

Mentorship Program: Beginners

Mission Statement: This is a Mentorship Program designed to provide the beginning student with the basics of understanding and playing the Ukulele.

This program consists of Step-By-Step “Group Lessons” arranged to provide you the minimum standard requirements for basic Ukulele playing. At the successful completion of this Program, you should be able to play as well as up to 80% of all Ukulele players and may consider yourself an Advanced Beginner or a Beginning Intermediate.

Afterwards, some players may decide to seek further education or delay further education. Some players may delay further instruction and just have fun playing the ukulele. This is a personal preference.

After completion of this course, please check the internet for advanced material designed to provide further instruction. You can find lessons on You Tube, private teachers and many ukulele workshops.

Practicing the Ukulele:

Remember...this is supposed to be FUN!

So...be Patient!

If you get frustrated, STOP and take a break!

Then, of course, pick up the Uke and start having fun again!

Program Times: The fun begins each October through May (Check the website: scukes.org/ for exact timing. Please watch for emails as we do have to make changes occasionally.

Oct.-May Jams: Thursdays 3:00 – 5:00

Group Mentoring for Beginner Mentorship Program: every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month from 1:45 – 2:30

Mentorship Program: Beginners

Level 1

- 101 Basic information concerning Ukulele:
- A. Types: Soprano, Concert, Tenor, Baritone. Cases, Strings, Straps, Parts of the ukulele. See MH1 and MH2
 - B. Tuning: Digital Tuners (GCEA) High G or Low G (a personal preference).
 - C. How to hold the Ukulele / Body Posture (Feet flat on ground, Spine straight, Arms free to move, Relax, Comfort. See bottom of MH3.
 - D. Strings: names of strings, numbers of strings. See middle of MH3.
 - E. Tablature See top of MH3.
 - F. Finger numbering – See MH4.
- 102 Website: scukes.org/
- A. Explore all tabs.
 - B. Download: Mentorship Program Materials including:
 - 1. Mentorship Program
 - 2. Handouts #1-14
 - 3. Handouts #15-19
- 103 Let's Play!
- A. Vamp with teacher – Mute strings
 - 1. Right hand: used for Strumming. Can use Thumb or Index Finger. Use a relaxed, flexible wrist. Do not use arm.
 - 2. Left hand: Discuss hand and finger placement, pressure, no buzzing.
 - 3. Learn First Chord: C (0003). See MH3 and MH4.
 - B. First Song:

1. Play Happy Birthday using only the C Chord. Are there chords missing?
- C. Learn Second Chord: G7 (0212)
- D. See MH18. Play “Happy Birthday” with C and G7. Anything missing?
- E. First Progression: A Progressions is a series of chords used to make a song.
 1. First Progression: C – G7 – C (I – V7 – I) You use the Root Chord (C), then the V7 Chord (G7), then back to Root (C).
 2. Practice until you can go back and forth smoothly. Say the chords out loud as you play.

104. Let’s Play together!

- A. How to follow Leader: Watch the leader for: Tempo, Beginning and Ending of Songs, Turnarounds, Tags, Rhythm, Dynamics etc.
- B. If you don’t know chord(s) while playing songs, mute the strings but still strum with right hand.
- C. Play Second Song: “Jambalaya” MH5 and MH6

Level 2

201 The C Scale:

A. See MH7. This is the C Scale. We are just introducing this to you now. We don’t use it much during jams. We won’t spend much time on it now. We just wanted you to be aware of it.

B. Practice Rhythm: See MH8

C. Practice Strums: See bottom of MH8: Down (numbers) Up (+)

202 Left Hand: Chords

A. Review chords C (0003), G7 (0212)

B. Learn Chord F (2010)

C. Learn Second Progression: (C – F – G7- C) - (I – IV- V7-I)

D. Play Third Song “This Land is Your Land” MH9 and MH10

F. See MH18. Play “Happy Birthday” again. Does it sound better with all three chords?

Congratulations! You can know enough chords to play thousands of songs!!!!

Level 3

301 Improve your Ear: Listen

A. Can you hear why G7 (V7) needs to resolve to C (I)?

B. Learn Chord G (0232)

1. Can you hear the difference between G7(V7) to C(I) and G (0232) to C(I)? G(V) does not to resolve to C(I) Why?

302 Progression #3

A. Learn chord Am (2000)

B. Third Progression: (C-Am-F-G7-C) (I-vi-IV-V7-C)

C. Learn Dm Chord (2210) From F Chord just put ring finger down.

D. Play Third Song “26 Miles Across the Sea” MH11 and MH12.

303 Progression #4

A. Progression #4: (C-Dm-G7-C (I-ii-V7-I)

B. Play Fourth Song “Mack the Knife” MH13 and MH14

C. Practice all 4 songs and Progressions. (Say chords aloud) Notice that different songs use different strums and rhythms.

Level 4

- 401 Review
- A. Review learned Chords, C, G7, F, Am, G, Dm. Check your finger placement and wrist movement.
 - B. Practice all 4 Progressions using different strum patterns, accents, dynamics and tempos (4/4 time, 2/4 time, $\frac{3}{4}$ time)
 - C. Practice all 4 songs (at home).
- 402 See Chord Chart MH16.
- A. Review “Uke-friendly” keys of C, G and F
 - B. CGF = 3 keys x 7 chords = 21 chords
 - C. Notice the “easy fingering” on bottom row for D7, Em7, Bflat, Gm7
 - D. Remember: move thumb, wrist, and left arm to make different chords. Practicing good technique = better playing.
- 403 Practice Progression #1 in keys C – F – G (say chords aloud)
- A. I – IV – I
 - B. C – G7 – C
 - C. F - C7 - F
 - D. G – D7-G
- 404 Play Jambalaya in keys C – F – G. Practice these at home.
- 405 Practice Progression #2 in keys: C – F – G (say chords aloud)
- A. I - IV- V7 - I
 - B. C – F – G7 – C
 - C. F – Bb - C7 – F
 - D. G – C – D7 –G
406. Play “This Land Is Your Land” in keys C– F – G. Practice these at home.

407. Practice Progression #3 in keys: C – F – G (say chords aloud)

A. I – vi- IV – V7 – I

B. C –Am-F-G7-C

C. F-Dm-Bb-C-F

D. G-Em-C-D7-G

408. Play “26 Miles” in keys of C – F – G. Practice these at home.

409. Practice Progression #4 in keys C – F – G (say chords aloud)

A. I – ii – V7 – I

B. C –Dm-G7-C

C. F –Gm-C7-F

D. G-Am-D7-G

410: Play “Mack the Knife” in keys C – F – G. Practice these at home.

Level 5

501: Progression #5: Major Seventh Progression: C(0003) – CM7 (0002), C6 (0000), CM7 (0002) C(0003)

502: Check out Keys D and A

A. I – IV – V7 – I

B. D – G –A7-D

C. A - D – E7 –A

D. What are the ii and vi chords for D and A? (Home assignment)
(Can you play them in all 4 Progressions?)

Level 6

601 New Song Checklist:

When you see a new song, check out the following:

Key

Any new chords?

Decide on a strum / Arrangement?

Break everything down into small elements. Practice and then slowly put it all together.

Always start slowly. Only speed up when you can play smoothly.

602 Class follows leader: Playing all four songs in learned 3 keys: C – F – G.

603 Final Questions

604 Congratulations!!!

You now have the basics for understanding and playing the Ukulele!!!

Once you can (fluidly and easily) do all in this Program, you are probably equal to 80% of all ukulele players.

The main thing is to HAVE FUN!!!

Thank you for being a member of The Sun City Ukulele Club!!!!

