



Ohta-san

My son has the knowledge, technique, speed, and sensation. He has a better knowledge of Hawaiian music than I do. He also has a different style of playing the 'ukulele, which is good. I wouldn't want him to be a carbon copy of his father. It seemed like only yesterday when Eddie Kamae, my teacher, my friend told me not to be mechanical "play from your heart" he said and "develop your own style". So my son has a lot to look forward to, a lot of living to do, and as he encounters the hardships on a long and winding road ahead, he will grow and become an individual of whom I will be proud.

Ohta - San
Herb Ohta



Roy Sakuma

Herb Ohta, Jr., the son of the legendary 'ukulele artist Ohta-san learned from the master while developing his own unique style. Herb, Jr. studied Hawaiian music throughout his life, and while he has captured the beauty of 'ukulele in traditional music, he has ventured beyond the realm of tradition to explore music in other fields. Herb Jr. is both a craftsman and an artist.

I have been teaching the 'ukulele for over 30 years, and have been fortunate to hear many of the greatest 'ukulele players in the world. I am certain Herb Ohta, Jr. will join the ranks of the legends.

Roy Sakuma



Wayne Harada

Like Father, like son, Herb Ohta, Jr. is the son of Ohta-San. He has listened well, being surrounded by music, and has distinguished himself as a leading next-generation solo artist. There's something quite magical and relaxing about the evocative tones of a trusty 'ukulele, and Junior has become a master in his own right.

Wayne Harada, Entertainment Editor, **The Honolulu Advertiser**



John Berger

For 'ukulele fans who prefer unpretentious technical proficiency over theatrics, Herb Ohta Jr. is the undisputed master 'ukulele instrumentalist of his generation."

John Berger, **The Honolulu Star Bulletin**



Louis "Moon" Kauakahi
The Makaha Sons

Herb's love for the music of these islands are evident with his recordings of some of Hawai'i's traditional island melodies that portrays this inner feeling for his island home. But it's Herb's versatility and ability to adapt to the changing times that will captivate you, the listener, and transport you beyond the deep recess of your mind, an experience you will surely not easily forget.

So, if you may, reminisce with me and let your mind experience the delightful sound of this "magician on the 'ukulele", Herb Ohta, Jr.

And the legacy continues...

Aloha,
"Moon"



Alan Yoshioka
Harry's Music Store Vice President

Herb Ohta, Jr.'s extraordinary and magical 'ukulele styling takes you on a captivating, sweet, and soothing musical journey that is far-reaching into your listening memory. He bursts out with unique arrangements of new and familiar tunes and makes each song breathtakingly fresh and definitely his own. His fortes are his "intros" and "endings" to the songs that he performs. His "intros" are "teasers" to heighten your listening appreciation to what's to follow next and culminates at the end with a satisfying and yet catchy finale.

Herb Ohta, Jr. captures the heart and soul of the 'ukulele and is truly a virtuoso delight.

Alan Yoshioka



Over the past decade, the popularity of the ukulele has risen to unimaginable proportions. We see enthusiasts spanning the globe from the United States and Hawaii to Canada, Australia, England, and as far away as Japan. Emerging from this latest surge has been many exciting new styles as well as a renewed appreciation for those who have paved the way for this beloved instrument.

Hawaii has been the proving grounds as musicians continue to expand the parameters for the ukulele in which it is perceived. The 'ukulele's size and octave range limitations are being steadily removed by the recent crop of musicians. One such person is Herb Ohta, Jr. It is difficult for me to place him in a category or genre as his recording have included Europa, Tsunami, originals as well as traditional Hawaiian.

Though diverse in his musicality, Herb has been outstandingly consistent in a particular fashion. His technical ability can be labeled flawless. Whether he is merely sampling or actually performing, his presentation is always clean and articulate. KoAloha 'Ukulele is proud to have provided instruments to such a fine artisan.

