



IN SUPPORT OF:



NEWTON, MA
Sunday, May 4, 2025
(11:30am - 5:00pm)





THE NEW ENGLAND UKULELE FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 4, 2025 (11:30am - 5pm)
American Legion Post 440, Newton, MA

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL:

For the *first time ever* we are proud to introduce The New England Ukulele Festival, a joyous music celebration featuring the top ukulele performers and groups from across the New England region, with special guest Victoria Vox.

This special event isn't just about music, it's about making a difference. All proceeds will support the Ukulele Kids Club (UKC), a nonprofit organization that brings the power of the ukulele and music therapy to children and youth nationwide.

SCHEDULE:

11:30 am	Doors open
12:00 - 12:20 pm	UU Ukes
12:25 - 12:45 pm	City Hall Strummers
12:55 - 1:15 pm	A&W Ukulele Players
1:20 - 1:40 pm	Betty Machete and the Jumping Fleas
1:45 - 2:30 pm	Victoria Workshop: Multi-Level Ukulele
2:35 - 2:55 pm	The Unlikely Strummers
3:00 - 3:20 pm	2nd Chance Ukulele Band
3:25 - 3:45 pm	Southern New Hampshire Ukulele Group
3:50 - 4:10 pm	About UKC & Raffle Drawing
4:15 - 4:35 pm	Victoria Vox
4:40 - 5:00 pm	Closing Jam



VICTORIA VOX

An award-winning, ukulele-toting, performing songwriter, Victoria Vox has been one of the leading songwriters on the ukulele scene and three-time cover girl for Ukulele Magazine (USA) and UKE Mag (U.K.). She has shared the bill with ukulele greats such as Jake Shimabukuro and the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, as well as songwriters Jackson Browne and Jane Wiedlin.

Over the years, she continued to evolve and reinvent her sound while incorporating the ukulele. She now performs mostly as a one-woman-band, using a loop pedal and bass effect on her Low G ukulele, while incorporating her “mouth trumpet”; a Jazz-era vocal technique emulating the sound of a horn. This odd and quirky talent, nonetheless, landed her on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and a feature on the front page (bottom half) of the Wall Street Journal.

Vox is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music (BM Songwriting) and a Strathmore Artist in Residence (AIR) alum. With a repertoire that spans joy to melancholy, her songs resonate deeply, showcasing the ukulele’s versatility as a profound vehicle for expression. Vox’s music can be found on all streaming platforms.

Vox’s latest album, Nirvana in REM, is an audio-visual experience of 10 original songs inspired by 20 works of art by visionary artist Fred Stonehouse. “These new songs have an atmospheric quality that is deeply emotional and psychological, as well as hauntingly poetic,” says Stonehouse about Vox’s music. Together, they explore the connection between reality and the nonsensical world of dream logic.

HEADLINER



Vox is a member of 1% For the Planet and has donated songs for causes like the American Asperger’s Association and the Duchenne Foundation. Her songs are genuine, sometimes quirky, spanning a wide array of emotions. **Anything is possible with a ukulele, and Victoria Vox is proof.** Originally from Green Bay, WI, Vox has lived in France, England, Nashville, Baltimore, and now resides in Costa Mesa, CA.



ABOUT THE BANDS

UU UKES:

The members of the UU Ukes are a culmination of many folks who attend First Church Unitarian Church in Littleton, MA and a group of folks who attended a Ukulele "Porchfest" sponsored by a local music shop in Littleton. They have been playing together ever since!!

The group was formed eight years ago by Eric Semple, the current director of the group. They meet weekly for their music gatherings at First Church Unitarian in Littleton, MA, and have had the pleasure of being invited to play at several town events as well as summer and fall festivals and town-wide holiday events. Their practices are open to anyone wishing to join no matter your level because they know how beneficial it is to play with others!!!



CITY HALL STRUMMERS:



The City Hall Strummers is a community ukulele ensemble with deep roots at Newton City Hall. Devoted to having fun, making new friends, and sharing the joy of music throughout the Newton community, this group of strummers has been jamming together for 10 years and is looking forward to continuing their quest to spread happiness in their little corner of the world.

A&W UKULELE PLAYERS:

Since 2016, the A&W Ukulele Players – a lively group of 20 musicians – has entertained audiences across the Boston area with upbeat songs from the 1920s through the 2020s, insuring something for everyone. Their energetic performances encourage audience participation, whether through singing along, playing percussion instruments, or even joining in for a bit of hula dancing.



BETTY MACHETE AND THE JUMPING FLEAS:

Betty Machete and the Jumping Fleas are a group of funny and supportive women who practice every other Monday night. We sing primarily '70s and '80s songs, we do occasionally expand our decades for special performances. We all have alter-ego names that we use when we perform. Jessie calls it the happiest 90 minutes of her week. The Fleas are always looking for new members. We happily welcome all players, regardless of experience. Non-binary and trans women are welcome.



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose support has been instrumental in making this festival possible. Your commitment to our community and music enriches us all. Thank you for your unwavering support.

