

Uke U-7 Workshops

ANDY ANDREWS

BEACH BOY CLASSICS (Levels 3,4,5)

These legendary dudes blasted 3 chord rock classics like “Surfin’ USA” and “Fun, Fun, Fun”, but they also composed masterpieces like “Warmth of the Sun” (12+ chords), “God Only Knows” (15+ chords) and “Surfer Girl” (21+ chords). We’ll surf our way through tunes at both ends of this musical spectrum. First we’ll get that classic surf sound goin,’ and then we’ll play a couple of their masterworks to appreciate Brian Wilson’s genius.

CHANGE THE KEY - EASY, FAST . . . AND WHY! (Levels 2,3,4,5)

“Hey ukers - let’s all play Five Foot Two in D”. . . say what?? If those words stop you in your tracks, then come to this workshop and learn to change a song’s key on the fly. Simple techniques you will remember to keep you playing when keys change. In addition, learn some other good reasons that YOU might want to change a tunes key.

CHORD PROGRESSIONS: 4 OF THE BEST (Levels 2,3,4,5)

Every song you love to play utilizes repeated chord progressions. And then these same progressions show up again and again - in hundreds of other tunes. So, we’ll take a look at 4 of the greatest of these progressions, learn to play them in a few common keys and to recognize them when we hear them. This might change the way you hear and play a song.

MAKE YOUR BLUES SOUND LIKE THE BLUES (Levels 3,4,5)

You know the basics of “playin’ the blues,” and maybe can even can knock it out in a couple of keys. But does it really sound “bluesy?” Learn a handful of cool and easy playing techniques - right hand and left hand - that will make you and your uke become a genuine blues machine!

CRAIG CHEE

SHAPING YOUR SOUND (Levels 2,3,4)

Every Musician has their own voice, and this class will help you create yours. Craig will take you through expanding the basics of Hammer ons/Pulls offs, Percussive elements, as well as some right hand techniques to get you on your way. You’ll be surprised at how simple elements can completely change the feel and sound of a song. All the techniques taught in this class can be used on any form of music - whether it be Island Pop, Jazz, or Rock and Roll. This is the perfect class for the strummer who is looking to do more than strum. You must be comfortable with your basic chord shapes and be prepared to play a few barre chords.

Advanced Beginner/Intermediate (high G tuning recommended but not required)

CRAIG'S RIDICULOUSLY NON-INTIMIDATING INTRO TO MUSIC THEORY ON THE 'UKULELE! (All Levels)

Craig will give you that jump start in learning about basic music theory and how it's applied on the 'ukulele. By the end of the class you'll know why chords are named the way they are, how to anticipate chord changes, utilize this new knowledge to start improvising and be able to play chord shapes all over the neck!

High G tuning recommended

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NEAL CHIN

UKES FOR YOUTH 1 & 2 (Youth)

Part of the Ukcs for Youth program, we will be working on essential 'ukulele techniques including both strumming and picking in a child-friendly setting. This two-part class is welcome to various skills levels as there will be multiple parts to practice for both the advanced picker and the beginning strummer. These classes ultimately lead up to a performance on the Uke U stage so a bit of stage etiquette and performance basics will be covered as well. Handouts will be distributed early so willing students can practice the material before the class.

RIGHT HAND TECHNIQUES (Strumming) (Levels 2,3,4)

One of the defining elements of an 'ukulele player is the use of the right hand. Many different techniques have been developed over the years that have often elevated 'ukulele artists to a unique sound of their own. Join us as we explore some of these techniques and some practical uses for them as well.

WIPEOUT AND RHYTHMIC IMPROV (Levels 3,4,5)

After the release of Pure Heart 2 in the late 90s with Jake Shimabukuro's heroic performance, Wipeout became an 'ukulele standard for many players. Since then artists have consistently reinterpreted the song, adding in different rhythms and techniques to reimagine the Surfari's hit. Learn how to work through different rhythms ranging from straight fours to syncopating your strumming all while creating your own drum solo on 'ukulele!

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CATHY FINK

CLAWHAMMER (Levels 2,3,4)

Clawhammer is an old-time banjo style that easily incorporates rhythm and lead into a few motions. It adapts beautifully to Ukuleles with re-entrant tuning (high G), as that string emulates the banjo's 5th string drone. In this class, we will be training the right hand to learn the technique that can help you sound like Pete Seeger on the Ukulele and accompany both songs and instrumental tunes with a fresh, new sound.

HARMONY SINGING (All Levels – Non-Uke)

Love singing with others and want to add some harmony? This is it! It all starts with the melody and builds on that to find the pretty notes in each chord. Step by step, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer show you how to find two and three-part harmony notes and how to practice and sing with others to make beautiful sounds together. All voices welcome!

