

Veary offers up \$100 and her voice in PBS drive

By Ben Wood

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COURTESY BRYAN BOSWORTH
Emma Veary with her daughter Robyn Kneubuhl.

AT AGE 81, **Emma Veary** still has the golden voice that has made her one of Hawaii's biggest and brightest singing stars for decades. PBS Hawaii's "Hawaiian Airlines Presents Na Mele: Emma Veary at the Halekulani," aired by the station Sunday night, was a thing of beauty. The show was filmed in a lovely setting at the hotel's House Without a Key in April with Jimmy Borges as emcee. Emma sang the Hawaiian and hapa-haole songs that made her one of the great voices of Hawaii, hitting high notes clearly and with power. There is no rust on those golden pipes. Emma first graced the Halekulani's main stage in 1973, singing such hits as "Kamehameha Waltz," "E Malia Mai," "Kuu Pua I Paoakalani" and "Lovely Maile Lei." She sang them on the show, accompanied by pianist Randy Hongo, along with about eight other numbers. They brought back fond memories. Emma's daughter, Robyn Kneubuhl, danced hula and sang an Antonio Carlos Jobim tune in Portuguese, "Voce Vai Ver." Good stuff! Another daughter, K. Noelani Bennette, joined

in with a hula on a number. Another great Hawaii voice, Nina Kealiawahamana, and hula standout Bev Noa performed "Waipio." Harpist Nyle Hallman was another guest. Borges closed things with "How High the Moon." ...

EMMA WATCHED the show in the PBS studio Sunday with PBS Hawaii CEO Leslie Wilcox and Hawaiian music authority Harry B. Soria Jr. As fundraising pledges for PBS were taken by phone by Ruby Tuesday personnel, Emma donated a \$100 bill and asked viewers to match it. Imagine, a \$100 donation from the star. The show will be repeated Monday at 7:30 p.m. on PBS Hawaii. Don't miss it. ...

JUSTIN BIEBER, while vacationing on Maui with girlfriend Selena Gomez, had dinner at Kimo's Lahaina oceanfront restaurant May 26. They dined on shrimp cocktail and top sirloin and thanked Kimo's marketing manager, Jack Starr, for keeping their visit low-key. A surprise for the couple was a performance by The Five Strings, made up of five young siblings from St. George, Utah, who play violins. They range in age from 18 months to 11. The little toddler is pictured with her fiddle on their website, thefivestrings.com. She may not do much fiddling but she moves around and gets in on the action. ...

ULRIKE CUTTER is delighted that Miss Hawaii USA Angela Byrd will be wearing vintage beads from her BlissBiss collection in the Miss USA Pageant at Planet Hollywood Resort in Las Vegas June 19. Ulrike says the beads were pressed prior to World War I. Ulrike can be contacted at: ucutter@yahoo.com. ... More than 300 guests at Prince Resorts Lokomaika'i for Japan dinner at the Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki on May 27, plus donations from the resorts' associates at the company's three hotels and golf courses, raised \$31,000 for Japanese victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. ...