "Members Only" section (password: HSGA_aloha_member)

Our next Virtual Festival 7 is scheduled for July 2024 and will feature videos recorded by our members. This is a great opportunity to share your music with others.

Please review the instructions for submitting a video and complete the online Performer on the HSGA website.

Mahalo!





2024-2026 Board of Directors Nominations

By John Limbach

Earlier this year, we mailed you a letter asking you to consider nominating yourself to serve on the HSGA Board of Directors for the two year term beginning July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026. The deadline for submitting your name was February 29, 2024. Unfortunately, no nominations were received.

The good news is that all Directors on the current member Board are willing to continue to serve for another two years. I am the only Director that is reaching the six-year term limit as of June 30 of this year. Time flies when you are having fun.

The Association Bylaws provide that the Board of Directors may have seven to nine Directors. There will be eight Directors remaining as of July 1 and they are listed below.

Please indicate your approval by voting for all eight of these individuals. If you are an e-newsletter subscriber, click here to go to the online ballot.

- Christo Ruppenthal
- Roberto Alaniz
- Mike Wittmer
- Eric Rindal
- Shinichi Kakiuchi
- Daryl Brooke
- Thomas Hammerman
- Phill Walker

If you would prefer to mail in your vote, please write a note saying: "I hereby vote for the current Board of Directors to continue to serve for the 2024-2026 term", and date and sign your note. Mail to John Limbach, 1804 Greystone Drive, Billings, MT 59102

On the right is a brief bio on each of the Directors/Candidates.

SHINICHI KAKIUCHI (JAPAN)

Shinichi was elected to the Board in 2022. He has been a member of HSGA since 2013. Shinichi lives in Saitama, Japan, and he translates our newsletter and other communications from English to Japanese for other members in Japan.



THOMAS HAMMERMAN (ILLINOIS)

Thomas (Tom) was elected to the Board in 2022. He has been a member of HSGA since 2021. Tom is a Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice. He began learning Hawaiian steel guitar from Alan Akaka in 2020. Tom lives in Evanston, Illinois.



PHILL WALKER (AUSTRALIA)

Phill was elected to the Board in 2022. He has been a member of HSGA since 2007. Phill lives in Smiths Lake on the eastern coast of Australia. He is retired and has a career background in Information Technology.



CHRISTO RUPPENTHAL (WISCONSIN)

Christo (Chris) was elected to the Board in 2020 and has served as President of HSGA since 2021. He has been a member of HSGA since 2014. Chris is a professional musician, online music business owner, and an avid collector of vintage Hawaiian 78 records. Christo lives in Madison, Wisconsin.



DARYL BROOKE (FLORIDA)

Daryl was elected to the Board in 2022. He has been a member of HSGA since 2021. Daryl retired from Cisco Systems in 2009 as a sales executive, and he and his family now live in Key West, Florida. Daryl is the owner of The Grateful Guitar, a small guitar shop in Key West.



ROBERTO ALANIZ (CALIFORNIA)

Roberto (Bob) was elected to the Board in 2020, and has served as Secretary/Treasurer of HSGA during that period. He has been a member of HSGA since 1998. Roberto is retired and has a professional background in Public Health/Medical Administration. Roberto lives in Manteca, California.



ERIC RINDAL (CALIFORNIA)

Eric was elected to the Board in 2022. He has been a member of HSGA since 2013. Eric is a graphic designer, art director and multi-instrumentalist musician. Eric lives in San Francisco, California



MIKE WITTMER (COLORADO)

Mike was appointed to the Board in 2019, and subsequently elected in 2020. He has been a member of HSGA since 2015. Mike is a graphic designer and graphic design business owner who lives in Ft. Collins, Colorado.



The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association Treasurer's Report



2ND QUARTER, 2023-2024

Beginning Balance (10/1/23)	\$40,341.77
General Fund	\$ 24,000.55
Scholarship Fund	\$3,539.27
Certificate Of Deposit (Savings)	\$10,000.00
Ending Balance (12/31/23)	\$37,539.82
Japan Account Ending Balance	\$756.19 (1)

Expenses

Printing	\$355.44
Postage	\$385.26
Scholarship	\$1,100.00
Software/Tech Subscriptions	\$811.45
2023 Festival Expense	\$1,703.08
T Shirts	\$1,313.93

Total Expenses \$5,669.16

Income

Dues	\$1,281.24
Donations (General Fund)	\$1,036.00
Donations (Scholarship)	\$550.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ _

Total Income \$2,867.24

(1) Japanese Yen = \$ 108,536

Magnatone Lyric D-8 (Left):

A classic steel guitar renowned for its soft, warm sound and its appearance on many old Hawaiian steel recordings by "Barney."

