



Quarterly
Newsletter

HAWAIIAN STEEL GUITAR ASSOCIATION

Volume 38
Issue 149
Fall-Winter 2022-2023

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Please Contact Us!

Send news, comments, photos, email changes or change of address to:
HSGA
2145 Tiffany Walk
Manteca, CA 95336-9555.
Send us an email at hsga@hsga.org.
Photos will be promptly returned on request.



Malie Lyman headlines our 2023 Festival in Cupertino, California

HSGA Festival 2023

By Roberto Alaniz

Excitement is growing in anticipation of the 2023 HSGA Festival. The event will be held on September 21, 22 and 23, 2023 at the Odd Fellows Hall in Cupertino, California. Cupertino is 45 minutes south of San Francisco and 15 minutes north of San Jose. Malie Lyman, steel player and vocalist, will be our special guest performer. Malie is the granddaughter of the legendary Hawaiian vocalist Auntie Genoa Keawe. Our fellow HSGA member Alan Akaka will be conducting his Hawaiian steel guitar symposium at the same location on Sunday, September 24. For more information on the symposium, please email Alan at : info@KeKulamele.com.

Saturday afternoon will again feature guest performers, several of whom perform professionally in the San Francisco/Bay Area. More information on the program will be provided in the coming months.

The hotel of choice for this event is the Cupertino Hotel, which is a short, walkable block from the Odd Fellows Hall. The Cupertino Hotel has set aside a block of suites for our Festival guests at the rate of \$179 per night. (note this year daily breakfast buffet and two complimentary happy hour drinks are included for hotel guests).

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HAWAIIAN
STEEL GUITAR ASSOCIATION
QUARTERLY
Volume 38, Issue 149

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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 to all steel guitar players and non-players around the world who support the perpetuation of the Hawaiian steel guitar. Annual dues are US\$30. The membership year begins July 1. Members receive the HSGA Quarterly and other group benefits. The Quarterly is mailed four times a year First Class to addresses in the United States and by Air Mail to foreign addresses. Members can obtain an Associate Membership for a spouse or family member at a cost of \$10, 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 USA; E-mail: hsga@hsga.org. In addition, 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 at 552 Apollo Way, Madison, WI 53718 or emailed to christo@christoruppenthal.com.

VF5/More of Foster City Festival

By Roberto Alaniz

HSGA will premier its 5th Virtual Festival on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 4:00 PM Eastern Time. The program will feature video of member performances from the Foster City, California festival that was held in August, 2022. These videos were not included in the VF4 presentation in January. In addition, there will be several additional videos submitted by members since the 2022 Festival.

VF4 is a four-hour program presented in two-hour segments. (4:00 PM to 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Eastern Time).

Aloha! From the HSGA Scholarship Committee

By Daryl Brooke

Since 2018, 10 students have received scholarships from the HSGA scholarship program, with most of the students advancing on to receiving multiple series of lessons. The program awards the scholarships to students in series of 10 lessons per series. Current students can be seen performing at Alan Akaka's festival broadcasts on Hawaiian Steel Guitar Showcase, where Alan regularly features these students as the NextGen players. Most of the performances are recorded and available on YouTube.

Former student scholarship recipients have gone on to become pro level players: Justin Firmeza, who performed at last summers HSGA Festival, and Malie Lyman, who is scheduled to perform as featured artist at this year's HSGA festival.

Not all scholarship students will go on to be pro players, but for sure they will be lovers and supporters of Hawaiian music and the Hawaiian steel guitar.

The HSGA Scholarship committee members (Rick Aiello, John Limbach, Christo Ruppenthal, Thomas Hammerman, Roberto Alaniz, and Chairperson Daryl Brooke) have been busy meeting regularly, exploring ideas to expand the existing scholarship program. Current discussions care centered updating the HSGA website, with current instructors and adding lesson content, as well as an instructor scholarship program.

We are looking for steel guitar instructors for the scholarship program, as well as to be listed on our website to be available for all HSGA members. If you teach or know of good instructors please contact us at: scholarship@hsga.org

The scholarship program is alive with lots more to come.

Mahalo, Members!

Keep those great emails, letters and photos coming! If possible, send original photographs or digital camera output. We cannot use grainy or washed out photos. Please send news, comments, or photos to:

HSGA Quarterly
2145 Tiffany Walk
Manteca, CA 95336-9555
Email us at hsga@hsga.org.

Would you like to advertise in the newsletter?

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

Letter from the HSGA President



Aloha members,

There are quite a few exciting news items to report within the HSGA. A lot of good motion has been taking place in a variety of activities we've been working on between the board members and volunteers.

