

The Honolulu Advertiser entertainment

benefit has soul

By WAYNE HARADA
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I am convinced that Hawaiian entertainers have soul. It is a rare feeling of movement, of emotion, of communication.

Soul has been mostly applicable to rock and blues com-

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bo of late, but our local folks have it, too. They were soulin' it like never before Monday night at a special benefit show for The Advertiser Christmas Fund.

IT WAS like an all-star gathering. Most performers were on the Hula Records roster. Some of the entertainers came from the audience—like Elizabeth Pa, who doffed her shoes and skipped onto stage, to join in the celebration.

It was, at best, an old-fashioned blast—informal, invigorating, immensely intimate.



Kamae

Lake

Genoa

Vaughan

Kaleikini

Ohta

Bowman

The site was the Queen Kapiolani Hotel's Akala Dining Room. So you had to wait 30 minutes to get into the room, and perhaps another 30 to get through the buffet line? But I'm certain no one left unhappy.

IT WAS a good buy—a steal, really—for a worthy cause. In the spirit of giving, a host of Islanders on the bright side of the footlights joined musical forces to present a continuous revue of top-notch entertainment.

As master of ceremonies, Kent Bowman switched on and off his K. K. Kau'manua character, conversationally disposing bits of irreverent and often irresistible humor—about Christmas, about K. K.'s space program.

BUT THE feast was in the music department, with top headliners in the Island night club circle taking their turns on stage.

Some capsule comments on the acts:

● Herb "Ohta-san" Ohta and his group, featuring Linda Green, were in fine form, but had had the unfortunate task of opening the show while most people were still waiting in lines—either inside the banquet room or outside. As such, the troupe—who are resident performers

at the Queen Kapiolani's Peacock Dining Room—sang in a setting of overpowering din. Still, Miss Green's vocal radiance caught many an eye and ear.

● Danny Kaleikini and his ensemble gave a mini-version of their Kahala Hilton Hala Terrace show—a lively gift-pack of serious and comic vocals by Kaleikini, hulas by soloist Kaipuala Hutchinson, and merry tones from Jimmy Kaopuiki's band. Kaleikini's "International Medley" was a bright spot.

● Palani Vaughan and his Sunday Manoa group, weekend attraction at the Outrigger Canoe Club, provided old-fashioned artistry vocally and instrumentally. This young trio continued to amaze me with its flair and inventiveness usually associated with much older groups. Vaughan's "Tutu Kane" rendering was a highlight.

● GENOA KEAWE was a

surprise addition to the show. Her usual smiling face was an asset to her sprightly repertoire, and her new group—including her son, Gary Aiko—proved to be warm and with it.

● Kahauanu Lake and his trio provided the most varied revue. Besides some stand-out vocalry, Lake delved into mere back-up capacity and featured the stunning voice of Nina Kealiwahamama, who came out of sick bay to join in the benefit.

ALSO, the Na Opio Dancers—who, like Lake, perform regularly at the Kaimana Beach Hotel—featured a fashionable assortment of both kane and wahine dancing. The one I liked best was "Wahine Holo Lio," the horseback riding ditty, although admittedly, the solo on "The Boy From Laupahoehoe" was a real crowd-

pleaser.

● Eddie Kamae and his Kaimana Serenaders—also from the Kaimana Beach Hotel—proved to be the frosting on the Christmas cake. They not only closed the show, but stayed a good time afterwards. Leinaala Haili's vocals were crisp and charming, and Dave Chamberlain's trumpet added a nice glow to the Hawaiian sound.

WITH THE exception of Miss Haili, who is a Makaha Records star, the principals

in the show have recorded albums for Don McDiarmid Jr.'s Hula Records.

In a hectic period when retailers, wholesalers, and just about everyone in all walks of life are making holiday overtime pay, it's interesting to note that entertainers are doing their show biz thing with no extra pay, just to bring yuletide cheer to the less fortunate.

A tip of the hat, too, to the Waikiki Jaycees, who helped coordinate ticket sales for the successful Christmas Fund benefit.

typewriter ribbons Sherman col.

It's a holiday for porpoise Kea Kiko visiting Kahala Hilton resident dolphins Uku Kui and Nihoa, while her tank at the UH's Marine Research Center at Kewalo Basin is being remodeled . . . Hank Kipper's Mastercolor photo lab has burgeoned into one of the top color photo finishing outfits in the Islands in only 2½ years. Hank is doing all the color printing for photos in Bob Goodman's \$250,000 book, "The Hawaiians" . . .

The Bishop Museum has a magnificent display featuring the invisible lady (see thru, life-size statue showing all the innards and anatomical mechanisms) — but can't show it for lack of funds . . . Current Sports Illustrated carries a pix and story on Farrington High fullback Onosai Tanuvasa and his ILH record-breaking heroics . . . Duke's mgr. Henry Ayau flipping over a painting gift'd him by Island artist Wallace Young — an oil of the Outrigger crew that won the Molokai Channel race. Ayau was one of the paddlers . . . I hope you all had a Merry Christmas . . .