



# Strumming up Community with the Sounds of Aloha

By Dawn Richards & Heather Canton



## In Coronado, the waves aren't the only thing making music.

What began as a vacation whim has grown into one of Coronado's most joyful and inclusive music groups. In 2015, longtime resident and guitarist Daniel Perwich walked into a music shop in Hawaii and before he knew it, was talked into buying a ukulele, an instrument he had never before played. But he'll admit he walked out with more than just an instrument — he found the inspiration to start the Coronado Ukulele Club.

Inspired by his motto, "More Music, More Love," Daniel's vision quickly garnered local interest. However, the group truly found its rhythm when he enlisted Coronado musician and educator Tricia Lynn Naval to take the lead. With her vibrant energy and extensive musical background, she proved to be the ideal addition to scale the club's membership.

As a versatile musician proficient in multiple instruments, as well as an accomplished vocalist with a background in music theory, Tricia Lynn has played in a variety of bands and also worked as a DJ. Her solid foundation has enhanced the musicianship of both experienced uke players and newbies alike.



Photos by Joel Ortiz





**Photo by Joel Ortiz**

Perhaps that also explains the club's popularity both in San Diego and Coronado. Along with being invited to play on KUSI Morning News, they've had some noteworthy gigs. One of the most meaningful was playing for Sports San Diego's Paddle Out for Life with the Transplant Trekkers, a program of the John Brockington Foundation that raises awareness about organ donation. Held at La Jolla Shores, this annual heartfelt event brings together Trekkers from across the country to honor those who have made organ donations or celebrate their own journeys as organ transplant recipients. Later that same year, the club was invited to play for them again during San Diego's Holiday Bowl Parade.

Some of the most recent gigs include playing for the installation of new officers for Rotary Club of Coronado, Fourth of July Parade, Coronado Flower Show and the Silver Strand Elementary School's Annual Luau Fundraiser. Other events include performances at the Mission San Diego de Alcalá, Imperial Beach VFW, San Diego Youth Services, the Grass Skirt and Scripps Ranch Theater.

At the heart of the Coronado Ukulele Club is a genuine sense of connection. Through weekly rehearsals and performances, the group has formed a strong bond, supporting each other through life's vagaries by celebrating momentous occasions and pitching in during times of crisis. A key part of this interconnectedness comes from knowing they can always rely on Tricia Lynn's steady presence and positive encouragement, fostering a sense of 'ohana, a Hawaiian term for family or community. As she so aptly expresses, "It's more than just chords and lyrics — it's about lifting each other up."

Newcomers of all levels are welcome at rehearsals on the second, third and fourth Mondays from 4pm to 5:15pm at Sacred Heart Church Parish Hall. On the first Monday of each month, from 4pm to 6pm, the group meets at various local restaurants to enjoy an informal open mic night, suitably named kanikapila, after the Hawaiian tradition of casual musical jam sessions among friends and family. If you can't make it in person, all rehearsals are live streamed on the club's YouTube channel. To learn more, visit [CoronadoUkuleleClub.com](http://CoronadoUkuleleClub.com).

There's something about the ukulele that resonates with our local surf culture. Maybe it's the portable size, the sunny sound, or the way it brings people together — just like a great set of waves. So, whether you're fresh from a surf session or just soaking up the seaside air, the Coronado Ukulele Club is ready to welcome you with a song in the key of aloha. 🌺

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*“America is a tune. It must be sung together.”*

—Gerald Stanley Lee