Of course, first and foremost, the Cupertino gathering, which is coming up in mid-September, is on everybody's mind! We are very much looking forward to welcoming Malie Lyman as our featured artist this year. We're also working on inviting more special Bay Area guest steel guitar professionals to perform for all of you, like last year. We're also very excited to be including the Chinese hula dance troop, which some of you may remember from Fort Collins a few years ago. Throughout this issue you'll find important information and announcements in regards to ticketing and hotel lodging for the festival. Please read through all this information. We are very much looking forward to seeing all of you and hope that we have a large gathering this year!

We're making some great strides on the newsletter/musical tab archive, which has been a large ongoing project over the last couple years. Many of the old issues have been reformatted by our past newsletter editor, John Ely and are ready to go to the scanning company for archival purposes. We hope to have this database thoroughly searchable so you can find past historic articles and player profiles, in addition to all the great music that we've presented to club members over the many years since we began. We still have a few things to work out in the process, but be on the lookout for announcements on how you can access this newsletter archive in the near future.

I would like to recognize HSGA member Josephine Johnson, who has generously donated her father's vintage Rickenbacker A-22 frying pan to the club. You will find a profile of her father, Albert Johnson, who had a long steel guitar career in Canada, in this issue. We will be raffling the instrument at our Cupertino gathering. Its proceeds will benefit our education and scholarship programs. You can find details on the raffle in this issue.

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HSGA Member Marketplace

Do you have equipment to sell? Are you looking for something related to Hawaiian music? Buy & Sell one-paragraph ads are free for paid-up HSGA members.

Look for a page on our website HSGA.org in the Membership tab. <https://hsga.org/member-portal/>

Steel Guitars For Sale:

- > Fender Stringmaster brown double-8
- > Fender Deluxe 6
- > Rickenbacker JB-8 Jerry Byrd model
- > and many more...

Please email:

roberto.alaniz@comcast.net
for photos and prices.

HSGA New Members

NANCY BECK, Indianapolis, FL

TOM OTOSKI, OH

MIKIYA MATSUDA, CA

MILES LANG, Ventura, CA

RONALD MYRES, San Jose, CA

MARTIN MCMILLAN, Port Byron, NY

MARCUS WISWEH, Berlin, Germany

Financial Report

The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association Treasurer's Report-2nd Qtr, 2022-2023

Beginning Balance (10/1/22)	\$	27,086.90	
General Fund	\$	23,146.64	
Scholarship Fund	\$	9,638.58	
Ending Balance (12/31/22)	\$	32,785.22	
Japan Account Ending Balance	\$	1,245.57	(1)
Expenses			
Printing	\$	384.15	
Postage	\$	291.48	
Web/Software/Subscriptions	\$	138.98	
Scholarship for Napoleon	\$	550.00	
Miscellaneous	\$	104.00	(2)
Annual IRS 990 Filing Fee	\$	49.99	
Total Expenses	\$	1,623.06	
Income			
Dues	\$	430.00	
Donations (General)	\$	708.00	
Donations (HIMELEScholarship)	\$	275.00	
Foster City Festival	\$	5,960.00	(3)
Total Income	\$	7,373.00	

(1) \$1,245.57 Dollars = 164,518 Japanese Yen

(2) Flowers for Margie Mays: covered by specific donations.

(3) Brown Paper Tickets payment received in November



Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association Festival '23

September 21-23
Cupertino, California



The hotel of choice for this event is the Cupertino Hotel, which is a short, walkable block from the Odd Fellows Hall. The Cupertino Hotel has set aside a block of suites for our Festival guests at the rate of \$179 per night. (note this year daily breakfast buffet and two complimentary happy hour drinks are included for hotel guests).

Reservations may be made by telephone or email.

Email: res2@cgshotelgroup.com

Phone: 408-522-4927 Mon to Fri (9am-4 pm) Only

Please reference the following information:

Group name: Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival Group

Group code: 1084J8



TICKET PRICES FOR THE FESTIVAL ARE AS FOLLOWS

Members:

- \$125 for 3 day pass (not including Saturday Luau Dinner)
- \$50 per day (Thursday / Friday)
- \$25 Saturday only
- \$65 Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show

Non Members:

- \$150 for a 3 day pass (not including Saturday Luau Dinner)
- \$60 per day (Thursday / Friday)
- \$30 Saturday only
- (FREE for new members who join during the three day festival)
- \$65 Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show
- Students: \$10 per day



Tickets may be purchased online through **Zeffy.com** at the following link:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/59bf0258-5e33-454b-9522-200e109463c6>

(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 2023 Festival
c/o: Roberto Alaniz
2145 Tiffany Walk
Manteca, CA 95336-9555

We request that members who plan on attending complete and return the festival registration form by August 15, 2023. If you would like to perform at the festival, please complete the Performer portion of the registration form, Both of these forms can also be completed online at the hsga.org website.





Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association Festival '23

September 21-23
Cupertino, California



2023 HSGA Festival Registration

Registering for the 2023 HSGA Hawaiian Music Festival in Cupertino, California is a two-step process:

STEP 1

RESERVE YOUR ROOM AT THE CUPERTINO HOTEL

HSGA has arranged for a block of rooms at the Cupertino Hotel from September 20 through 24, 10889 North De Anza Boulevard, Cupertino, CA 95014. The hotel is one short block from the Odd Fellows Hall. The room rate is \$179 +12.195% city tax + 0.195 tourism tax. (includes buffet breakfast) [www.Cupertino-Hotel.com](http://www.cupertino-hotel.com) <http://www.cupertino-hotel.com/>
Group name: Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival Group
Group code: 1084J8

Email & Phone reservation options:

Email: res2@cghotelgroup.com

Phone: 408-522-4927 Mon to Fri (9am-4 pm) Only

STEP 2

REGISTER FOR THE FESTIVAL

To register online, go to:

Or,

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/59bf0258-5e33-454b-9522-200e109463c6>

fill out the form below and send to:

Roberto Alaniz, 2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca, CA 95336.

The registration fee is payable online, when you send in this form, or on arrival. The fees are:

\$125 for a 3-Day Pass (\$150 for non-members)

\$50 for a 1-Day Pass: Thursday or Friday. (\$60 for non-members)

\$25 for the Saturday Super Show (\$30 for non-members)

\$10 for a 1-Day Student Pass: any day

\$65 for a Lūau Dinner & Show Ticket

(separate from the festival pass fee)



HSGA Hawaiian Music Festival Registration Form

September 21, 22, 23, 2023 at the Cupertino Odd Fellows Hall

First time at an HSGA Event?

First & Last Names Of Attendees (Please Print)

Address

City

State / Prov / Country

Zip / Postal Code

Home Phone Number

Payment Of Registration Fee (Check One)

Will You Need Help Finding Back-Up Players?

Email Address

Do You Plan To Perform? Yes / No

Please mail this form by August 31 to Roberto Alaniz, 2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca, CA 95336-9555. Make checks payable to HSGA.

Members requesting playing time will have 25 minutes on stage including set-up time. Please bring 2 sets of chord charts for your backup players. Players, do not wait until August 31 to get this form to us! We will assign playing spots on a first come, first served basis. Don't delay!

Albert Johnson

January 23, 1906, to June 13, 1997 (age 91)



"A Life Dedicated To Music"

Albert Johnson was a true entrepreneur. He began his adult life as a classical violinist, and after moving to Canada from British Guiana in 1938 and exploring the country to determine where he would like to permanently live, he settled in Brandon, Manitoba. There he embarked on his first career as a violin and guitar teacher in Brandon and the small towns around, when he developed a series of lessons for Hawaiian guitar.

His most successful guitar student was Art Ruymar, who subsequently became a noted guitarist in the Hawaiian music genre with his wife Lorene Ruymar, a name familiar to all Hawaiian steel guitarists.

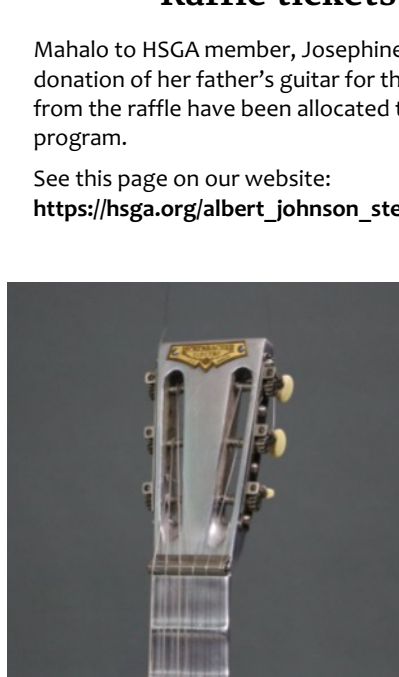
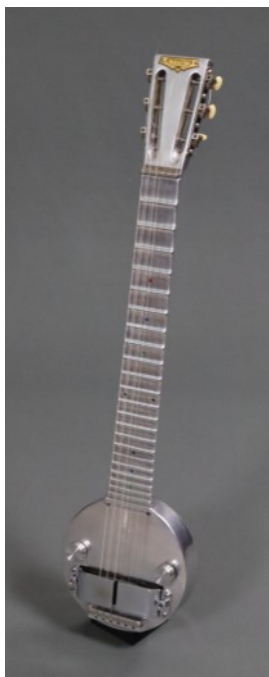
Over the next decade, it soon became apparent to Albert that one thing Brandon needed was a safe place for people to gather to dance. He borrowed some money, and designed and built the Palladium Dance Hall. From the local musicians, he selected a talented group of individuals and arranged the

