



## Herb Ohta Jr. Ukulele Journey Releases: Sept. 18

**Q'nA**

**What local musician do you most enjoy watching perform live?**

They could be Makaha Sons or Hapa, or Ledward Kaapana. There's so many people who I respect and enjoy watching. I like watching Ledward and Barry Flanagan for their musicianship, but in terms of a local group then to me Makaha Sons are the best.

**What is your definition of success?**

Happiness.

**Who or what do you credit for your musical success?**

My father.

**What album do you think you've listened to the most times in your life?**

Probably the Makaha Sons of Niihau's *Ho'oluana* CD.

**What color best describes your personality?**

Blue, but I like orange though for some reason. I have an orange car.

**Where is your favorite place to play music?**

Whittier College, it's a great venue. The

overall ambiance off the place and the people who come. It's very special there. Wolf Trap in Virginia is an outdoor venue that's also great. The Hawaii Theatre is also nice. And there are so many great places in Japan.



Herb Ohta Jr.

**How has music enriched your life?**

It's therapeutic for me. Even though it's my livelihood and my career, with-

out it I wouldn't know what to do with myself. It's not that I don't know how to do anything else. I just think music needs to be heard and music needs to be shared. I always tell this to people, that without music life would be boring. Music is a roller coaster ride of emotions — it makes you laugh, it makes you cry, it makes you smile, and that's healthy for people. People need that. Music just fills one's life with a lot of joy no matter what I think overall.

**What advice would you give to musicians from your years of experience in the business?**

Get out. Nah. (laughs) Work hard and be true to yourself. Also, try not to become a person that you're not and don't imitate anyone. Just be true to yourself and be yourself because that's when you become truly valuable and heartfelt.

**How much of your time is spent on the road touring?**

I'd have to say 60 percent is here and 40 percent is away.

**Where is your biggest fan base, aside from Hawaii?**

The Mainland on the West Coast and Japan. I have a fan club in Japan and I can't really believe it. I don't understand.

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## THE 411 MANUSCRIPT Herb Ohta Jr.

When he was just 3 years old, Herb Ohta Jr. learned to play *Happy Birthday* from his grandmother, and it seems the early teachings have paid off — as he releases his seventh solo recording, *Ukulele Journey*, this month.

What makes Ohta proudest of this new recording is the guest musicians featured on the album, including Jon Yamasato, Ledward Kaapana, Nathan Aweau, Noel Okimoto, James Pilgrim, Michael Guerrero, Ken Lykes, Chino Montero, Moon Kauakahi, Daniel Ho and Barry Flanagan.

"What I'm excited about is I get to collaborate with two musicians whom I really look up to," says Ohta. "Barry, I've recorded with before, but doing something with Moon and Ledward is very special to me."

When Ohta decided to record the song *Kalalahono* on this album, which is written by Moon Kauakahi of the Makaha Sons, he thought it would be respectful to have him be a part of it. The result is a splendid remake with Kauakahi on guitar and vocals.

"I always loved that song," says the University High School grad. "I have to say the Makaha Sons of Niihau is one of the reasons why I'm playing music today, and I always respected Moon Kauakahi because of him being part of the group."

The album includes five originals (written by Ohta), six covers and one traditional Hawaiian song, which are collectively described as a musical voyage fueled by his creative expression and musical imagination.

Besides composing, recording and performing, Ohta also spends a lot of his time teaching ukulele classes either at Harry's Music Store or privately at homes. Ohta's goal? To share the beauty of Hawaii's music, its culture and the ukulele with people all over the world.

For more info about Herb Ohta Jr. visit [www.herbohtajr.com](http://www.herbohtajr.com)



## G Dehnert aka G-Spot

Age: 27

**Music occupation:** DJ and Promoter

**How did you get into the music business?**

Well, my parents met at music school in college. I have two older brothers and a twin sister. We all played two to four instruments. Then house music started popping in Chicago, so I naturalized music on the turntables. Then I would deejay at clubs — get paid, doing music, loving it — so naturally I wanted to scream (promote) that any way I could. Can't stop now, so I do some promotions now too: [www.thelovefestival.com](http://www.thelovefestival.com), [www.chinatowngetdown.com](http://www.chinatowngetdown.com), [www.double-o-spot.com](http://www.double-o-spot.com)

**Places you can be spotted?** Ala Moana Beach Park working out.

Monday: Bowling with Rick Rock at Aiea

Bowl

Wednesdays: deejaying at Acid Wash Wednesdays at Next Door

Thursdays: deejaying at Boardriders '80s night

Fridays: DJ and promote Get Fresh Fridays at Indigo. Not spotted but heard, I'm on from 6-9 p.m. on KTUH 90.3 Digital Cable, unless I am out of town.

**Upcoming/ongoing gigs?** Fridays at Indigo; Univibe Saturday, Sept. 8 at Pipeline featuring Richard Humpty Vission, 20 other DJs and bands; Saturday, Oct. 13 C&C Music Factory, The Cover Girls and Seduction at Pipeline and a lot more.

**Where is the best local spot for great music?** Man, hard to say, so many little gems for dif-

ferent styles and vibes. Andrews at UH is my favorite, every seat is good, we need more events there.

**What's your favorite genre to listen to?**

Hmmm ... I like so many different styles, each one does something for me — house, classic soul, drum 'n' bass, '80s, '90s, trip hop, hip-hop, Prince, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, George Clinton, Depeche Mode — I'll just stop 'cause I can go on for hours.

**Biggest musical accomplishment?** I lost my hearing in second grade, so being able to hear clearly again a year or so later was not as much an accomplishment as a blessing.

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