



UKULELES FOR SANITY

The smallest voice can be a mighty force.

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DUBYA'S UKULELE FAREWELL PARTY



PETER STAMPFEL was born in Wauwautosa, Wisconsin, in 1938.

He is the only known musician to have performed with Mississippi John Hurt, Bob Dylan, Sam Shephard, and Buckminster Fuller. As part of the Greenwich Village music scene of 1961 where he played on the streets and in coffee houses, Peter and music partner Steve Weber formed an eccentric music duo that mixed traditional bluegrass with edgy beatnik sass called The Holy Modal Rounders. The duo recorded two back-to-back albums collectively known as *Holy Modal Rounders I & II*, that are considered legendary works today. The Holy Modal Rounders duo expanded into a full-fledged band and with The Fugs created a style of music known as "acid folk rock," performing around the globe and deeply immersing themselves in the culture of the times...if you know what we mean. The group recorded a hit song entitled *The Bird Song* that was used in the film *Easy Rider*. They also appeared on the 60s tv show "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In." The Holy Modal Rounders disbanded in the 70s and Peter went on to numerous collaborations with other artists, such as (under the band name Unholy Modal Rounders) with songwriter Micheal Hurley and Jeffrey Fredricks & The Clamtones on the 1975 album *Have Moicy!* which was named record of the year by Rolling Stone and The Village Voice. In 1981 he formed The Bottle Caps, whose album *Peter Stampfel And The Bottle Caps '86* five years later won the NY Music Award for best independent record. Since then he has performed with such groups as Bongwater, Yo La Tengo, and They Might Be Giants. He has also formed two other bands, The Dysfunctionells and the Du-Tels, a duo of Peter and ex-Captain Beefheart guitarist Gary Lucas. They sing children's songs. Peter is an editor at DAW publishing, a science fiction publisher.



SONGS FROM A RANDOM HOUSE, a New York-based "avant-folk" combo, has recorded for Virgin, Varese Sarabande, Sargasso, and Gadfly records. The band's first album, *Random Numbers*, was released in 2000 on the London-based Sargasso label, and the group is releasing its second album, *gListen*, on the Bar/None label August 24. SoFARH was formed in 1985 by ukulele hero/multi-instrumentalist Alan Drogin and singer/composer/baritone uke player Steven Swartz. Since then, SoFARH has expanded to a quintet, adding Gregor Kitzis on viola, Jason DiMatteo on upright bass, and John Bollinger on drums. Described as "humorously surreal" (*New York Times Magazine*) and "inventive" (*The New Yorker*), SoFARH has established itself as one of New York's most exciting and original acts. The band is featured in the recent documentary *Rock That Uke* by William Preston Robertson and Sean Anderson.



CARMAIG DE FOREST is a legendary singer-songwriter-punk-folk-poet-performer-storyteller who has been serving up highly original engaging/ creepy/ funny/ sad/ angry/ sexy/ scary stories for over 20 years. With an old Gibson ukulele, a reedy (some would say Lou-Reedy) voice, and an uncanny way with words, he's been billed with The Ramones, Arlo Guthrie, They Might Be Giants, The Violent Femmes, and Alex Chilton. His songs have been described as "Raymond Carver stories set to music." Early mentor Spalding Gray once said, "He could have been another John Hinckley, instead he became an artist." His albums include *I Shall Be Released* (1987), *DeathGrooveLoveParty* (1993), and *El Camino Real* (1997). His next album is entitled *Idiot Strings*. Carmaig was also featured in William Preston Robertson and Sean Anderson's *Rock That Uke*.



LD BEGHTOL is the singer/writer/musical director of the New York orchestral pop ensemble Flare, with Charles Newman and a large, revolving cast of other musicians; one half of the willfully obscure biocastal experimental duo, Moth Wranglers with Chris Xefos; and one third of The Three Terrors, with Stephin Merritt and Dudley Klute. In 1999, he joined Merritt's The Magnetic Fields as guest vocalist and musician for the acclaimed album *69 Love Songs* - both on disc and at select live performances. He is also an infrequent (read: reluctant) solo performer. Beghtol is currently recording *Tragic Realism*, the debut disc for his country deathpop band, LD Beghtol & The New Criticism. When not making music, Beghtol writes for *Time Out New York*, *The Advocate*, *The Village Voice* and other publications. In addition to his beloved baritone ukulele, Beghtol plays guitar (badly), assorted vintage keyboards (with style, if not accuracy) and all sorts of unusual instruments such Marxophones, Korean push-button banjos, handbells and Malaysian frog calls. He's not so innocent as he looks.