music for three different bands, a Friday night Old Time Band, a Saturday night Modern Band, and the jewel in his crown, the Big Band and thus began his second career. Very often at these musical events, Albert would feature his Hawaiian steel guitar which was an added dimension that other local bands could not emulate. He remained in the entertainment business for almost 20 years, with his own and other visiting bands, performing every weekend, and at many local events.

During this time, realizing that the amplifiers used by his own groups, as well as visiting bands, were not entirely adequate, Albert completed the study of electronics through the National Radio Institute so he could build a better amplifier for fellow musicians to get the purest sound possible out of their instruments, a sound that was cleanly amplified, but not distorted. His results were so successful that he opened Johnson Sound Systems in Brandon, where he began to manufacture his Johnson series of amplifiers which became popular and much sought-after across Canada, into the States, and in some western European countries. Although he could not mass produce the same way his competitors did, he made up for that by ensuring the highest quality in each amplifier. No amp left his shop without being thoroughly evaluated for flawless sound quality. He developed his business to the point where he sold not only his Johnson amplifiers, but also musical instruments imported from Germany, and a massive array of electronic parts and accessories unrivalled by any other local business. Albert continued to service his customers until the day he died.

Enter to win Albert Johnson's frying pan guitar, donated for the raffle.

Raffle tickets: \$25 or 5 for \$100



Mahalo to HSGA member, Josephine Johnson for the generous donation of her father's guitar for the 2023 Festival raffle. Proceeds from the raffle have been allocated to our Scholarship/education program.

See this page on our website:
https://hsga.org/albert_johnson_steel_guitar_affle/



Encore Performance: The China Hula Dance Troupe

By Roberto Alaniz

Our 2023 Festival is shaping up to be an exceptional event that will feature hula dance as well as Hawaiian steel guitar performances. Local hula dancers from San Jose have volunteered to join our event.

HSGA members who attended the 2018 Festival in Ft. Collins, Colorado will remember our very special guest hula dancers from China. The dance troupe was accompanied by Hawaiian steel guitarist Wang Nian Zu, also from China. Festival attendees were delighted by the polished program presented by our Chinese guests.

HSGA was recently contacted by Douglas Martin, who is married to Cindy Yan (Yan Ying), a member of the 2018 dance troupe. Cindy is now teaching hula and leading her own dance troupe. Douglas advises that they will be in the Northern California Bay Area in September. Cindy and her fellow dancers have graciously offered to be a part of our festival in Cupertino.

Cindy Yan hails from Beijing, China. She is founder of the



Natural Life Hula Dance Studio in Beijing and is a student of Halau Kiuwailehua under kumu Sonny Preston on Oahu, Hawaii.

She is one of the earliest students to share and promote Hawaiian hula in mainland China. Cindy has spent the last ten years traveling regularly to the Hawaiian Islands in order to continue her study of all aspects of hula dance and Hawaiian culture.

Cindy is a member of Beijing's Xicheng District Overseas Chinese Association, a regular performer for the state of Hawaii's official board of tourism branch in mainland China, first chairman of the Chinese Hula Dance Association, a government registered dance examiner in Beijing, and is invited regularly throughout mainland China to perform and speak on topics related to Hawaii and hula dance.

Her students in China range in age from young children to adults and have won several awards and accolades in China.

HSGA Represented at Northern California Ukulele Festival

By Roberto Alaniz

On Sunday, April 30, 2023, The Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association hosted a booth at the 26th Annual Northern California Ukulele Festival in Union City, California. This music and cultural event was founded by the late Hollis Baker and John Ogao. These "uncles" were well known musicians from the San Francisco Bay Area's Polynesian Community and exemplified the grandest of musicians and ukulele players during their time.

The Ukulele Festival featured performances by local ukulele solo artists and groups, as well as dancers in the school's first class Center for Performing Arts. Vendor booths were located on the street just outside of the Center's entrance.

