



SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

27-29 MAY, 2016 - WWW.NORTHERNUKE.COM



04

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE ON THE VINYL TAP STAGE

See a range of festival acts in one of the region's most loved local record stores.



06

THE UKULELE UNDERGROUND STAGE

There's loads on in the Cellar at the Lawrence Batley Theatre! This year the stage is both sponsored and inspired by the Ukulele Underground.



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THE MAINSTAGE

Six pages of acts performing on our mainstage (from the famous to the unexpected, with everything in between).



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MIM'S SIDESHOW

It's back! Everyone's favourite open mic, it's Mim's Travelling Ukulele Sideshow. Come along, join in, have fun!

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NEW & NICE THINGS AND ORIGINAL UKULELE SONGS

Learn more about the new things for this year and the nice things that are returning. Read about Original Ukulele Songs, the Conversation Series and more.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

LOOKING FORWARD BY LOOKING BACK...

Welcome to GNUF 2016! On behalf of myself, all of our artists, helpers, the venue staff and Team GNUF, we hope you have a tremendous and lovely time at this year's festival. Now in our fourth year we have worked hard to bring you the kind of festival we can be proud of putting on. We have spent months developing some lovely new things and we've invited back some folks who are truly nice. We asked a properly wide range of world-class artists to join us and we tried to find acts that will be new to you so that, like us, you might experience the joy of discovering something new at our festival.

We've worked hard on this year's festival even when life seemed to have more planned for us than just a quiet afternoon of ukulele playing and planning. With that in mind, I would like to thank everyone involved in GNUF for their help and support in what has been a tremendous year. For reasons some of you may know, this festival is dedicated to my little brother, Bernie. He really looked forward to coming to GNUF and I'm sure you do too.
- Mary Agnes Krell

*"Music is the social act of communication among people, a gesture of friendship the strongest there is."
- Malcolm Arnold*



THIS FESTIVAL WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM OUR MAJOR SPONSORS.



Supported using public funding by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE ON THE VINYL TAP STAGE

Every year, on the Saturday morning, we have a stage at Vinyl Tap records. We do this to support a great local business, to give something back to the town, & because we really love record stores! It's a varied & talented line-up.



PREPARE YOURSELF



PLANET ZIM

The Zen Rude Boy Of the Uke World aka Jez Allerton. His music could be described as Outsider Pop....Indie or 'whatevs'. He is a proper legend of the uke scene & one not to miss!



NO FLUKE

No Fluke play music from the 1950s right through to the 'noughties' ... something for everyone ... being a trio without drums they are not over loud... so you won't get an earache!



MATT STEAD

Making his GNUF debut, he's ace! He's played in indie & garage bands, helped others learn to play & he's even put together an album which pays homage to the history of the ukulele.



HEDGE INSPECTORS

A proper class act, their original songs are excellent and their takes on classics are surprising and great fun. We've long been a fan of these two and are proud to feature them at our festival.



A.D. COOKE

A true all-round musician. She performs & writes songs, she's a vocal coach and in addition to the ukulele, she's played guitar and piano from the age of eight! Her original songs are a proper treat!



LIZ PANTON

Also known as Ukulele Allsorts, Liz plays music that is equal parts surprising and great fun. Based in Newcastle, she's more than just a ukulele player. She's a proper key to the ukulele scene & she's ace!

ONES TO WATCH

We feel properly lucky to have such a wide range of talented acts. These three, however, have been doing some great work this year and we wanted to make sure we called your attention to them.

ISAAC



He's only just in high school and yet Isaac writes and performs his own (rather good) songs! He stormed it on Mim's stage last year and we are delighted to have him back as an official act!

QUAINTEST SHOW ON EARTH



These young men brought down the house when they opened with an original song in the new-talent competition at the Uke Fest of Scotland. With talent to spare, they are ones you just mustn't miss!

OOTY & THE CLOUD



We've been fans of Ooty & the Cloud for some time now. Their lovely voices, skilled playing and laid-back style are all fantastic. What we also love is their original music. They are more than a bit alright!

ALL THIS AND THERE'S ALSO BINGO MUSIC BINGO

THE UKULELE UNDERGROUND STAGE



SMALL CHANGE DIARIES

A musical ensemble founded in 2014 dedicated to creating and playing original lyric-based acoustic music. They have a really tight style that is instantly recognisable.



ricmacfeegle

A self-professed, "big balding Northern bloke with a sideways view on life". He's been writing and performing for over 15 years & he's strumraising for a cause.



CHARLOTTE VICTORIA FURNESS

A gentle mix of Victoria Wood, Sarah Millican, and Morrissey. She's Huddersfield-based, great fun and she is the real deal.



THE GRATEFUL FRED UKULELE TRIO

They'll capture your ears and capture your heart. It's ukulele Jim but not as you know it: acoustic loveliness abounds in various styles, shapes and sizes.



SAMUEL JAMES

He's got a voice which creates a haunting and intimately beautiful sound. An exciting new performer on the uke scene, he's building an impressive fan base already!



PROF CHRIS

He's hilarious, talented, professorial, & someone we are truly excited to bring to GNUF. If you haven't seen him play live, you must! You won't regret it!



LIAM CAPPER-STARR

He won't tell you how great he is because, frankly, he doesn't need to (his music more than speaks for itself). NOTE: He's AWESOME!



