



UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7:30 PM

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

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UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

As seated from left to right:

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*

Musical Director: George Hinchliffe

Creative Producer: Leisa Rea

Tour Management: Viola Farrington

Sound: Verena Rogler

Program to be announced from the stage.

There will be one 20-minute intermission.

**This performance is supported in part by gifts from
Dr. Charles Y. Davis and Mrs. Carole Davis and
Mr. Edwin H. Talley and Mrs. Melinda P. Talley.**



BIOGRAPHIES

UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

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 mold with a program 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-and-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 it's 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, the members find themselves perpetually "on a world tour with hand luggage only," the Ukulele Orchestra is delighted to be back in the U.S. once again with its friends across the pond. Buckle up.

PETER BROOKE TURNER, SOPRANO UKULELE

Born in Portugal and growing up in the Soviet Union, Brazil, America, Finland, Italy, and Britain, Peter Brooke Turner dominates the skyline at over 2 meters tall (over 6'5"). After false starts on the violin, trumpet, and guitar, he turned to the ukulele and joined the orchestra. Turner has worked with many showbiz greats, even lending his uke to Tiny Tim. Away from the tuxedo, Turner has an alter ego, "Tony Penultimate," whose musical shenanigans and albums have a website all of their own.

GUY BELLINGHAM, TENOR UKULELE

Guy Bellingham is a multi-skilled performer and veteran of the circus and cabaret scene. Bellingham 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. Bellingham is also a multi-award-winning tintype photographer and musical saw virtuoso.

BIOGRAPHIES, cont.

BEN ROUSE, TENOR UKULELE

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

GUY HARGREAVES, CONCERT UKULELE

Guy Hargreaves is a seasoned performer and theatre maker from Lancashire with a background in acting, dance, clown, puppetry, and music. Hargreaves 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 own solo show about letter writing, ballet dancing, and growing up. Hargreaves is a keen artist and hill climber. Sometimes he combines the two.

LEISA REA, SOPRANO UKULELE

Leisa Rea 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. Rea has produced her own solo shows and written many original songs for Adams & Rea, with whom she won the Musical Comedy

Awards (2009). Rea has Irish-Italian heritage; plays uke, guitar, and percussion; and lives in London.

LAURA CURRIE, CONCERT UKULELE

Laura Currie was born in Dumfries, Scotland and joined the orchestra shortly after graduating from Edinburgh University in English literature. Currie 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, Currie 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. Currie also plays piano, bass, and guitar.

LURIE HIGGINS, BASS UKULELE

Laurie Higgins 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, Higgins is busily involved in writing and arranging music as well as in music education. Higgins has provided his signature sound on tour with the orchestra in the U.K., Germany, Austria, Sweden, and, now, the U.S.

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain first performed at the Moss Arts Center in 2015.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!



We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to *Celebrating 20 Years of the Crooked Road* on Friday, July 12, 2024. bit.ly/uke-orchestra-feedback

ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

PERFORMANCE: BELVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UKULELE CLUB

Led by music teacher Natalie Gibbs, the Belview Ukulele Club showcased a mix of popular music and classic folk songs prior to tonight's performance.

Special thanks to Natalie Gibbs, Derry Hutt, and Pat Hyer



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is just the opening act.

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IN THE GALLERIES

Through Sunday, April 21

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Tarrah Krajnak

Rodrigo Valenzuela

All galleries

Messengers explores the use of photography to communicate — not only through visual aesthetics, but to transmit more profound personal, cultural, and societal messages. Photography acts as a conduit for the artists' hybrid interdisciplinary approaches, enabling them to convey rich and multifaceted narratives, evolving through their formal and material languages.

Tarrah Krajnak; Self-Portrait as Weston/as Charis Wilson, 1934/2020, 1925/2020, 2020 (detail); from Master Rituals II: Weston's Nudes series; silver gelatin print; 10 x 8 inches; ed. of 5, 2 AP; exhibition copy on view; © Tarrah Krajnak, courtesy Zander Galerie

K-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

At the Moss Arts Center, we believe that arts experiences are a crucial part of a child's education. We've been dedicated to providing opportunities for children at no cost since we opened in 2013. A wide array of Moss programming and experiences to inspire, engage, and empower students of all ages and backgrounds. This season, we're offering five school-day matinee programs, in-school workshops and performances, and gallery tours with professional artists for learners of all ages.

Learn more at bit.ly/moss-K12.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the last year, public, private, and home-schooled students of all ages and backgrounds have traveled to the Moss Arts Center from 13 Virginia localities, with the largest percentage coming from Southwest Virginia cities and counties. For many of these students, visiting the Moss is the first time they've ever been to a performing arts facility or a gallery.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in California and other areas in the West.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.