MEET YOUR UKULELE (Levels 1,2)

Just got your uke? Itching to play? We'll start at the very beginning from holding to tuning to strumming your first strums and making your first chords. We'll be smiling the whole time, cause we're playing our ukes!

PLAY BY EAR – PAPERFREE! EAR TRAINING (Levels 2,3,4)

You CAN do it. You were BORN with ear training, and Cathy can show you how to make it work for you! What key do I sing in? How do I know what chord to play? Where are the notes to this song? You will be amazed at how easy it is to take your eyes off the page and start training your ear to play what you want.

ARDEN FUJIWARA

INTRO TO SOLO ARRANGEMENTS (Levels 3,4,5)

We will work to transform a song with vocals and a band with multiple instruments and transform it into a solo ukulele piece. All are welcome, but to get the most from the work shop, students should know most basic chords and picking.

ROCK UKULELE (Levels 2,+3,4)

Love to rock out? In this workshop we will look to common techniques used in Rock and Roll to expand our uke skills.

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MILO FULTZ

BASS BASICS (Levels 3,4,5)

Milo will teach the basics of the bass, including sample bass lines, basic technique, and the notes of the fingerboard, so that you can start playing with a group as soon as possible! Beginning 'uke bass players and curious 'ukulele players are all welcome and wanted to come and play both 'ukulele and 'uke bass.

THE SUPER DUPER EASY BREEZY MUSIC THEORY CLASS (Levels 2,3,4)

Have you tried to figure out scales and chords before and couldn't figure it out? Do you wonder how music is really put together and why? Then this is the class for you! Milo will tackle the basics of music theory using the ukulele, by using a few simple concepts and showing how they can be used to explore larger musical concepts of different scales and chords. From high-level beginners to more advanced players, if you're curious about music theory, this class will give you the keys to understanding how it works.

TANYA HACKETT

HULA #1 All Levels – Non-Uke)

Experience the joy of the dance through the language of Aloha! This class welcomes all levels, no prior dance experience needed.

HULA #2 All Levels – Non-Uke)

Continuation of Hula #1

CINDA JOHNSON

UKULELE 101 “MADE EASY” (Levels 1,2)

An excellent beginner class for learning the fundamentals of holding and playing ukulele based on various chords being made. Be able to read chords and music while playing simple tunes & having fun. We'll also learn the “secrets” to ukulele sustainability!!

UKULELE 202 “WHAT’S BEYOND C F G? ...SPICE & FLAVOR” Ukulele 202 (Levels 1,2,3)

Learn the simplest way to build on chords you already know and transitioning from one chord to another with ease. Learn to add dynamics, new strum techniques, fingerpicking, rhythmic changes and more within a simple song to make it “POP” with flair. Hammer-on's, walkdowns and more to spice up your song.

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CASEY MACGILL

CAN'T BUY ME LOVE, SONGS OF THE BEATLES (Levels 2,3,4)

This is a repertoire class that looks at common chord progressions in the Beatles songs. When you learn a cord progression in one song, you're actually learning it in three songs.

Recognizing recurring chord progressions (patterns) speeds your learning curve, and you will get to experience the cumulative learning effect by studying material that overlaps. Casey will bring an ancient portable record player and Beatle albums for reference with handouts of lyric sheets and chord charts.

MY THREE STRUMS (Levels 2,3,4)

This workshop is focused on strumming and covers a shuffle strum, a rumba strum, and a swing strum.

We will spend the most time learning the swing strum technique used to create a danceable rhythm feel with the ukulele. We will learn the damping technique that is essential to creating the swing rhythm. Damping the strings is also important in the shuffle strum, which comes from the rhythm feel of the classic rhythm n' blues. Last but not least the rumba strum is a bit more complex, but we break it down to three bite-sized morsels and learn to count and play it together.

SWING VOCAL CLASS (Levels 2,3,4,5)

In this workshop you will learn a vocal arrangement of the song "Moonglow".

SARAH MAISEL

BEGINNING CHORD MELODY (Levels 3,4)

You can play melodies and you can play chords, but can you do them at the same time? YES you can - and Sarah will show you how easy it can be. This class is perfect for those that have been intimidated by Chord Melody and have always wanted to try it.

High G Recommended

INTRO TO JAZZ 'UKULELE (Levels 2,3,4)

Ever been intimidated by Jazz? Don't worry, this class will be a lot of fun as we go through some popular Standards and progressions. We'll show you how easy (or hard) you can make these tunes. You must be able to play all of your basic chords in order to get the most out of this class.

