



WHERE DID UKESTRATION COME FROM?

No big deal really. Orchestras do it with virtuoso musicians. Why can't we?!!!

Mark and Jane work hard in their local communities around the Newcastle area of Australia. Here they teach ukulele to up to 150 adults and 60 children each week, using a 'ukestra' format that combines entertainment, music education and social connection.

Using this experience as a base, the ukestration approach has also been refined by learning from others.

Mark and Jane were the first Australians to complete the three years of the James Hill Ukulele Initiative (JHUI) in Canada and now partner with James to deliver the JHUI in Australia.

However, they have also been inspired by the extraordinary abilities and entertainment of the Langley Ukulele Ensemble.

But it is the commitment of their local adult ukestras – a commitment where 'non-musicians' have learned to be musicians and performers, and the need to provide parts for all manner of abilities – that has been the most inspiring. The ukestration approach was so successful that in their first appearance at a national ukulele festival in Australia (Melbourne Ukulele Festival 2011), the 'Ukastle Ukestra' amazed everyone with their entertaining ukestrated performance. This resulted in the tongue-in-cheek awarding of the 'Golden Ukulele' for best community group of the festival.

Out of these experiences, Mark and Jane have distilled a two hour 'Ukestration' workshop that has attracted accolades from all over the world.

We love meeting and being with people from all walks of life in other communities in the world. This is one of the main reasons why we run these Ukestration workshops. But we also want people to more skillfully engage with all the potential that the ukulele offers, to get beyond 'hum n strum'.

PAST WORKSHOPS

NSW & Victoria 2010 – today. Inverell, Dungog, Brisbane, Bendigo, Forbes, Melbourne, Port Macquarie, Folk Festivals, Mission Beach, Atherton. And let's not forget Newcastle, NSW, almost every day of the week! (If you are in the area, feel free to [pop in](#)).

Melbourne Ukulele Festivals 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Newkulele Festival 2012 and 2014

Hanoi & Singapore – April 2013

2011-2016 – the West Coast of Canada and the USA. 2013 & 2015 – New Zealand