



SAN FRANCISCO
PERFORMANCES

presents...

UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

Peter Brooke Turner | Soprano Ukulele
Ben Rouse | Tenor Ukulele
Leisa Rea | Soprano Ukulele
Laurie Higgins | Bass Ukulele

Guy Bellingham | Tenor Ukulele
Guy Hargreaves | Concert Ukulele
Laura Currie | Concert Ukulele

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 | 7:30pm

Herbst Theatre

The program will be announced from the stage.

There will be a 20-minute intermission.

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain is represented by Arts Management Group, Inc.
130 W. 57th Street, Suite 6A, New York, NY 10019 artsmg.com

For Tickets and More: sfperformances.org | 415.392.2545



ENSEMBLE PROFILES

San Francisco Performances presents Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain for the second time. The ensemble made its SF Performances debut in March 2022. They also appeared in the PIVOT Online series in April 2021 during the shutdown.

A celebrated musical juggernaut for four decades, thrilling audiences from Tasmania in the South Pacific to Svalbard in the Arctic Circle, Windsor Castle to Carnegie Hall, the all-singing, all-plucking **Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain** continues to break the mould with a programme of new tunes as well as old classics.

A concert by the Ukulele Orchestra is an unforgettable experience. A witty, quirky, irreverent, joyful, foot-stomping obituary of rock & roll and melodious light entertainment, all played on the “bonsai guitar.” Add to this a menagerie of voices, eccentric humour, and a fusion of post-punk energy meets afternoon tea, and a wonderful night of entertainment is guaranteed.

There are no pianos, backing tracks or banjos, no pitch shifters or electronic trickery. Only an astonishing revelation of the rich palette of orchestration afforded by different sized ukuleles, vocal harmonies, and a bit of whistling. Prepare yourselves for a roller coaster ride through every musical genre. From Abba to ZZ Top, Tchaikovsky to Nirvana, whether its Soul, Funk, Classical, Country, Pop, Rock, Punk or Folk, in the hands of the Ukulele Orchestra, musical alchemy unites and transports the audience.

So in demand, they find themselves perpetually “on a world tour with hand luggage only,” The Ukulele Orchestra are delighted to be back in the USA once again with our friends across the pond. Buckle up.

Musical Director: **George Hinchliffe**
 Creative Producer: **Leisa Rea**
 Tour Management: **Viola Farrington**
 Sound: **Verena Rogler**

Peter Brooke Turner (Soprano ukulele). Born in Portugal and growing up in the Soviet Union, Brazil, America, Finland, Italy, and Britain, Peter dominates the skyline at over two metres 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 all 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 legendary comedy jazz band “The Hot Potato Syncopators.” Guy is also a multi award-winning tintype photographer and musical saw virtuoso.

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 own 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 programmes, such as ‘Coronation Street’ and ‘East Enders’ as well as penning his own 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 own 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 her own 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’ 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.