THE POOR BOYS OF WORCESTER

They perform a wide range of songs in an energetic and often frenetic skiffle style. Don't think twice & don't miss these guys!



RENAISSANCE UKE MAN

From cheeky & bawdy English songs from Elizabethan taverns to early 20th century sailor's songs. Song include 'No Balls at All', 'Would you have a Young Virgin?' and 'Jolly Brown Turd'.



MIM!

In her live performances, she gives audiences a rare combination of tongue in cheek gangsta styling with southern charm. Mim is just awesome!



UKULELE KRIS

After gigging in his local punk, indie & folk scenes, Kris now finds himself at home amongst cabaret performers. Expect to hear new takes on tired & familiar songs.



KIKI LOVECHILD

With roots in vaudeville, there's a whole lot of joy in his performances. He inspires uproarious applause, laughter and tears of joy, much like the ukulele itself.



THE DEVIL'S JUKEBOX

Red-hot ragtime, vintage viper jazz and scurrilous popular tunes from the 1920's and 30's Their music is truly great fun!



EEK'S WORLD OF WONDERS

Could be just about anything...



RIA LINA

A musical comic with a brilliant line in bawdy songs who has been entertaining both UK and international audiences with her dry wit and the occasional song.



GEORGE ELMES

An amazing player, a plain lovely person, and a true rising star. Dublin-based George plays with skill and beauty and if you're not yet a fan you certainly will be!



MERSEY BELLES

We asked this talented duo if they'd like to do something a little bit different so they'll be performing some new material & a bit more.



CHONKINFECKLE

"Actual Trainspotting" is live soundtrack to vintage railway footage. With train songs from the 20's 30's 40's performed with a bit of a Chonkin twist!



AND FEATURING
A BIT OF LATE
NIGHT FUN...

Tricity Vogue will be performing a very special number on this stage late night on Saturday.



▲ FLEA BITTEN DAWGS

Their style has been described as, "ukulele jazz Americana". We like to call it just great music! We first heard them at Ukulele World Congress where they're a part of the fabric of the event. The Flea Bitten Dawgs are some of the most talented (and genuinely nicest) ukulele players we've ever met, They have many years experience performing. Flea Bitten Dawgs are David Henry Spangler and Thom Pallozola on ukulele and vocals, with Lee Kram joining them on percussion. These men are real players players and have shared the stage with some of the ukulele worlds biggest name. We are so very pleased to bring them to the UK for the very first time ever.



▲ THE D'UKES

They hail from the Netherlands and they tell us they have been described as two madly attractive, middle-aged dudes each with their own ukulele, their own voice, and a suitcase full of sing-a-longs and dance-a-longs. We know them as a pair of talented & generous performers and one of them also runs a uke festival himself!



▲ SAMANTHA MUIR

She has a passion for music and a curious mind; she does more than just perform. An accomplished classical guitarist with decades of experience, her performances are a joy to hear! Her main interest is classical ukulele, particularly the Campanella style but we are fairly certain there's little she wouldn't be able to master on the ukulele!

MAINSTAGE AT GNUF 2016



▲ ENNÈ

She possesses a voice which is truly awesome and her original songs are destined to become hits. ENNÈ, aka Nakisha Esnard, is not just a talented performer, she is unique talent whose career is blossoming. She is truly someone to watch and we are more than a little bit excited to bring her to our festival for the first time.



▲ YAN YALEGO

He hails from France and was a massive hit at our very first festival. Yan Yalego's unique mixture of early blues and primitive jazz is powerful and fun. He plays widely within and outside of the ukulele scene. His repertoire is mainly based on the Anglo-American tradition but often turns in Creole / French variations.



▲ FU*K

This great Swedish band had the audience jumping when they played the Hollesley ukulele festival a few years back. These guys are incredibly good fun and they remind us of why we got started with this whole ukulele thing in the first place. We can't wait to see them again!



▲ HEIDI BANG TIDY

She is a star in the alternative cabaret world. She's compering our main stage(s) both days. When we started our festival we wanted to do something unique while touching on the rich history of variety and performance in the north of England. Heidi is a big and important part of that. We are chuffing proud of the fact that she is our festival comper!



BISCUITHEAD AND THE BISCUIT BADGERS

Biscuithead and the Biscuit Badgers are riotously odd; jolly and engaging but peculiar too. There's a calypso about land hermit crabs, a celebration of David Attenborough, a lament at the passing of dinosaurs...

They're a favourite on BBC Introducing and they're well-loved on the festival circuit. They're also a favourite band of Paul from Mother Ukers!



OPERA-LELE

An opera/ukulele crossover act specialising in opera, light opera and musical theatre music accompanied by the emotionally powerful yet understated twang of the ukulele. They aim to blur the boundaries between opera and ukulele and create the kind of music that the whole world may have been crying out for - at last, Opera-lele is here!

KIKI LOVECHILD

Last year he surprised and delighted audiences with his brief piece on the mainstage as a butterfly catcher. This year he's got another lovely surprise in store!

HOPE & SOCIAL

Hope & Social are a truly awesome local group. We are chuffed to bits to be working with them to develop not just a performance but something you could honestly describe as spectacular.

Chosen to write and record the official Yorkshire Festival 2014 song, The Big Wide,

we met Hope and Social as they completed their epic Tour of Infinite Possibility (TIP). Creating A Band Anyone Can Join along the way they played 12 gigs in 12 Yorkshire towns over 2 weekends, on a cycle-powered stage, marching around the route of the Grand Depart.