Alan K. Okami
KoAloha Ukulele

Charley Lukela

I've engineered over 270 recordings for all types of music. I've engineered and co-produced 7 recordings (2 Keoki & Herb / 7 solo) with Herb. Herb has the chops and the feel to boldly go where no other 'ukulele player has gone before. And at the same time, he makes it look so easy!

Charley Lukela



Dennis Kamakahi

"Herb Ohta Jr. is a talent that stands out like a highly polished diamond. A talented musician, composer, ukulele stylist, and teacher, he continues to cross the threshold of musical innovations discovering the unknown regions of the music world where other's have not tread."



In addition to being an incredible musician, I consider Herb Ohta Jr. to be a remarkable human being and a treasured friend. Our business relationship evolved out of Herb's appreciation of the Reyn Spooner® product and my appreciation of this young man's talent. Suzie Metivier, our store manager at Reyn's Ala Moana, mentioned that Herb, a frequent customer, wanted to know if he and fellow musician, Keoki Kahumoku, could wear our shirts on their CD cover photos and while they perform. Needless to say, I was flattered. When Herb and Keoki agreed to do some in-store performances and to appear in our Christmas TV commercials, I was indeed pleased and honored. Herb continues to perform in our stores from time to time, and we are thrilled to be able to offer his music to our customers. I can honestly say that Herb Ohta Jr. is an inspiration for musicians and young people everywhere.

Timothy R. McCullough
President / CEO
Reyn's & Reyn Spoon
www.reyns.com



Barry Flanagan

Herb Ohta, Jr. is carrying on the true tradition of the 'ukulele and I am proud and honored to have been part of one of his recordings.

Aloha,
Barry Flanagan
www.hapa.com



Daniel Ho

Herb Ohta, Jr. is one of the few musicians, if not the only, in the world that has reached the enviable level of 'ukulele enlightenment. Herb has an exquisitely rich tone, impeccable rhythm and groove, and a vast chordal lexicon qualities that allow him to effortlessly communicate his emotions through his 'ukulele with heartfelt sincerity and musicality.

Daniel Ho



www.danielho.com



The Makaha Sons

There is ease to the style of music that Herb plays and though he may not be a man of many words he need not be...his fingers do the talking for him.

Herb continues the tradition of the 'ukulele much like his father, but he follows no one else's shadow...he creates his own style as is evident in his recordings and live performances. He will undoubtedly be one of Hawai'i's icons when it comes to the 'ukulele and is certainly among the greats associated with this instrument. He definitely has a lot to share throughout Hawai'i and the World...e ho'omau!!!

Aloha,

Moon, John, & Jerome

The Makaha Sons

www.makahasons.com



Nathan Aweau

Last year (2007), Herb hired me to pull bass on his latest release "Ukulele Journey". This was one of the most professional sessions I have had the joy of being a part of. Herb had all the songs charted out, he knew exactly what he wanted, and as much as I love doing studio work, I don't like living in a studio...we took 2 hours to complete 9 tracks, mainly because Herb was very prepared.

I've also had the good fortune of touring with him...people said that he's very quiet and very reserve. Well I'm here to tell you, "NOT"! He's a prankster, ask Susie Kagami. I had so much fun on this tour. Herb is a very friendly, comical, giving and most sincere people I have ever met.

Now to his playing; I've heard many ukulele players in my time, and Herb is by far the cleanest player I have ever heard. In fact everyone would comment, "there's no buzzing or sliding sounds when Herb plays".

It is very hard to portray emotion with an instrument, and in my view, I believe 'either you got it or you don't'. The first time I saw Herb play he was performing solo 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', and the people around me were crying. They felt it as well as I did. Herb is definitely one of a few musicians that looks at his instrument as an extension of their 'heart and soul'.

There is a lot more that I can say about this true gentleman, but to me he is first and foremost a great friend...

Aloha,
Nathan Aweau
www.nathanaweau.org