HSGA's purpose was to introduce festival attendees to the

Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association, promote membership, and to invite persons to attend the HSGA Festival on September 23, 2023 in Cupertino, California. We had copies of the Fall 2022 HSGA Quarterly Newsletter and large postcard flyers providing information about our upcoming festival. I had my Excel Frypan guitar on display, which caught the attention of many. Several stopped and were curious about the guitar. I also had my antique looking Bluetooth speaker on the table (also an attention getter), playing Hawaiian steel guitar music throughout the day. Overall, we had lots of good foot traffic and interest at our booth.

Several local HSGA members attended to help staff the booth, including Kalina Wong, Ed Gordon, Rebecca Woo, Nancy Alegria, and Jeanne Skybrooke. Thank you all for supporting this effort. (The jam session that we had was fun too!).

Changed Email?
Please send email/address changes to the staff at hsga@hsga.org
Changed Address?

HSGA Donations
Shinichi and Kumiko Kakiuchi, Fujimino-shi, Saitama Japan
Dick Morris, Salisbury, MD
Kalina Wong, Fremont, CA, \$100

Mahalo

Lovelight In The Starlight

bpm = 90 , swing ballad feel

Bruce Clark Arrangement

6 String C6 E C A G E C

Intro

Cmaj⁷ A^bmaj⁷ D^bmaj⁷ G⁷

1

5 Cmaj⁷ C[#]dim⁷ G⁷ Cmaj⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷b⁹ Fmaj⁷ B^b13

9 Em⁷ Am⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ Em⁷ E^b7 A^bmaj⁷ G⁷

1.

Dm⁷ G⁷ C F⁷ C Gm⁷ C⁷b⁹

12.

3

Chorus 1

16 Fmaj⁷ Em⁷ A⁷(b⁹) Dm⁷ G⁷ D^b/C C Gm⁷ C⁷(b⁹)

T 5 7 7 5 8 8 7
A 5 7 7 5 8 8 7
B 5 7 7 5 8 8 7

20 Fm⁷ B^b7 Am⁷(b⁵) D⁷ G⁷

T 8 3 2 2 1 2 9 10 7 3
A 8 3 2 2 1 2 9 10 7 3
B 8 3 2 2 1 2 9 10 7 3

24 Cmaj⁷ C[#]dim⁷ G⁷/D G⁷ Cmaj⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷(b⁹) Fmaj⁷ B^b7

T 7 6 7 6 7 7 5 7 8 7 7 8
A 7 6 7 6 7 7 5 7 8 7 7 8
B 7 6 7 6 7 7 5 7 8 7 7 8

28 Em⁷ Am⁷ Dm⁷ G⁷ A^bmaj⁷ D^bmaj⁷

T 7 5 5 4 4 3 8
A 7 5 5 4 4 3 8
B 7 5 5 4 4 3 8

Lovelight In The Starlight

3

32 Cmaj7 C#dim7 G7 Cmaj7 Gm7 C7b9 Fmaj7 Bb13

36 Em7 Am7 Dm7 G7 C F7 C Gm7 C7b9

Chorus 2

40 Fmaj7 Em7 A7(b9) Dm7 G7 Db/C C Gm7 C7(b9)

44 Fm7 Bb7 Am7(b5) D7 G7

Lovelight In The Starlight

3

48

Cmaj7 C#dim7 G7/D G7 Cmaj7 Gm7 C7(b9)

T 7 6 7 6 7 7 5 7 8 7
A 7 6 7 6 7 7 5 7 8 7
B

51

Fmaj7 Bb7 Em7 Am7 Dm7 G7

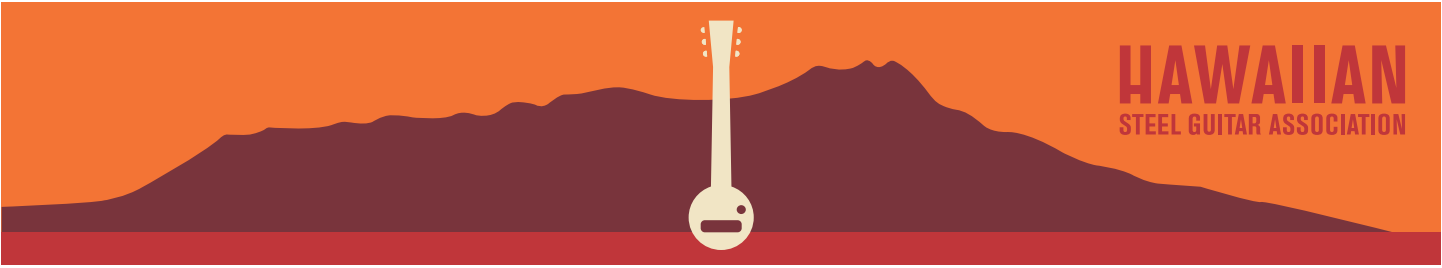
T 7 8 7 7 5 6 5 5 5 7 7 10 12
A 7 8 7 7 5 6 5 5 5 7 7 10 12
B 5 5 5 5 7 7 10 12

54

Abmaj7 Dbmaj7 Cmaj7

T 15 8 7 19
A 15 8 7 19
B 15 8 7 19

gliss.