DANIELLE ATE THE SANDWICH

"cripplingly enchanting with lyrics telling the story of a generation coming of age in an age of uncertainty."
- Denver's Westword

She has shared the stage and collaborated with Pomplamoose, Leo Kottke, Mumford & Sons and others. Her original songs are nothing short of fabulous.

Danielle Ate the Sandwich is the stage name of the indie-folk, ukulele player and songwriter, Danielle Anderson. Her music career began modestly at open mic nights in Fort Collins, Colorado, and was unexpectedly jump-started

by the popularity of her simple YouTube videos, that show off her ukulele, sweet vocals, thoughtful lyrics and unique personality. Danielle Ate the Sandwich has been touring nationally in the USA since 2009, cultivating a loyal and dedicated fan base, affectionately referred to as 'Fanwiches.'

She is "Amazeballs" and you can quote me.
- JT Shea

Danielle's performance is sponsored by Fusion...more than just a gig bag!

MAINSTAGE GNUF 2016



They were a massive hit last year and we cannot wait to welcome them back! The Quiet American is husband and wife duo, Aaron and Nicole Keim. A home-grown modern folk revival, their music incorporates traditional ballads, banjo breakdowns, raggy choruses, gospel duets and other dusty Americana gems, all delivered on a wide variety of acoustic instruments.

The Quiet American

If you know anything about us, you'll know that we are massive fans of Unplug the Wood. Many of our festival artists and even our festival organisers visit Unplug the Wood when we are down south. We love the properly open and welcoming vibe of the night and think that you'd be hard pressed to find anyone as generous and good at running any

kind of open-mic or participatory thing than the duo that is Krabbers & Mrs. Hedge Inspector. In our first year we dedicated part of the Sunday afternoon to Unplug the Wood. This year we thought that, rather than just slot something in, we'd work directly with Krabbers and have an UNPLUG THE FESTIVAL.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Every instrument & every skill level is welcome. Come, sing along to some original & familiar songs. Play along & even see some familiar faces joining in. As with every time, expect to be surprised because the unexpected is wholly welcome!



PHIL DOLEMAN & IAN EMMERSON

They are astonishingly talented in their own rights, but when these men play together something truly magic happens. They're playing music they (and we) love and doing it with style, good humour and massive doses of talent.



LOOK YONDER

He is a favourite of "BBC Introducing". His original songs, haunting voice & engaging live shows are attracting converts across the length of the UK. We are fans of his songs and have truly enjoyed his live performances. We think you're in for a treat!



PERCY COPLEY

He performs an eclectic variety of songs from 20s/30s to more modern too. Jazz, blues, country, bluegrass and Americana; all delivered with energy and fun. His musical range is wide and he might just know more about French cheese than anyone we know.



TRICITY VOGUE

She brought down the house at GNUF 2014. Tricity Vogue is a legend. We've her to bring her solo show to our festival and we've given her free reign, so anything could happen (and probably will)! Expect to see different acts of hers on different stages throughout the weekend.



WHAT'S ON SATURDAY

MAIN STAGE SATURDAY AFTERNOON:

- 14.45: Main stage opens at The LBT
- 15.00: Heidi Bang Tidy gets things started
- 15.05: FU*K
- 15.30: Yan Yalego
- 16.00: Samantha Muir
- 16.30: The D'Ukes
- 17.00: ENNÉ
- 17.30: The Flea Bitten Dawgs

MAIN STAGE SATURDAY EVENING:

- 19.15: Main stage opens at The LBT
- 19.30: Biscuithead & the Biscuit Badgers
- 20.00: Opera-lele
- 20.30: Danielle Ate the Sandwich
- 21.00: Kiki Lovechild
- 21.05: Hope & Social
- 21.55: Saturday Finale!

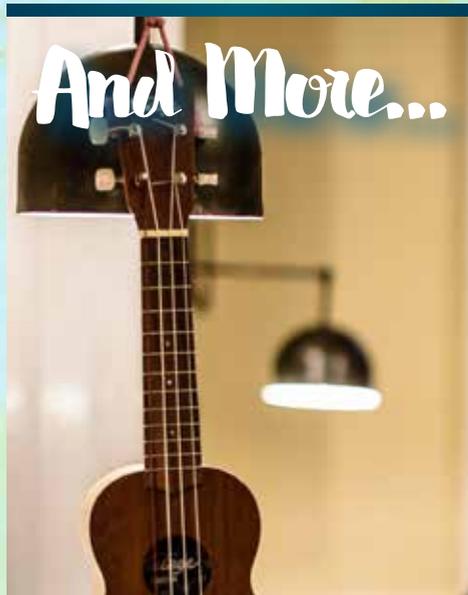


ALL THE EXTRAS:

- 10.30:
Stalls open at The LBT
- 12.00 – 15:00:
Open Mic, aka Mim's Travelling Sideshow
at The LBT Courtyard
- 18.00:
CONVERSATIONS at The LBT Meeting
Room
- 18.00:
Tea With The Inkspots at The LBT Bar

22:00:

After the main stage: There's a new cabaret
downstairs & a late license at The LBT Bar



