



Come And Strike A Chord At The Norwich Theatre Royal

UKULELE ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN

Monday 5 December- Pre-show line up

6.30pm-7.00pm in the **Targetfollow Room**- Norwich Ukulele Society taster session.

6.30pm-7.00pm in the **Circle Foyer**- Children of Hillside Avenue Primary perform some live Ukulele.

7.00pm- 7.30pm in the **Circle Foyer**- the Norwich Ukulele Society will perform a half hour set of an assortment of Ukulele classics.

Ukulele fever has stuck a chord with Norwich Theatre Royal audiences as all tickets for The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain have officially sold out. For those of you with tickets we have the perfect pre-show evening of Ukulele entertainment and it's completely free.

To kick-start the evening of light-hearted, fun entertainment, The Norwich Ukulele Society is inviting audiences of all ages to come along to a Ukulele taster session in the Targetfollow Room between 6.30-7pm.

"It will be really informal – just an opportunity for people that fancy having a go, to hold one, feel one and ask some questions about it. It's for people to see whether it may be something they might like to take up themselves," says Gemma Cullingford of the Norwich Ukulele Society.

The Norwich Ukulele Society started up almost 2 years ago, when a group of Ukulele players decided to have a social get-together. The group are of varying standards and ages, but with a similar sentiment- that the Ukulele creates a happy, uplifting, community feel.

Gemma say, "I like its happy sound, the fact that it's fairly easy to play and carry around. Give it a couple of hours, minutes even and you will be hooked! You'll also be pleasantly surprised at how good you can sound in a short amount of time."

The Society has also extended beyond just a social club and have started too play the occasional gig at local venues. Last year they joined the stage with the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain themselves, at the Kings Lynn Festival where they played the Clash classic- Should I Stay or Should I go.

“It was a bit of a moment for us, especially as we had only been meeting up for 6 months and then were suddenly strumming in front of 900 or so people”, says Gemma.

Coinciding with the Norwich Ukulele Society, the Children of Hillside Avenue Primary school will be performing a collection of Ukulele songs, in the Circle Foyer between 6.30-7pm.

Sam Barwick, teacher at Hillside Avenue Primary School says, “The children have learnt a great deal of concentration and coordination skills. It has also shown some children that are less academically strong, but are very musical, that they are good at something. This has helped their behaviour in school and raised self-esteem”.

This will be the first time the School has played the Ukulele, an instrument the teachers believe will help the children lead into the more mainstream instruments as the children progress through the school. Their repertoire will include Ukulele Train, Row, Row, Row, I Found a Bumble-Bee and Kookaburra.

“The children are incredibly excited about the experience and we just hope that The Ukelele Orchestra of Great Britain can keep up with us!” says Sam.

After the taster session and children’s performance, the Norwich Ukulele Society will perform an assortment of songs including the Beatles, Johnny Cash and their Christmas charity Single ‘Raise a Glass to Santa’.

For further information, interviews or images, please contact Jason Raper, Theatre Royal education manager, on 01603 598523 or j.raper@theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk

The Norwich Ukulele Society run free meetings every other Sunday at the York Tavern, Leicester Street in the Golden Triangle, from 5pm – 7pm. Workshops run before the meet at 4pm and cost £5.