Membership Application and Renewal 2023-2024

Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association
2145 Tiffany Walk, Manteca CA 95336

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

<p>Name (Please Print)</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<p>Association Member</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<p>Referred By (For New Members)</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
<p>Name (If Changed)</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<p>Phone Number (If Changed)</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<p>Email Address (If Changed)</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
<p>City</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<p>State / Country</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<p>Zip / Postal Code</p> <input style="width: 95%; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES OPTION

- Membership with electronic newsletter \$30
- Membership with hard copy newsletter \$35

OPTIONAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Associate Membership (\$10)
- 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 PAYMENT INFO

Please renew your membership by July 2023 (the upcoming membership year runs from July 1, 2023 - through June 30, 2024). Dues are \$35 if you wish to receive a printed, hard copy newsletter through the mail. Dues remain \$30 if you wish to receive your newsletter electronically.

A \$10 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'. Over-seas members, please use PayPal, Int'l Money Orders or USA bank checks. Checks drawn on non-USA banks are not accepted.

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, y SIGNATURE you need not sign again.)

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

Lunch with Bobby



By Roberto Alaniz

Bobby Black is one of the great steel guitar players of our time. He is best known for his pedal steel prowess in Western Swing and County Rock music during the 70's, playing and touring with Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen, Asleep At The Wheel, New Riders of the Purple Sage, and Barbara Mandrell and the Do-Rites. With Nashville as his home base during that period, Bobby also worked for Pete Drake in his recording studio as the person in charge of Artist & Repertoire.

During his 75-year music career, Bobby has had countless musical engagements and encounters with legendary music stars including Hank Thompson, Marty Robbins, Hank Williams, Sr. and many others. He was lucky to have met or known some of his steel guitar heroes, including Jerry Byrd, Joaquin Murphy, and Pete Drake. Of course, he was well acquainted with most of his contemporaries in the professional pedal steel guitar world.

In the 1990's, I was living in Fremont, California (southeast of San Francisco), working my day job, raising my family, and playing a gig two or three times a year. I did not know Bobby at that time, but I had seen him perform at a couple of steel guitar conventions. I knew that he lived in the Bay Area and played regularly with several local groups. On one occasion, I heard him playing with a jazz group in San Jose and I was totally blown away. Several years later, I heard Bobby playing Western Swing with the Saddle Cats, a group based in Berkeley.

In 2004, Mary and I moved to Manteca, which is in the Central Valley of Northern California, about one hour east of Fremont. As fate would have it, Bobby and his wife Sheila also moved to Manteca a few years later. I actually ran into Bobby standing in line at a local pharmacy, and struck up a conversation. I'm glad to report that we both got over our illnesses. This encounter is where our real friendship began.

Several years ago, Bobby and I started to get together for lunch

on a fairly regular basis. While COVID-19 interrupted our lunches for a couple of years, we are once again starting to visit our favorite eateries, and a few new ones.

Yesterday at lunch, Bobby was sharing his childhood recollections of hearing the "Hawaii Calls" radio shows in the 1930's and 40's. When he first heard the Hawaiian steel guitar, he asked his mother "what is that?". She identified the instrument as the Hawaiian guitar, and he told her that he wanted to learn how to play that instrument.

He also recalls a family dinner outing where they saw Sol K. Bright playing at the Tonga Room of the Fairmont Hotel in downtown San Francisco. The Tonga Room is decorated to simulate a tropical jungle and has a pool with a floating stage in the center of the room. In the early days, the Tonga Room also featured rainstorms with thunder and lightning. Needless to say, young Bobby was very impressed. He rightfully claims Hawaiian music as his earliest musical inspiration.

I first heard a recording by Bobby as a 12-year-old kid in 1960. I was shopping for used 45 records at a flea market in Bell, California, just east of Los Angeles. It was an outdoor marketplace with tables full of records and music blaring over the speakers. That's where I first heard the haunting steel guitar sound of the Five Whispers performing The Midnight Sun on the Dolton Record label. Too timid to ask the storekeeper about the record that I just heard, I bought a handful of rock n' roll 45's and went home.

