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The Ukulele Orchestra  
of Great Britain

3.16.25

SEASON  
34





## PROGRAM

# The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

Peter Brooke Turner – *Soprano ukulele*  
 Guy Bellingham – *Tenor ukulele*  
 Ben Rouse – *Tenor ukulele*  
 Guy Hargreaves – *Concert ukulele*  
 Leisa Rea – *Soprano ukulele*  
 Laura Currie – *Concert ukulele*  
 Laurie Higgins – *Bass ukulele*

Artists appear from Left to Right.

The program will be announced from the stage and  
 there will be a 20-minute intermission.



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## 40th Anniversary Tour

Formed in 1985 as the antidote to mindless pop, egocentric rock, and the indulgent bluster of the music business, The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain donned black tuxedos and began giving 'concerts' in tiny rooms above old pubs.

Four decades (and 400,000,000 plucks) later they're still thrilling audiences with their off-beat humor and four-stringed virtuosity from Tasmania to the Arctic Circle, Windsor Castle to Carnegie Hall.

There are no drums, pianos, backing tracks, guitars, or banjos, no pitch shifters or electronic trickery - just an astonishing revelation of the rich palette of orchestration afforded by ukuleles and a menagerie of voices in a collision of post-punk performance and old classics.

Come and celebrate the 40th anniversary of this much-loved institution, on a white-knuckle shopping trolley dash through every kind of musical genre. From ABBA to ZZ Top, Tchaikovsky to Nirvana, Bluegrass to Broadway, all played on the 'bonsai guitar'.

Musical Director: George Hinchliffe

Creative Producer: Leisa Rea

Tour Management: Viola Farrington

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Arts Management Group, Inc., 130 W. 57th St., NY, NY 10019

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*in honor of CSU President, Dr. Georj L. Lewis*

*For the enjoyment of all concert guests, please turn off your cell phone during the concert.*

*Recording and photography of Spivey Hall performances are prohibited. Thank you.*



## The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain Biographies

### **Peter Brooke Turner, *Soprano Ukulele***

Born in Portugal and having grown up in the Soviet Union, Brazil, America, Finland, Italy, and Britain, Peter dominates the skyline at over 6'7" tall. After false starts on the violin, trumpet, and guitar, he turned to the ukulele and joined the Orchestra. Peter has worked with many showbiz greats, even lending his uke to Tiny Tim. Away from the tuxedo, Peter has an alter ego, 'Tony Penultimate', whose musical shenanigans and albums have a website of their own.

### **Guy Bellingham, *Tenor Ukulele***

Guy is a multi-skilled performer and veteran of the circus and cabaret scene. He trained at Circomedia in juggling, clowning, and physical comedy and has performed internationally on stage, on television, and in variety for 25 years. He was a founding member of the legendary comedy jazz band 'The Hot Potato Syncopators'. Guy is also a multi-award-winning tintype photographer and musical saw virtuoso.

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## Ben Rouse, Tenor Ukulele

Ben is a multi-instrumentalist who plays guitar, mandolin, violin, saxophone, flute, trumpet, banjo, and ukulele. His background as an all-rounder led him to form the rock band 'Purple Monkey' and the folk duo 'Teapot Junkies'. Ben has also released several albums of his original music. Born in Cornwall, he now lives near Chichester, where he enjoys sailing, electronics, and astronomy. But not all at once.

## Guy Hargreaves, Concert Ukulele

Guy is a seasoned performer and theatre maker from Lancashire with a background in acting, dance, clown, puppetry, and music. He has directed shows for The National Youth Theatre and made short films about friendly ghosts for his local Carnegie Library. He's appeared in iconic British television programs, such as 'Coronation Street' and 'East Enders' as well as penning his solo show about letter writing, ballet dancing, and growing up. Guy is a keen artist and hill climber. Sometimes he combines the two.

## Leisa Rea, Soprano Ukulele

Leisa has a rich background in performing, directing, and writing for stage, television, and radio, working with several established names including Miranda Hart (BBC) Jack Rooke (Channel 4), and Live at the Apollo comic, Jen Brister. She's produced her solo shows and written many original songs for 'Adams & Rea', with whom she won the Musical Comedy Awards (2009). Leisa has Irish Italian heritage, plays uke, guitar, and percussion, and lives in London.

## Laura Currie, Concert Ukulele

Laura was born in Dumfries, Scotland, and joined the Orchestra shortly after graduating from Edinburgh University in English Literature. She started playing the ukulele at the age of 15 after seeing the Ukes in concert

and, inspired, fronted her first rock band a year later. Away from the Orchestra, Laura performs under the stage name Ra, writing and releasing original material. She has garnered an active online following for her eclectic mix of self-produced YouTube videos. She also plays piano, bass, and guitar.

### **Laurie Higgins, Bass Ukulele**

Laurie is a professional bass player from Dorset, who has many years of experience playing and recording with a huge variety of artists including Robbie McIntosh, Mutter Slater, and Steve Jones. Having studied jazz and composition, he is busily involved in writing and arranging music as well as in music education. Laurie has provided his signature sound on tour with the Orchestra in the UK, Germany, Austria, Sweden, and now, the USA.

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The Spivey Hall Friends Council undertakes initiatives to increase membership in the Spivey Hall Friends, assists in promoting Spivey Hall's programming to attract new and diverse audiences from throughout metro Atlanta and beyond, provides advocacy and support for fund-raising efforts consistent with Spivey Hall's mission, and organizes social and music-related events for Spivey Hall Friends to engage with one another.

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