Ukulele Underground Stage

UKULELE UNDERGROUND STAGE IN THE CELLAR THEATRE

- 15.50: Stage opens at The LBT Cellar
- 16.00: Small Change Diaries
- 16.25: ricmacfeegle
- 16.50: Charlotte Victoria Furness
- 17.10: Grateful Fred Ukulele Trio
- 17.35: Samuel James
- 18.00: Prof Chris
- 18.25: Liam Capper-Starr
- 18.45: The Poor Boys of Worcester

New! Late Night Cabaret on the Ukulele Underground Stage:

- 22.00: Stage Opens & Our Compere (Tricity Vogue) Kicks Things Off
- 22.10: Renaissance Uke Man
- 22.20: Mim!
- 22.40: Ukulele Kris
- 23.00: Kiki Lovechild
- 23.10: Devil's Jukebox

TIMETABLE SATURDAY



DOWNSTAIRS AT VINYL TAP

- 11.00: Planetzim / Jez Allerton
- 11.20: No Fluke
- 11.40: Matt Stead
- 12.00: Isaac
- 12.20: A.D. Cooke
- 12.40: Quaintest Show on Earth
- 13.00: Liz Pantou
- 13.20: Ooty & the Cloud
- 13.40: Hedge Inspectors
- 13.00: Ringo Music Bingo

FRIDAY:

- 19.00:
Sneak Preview: Flea Bitten Dawgs &
Friends at Sportsman Pub. We'll do
wristband exchange here from 7-9pm.
- 20.00:
Festival Pub Free For All with loads of
jamming at The Head of Steam
We'll do wristband exchange here from
8-10pm (or until one of us falls asleep!)

WHAT'S ON SUNDAY

MAIN STAGE SUNDAY AFTERNOON:

13.45: Main stage opens at The LBT
14.00: Phil Doleman & Ian Emmerson
14.30: Look Yonder
15.00: Percy Copley
15.25: Tricity Vogue
15.50: Quiet American
(ending with the Mainstage Finale)

16.30: UNPLUG THE FESTIVAL (a big massive participatory jam with Krabbers & Caroline of The Hedge Inspectors and Unplug the Wood)



ALL THE EXTRAS:

10.00: Stalls open at The LBT

10.30:
Breakfast with The Ink Spots at The LBT Bar

11.00 - 14:00: Open Mic, aka Mim's Travelling Sideshow at The LBT Courtyard

11.45:
Ringo Music Bingo at The LBT Bar

12.40: Michael Adcock - FREE Up & Comers workshop at The LBT Attic

13.55: CONVERSATIONS at the LBT Bar
UPSTAIRS



Ukulele Underground Stage

UKULELE UNDERGROUND STAGE IN THE CELLAR THEATRE

12.50: The Ukulele Underground Stage opens at The LBT Cellar
13.00: Eek's World of Wonders
13.25: Ria Lina
13.50: George Elmes
14.10: Mersey Belles
14.35: Actual Trainspotting with Chonkinfeckle (including vintage train footage, live music and a bit of fun).

TIMETABLE SUNDAY

After
the
party,
it's the
after
party!

AND JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS OVER...

In part response to festival-goers requests and also because he's a bit awesome, EEK will be leading a Festival After Party with loads of jamming at The Head of Steam pub. Ending the weekend where it all started, he promises a great time! Be sure to bring your songbook!

FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY

MEETING ROOM

**DIY WORKSHOP WITH
ROB COLLINS**
MAKE YOUR OWN PROPER 6
STRING LAP-STEEL GUITAR

**THOM PALLAZOLA
(FLEA BITTEN DAWGS)**
FUN WITH DOUBLE STOPS

HOPE & SOCIAL
SOMETHING SPECTACULAR

PERCY COPLEY
FAMILY SONGS TO PLAY
TOGETHER

* NOTE: HELD IN UPPER BAR

ATTIC

SAMANTHA MUIR
CLASSICAL UKULELE

JEN BIRCH (OF OTLEY)
HOW TO GET THE MOST
FROM YOUR UKULELE
GROUP - Tips & tricks to bring
ensembles to life

TRICITY VOGUE
WRITE & PERFORM WITH
TRICITY

CELLAR

**AARON KEIM (THE
QUIET AMERICAN)**
CLAWHAMMER

PHIL DOLEMAN
OLD TIME UKULELE PARTY

MANITOBA HAL
MASTERING THE GROOVE

SUNDAY

MEETING ROOM

**DIY WORKSHOP WITH
ROB COLLINS**
MAKE YOUR OWN LAGER-
PHONE

LES HILTON
ANOTHER POCKET FULL OF
RIFFS

MANITOBA HAL
FIFTEEN MINUTE UKULELE
WORKOUT!

ATTIC

PHIL DOLEMAN
CIRCLE OF 5ths - A musical
Rosetta Stone!

THE MERSEY BELLES
UKULELE JUKEBOX!

CELLAR

**AARON KEIM (THE
QUIET AMERICAN)**
WOODY GUTHRIE'S LIFE &
MUSIC

**DANIELLE ATE THE
SANDWICH**
FIND YOUR SOUL
(while playing the ukulele)





IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A STAR

SING a Song, TELL a Joke, LEAD a Strum-a-long in the Courtyard at #GNUF2016! YOU are the star of the Courtyard! YOU are the opening act to the Mainstage! YOU the audience are the back-up band for the people on the Sideshow stage! SING, LAUGH, JAM!

One of last year's new festival elements returns because it was just so nice! On Saturday and Sunday during the

morning/early afternoon we'll have the awesome Mim as the comper for a truly international selection of open mic performances. Like last year, we are making sure that there's lots of space for folks who just decide to have a go on the day but this year we also set aside a few spaces for folks to sign up to in advance.