Well, the tune stuck in my mind, but I still did not know the name of the song or the steel guitar player who recorded it. Fifty years later, I heard a different version of the song and decided to do some on-line research. I discovered that The Midnight Sun was an old jazz standard recorded by many artists. I finally found one steel guitar version by the Five Whispers.

During one of our lunch outings, I asked Bobby if he had ever heard of the Five Whispers. To my surprise, Bobby revealed that the Five Whispers were actually the two Black Brothers (Bobby and Larry). Bobby told me that, during their teen years, they recorded the song in their "home studio" (their bedroom) on a reel-to-reel tape recorder, and proceeded to sell the recording to the Dolton label. (The Ventures first label).

Recently, it occurred to me that I should be sharing some of Bobby's stories with other steel guitar enthusiasts through the HSGA Quarterly Newsletter. So, I am starting this new series entitled "Lunch With Bobby". (I may have to start taking notes or use a portable recorder.)

I look forward to many more lunches with Bobby and hope that you will enjoy some of his stories through this series as much as I do.



Visit our web site
<https://www.hsga.org/>

INSTAGRAM



HAWAIIANSTEELGUITARASSOCIATION

Visit our FaceBook page
<https://www.facebook.com/HawaiianSteelGuitarAssociation>



Hideki Kris Oka

Dr. Hideki Kris Oka, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 77 on Dec. 13, 2022 at his home in San Francisco. Although beyond retirement age, he continued to see patients twice a week, remaining active as a dentist. Partial retirement allowed him to devote time to his passion for playing the Hawaiian steel string guitar, cycling, and spending time in Hawaii.

The middle child of three children, Hideki was born at the Tule Lake Internment Camp on March 19, 1945 where he lived until his parents moved back to San Francisco in 1946. He attended Pacific Heights Elementary School, Benjamin Franklin Middle School, and Lowell High School. After obtaining his B.S. at Hayward State University, he worked as a Medical Technologist at Southern

Pacific Hospital and at UCSF Hospital for many years. He obtained a double Masters of Science degree from SF State and eventually applied to and entered UC Dental School. With his dental degree completed, he opened his own practice near Mt. Zion in 1989 and continued to practice until his passing.



As a youth, he was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 58 of Konkō Church, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. The love of the outdoors, camping and fishing remained with him throughout his life. Hideki played Varsity Football at Lowell High School, loved to ski in the Sierras and in the Rockies, enjoyed cycling, and had a passion for surfing that took him frequently to Hawaii.

Hideki was an accomplished ukelele player and more recently he had mastered the Hawaiian steel guitar, traveling often to Hawaii where he enjoyed the aloha spirit of his local friends and a mutual love of Hawaiian music.

He is pre-deceased by his older sister,

Aileen Mizokami, and survived by his younger sister, Gail Morin (Pierre Morin), and four nephews. A memorial service is pending for family and closest friends. He will be interred at the Japanese cemetery in Colma.

President's message from page 3

Speaking of the scholarship program, there's been some movement in that area of the club's activity. Subcommittee chairman Daryl Brooke has been leading a series of meetings to discuss how to better and more effectively use our scholarship funds. We've had a variety of ideas for new categories for recurring scholarships, including categories for more advanced players and new players who start later in life. We are considering using scholarship/educational funds to generate and host HSGA content for steel guitar beginners on our website. We are also looking for more steel guitar teachers to work with in the program. If you're interested, please contact HSGA.

Board member Eric Rindal has been working to build upon our new branded look for the club with some great new art, as well as some cool new imagery by artist Mookie Sato. We will be working on new t-shirts and merchandise that are themed both around our upcoming festival, and club designs, which will be available. You'll see examples of this throughout the newsletter. We are also working on a way to make our merchandise available year-round through our website so that no one will miss out on the coolest HSGA merchandise!

I'm feeling really positive about the direction our club is going these days. It's exciting to see all these various projects really moving forward. I can't wait to gather, listen, and play with all of you in Cupertino in September. As always, if you have any

thoughts or questions for the board, please feel free to reach out.

Mahalo,

Christo Ruppenthal
HSGA President

An advertisement for OI Acoustics. The background is a dark blue/black image of several steel guitars. The text is white and yellow. At the top, it says "'Oī ~ No Ka 'Oī". Below that, it lists "6, 8 & 10 STRING LEGGED & LAP STEEL GUITARS". Other features listed include "Noiseless Signal Chain", "Pure Tone & Huge Sustain", "AAA Hawaiian Mango", and "Lifetime Guarantee". At the bottom, it says "10% discount to HSGA Members", "Built To Your Tone & Tuning Specs", and the website "www.OiAcoustics.com".