MICHAEL LEVITON performs original nautically-themed ukulele love songs. But this is no novelty act. Leviton writes modern jazz standards with tunes and lyrics worthy of Hoagy Carmichael, Cole Porter, and the Gershwins. But as if writing beautiful, clever songs is not enough, Leviton takes upon himself a self-imposed virtuosic songwriting challenge: to write beautiful and expressive standards without straying from nautical language and metaphors. He has nearly 30 nautical jazz compositions. And nevermind that conceptual stuff; Leviton is a true jazz crooner often compared to the great Chet Baker. And he plays his baritone ukulele with a sophistication that transcends the instrument's small size. Leviton's musical act is truly one of the most impressive and memorable acts of the land-locked world



KINGS COUNTY QUEENS has been an important fixture on the New York City country scene since its debut at the summer-opening of Coney Island in May of 2000, where they debuted with a handful of originals and a mixed bag of covers. Since then KCQ has shared the stage with the Waco Brothers, Mary Lou Lord, and Trailer Bride. They have toured throughout the country, including showcases at the SXSW Film and Music Festival and CMJ. Driven mostly by acoustic arrangements, lush male-female harmonies, bittersweet lyrics, and music that one critic called "soft songs with a hard center," KCQ is true to the country tradition, while maintaining a contemporary edge. Their first album was the 2001 Rubric Records release *Big Ideas*. KCQ has just finished recording their second album, *Big Mistakes*. KCQ is: Daria Grace on vocals and baritone ukulele, Chris Bowers on vocals and guitar, Suzanne Price on accordion, Eric Eble on upright bass, and Johnny Rock on drums.



TOM HARKER, also known as "UKULELE MAN," is a singer, songwriter, poet and uke player whose songs explore the landscape between love and despair, redwood trees and toilets, and George Bush and Pee Wee Herman. Harker's lyrics are alternately whimsical and profound, uplifting and earthy, human and political. He has been described as "a cross between Cab Calloway, Abbie Hoffman, and a mild-mannered Captain Beefheart." Tom has opened for Leon Redbone, Brave Combo, Mojo Nixon, the Asylum Street Spankers, Tim Easton, Combustible Edison, and Johnny Dowd. He has two CDs: a solo album, *SumoNinjaLele*, and a second, *Crazy Old World*, which he rerecorded with his band **UKULELES FOR SANITY**. Tom is the founding spirit behind **UKULELES FOR SANITY**. None of this would have come to past without his imagination, his labor and his selfless commitment to what is right and just in the world.



KIRK KELLY has been dubbed "the Billy Bragg of NYC" by the *LA Times* and "the Phil Ochs of the 90s" by *College Music Journal*. A founder of the "Anti-Folk" movement, he has performed extensively here and abroad, successfully melding the protest song with the punk ethic. He fronts the combo Paddy on the Railway, which also features Billy Ficca from the band Television on drums and Brian Richie of Violent Femmes on percussion and bouzouki. Kirk appears alongside Elvis Costello and Billy Bragg on the Bruce Springsteen tribute album *Light of Day*, on which he sings Springsteen's mournful "Downbound Train" accompanying himself on a ukulele. He is the founder of Mugsy Records label and the Artist-Worker Action League, which works to expose college students to the music and struggle of working people. Kirk has two albums out: *Go Man Go* and *New City*.



"UKULELE LLOYD" GOLD is the lead vocalist and uke player for My Pocket Zoo, who bill themselves as "The World's Greatest Ukulele Boy Band." My Pocket Zoo started out in the Washington, DC, area in the late 90s, where it was chosen one of the top five unsigned bands in the Northeast, leading to its participation in the Musician Magazine Showcase tour. Since then, MPZ has performed constantly, opening for such acts as Spacehog, Mojo Nixon, and Uncle Floyd. The trio relocated to the New York City area in 2001 and has continued to thrive, performing frequently for its rapidly expanding fanbase. Writes Stephen Bailey of the *Cultural Exchange Advocate* website: "One can find traces of rockabilly, disco, and lounge music in this band's catchy pop songs, but somehow this Anglo-American trio is able to combine these disparate influences into its own unique, danceable concoction." MPZ has two CDs out: *Scale-Like Sequins* and *Crawdaddy Craw*. The trio is currently at work on their next album.



HEATHER LEV is an award-winning singer/ songwriter/ multi-instrumentalist who has written over 400 whimsical, inspiring, philosophical, and political songs. You'll never know what to expect from her concerts - they might include love songs, anthemic folk-rock sing-a-longs, traditional-sounding bluegrass tunes, or even acapella rounds. But one thing you can always expect is an energetic, engaging performance and a fun time! Heather's songs have been published and quoted in the *New York Times*, several song samplers, publications and CD compilations, and as a soundtrack on a documentary film. Heather plays guitar, flute, lap dulcimer, ukelin (a turn-of-the-century bowed psaltry), several types of flutes from around the world, and most recently, the ukulele.



THE HOPPIN' HAOLE BROTHERS are one of the most original bands on the scene today. They've taken Hawaiian, Calypso, and Cuban music and tossed them with the more continental styles of tin pan alley, hot jazz and country swing music, creating an island music all their own - the music of Manhattan Island. Formed in 1997, the core musicians are Scott Warnasch, ukuleles and vocals; Kurt Westphal, electric guitars; Bob Charde, string bass, vocals, harmonica and saw; AJ Faas, drums and percussion; Richard White, steel guitars and Dobro; and Linda Sluder singing backup vocals. Hailed as the swingiest island combo in the area, The Hoppin' Haole Brothers have ignited audiences on both sides of Hudson with their tropically punchy sound. Their first disc, entitled *Haole!* will be out this fall.