ALL OF THESE FOLKS HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP:

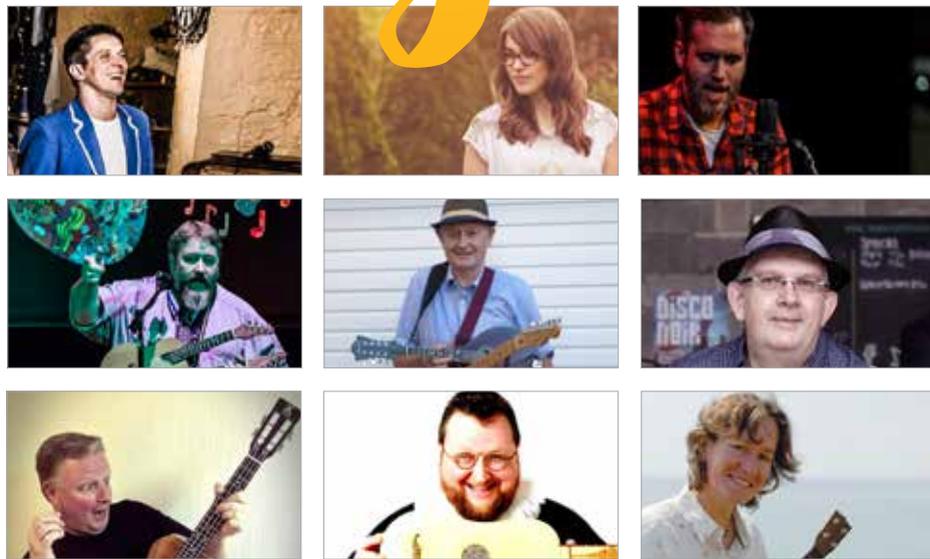
- THE RAG HOUSE BAND
- SHURMY
- MARC GALLAGHER
- MYRNA UKULELE
- MK FLEA
- CHRISTINE TURNER
- DISMAL JIM
- BALHAM UKULELE SOCIETY
- EEKS WORLD OF WONDERS
- UKULELE JUKEBOX
- HENRY AND MIA
- LARA
- MARIE ANGELL
- HIMAZAS
- UKE CAN'T STOP THE BEAT
- NAN--- UKE OF THE NORTH
- ISAAC
- AND A FEW SPECIAL GUESTS...

STEP UP TO THE MICROPHONE



EVERYONE'S WELCOME

What inspires you?



NEW FOR 2016! CONVERSATIONS

CONVERSATIONS

We believe that proper discussion about what we love and what we do can be a game-changer. That is why, in 2016, we are launching our CONVERSATIONS series which will see world-class artists taking part in discussions about the things that matter. Each conversation is planned in advance and topics covered include inspirational artists, favourite musical styles, exciting discoveries, ways of working, and more.

RICH HUXLEY (HOPE & SOCIAL)

AARON KEIM (QUIET AMERICAN)

PERCY COPLEY

BRUCE RUSSELL (NO FLUKE)

MANITOBA HAL

DANIELLE ANDERSON (DANIELLE ATE THE SANDWICH)

GEORGE BARTLE (OPERA-LELE)

SAMANTHA MUIR

NICK CODY (THE SMALL CHANGE DIARIES & THE GUY BEHIND THE ORIGINAL UKE SONGS PROJECT)



CONV ERSA TIONS



1 WHEN ON SATURDAY?

Saturday Conversations
6:00pm – 7:15pm in the
Meeting Room at the
LBT



2 WHAT ABOUT SUNDAY?

Sunday Conversations
6:15pm – 7:30pm in the
Meeting Room at the
LBT



3 HOW?

This project is made possible through support and inspiration from Southern Ukulele Store.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS...

ADDED EXTRAS... NEW & NICE THINGS



MICHAEL ADCOCK UP & COMERS SESSION



MANITOBA HAL

HE'S TOURING THE UK THIS SPRING AND WE ASKED HIM TO JOIN US AS OUR GUEST. HE OFFERED A WORKSHOP YOU CAN'T DO ANYWHERE ELSE!

HAL IS AWESOME!

GETTING STARTED...

Each year we work hard to introduce New & Nice Things. This year's no exception! Having come up in the George Formby Society, Michael tells us he's always found their up-and-comers sessions really helpful so he's come up with one for GNUF.

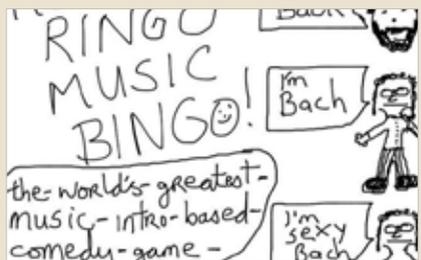
THE UP & COMERS SESSION (HOW IT WORKS):

Run as a kind of free workshop, it'll be about stagecraft, teaching people how to perform, use a mic, a music stand and how to engage the audience. It'll also help people who are nervous about performing to overcome their nerves and become comfortable on stage.

MICHAEL TELLS US:

The workshop will start with me doing a demo song, showing everyone what they'll learn in the workshop. Then I'll teach people about how to move on stage, use a mic, stand on stage and engage the audience. At the end, people can perform a song of their choice, showing the others what they've learnt.

