

## **Band Leader Biographies**

### **Marianne Brogan, Artistic Director**

Marianne Brogan is the founder and director of the Portland Ukulele Association and the Portland Uke Fest. She organizes events and festivals and has taught ukulele to groups and individuals since 2001.

### **Brook Adams**

Brook Adams, ukulele and guitar player, singer and composer lives in Eugene, Oregon. Since the late 1970's, Brook has performed and taught at many festivals, as well as written his own tunes, Brook covers songs from the Sex Pistols to Sinatra. Brook's extraordinary talent for making the ukulele sound like a whole band was demonstrated in his show "Abbey Road On Ukulele," where he performed the entire classic Beatles album with only his voice and a ukulele. Find more at [www.brookadams.com](http://www.brookadams.com).

### **Jere and Greg Canote**

Jere and Greg Canote from Seattle, WA, are as renowned for their affable attitudes and humor as they are for their music. Greg on fiddle, Jere on guitar, and both on banjo ukes, perform zany concerts, play for dances, lead songs, and promote a good time! In 1978 they first attended the Festival of American Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, WA, and eventually became frequent teachers there. After touring the country with dance caller and singer Sandy Bradley for four years, they returned to the Northwest for a thirteen year stint on Seattle's National Public Radio show, "Sandy Bradley's Potluck," as Sandy's affable side-kicks. The rigors of finding new material for a weekly radio show kept the twins on their toes, mining and performing gems of American music of the past as well as writing new songs in those styles. Jere and Greg regularly provide workshops on ragtime music and ukulele. [www.canote.com](http://www.canote.com)

### **James Hill**

The `ukulele is hotter than ever, embraced worldwide by a crop of young musicians eager to push the instrument into uncharted territory. Leading the charge is Canada's James Hill. During his teenage years he honed his skills as a key member of the renowned Langley Ukulele Ensemble under the direction of Peter Luongo. After touring for twelve years with the [Langley Ukulele Ensemble](#), James embarked on a solo career in 2002. In performance, James is energetic and captivating, mixing colourful anecdotes with a versatile repertoire that stretches from original compositions to Schubert to the Beatles and beyond. He is heard frequently on CBC and NPR National radio. James is the author of Ukulele in the Classroom method books and web site and continues the mission started by Chalmers Doane in the 1960's to advance the use of the ukulele to teach music literacy in the classroom. He is a regular performer and teacher at ukulele festivals around the world. [www.ukulelejames.com](http://www.ukulelejames.com), [www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com](http://www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com).

### **Del Rey**

Del Rey started playing classical guitar when she was four. As a teenager, she met bluesman Sam Chatmon who inspired her to become a blues queen. Her guitar playing combines country blues, stride piano, classic jazz and hillbilly boogie through the sensibility of an autodidact trailer-park esthete. Her live show is full of complex guitar grooves and sly humor. Del Rey plays concerts worldwide and also presents a concert/lecture on women musicians called [Women in American Music](#). She collaborates and tours frequently with Austin guitarist [Steve James](#) and she plays ukulele with The Yes Yes Boys. Since 2004 she has been collaborating with Maria Mulduar on

tributes to Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Johnny Cash, and she is featured on Ms. Muldaur's latest CD *Sweet Lovin' Old Soul*. Del Rey also writes about music for various publications, including Acoustic Guitar. Del Rey has recorded three solo albums, an album with the Yes Yes Boys, two albums with Steve James, and two with Del Rey and the Blues Gators. [www.hobemianrecords.com/](http://www.hobemianrecords.com/)

### **Band Camp Instrumentalists**

**Piper Heisig** began playing music professionally in 1977 and teaching in 1987. She can be heard singing and playing bass and/or percussion in a number of bands around the California Central Coast. A veteran of many musical genres, including Old Time, Bluegrass, Country, Western Swing, Trad-Jazz, Swing, Blues, Hawaiian and World/Folk, her name has appeared on many band rosters over the years, including "Those Darn Accordions" and "Cats & Jammers." Among the musical hats she wears are those of performer, teacher, recording artist, song writer and record producer. Piper lives in San Luis Obispo, amidst her copious collections, which she shares with her house panther, Kiko. She is a certified Fashion Therapist and a master at creating interior environments. [www.cafemusique.org/](http://www.cafemusique.org/)

**Nova Karina Devonie**, who once caused Garrison Keillor to blush and become tongue-tied as he attempted to pronounce her name, hails originally from Vancouver, BC. This vile temptress of the accordion has been delighting audiences with her sensitive (and sometimes humorous) playing, sonorous singing style, and sideways fashion sense since the early 1980's. Nova moved to Seattle to join swingabilly cowgirl band "Ranch Romance," and stayed to make it her home after that band ended their touring days. She now performs with several bands including "Miles and Karina," "The Buckaroosters," "The Rolling Blackouts," and "fasten with pins." Nova teaches private piano accordion lessons, and has been on staff as instrumentalist and instigator for several years at the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop. She looks forward to hanging out in the fabulous ukulele milieu. [www.milesandkarina.com](http://www.milesandkarina.com)

**Matt Weiner** can be spotted in Seattle almost nightly playing bass and singing with drummer Mike Daugherty in Casey MacGill's Blue 4 Trio, as well as with Del Rey, Barton Carroll, Miles & Karina, and many others. He has performed and/or recorded with The Hot Club of Cowtown, The Asylum Street Spankers, Holotradband, Danny Barnes, Willy Mason, Matt Munisteri, Butch Thompson, Hal Smith, Jon-Erik Kellso and Rani Arbo. Recently, he made his musical theatre debut playing the role of Joe B. Mauldin in the 5th Avenue Theatre's production of "Buddy", the Buddy Holly Story. "At The Ukeshack" is Matt and Del Rey's first record of Ukulele and Bass duets.