

THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

SOPRANO UKULELE Peter Brooke Turner
BARITONE UKULELE Ben Hales
TENOR UKULELE Ben Rouse
CONCERT & SOPRANINO UKULELE Leisa Rea
CONCERT UKULELE Guy Hargreaves
TENOR UKULELE Laura Currie
BASS UKULELE Laurie Higgins

MUSICAL DIRECTOR George Hinchliffe
CREATIVE PRODUCER Leisa Rea
TOUR MANAGEMENT Claire Risseeuw
SOUND Verena Rogler

Zellerbach Theatre
Saturday, April 11 @ 7:30 PM

There will be an intermission.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Peter Brooke Turner (Soprano Ukulele)

Born in Portugal and growing up in the Soviet Union, Brazil, America, Finland, Italy and Britain, Brooke Turner dominates the skyline at over 2 meters tall. After false starts on the violin, trumpet and guitar, he turned to the ukulele and joined the Orchestra. Brooke Turner has worked with many showbiz greats, even lending his uke to Tiny Tim. Away from the tuxedo, Brooke Turner has an alter ego, "Tony Penultimate," whose musical shenanigans and albums have a website all of their own.

Ben Hales (Baritone Ukulele)

Hales is a musician, composer and songwriter based in London. He spent the 2000's playing guitar with chart-topping, yearning man-band Aqualung, the 2010s writing music for BBC sketch shows (*Watson & Oliver*, *Dick & Dom*, *Count Arthur Strong*) and the 2020s making theatre with several companies, including his own, *Splendid*, in places like Battersea Arts Centre and Shakespeare's Globe. Hales is hoping the next decade will feature more ukuleles.

Ben Rouse (Tenor Ukulele)

Rouse 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. Rouse has also released several albums of his own original music. Born in Cornwall, he now lives on the west coast of Wales, where he enjoys sailing, making his own electric ukes and a bit of astronomy. But not all at once.

Leisa Rea (Concert & Sopranino Ukulele)

Rea has a diverse background in performance, music, directing and writing for stage, television and radio, working with many 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 a raft of original songs for Musical Comedy Award winners Adams & Rea. Rea has Irish-Italian heritage, plays uke, guitar and percussion and lives in London.

Guy Hargreaves (Concert Ukulele)

Hargreaves 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 has appeared in iconic British television programs (*Coronation Street* and *East Enders*) and is penning his own solo show about letter writing, ballet dancing and growing up. Hargreaves is a keen artist and hill climber. Sometimes he combines the two.

Laura Currie (Tenor Ukulele)

Currie was born in Dumfries, Scotland, and joined the Orchestra shortly after graduating from Edinburgh University. She started playing the ukulele at the age of fifteen after seeing the Ukes in concert and, inspired, fronted her first rock band a year later. Away from the Orchestra, Currie performs under the stage name Ra and releases her own original material. Her eclectic mix of self-produced YouTube videos have garnered an active online following. Currie also plays piano, bass and guitar.

Laurie Higgins (Bass Ukulele)

Higgins 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 also busily involved in writing and arranging music and in music education. Higgins continues to provide the "heartbeat" for the Ukulele Orchestra with his signature sound as the group tours in the UK, Europe, America and across the world.