'Oī ~ No Ka 'Oī
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Built To Your Tone & Tuning Specs
www.OiAcoustics.com

HSGA Festival 2023...continued from cover

Reservations may be made by telephone or email.
Email: res2@cghotelgroup.com
Phone: 408-522-4927 Mon to Fri (9am-4 pm) Only

Please reference the following information:
Group name: Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival Group
Group code: 1084J8

Ticket prices for the festival are as follows:

Members:

- > \$125 for 3 day pass
(not including Saturday Luau Dinner)
- > \$50 per day (Thursday/Friday)
- > \$25 Saturday only
- > \$65 Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show

Non Members:

- > \$150 for a 3 day pass
(not including Saturday Luau Dinner)
- > \$60 per day (Thursday/Friday)
- > \$30 Saturday only (FREE for new members
who join during the three day festival)
- > \$65 Saturday Night Luau Dinner & Show
- > Students: \$10 per day

Tickets may be purchased online through Zeffy.com at the following link:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/59bfo258-5e33-454b-9522-200e109463c6>

(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 2023 Festival
c/o: Roberto Alaniz
2145 Tiffany Walk
Manteca, CA 945336-9555

zeffy.com



We request that members who plan on attending complete and return the festival registration form by August 15, 2023. If you would like to perform at the festival, please complete the Performer portion of the registration form, Both of these forms can also be completed online at the hsga.org website.

Missed the Virtual Fests?
You can see them any time:



<https://hsga.org/2021-virtual-hsga-festival/>



<https://hsga.org/virtual-festival-2/>



<https://hsga.org/third-virtual-festival/>

Are you reading the printed copy of the newsletter?

We offer the current and past issues on our website, hsga.org. There is a members portal page that requires a password, HSGA_aloha_member, it will take you to the newsletters page. There you will find the latest newsletter as well as many past newsletters. More will be added from time to time. The online version is in COLOR. They are Adobe Acrobat files (PDF) you can read on line or print out on your printer. You can print the whole issue or just select pages.

Adobe Acrobat reader is free, <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

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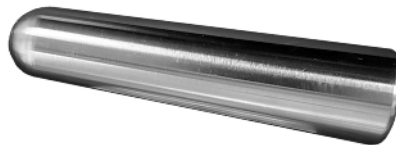
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Send us an email at hsga@hsga.org.
Photos will be promptly returned on request.

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Island Festival News

Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival at Windward Mall

June 10, 2023 – 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM HST
Windward Mall, Kāneʻohe (Oʻahu), Hawaiʻi

Royal Hawaiian Center Presents Waikiki Steel Guitar Week (July 10-15, 2023)

July 10-13, 2023 – 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM HST
Royal Grove Stage, Royal Hawaiian Center, Waikiki (Oʻahu), Hawaiʻi

Royal Hawaiian Center Presents Japan-Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival

July 14, 2023 – 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Royal Grove Stage, Royal Hawaiian Center, Waikiki (Oʻahu), Hawaiʻi

Royal Hawaiian Center Presents Waikiki Steel Guitar Festival

July 15, 2023 – 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Royal Grove Stage, Royal Hawaiian Center, Waikiki (Oʻahu), Hawaiʻi

Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival Keiki Kine at Kāhala Mall

August 19, 2023 – 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Kahala Mall, Honolulu, Hawaiʻi

2023 Northern California Hawaiian Steel Guitar Symposium *

September 24, 2023 – Odd Fellows Lodge, Cupertino, CA

Maui Steel Guitar Festival

October 14, 2023 – 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM HST
The Shops at Wailea, Wailea, Hawaiʻi
October 15, 2023 – 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM HST
Queen Kaʻahumanu Center, Kahului, Hawaiʻi

2023 Hawaiian Steel Guitar Showcase Livestream Broadcasts

Facebook Live/YouTube
All broadcasts originate from the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Showcase Facebook Page and YouTube Channel. Festival broadcasts may also stream from the respective festival's Facebook Page.

Aloha International's July festival

AISGC 2023 Festival

The 2023 AISGC Hawaiian Steel Guitar Festival will take place July 27-29, 2023, in Winchester, Indiana. This year, guest artist Kapono Lopes from Hawaii will be joining us! Kapono's biography can be viewed below. More information about the festival can be viewed at our festivals page.



<https://www.aisgc.org/>

Steel Guitar Resources

Please go to steeltrappings.com for lots of information on these festivals, workshops, radio programs and monthly features.



<https://steeltrappings.com/>

HAWAII INSTITUTE



FOR MUSIC ENRICHMENT AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES



<https://www.himele.org/>



<https://www.hawaiiansteelguitarsymposium.com/>