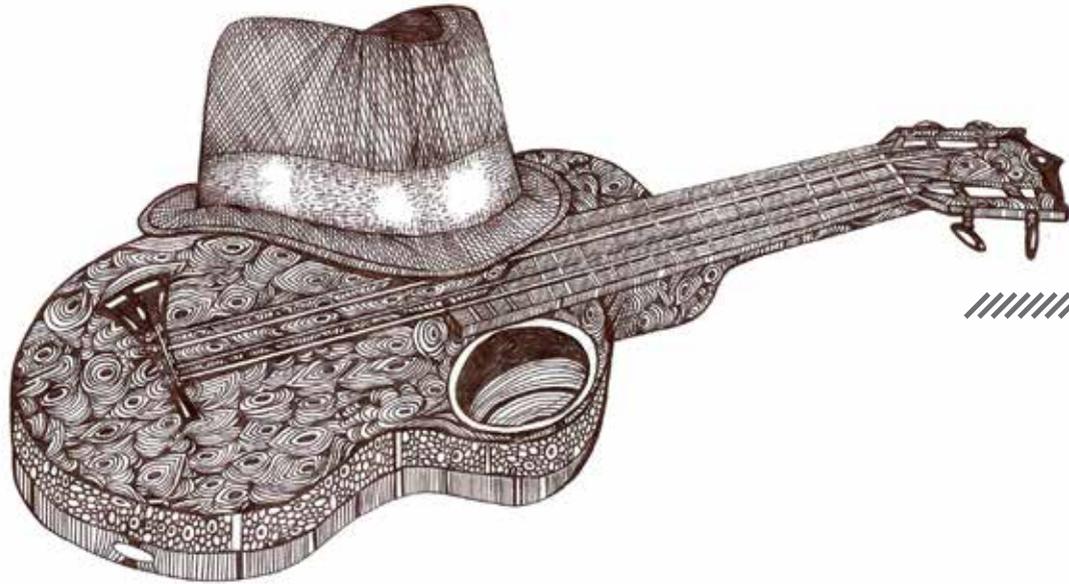
RINGO
MUSIC
BINGO
IS BACK!



PLAYING TOGETHER



One of the things we love about the ukulele community is getting together at festivals with old friends & new to just play music.



A more expanded version of this article was originally published in Uke magazine.

THE ORIGINAL UKULELE SONGS PROJECT

The big problem with songwriting for me is starting a new song. It's the thing where all the anguish exists, not in the writing of the song, but the starting of the new song. What do I write about? I never know.

- Nick Cave



THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATING ORIGINAL UKULELE SONGS

Without original songs, there are of course no cover versions...

A sign of a great song is that it is essentially timeless and will be played and heard for decades, inspiring generation after generation of listeners, and speaking to everyone who hears it. The songwriting tradition is as relevant today as ever and continues to inspire people from around the globe. I grew up listening to classic songwriters including, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Nick Cave, Lennon and McCartney, amongst many others. These individuals created melodies and lyrics that are nothing short of magical.

WHAT'S THE PUBLIC VIEW OF THE UKULELE AND SONGS?

If you asked any member of the public who they would most associate with playing the ukulele, I suspect that common responses these days might be The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, or perhaps Jake Shimabukuro, after having seen his videos of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "While my guitar gently weeps" which both went viral on YouTube. Jake's new album Travels has some wonderful original work on it and I highly recommend it.

That said, when I first started exploring the ukulele a few years ago, I found it to be a terrific writing tool. I have already written

and co-written over 30 songs for my band The Small Change Diaries. Thirteen are on our debut album "Adam Blames Eve" and six have already been played on BBC Radio. My primary interest is in creating new ORIGINAL music and as well as writing for the band I started "The Original Ukulele Songs" initiative

THE ORIGINAL UKULELE SONGS GLOBAL INITIATIVE

I set up the "Original Ukulele Songs" page on Facebook to attract artists who are focused on creating original songs as phase one of a bigger project. I use the term "songs" as opposed to "music" because I love to hear smart lyrics as well as great melodies. "Original" means original music and lyrics, not "an original take on a classic song!"

Yes, I love cover versions that are done in a smart and new way BUT original ukulele based songs is about creating new songs with new lyrics!

The page already has over 1700 members with a fantastic range of original songs already posted. We have contributions from all over the globe and a massive range of material from the enthusiastic solo artist who has recorded their first original song in a bedroom to full blown professional band recordings that are quite sublime. Artist contributions to date include, Manitoba Hal Brolund, Grateful Fred, Lorenzo Vignando Liz Panton, Matt Lindahl,

Alan Thornton, Pat Walsh, Danielle Ate the Sandwich and of course The Small Change Diaries. GNUF is of course the gold standard for ukulele festivals, attracting artists from all over the globe and a perfect platform for original creative ukulele based songs!

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD

If you are an artist or group primarily focused on writing and performing original ukulele based songs, please get in touch via the official FB site "Original Ukulele Songs", with its' clearly recognizable illustration by the Max Wooton in this article! Please post original songs and help us share awareness of the Facebook page. I passionately believe that writing original songs will help take the ukulele as an instrument to a wider global audience.

Warm Regards,
Nick Cody
www.originalukulelesongs.com
www.nickcody.co.uk
www.smallchangediaris.com



A FEW THOUGHTS...

1 WORD. FAMILY.

No matter what life throws at me, I can go to the friends I've met at UU and find unconditional love and support.