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We are grateful for the generosity of our patrons and donors who sustain the Moss Arts Center with their annual gifts. The impact of all contributions, no matter the amount, is significant in helping us transform lives through exploration and engagement with the arts and the creative process. We are honored to have received cash donations during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, from the following:

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ENDOWMENTS

The Moss Arts Center extends its appreciation to those donors who have established endowments in support of the arts.

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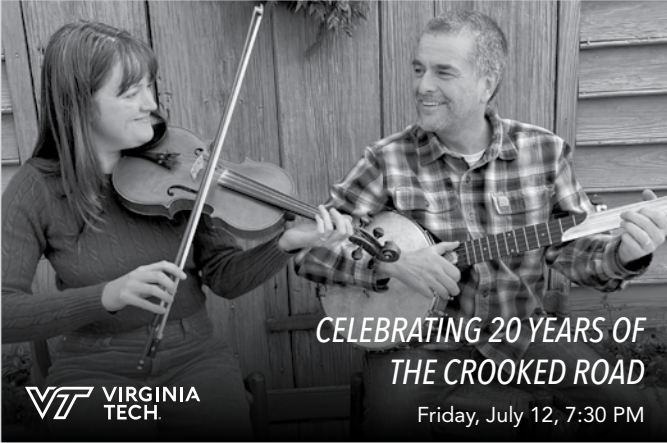
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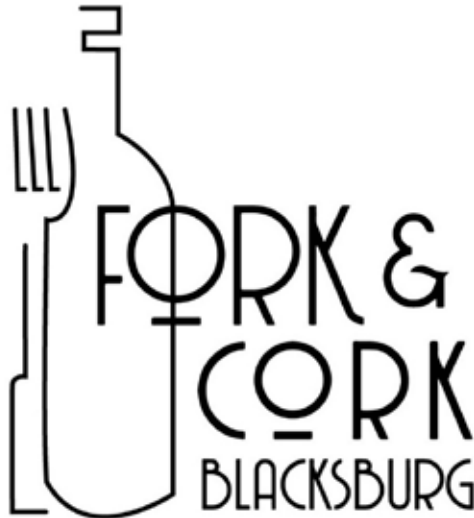
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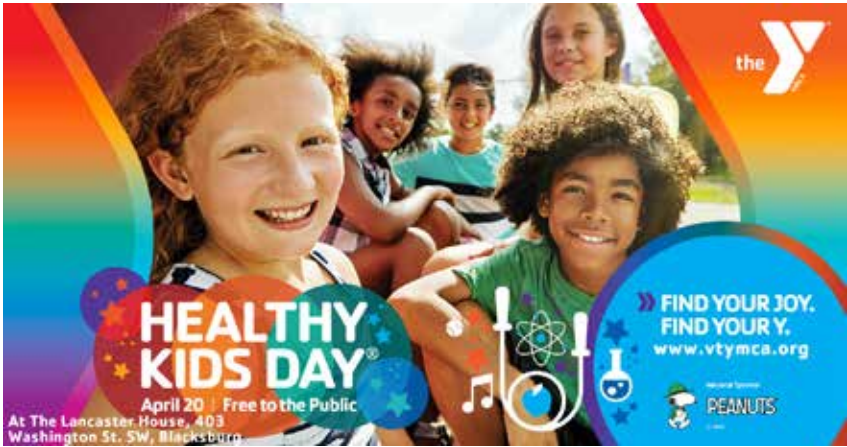
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member of



YMCA AT VIRGINIA TECH



Meet the Y Team

Emma Kennedy (top picture)

Sophomore at Virginia Tech
Studying sociology and humanities for public service
YMCA at VT Volunteer Coordinator
AmeriCorps Member

Emma is the volunteer coordinator for the YMCA at Virginia Tech and is enjoying giving back to the VT and Blacksburg community through recruiting and engaging with volunteers!

Emma is from Richmond, VA and is an active member of Zeta Tau Alpha.

Meet more Y Team members in the next MAC program!



Lauren Blakemore

Director of Community Engagement at the YMCA at Virginia Tech

I feel very proud to be part of such a wonderful nonprofit organization.

As Director of Community Engagement I really enjoy spending time with members of our community, whether it be with Virginia Tech, Radford University or NRCC students or with those who live in this area year round.

You'll most likely see me at our many events, usually running around making sure everything is going well!

I'd love to hear from you if you are interested in knowing more about our wonderful Y and how you can get involved! Contact me anytime at engagement@vtymca.org