BIG KAHUNA SPONSORS:



ABOUT THE BANDS

THE UNLIKELY STRUMMERS:

The Unlikely Strummers is a high-energy performance group from across southern Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island that adds a little dash of the unexpected to everything they do. From instrumentals to mashups, you never know what they might do next! The Unlikelys can be found at a wide range of venues – from community festivals to concert halls to sporting events – and last fall they were thrilled to be invited to open for uke virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro!



2ND CHANCE UKULELE BAND:

The 2nd Chance Ukulele Band is a genuinely fun collection of dissimilar personalities that gravitated together over their joy of playing the ukulele and giving joy to audiences.

From an immigrant, now U.S. citizen, who escaped from behind the iron curtain to a West Point airborne ranger, to a high school math teacher to a career long human relations professional, to an English and reading tutor to a music major with impeccable music literacy our group of six shares a joy for life and second chances.

They formed in 2021 and performed for the first time in August of that year. Not only are they a diverse group of personalities, but likely because of that variety, their individual musical tastes are all over the spectrum. Their sets reflect a wide range of musical interests, which their audiences embrace with great enthusiasm. They laugh, they sing, and they perform with great gusto.

SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UKULELE GROUP:

Since 2012, Southern NH Ukulele Group (SNHUG) has been bringing people together to strum, sing, and spread joy—free of charge and open to all! They meet every other Friday and take their music on the road, performing at fairs, community events, veterans' homes, nursing homes, and wherever they will let them in the door. A longtime supporter of the UKC, SNHUG has raised over \$111,000 to bring ukuleles—and smiles—to hospitalized children and their families, both here on the Seacoast and nationwide.





SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose support has been instrumental in making this festival possible. Your commitment to our community and music enriches us all. Thank you for your unwavering support.

BIG KAHUNA SPONSORS:



Watertown

— Savings Bank —



COMCAST  NBC UNIVERSAL
**MATCHING
GIFT PROGRAM**

THANKS TO LARRY KRASNOW AND RACHEL SIMON

with Barbara Rose, Cathy Carvin, Christine Eldridge, Dan Corzilius, Estelle Aubin,
Kathy Danielson, Linda & Bob Tracey, Roberta Williams, Ruth Letourneau & Tina
Stone

ABOUT THE UKULELE KIDS CLUB (UKC)

The Ukulele Kids Club is a nonprofit organization dedicated to harnessing the therapeutic benefits of music by donating ukuleles to medically fragile and children in need worldwide. Through music therapy, UKC brings hope and joy to kids and teens, aiding in their healing process through music. The New England Ukulele community have been proud supporters of the UKC since the beginning now going on it's 13th year of delivering healing through music.



LEARN MORE: THEUKC.ORG

THE UKC TEAM:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KELLI MCKEE

BOARD CHAIR
MARLÉN RODRIGUEZ-
WOLFE

VICE-CHAIR
STEPHANIE EPSTEIN

TREASURER
HENRY RISTUCCIA

DIRECTOR
CONNIE RYAN

DIRECTOR
KIRA TURCHIN

WEB ADMINISTRATOR
LARRY AGOVINO

MARKETING/COMM.
RAICES MEDIA CO.

NEUF COMMITTEE

JUNE PINKHAM, MARISA CACCIATORE, CYNTHIA MILLER,
JERRY DALLAL, KEITH MACFADGEN & MARLEN R. WOLFE.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose support has been instrumental in making this festival possible. Your commitment to our community and music enriches us all. Thank you for your unwavering support.

LIL KAHUNA:



Glen R. &
Tara Bickford Bailey



String Traditions
2025 Summer Day Program

Jul 28 - Aug 1 | Ages 9-14, violin, viola, cello

Powers
Music School

Learn old and new fiddle traditions to improvise, arrange, and find your voice! Details, schedule, and registration:

powersmusic.org/program/string-traditions

FESTIVAL T-SHIRT:

Grab your official New England Ukulele Festival inaugural apparel today and celebrate the start of something special!

SHOW YOUR UKULELE PRIDE IN STYLE!

SCAN ME



ONLINE AUCTION:

Support the Ukulele Kids Club and snag incredible deals! Explore the New England Ukulele Festival's online auction, featuring unique items and exclusive "Ask Me Anything" sessions with ukulele experts, music celebrities and more.

Bid now and help bring the joy of music to children!

Auction ends on May 4th, at 11:59pm.