They've talked me down from cliffs, encouraged me to follow my dreams, and let me know that it was not only okay to be myself, but essential.

- Seeso (Narciso Lobo - uke performer and UU moderator)

LIFE BEFORE UU WAS LIKE LIFE BEFORE UKE

- Rob Faricelli



FRIENDS.

Ukulele underground was an excellent way for me to get to meet new people, a lot of whom became firm friends. There is a real sense of community, now particularly amongst the 'seasonistas' who post on different themes each week. The collaboration videos that have been produced by several long term members are fantastic. Much admiration always for Ryan, Aldrine and the rest of UU for the excellent resource they have shared with us.

- Krabbers (known for Unplug the Wood, The Hedge Inspectors and, well, Krabbers).



A lot of the people involved in the festival have been involved with the Ukulele Underground (UU). From artists to sponsors, organisers to open-mic comperes. UU is not only a GNUF sponsor, it's the world's top ukulele website. We asked a few folks to talk about it in their own words.

UU helped change my life.

I left the nursing profession and started playing ukulele about the same time. After a couple of years, I started a ukulele business and with all the friends I met on UU we were able to get some of the initial traction we needed. Since then it has been a daily oasis from the mundane. I have met hundreds of great people as a result of UU.

- Mainland Mike (of Mainland Ukes)

UU has given me an incredibly opportunity to study the ukulele.

There is plenty to learn on the site, but through UU, I was given a chance to study with the man himself -- Aldrine Guerrero! My private lessons are one of the best things I do. Aldrine is teaching me to be a musician, not just an ukulele player.

- Susan "Sukie" Dieseth

Caring, supportive, and weird.

UU was the place that I connected to people who I felt were like me. Caring, supportive, and weird. At first it seemed like these people were not real, but over the years I have met so many people have really helped me see that there are good people in this world.

- Tim Szerlong (ukeeku.com)

... my tribe.

I had UU before I had a Uke! These folks are my tribe. I have friends and fun no matter where I travel, due to the UU network.

- Marion Koleski

UU has changed my life!

It is through UU that I researched my own first ukulele, it is through their tutorials that I learned to play, and it is through the forum that I found the ukulele community and met the best friends I have ever had!

The UU founders truly live by their mission of "Growing the Next Generation of Ukulele Players"! They are innovative with their approach to playing and teaching the ukulele, never forgetting that there is always a rising generation of ukulele players!

- Mim (of Mim's ukes & open-mic comperate at GNUF & elsewhere).

- Mim



A.D. COOKE, ADAM FRANKLIN, ANDY EASTWOOD, BEN ROUSE, BENJAMYN REES, BICUITHEAD AND THE BISCUIT BADGERS, BREAKFAST WITH THE INKSPOTS, CHARLOTTE VICTORIA FURNESS, CHONKINFECKLE, CRAIG CHEE, DANIELLE ATE THE SANDWICH, DEAD MANS UKE, DEL REY, DEVIL'S JUKEBOX, EDWARD ALICE, EEK & ELSIE, EEK'S WORLD OF WONDERS, EMILY SCOTT, ENNÉ, FECKLESS & FUDDLE, FRANCESCO ALBERTAZZI, FU*K, GEORGE ELMES, GRATEFUL FRED UKULELE TRIO, HEDGE INSPECTORS, HEIDI BANG TIDY, HOPE & SOCIAL, IAN EMMERSON, ISAAC, JEZ ALLERTON, JYOTI, KIKI LOVECHILD, KRABBERS, LIAM CAPPER-STARR, LIONEL HUBERT, LIZ PANTON, LOOK YONDER, LOU & THE LLAMAS, MANITOBA HAL, MATT STEAD, MERSEY BELLES, MICHAEL ADCOCK, MICHAEL SHEPHERD, MIKE HIND, MIKE WARREN, MIM, MOTHER UKERS, NO DIRECTION HOT BOYS, NO FLUKE, OOTY & THE CLOUD, OPERA-LELE, PERCY COPLEY, PETER MOSS, PHIL DOLEMAN, PHIL DOLEMAN & IAN EMMERSON, PROF CHRIS, PROF PETE & DR

LOOK WHO'S PLAYED GNUF SO FAR

DICK, PROFESSOR EEK, QUAINTEST SHOW ON EARTH, QUIET AMERICAN, RENAISSANCE UKE

MAN, RICMACFEEGLE, RINGO MUSIC BINGO, ROBIN EVANS, SAMANTHA MUIR, SAMUEL JAMES, SARAH MAISEL, SMALL CHANGE DIARIES, SOME LIKE IT OSSETT, THE ANYTHING GOES ORCHESTRA, THE FLEA BITTEN DAWGS, THE POOR BOYS OF WORCESTER, THE QUIET AMERICAN, THE TOOTS, THE TRICITY VOGUE ALL GIRL SWING BAND, THE UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN, TRICITY VOGUE, U.K.E., UKE BOX, UKULELE BITCHSLAP, UKULELE JUKEBOX, UKULELE KRIS, UKULELE UFF & LONESOME DAVE, UKULELEZAZA, UNPLUG THE WOOD, UNPLUG THE FESTIVAL, YAN YALEGO, ZOË BESTEL



Planning ahead...

SOON WE WILL BE FIVE!

