

THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

Dave Suich
Peter Brooke-Turner
Hester Goodman
George Hinchliffe
Kitty Lux
Will Grove-White
Jonty Bankes
Richie Williams
Associate player: David Coulter

8pm Marquee on the lawn at rear of **NEW** Festival Club in Milton Road



The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain started life as a bit of fun in 1985. The first gig, intended as a one-off, sold out, and after one more gig the Orchestra was on national radio. Since then there have been hundreds of appearances on radio and TV worldwide. The orchestra has toured to America, Canada, Belgium, Sweden,



Finland, Ireland and Japan, and played in venues as diverse as Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, The Royal Festival Hall, Glastonbury Festival, Chicago

Chamber Music Festival and The Edinburgh Festival.

The Orchestra has rhythm, bass, baritone, tenor, soprano and lead ukulele players, creating a rich palette of orchestration possibilities and registers.

Dave has been a compere at Glastonbury for the last ten years and is also in a rap band. Peter, veteran of TV comedy, has been a Eurovision Song Contest finalist. Hester has done solo shows, TV, theatre and dance. George has written TV and film music and played 100 songs from 100 years in 100 minutes. Kitty received a major songwriting award and the Queen's Award for Industry. Will has made acclaimed TV programmes and can pull monkey faces. Jonty has been part of the rhythm section for many legendary rock and blues artists and is the current official Ukulele Orchestra whistling champion of the world. Richie can spot a wagtail from fifty metres and enjoys a spot of light cleaning.

All you need to know about the ukulele:

The ukulele is a small four-string, re-entrant tuned, plucked chordophone. In other words, it has four strings, and if you play it right-handed, the string nearest your nose is tuned high. A ukulele is a bit like a small guitar although the construction details are different and give it a distinctive tone.

The ukulele is not related to the banjo, although the ukulele-banjo is often referred to as a 'uke'; it is arguably related to the cavaquinho, the braguina, the cuatro, the mandora, the chittarino and the requinto. The early guitar had four strings, so a modern guitar can be thought of as a 'genetically modified' ukulele. A ukulele can be thought of as a 'bonsai' guitar.



The traditional wood for ukulele construction in Hawaii is koa, though many ukuleles are made from other woods. In the UK, a reasonable uke can be found for around £25 although one can find old collectable ukes or high quality instruments which cost thousands of pounds.

The history of the ukulele, from its origins in Madeira via early construction and naming in Hawaii to its popularity in America, is well documented.

How did the ukulele get its name?

It could be that in 1879 in Honolulu, Joao Fernandes, who had just disembarked from Madeira, played the braguina with such virtuosity and speed that the Hawaiians, impressed with his

jumping fingers, called the instrument the ukulele, meaning dancing flea. Perhaps the name comes from ukeke lele or dancing ukeke (the ukeke is a Hawaiian musical bow).

Why play the ukulele?

The ukulele is small, convenient and relatively inexpensive, and you can quickly and easily learn the basics to a rewarding level. You can then undertake a world tour with only hand luggage. Some people go so far as to say that playing a tune on a ukulele is a way of identifying good music: if the composition is good, it sounds good on a ukulele; the very limitations of the instrument encourage thinking creatively about music.

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