SCAN ME





SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our generous sponsors, whose support has been instrumental in making this festival possible. Your commitment to our community and music enriches us all. Thank you for your unwavering support.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS:



Dan Tappan
Friends of Taunton Public Library
Lisa Paton
Mansfield Little School
Susan Bottary
Vermont Uke Group

FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL:



Aaron Chase
Avery Elementary School
Brian, Dan, Patty, Courtney,
Carter, Brooje SanZilias
Carol Carpenter
Cheryl Beaudry
Christina Courtney
Colin Tracey
Fairhaven Frets
Friends of Doug Nunes
Friends of the Mansfield Senior
Center
Highland Falls Knitting Group
Jeff Angeley

Jen Wallace
Judy Gallagher
Julie Beckham
Morrill Free Public Library
Natalie McVeigh
Patrick Tracey
Richard Shafer, Taunton River
Watershed Alliance
Taunton River Watershed
Society
Terri Newfell
The Community at Pond
Meadow
Walpole Council on Aging

MEET OUR MC: MARLÉN



A North Andover resident, Marlén Rodriguez-Wolfe is a board-certified music therapist and nonprofit leader who served as CEO of the Ukulele Kids Club from 2019 to 2022. Under her leadership, UKC expanded its global reach, bringing healing through music to children in hospitals around the world. She now serves as Chair of the Board, continuing to champion the power of music therapy.

As MC of the New England Ukulele Festival, Marlén brings heart, humor, and a deep commitment to the cause.

SUPPORT THE UKC WITH TEDDY THE DOG

SCAN ME



Join the "I'll Be There For Uke" campaign! **100% of the profits from this limited-time collection will be donated by Teddy the Dog Apparel Co. to the UKC!** Short- and long-sleeved t-shirts, hoodies, mugs, and even bandanas for your favorite fur-buddy! Thanks for being there for UKC kids!

Since 2016, New England-based Teddy the Dog has donated over \$300,000 to support great causes!

Sales end on May 11, 2025

GRAB A BITE TO EAT!

Note: The food may contain or come into contact with common allergens, as we did not prepare the food, we cannot guarantee that any dish is completely allergen-free. **If you have allergies, please use your own judgment.**

ALL FOOD ITEMS \$2



Pizza (Gluten Free & Vegan options)



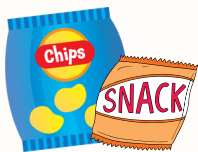
Subway Sandwich Slices



Lizzie's Ice Cream (Chocolate & Vanilla)



Cookies (Crumble & UKC themed)



Chips and Snacks



Drinks (Visit the Cash Bar)

...AND MUCH MORE

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their invaluable contributions to the festival:

ALL THE NEUF EVENT VOLUNTEERS:

**Your dedication and hard work ensure the festival's success.
Thank you for your selfless dedication to our community.**

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS FOR AMA:

Thank you for sharing your talent and passion with us.

Chris Kamaka
Daniel Ward and Heidi Swedberg
James Hill
Jeff Kinney
Jim Boggia (Ukulele Springstein)
Kate Taylor
Kimo Hussey
Leisa Rea (Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain)
Leland Sklar
Mim
Tony Trischka

IN-KIND DONORS:

AMITY Publications
Best Western - Boston
Boston Bruins Foundation
Brasco Florists- Waltham
Charlie Gagnon
City Streets Restaurant, Waltham
Doug Clifford
Elisabeth and Pete Miller
Halie Jeanneret (photographer if needed)
Joan's Art Gallery
Kala Brand
Kathy Bilodeau-Olkovikas/SNHUG
Kathy Kirrane
Kathy Shey (photographer)
Keith Macfadgen
Lisa Doucet and Lisa Gerlach
MIX 1041 Karson and Kennedy "Good Vibe Tribe"
Motif Magazine

Nancy and George
Haseltine/SNHUG
Nola Freestone
Nottingham Community Church, Nottingham, NH
Rich Murray
Robin Sewell/A&W Players
Venue Sponsor
Waltham Cable Access Channel (WCAC)
White Dog Press
WICN.org

EVENT VENDORS:

Your participation adds vibrancy to our festival community.

Nancy Kocur - Quilts and Ukuleles,
Matt Ryan - Rumble Strings Workshop,
Townsend MA
Noa Juarez - Noa's Art, Caricature Artist
Marisa Cacciatore - Jewelry
Peggy Tucker - Bedrock Gardens
Kelly Thompson - Funky Frets
Teddy The Dog
Harry Lacoste, Puppeteer
Victoria Vox Merch

FOOD VENDORS:

Amazing Pizza
Bertucci's Italian Restaurant Waltham
BJ's
Crumb!- Waltham
Depasquales at Night Cap Corner, Newton
Enzino Pizzeria
Fiorella's Trattoria-Belmont
Frito Lay
Gerry's Italian Kitchen
Gigi's Pizza Company, Watertown
Lizzy's Homemade Ice Cream -Waltham
New York Pie-Waltham
Pini's Pizza-Waltham
Red Spot Printing
Sophia's Greek Pantry, Belmont
Subway
Table Talk Pies, Worcester, Mass
The Cookie Monstah
Trader Joe's - Newton

LET'S CONNECT

Stay in the loop on upcoming events, workshops, and performances by joining our community of ukulele lovers!

SCAN ME



Facebook:

Ukulele Kids Club Inc

SCAN ME



Facebook:

New England Ukulele Festival

SCAN ME



Instagram:

@theukulelekidsclub

SCAN ME



LinkedIn:

Ukulele Kids Club Inc

SCAN ME



Website:

theukc.org





**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT.**

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



SEE YOU SOON!