When we first met to plan a festival I am not sure any of us thought we'd end up here, considering how to celebrate a fifth birthday for a festival that has truly become, "a thing". As you may suspect, we are planners and we've already started talking to people and places about what our next festival might look like. We decided that it was important to mark the occasion of our 5th birthday with more new & nice things. While (as you know) we'll be sharing information as we develop the next GNUF, we wanted to just say one or two things now. Firstly, you won't want to miss it! We will be bringing in some amazing artists who've never played the UK but who are already making a name for themselves around the world (like Ryo Montgomery from Australia). Secondly, there is space for YOU to be involved so please do get in touch if you have ideas. We'd love to hear them!

We'll announce our dates very soon but for now, I think I'll go see some live music and then take a nap!
-mary (on behalf of all of teamGNUF)

See you in 2017!

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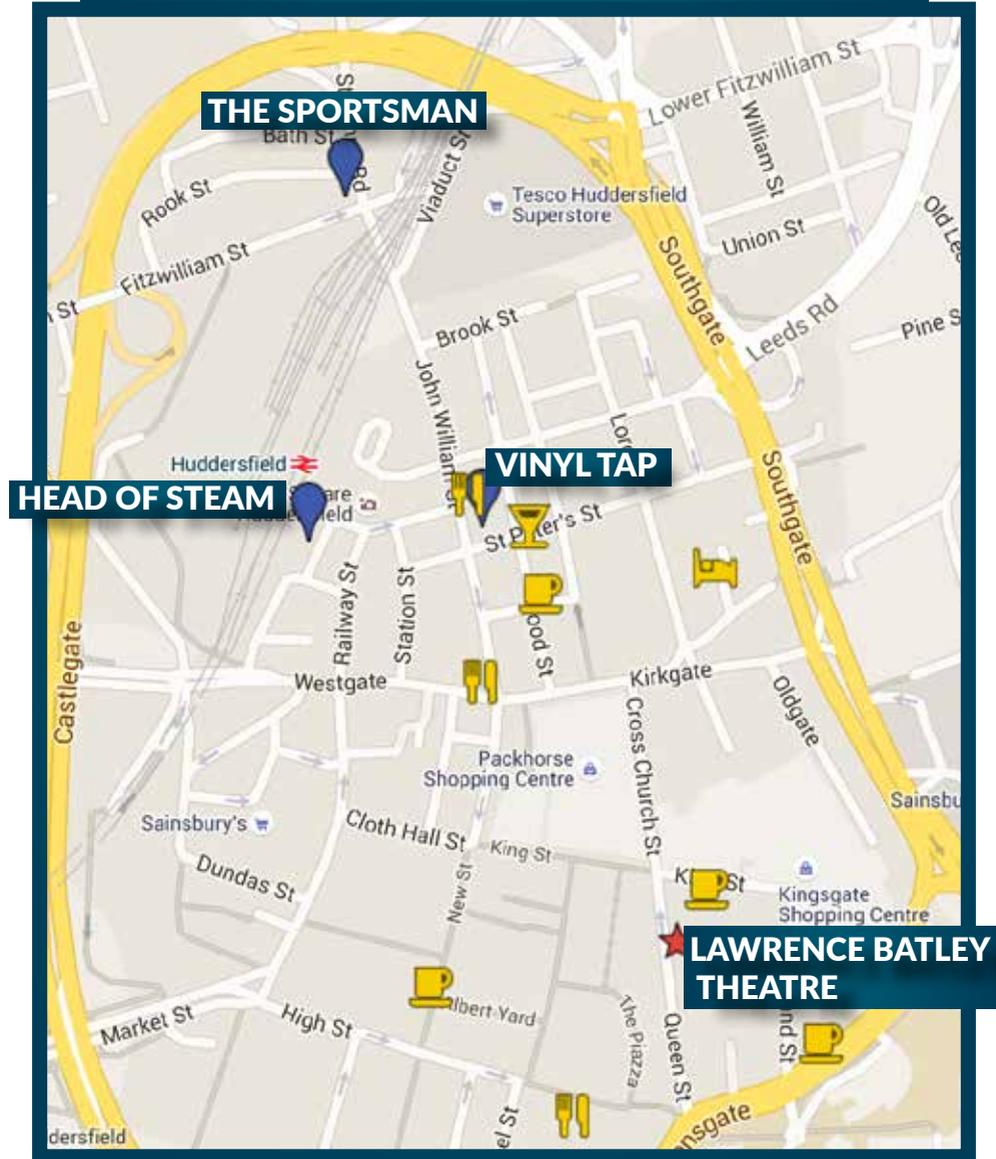


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Visit the stand and get your copy of our FREE guide "50 things you need to know before you buy a Ukulele."

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FESTIVAL FREEBIE! #2

VISIT OUR STAND TODAY and get the 1st Stage of the ZT Ultimate Ukulele Course, worth £25, completely FREE.

FESTIVAL FREEBIE! #3

As well as the FREE 2-hour consultation lesson with Zachary himself being given away in today's Festival raffle, come to our stand to enter our own prize draw for an extra chance to win one of several prizes including one-to-one lessons and workshops.

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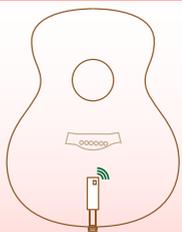
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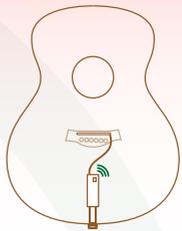
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