

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain Kicks Off Second Eastman Presents Concert Season
Unique performance at Eastman Theatre's Kodak Hall on September 30 at 8:00 pm

Rochester, NY – September 16, 2015 – Eastman School of Music is proud to present the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain for their first-ever performance in Rochester, New York. The group is kicking off the second annual Eastman Presents Concert Series at Eastman Theatre's Kodak Hall on September 30, 2015 at 8:00 pm.

Known around the world for their eclectic performances, the orchestra puts its own unique spin on a range of music from Wagner and Tchaikovsky to David Bowie and Kate Bush. Members often sing or whistle as they play on instruments of different sizes and registers, and the audience can expect the opportunity to interact with the performers directly. The group will be in the lobby after the show to talk to fans and sign autographs.



“The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain has been sharing a lively, cheerful and unique entertainment experience with audiences of all ages for decades,” said Keith C. Elder, Director of Concert Activities at Eastman School of Music. “We are thrilled to have them start off this year’s Eastman Presents Concert Series and honored they are launching their U.S. tour here in Rochester.”

Celebrating thirty years together, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain has been recognized for sparking the latest revival of the ukulele. The recent new interest in recreational and amateur ukulele players has become an intergenerational experience. The instrument is portable, affordable and easy to learn, with an increase in ukulele sales from 581,000 to more than one million between 2010 and 2012, according to the National Association of Music Merchants. Community ukulele groups and lessons are also becoming more common, including in Rochester with the Rochester Ukulele Support Group at Bernunzio Uptown Music, which spawned the Rochester Ukulele Orchestra.

Tickets for the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain are on sale now and range between \$15 and \$65. The public can purchase tickets by visiting www.eastmantheatre.org or calling the Eastman Theatre Box Office at (585) 454-2100.

Other upcoming performances through the Eastman Presents Concert Series include Kristin Chenoweth, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Underground Railroad: A Spiritual Journey with Kathleen Battle and Cyrus Chestnut, Eastman Wind Ensemble with Béla Fleck, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra with Peter Oundjian and pianist Angela Hewitt. For more information on these and other exciting performances at Eastman Theatre, please visit www.eastmantheatre.org.

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About The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain was formed in 1985 as a bit of fun, but the first gig was an instant sell-out, and they've been performing ever since. By 1988 they had released an LP, appeared on BBC TV, played at WOMAD and recorded a BBC Radio 1 session. The current ensemble has been playing together for over 20 years, and has become something of a national institution. Over the last 29 years, the group has spawned hundreds of imitators, and you can now find Ukulele Groups in nearly every major city, indeed, the Orchestra are often blamed for the current Ukulele revival, which is sweeping the globe. For more information on The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain, visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/UkuleleOrchestra> or <http://www.ukuleleorchestra.com/>

About Eastman Presents Concert Series

The Eastman Presents Concert Series first launched in the 2014-2015 season through Eastman School of Music. The series of monthly concerts features international artists from a variety of musical genres at Eastman Theatre's Kodak Hall in Rochester, New York. In its second year, the 2015-2016 season offers another exciting line-up of world-renowned performers. The series kicks off with the delightful wit and musical virtuosity of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain followed by another Broadway great, Kristin Chenoweth; a holiday concert with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra; and a moving tribute to the Underground Railroad by soprano Kathleen Battle and pianist Cyrus Chestnut. The season closes with concerts from two outstanding ensembles: the Eastman Wind Ensemble with guest soloist and remarkable banjo player and multi-Grammy Award winner Béla Fleck; and the venerable Toronto Symphony Orchestra under conductor Peter Oundjian will be joined by pianist Angela Hewitt to perform music of Bach and Shostakovich. For more information on the Eastman Presents Concert Series at other performances at Eastman Theatre, visit www.eastmantheatre.org.

Press Contact:

Gabriella Schoff, Tipping Point Communications
gabriella@tippingpointcomm.com
(585) 340-1119 ext. 114