HSGA Membership Dues / Quarterly Subscription to Increase in July

As a member of the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association, you know that the HSGA's mission includes the promotion and perpetuation of traditional Hawaiian music, which includes the unique "signature sound" of Hawaiian steel guitar, presenting annual gatherings to showcase steel guitar music, developing a global network of players and lovers of traditional Hawaiian music, and maintaining a scholarship fund that provides assistance to promising steel guitar students in their studies with acknowledged masters of the Hawaiian steel guitar. These are all important goals and each one presents its own set of costs.

For us to continue on these important tasks, it's become apparent that we need to address membership fees and the costs associated with what the club provides. There hasn't been a substantial increase in member fees for many years! Meanwhile, due to inflation, broadening our goals, and just doing business as usual, the cost of maintaining these services has increased steadily. There have been many ongoing discussions with the board about this topic since I became president.

We have had discussions about abandoning the print newsletter entirely and moving online altogether. We genuinely understand that there's a certain percentage of the membership that finds substantial value in receiving printed newsletters on a quarterly basis. This is especially valuable to the club, particularly for members who were not able to gather with us at our annual festivals. I want to acknowledge that before moving on.

The point has been made that moving to an online model is the way that most surviving clubs that are organized like ours have maintained themselves. It allows the club to have more than quarterly touch points with the membership through both regular emails and social media presence. However, the board has come to the conclusion that we're not quite ready to do that yet.

When it comes time to resubscribe to the club annually in July, please note that there will be a fee increase as well as a separate cost associated with receiving print copies of the newsletter. Separating the cost of print copies of the newsletter will allow more of your funds to be used for outreach and supporting the steel guitar community. It will also even out the value between print and digital subscriber donations to the club.

Regardless of whether you opt to receive physical or digital copies of the newsletter, I would suggest that you make sure that you receive emails from the club. If we have an email on file for you, you should already be receiving emails, but one way to make sure they don't wind up in spam is to add the email_news@hsga.com email to your address book.

Below is a breakdown of the changes to next year's club fees. Trust that the additional funds will be used to further our goals and to offer you better and better content!

When it comes time to renew please consider a virtual subscription. And note that beginning July 1, 2024, annual dues will be \$35. (This includes the emailed quarterly newsletter.) If you wish to continue to receive a printed copy of the quarterly newsletter, the annual fee will be \$15. (This fee is based on actual printing and postage costs).

Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association

MEMBER



OFFICERS

Christo Ruppenthal (WI), President
John Limbach (MT), Vice-President
Roberto Alaniz (CA), Secretary-Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Mike Wittmer	Daryl Brooke
Eric Rindal	Thomas Hammerman
Shinichi Kakiuchi	Phill Walker

FORMER DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Jerry Byrd

JAPAN COORDINATORS

Masahiko Ibamoto, Shinichi Kakiuchi

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Daryl Brooke

NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Eric Rindal

WEBMASTER

Mike Wittmer webmaster@hsga.org

SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

John Mumford

ORIGINAL CLUB FOUNDER

Lorene Ruymar (1985)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association is a tax exempt, nonprofit educational corporation in the State of Hawai'i under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our primary purpose is to develop a global network of players and lovers of traditional Hawaiian music and to encourage the study, teaching, and performance of the Hawaiian steel guitar. Our primary financial goal is to provide scholarship assistance through donations to steel guitar students who demonstrate the ability and intent to become accomplished performers.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open globally to all steel guitar players and non-players. Annual dues are US \$35. The membership year begins July 1. Members receive the HSGA Quarterly and other group benefits. **All members who provide an email address will** receive your newsletter electronically. If you wish to receive a printed copy newsletter through the mail, there is an additional \$15 subscription fee to cover printing and mailing costs. Members can obtain an Associate Membership for a spouse or family member at a cost of \$15, added to the annual dues; an Associate Member is entitled to discounts at certain HSGA functions and can vote in HSGA Board elections.

SUBMIT ARTICLES & COMMENTS TO:

HSGA Quarterly, 2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca, CA 95336-9555
E-mail: hsga@hsga.org. Email submitted items directly to the editor at Mike Wittmer webmaster@hsga.org. Letters to the president and general club comments should be sent to: Christo Ruppenthal: 552 Apollo Way, Madison, WI 53718 or emailed to christo@christoruppenthal.com.