

Mentorship Program with Teacher's Guide: Beginners

Teachers: The Teacher's Guide is in Red Print and in a Different font.

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 (Level 2), or a Beginning Intermediate (2-3).

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 James: 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

Use MH 1 & 2

101 Basic information concerning Ukulele:

A. Types: Soprano, Concert, Tenor, Baritone. Cases, Strings, Straps, Parts of the ukulele. See MH1 and MH2

Have students refer to Resources Tab on Website under Tuning

B. Tuning: Digital Tuners (GCEA) High G or Low G (a personal preference)

Use bottom of MH 3

Emphasize importance of getting these things right in the beginning. Review at the beginning of every class. Better not to get into bad habits and have to break them later.

C. How to hold the Ukulele / Body Posture (Feet flat on ground, Spine straight, Arms free to move, Relax, Comfort. See bottom of MH3

Use middle of MH3

D. Strings: names of strings, numbers of strings See middle of MH3

Use top of MH3 to introduce tablature. Explain that C chord is 0003.

E. Tablature See top of MH3.

Use bottom of MH4 to explain Finger Numbering

F. Finger numbering – See MH4.

This was presented at Orientation. Review Please have materials ready before each class

102 Website: scukes.org/

A. Explore all tabs.

B. Download: Mentorship Program Materials

103 Let's Play!

Teach them how to mute strings with left hand and strum with right. Start with "air" strumming first then move to strings

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.

Introduce C Chord: C (0003) Use MH3 and MH4. Show them how to place third finger on third fret on the first string, close to the fret wire

2. Left hand: Discuss hand and finger placement, pressure, no buzzing.
3. Learn First Chord: C (0003). See MH3 and MH4.

Use MH18 at the end of this document. Play Happy Birthday using only C Chord.

B. First Song:

1. Play Happy Birthday using only the C Chord. Are there chords missing?

Introduce the G7 Chord: G7 (0212). From C Chord, show them how to slide finger down one fret, then (together) drop other 2 fingers into place. To go to C - slide third finger up to third fret while lifting other two fingers. Try to avoid lifting fingers as much as possible.

C. Learn Second Chord: G7 (0212)

Use MH18 at the end of this document. Play “Happy Birthday” using C Chord and G7 Chord.

D. See MH18. Play “Happy Birthday” with C and G7. Anything missing?

Introduce First Progression: Work it out together on white board. Start with “C” then have them say the musical alphabet, (some may not know we only have 7 letters). Then use Roman Numerals to show Chord numbers as follows:

C - D - E - F - G - A - B - C

I - ii - iii - IV - V7 - vi - vii - I

Explain that Capital Roman Numerals are used for Major Chords and small roman numerals are used for minors. Explain the use of 7th Chords.

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.

Use MH5 and MH6. Call their attention to the fact that there are two kinds of sheets, one with only chords and the other with regular sheet music. Tell them that some people prefer to use regular sheet music and that is why we are including it

here. We won't spend a lot of time on the details now. If they have questions, please ask after class. We use the chord sheets during jams with the club. Explain that on MH5, we first use the chord names along with the chords numbers (i.e. (I/C), then we use only the numbers, then on the last verse, we use "Xs" where the chords are played. This is to get them used to hearing where the chord changes are, playing by ear vs. written music.

- C. Play Second Song: "Jambalaya" MH5 and MH6

Level 2

Use MH7. Explain this is just an introduction to the C Scale.

- 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.

Use MH8. Again, this is just an introduction. We won't spend a lot of time on this now. Demonstrate different strums and pulses.

B. Practice Rhythm: See MH8

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

Use MH4. Work out 2nd Progression (C-F-G7-C) (I -IV -V7-I) on White Board with them.

- 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)

Use MH9 and MH10 for "This Land is Your Land"

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

Use MH18 (end of this document) - Play Happy Birthday using C, G7 and F.

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

Explain how 7th chords need to resolve to root chord (i.e., G7 to C)

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?

Introduce Am chord. Introduce 3rd progression (I-vi-IV-V7-I) (C-Am-F-G7-C)

302 Progression #3

A. Learn chord Am (2000)

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

Introduce Dm Chord (2210)

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

Use MH11 and MH12 for “26 Miles Across the Sea”

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

Introduce 4th Progression: (I-ii-V7-I) (C-Dm-G7-C)

303 Progression #4

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

Use MH13 and MH14 for “Mack the Knife”

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).

Use MH16 – Chord Chart

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, Bb, Gm7

D. Remember: move thumb, wrist, and left arm to make different chords. Practicing good technique = better playing.

The rest of this program is self-explanatory.

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 – B \flat - 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-B \flat -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!!!!

MH-18

Teachers: First play in C only (103 B). Then add G7 (103 C). Then play with F Chord (202 E)

“Happy Birthday To You”

C *G7*

Happy birthday to you

C

Happy birthday to you

F

Happy birthday dear Ukulele

C *G7* *C*

Happy Birthday to you.