SKIZZ CYZYK is a Baltimore, Maryland based musician, filmmaker, and film festival organizer. He was born the same year as The Monkees TV show debut. At this time, there is no known connection.



THE WHISKY REBELLION is Alex Battles. Raised on the Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson, Alex set out to recapture the sense of humor in classic country music by writing his own original tunes on his grandfather's tenor banjo. To give his songs a proper outlet, he organized The Whisky Rebellion, which contains anywhere from 1-7 members, depending on venue constraints and the weather. At any Whisky Rebellion show, you'll hear many of Battles' hilarious and bittersweet original tunes including the top crowd-pleasers: "Wednesdays and Fridays," "You Broke My...", "Raining in Brooklyn," and "Hong Kong Collision." Alex is also the founder and host of The Brooklyn Country Music Festival, JugFest, and The CasHank Hootenanny Jamboree. Catch a Whisky Rebellion show soon! You'll be sure to see Alex smiling, banging on guitar, scratching on a washboard, plucking a tenor banjo, blowing a harmonica, strumming a ukulele, and always sticking to his motto: "he things funny thongs."



UKE JACKSON is a musician, songwriter, playwright, and storyteller. From 1979 through 1987, his sonnets and other light verse were a frequent feature in the *New York Times*. In 2001, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* ran his sonnet "Bruination" on its editorial page to kick off national poetry month. His play "Avenue Z Afternoon" was a GM Mark of Excellence production on the A&E network. As a musician he was lead guitarist with 5 Steps Down and has also worked as a musician playing ocarina and ethnic flutes with the late jazz legend Don Cherry, Charlie Morrow, and other vanguard performers. UJ has a black belt in ukulele, which is also the title of his CD: *Black Belt Ukulele*. He is host of the only known mainland radio program entirely devoted to ukulele music, *The Flaming Ukulele Radio Hour*, which airs Tuesdays at 3:00 pm on WNTI 91.9 FM in Hackettstown, NJ.



SONIC UKE is the New York ukulele duo of Ted Gottfried and Jason Tagg. In the summer they play on their Village stoop or at the beach. In the winter they play anywhere warm with beer. They performed frequently with the late great transgendered punk ukulele star (and Ratcage label creator) Donna Lee. They regularly host Midnight Ukulele Disco, which broadcasts every other Tuesday night at 10.30pm on Manhattan Neighborhood Network, channel 67. Their movie *Ukulele Freaks*, directed and edited by Jason premiered at the "Brave Destiny" International Surrealist Film Festival in Brooklyn. A companion music video to that film, *Tiny Bubbles*, is part of the Cinemá du Ukulele shorts program that has toured with screenings of William Preston Robertson and Sean Anderson's *Rock That Uke*.



photo: Ani Monteleone

PATSY MONTELEONE has been playing the ukulele and singing around the New York City-Philadelphia corridor for nearly 25 years. He has been described as a "national ukulele treasure." His song list comprises works by such 20th Century composers as Duke Ellington, Hoagy Carmichael, Fats Waller, Johnny Mercer, Cole Porter, among many others. With vocals reminiscent of a young Bing Crosby, and playing a variety of numbers from Tin Pan Alley classics to cowboy ballads, jug band tunes, blues, Hawaiian selections, novelties, and jazz/pop saloon-song favorites, Patsy's performances are certain to pleasantly surprise any audience. Says Patsy of tonight's event: "I've been on Bush's case since the 2000 campaign. My daughter and I traveled to Washington, DC, on January 20, 2001 (her 19th birthday!), to protest the phony bastard's 'inauguration,' and I've been hopping up and down ever since to warn anybody who would listen about this man's potential for creating disaster. Man, I am looking forward to this show."



ROGER GREENAWALT has a secret plan.



ILLEANA DOUGLAS (Emcee) is an actress, director, and producer well known to lovers of independent cinema. The granddaughter of screen legend Melvyn Douglas and Helen Gahagan Douglas, Illeana began studying acting at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. As a teenager, she acted in many plays and also did standup comedy. Her first film was a bit part in the 1987 Shelley Long comedy *Hello Again*, which was soon followed by a string of strong supporting performances in the films of high profile directors such as Martin Scorsese, eventually leading to her being cast in the Gus Van Sant satire *To Die For* (1995) alongside Nicole Kidman. She soon thereafter landed the lead role of Denise Waverly in Allison Anders' cinematic love letter to the Brill Building era of 60s songwriting, *Grace of My Heart* (1996), in which she co-starred with a very young Buster Coen. Illeana has gone on to direct and produce numerous short films, and to continue to build her reputation as an actress of charm, intelligence and beauty with skills in both comedy and drama. **Ukuleles for Sanity** is indebted to her for donating her talents to this event.