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MARCY MARXER

HARMONY SINGING (All Levels – Non-Uke)

Love singing with others and want to add some harmony? This is it! It all starts with the melody and builds on that to find the pretty notes in each chord. Step by step, Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer show you how to find two and three-part harmony notes and how to practice and sing with others to make beautiful sounds together. All voices welcome!

HOW TO LEAD A SONG (All Levels)

Learn the art, tips and tricks to engaging and encouraging people to sing and play along with you. Learn to encourage and enable others to participate in group situations. We'll learn some basic concepts and take turns trying them out.

PLAY MISTY FOR ME (Levels 4, 5)

Learn a complete Chorded Melody version of Misty in a step-by-step approach.

ANDREW MOLINA

ARRANGING A SONG (Levels 2,3,4,5)

Want to improve your skill in performing at open mic, leading songs in jam, or in a song circle? Join Andrew as he discusses what goes into arranging a song, including Song Choice, Choosing a Key, and Selecting the Right Chord Voicing for Chord Melody. Get tips on adapting techniques to fit your arrangement and for putting your own twist on a song.

DON'T JUST PLAY... PERFORM (Levels 3,4,5)

This workshop will show people how not to just play but to perform and will cover things like using dynamics to add to your performance, dealing with nervousness and performing in a group or as a soloist.

HAWAIIAN STRUMMING AND PICKING TECHNIQUES (Levels 2,3,4)

Andrew will cover the different strumming and some picking techniques used in traditional and contemporary Hawaiian music such as swing, “chalangalang” and “chank” styles of strumming and some of his personal picking techniques.

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THE REFRESHMENTS

BE IN A DOO WOP BAND (Levels 3,4)

If you love the great doo wop songs of the 60's, this is your chance to learn the parts of the genre that make it so unique. We'll divide ourselves to sing lead, back-up vocals, harmonies, and use those nonsense words that define the world of doo wop. All levels of singers are welcome, and uke players should be proficient at playing chord in the key of F (F, F7, Dm, Bb, Bbm6, Gm7, C7), and be able to switch between them proficiently.

NOT QUITE READY FOR Bb (Level 2,3)

You've had your introductory class and found out how fun and easy it is to play the uke. Now what you need is a little practice. This is a Level 2 class that uses simple chords and fun songs that let you practice what you've learned. We'll take it slow, allowing you time to get those chords ready as we play through the songs. We'll use the following chords: C, Am, G, G7, F, E7, A7. There are no B-flats here! (Although we can show you a secret way to get around it if it does come up).

PARODIES (Level 3,4)

You've worked on your fingerpicking, your strum patterns, and your tricky chord fingering. Now it's time for some laughs! Join us for an hour of singing and playing parodies, those revised words to popular songs that can make everyone smile. We've got a good collection of tunes that you can take home and play with your uke club or at your next family gathering. Level 3 and up (you know about 12 chords and can switch between them comfortably).

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LIL' REV

HARMONICA FOR BEGINNERS (All Levels)

Welcome to those who would like to learn to play the harmonica. This workshop will teach you to play single notes, chords, simple folk songs, train sounds, blues, hand positions, lip pursing and more.

We'll explore hand holding positions, puckering versus tongue blocking, hand tremolo, train sounds, blues riffs, simple folk songs, the major scale, and learning how to chug along with accompaniment styles, all set against a backdrop of harmonica legend and lore.

LIFE AND MUSIC OF WOODIE GUTHRIE (All Levels)

Explore the life, music and lore of Woodie Guthrie arranged for ukulele by Lil' Rev. We'll strum our way through Woodie tunes, learn a couple of new strokes, and examine the work and inspiration for one of America's truly iconic troubadours.

Lil Rev weaves together a tapestry of Woodie songs, tales, quotes, bio, and more, all arranged for ukulele in the keys of C, D, F, G, A and Bb. Most of these tunes are 3-4 chords and can easily be learned by any ukulele player. This is a great repertoire class, and in addition to learning classic folk material, you'll learn a few new strums including, Boom-Chuck, Swing, Gallop and Country strums.

THE MUTED UKULELE (Levels 2,3,4)

With so much emphasis on learning chords and melodies, this class is a breath of fresh air as we explore the ukuleles inherent rhythmic nature. Together we'll learn about Chunking, March sounds, Train effects, Vibrato, Muted Rhythms, the importance of muting the strings whenever you're lost, muted melody playing and so much more!

TRIPLETS MADE EASY (Levels 2,3,4)

Learn different triplet strokes and their respective applications. The triplet is one of the most revered of all the ukulele strokes. Join Lil Rev as he simplifies the triplet stroke and helps you find the best one for your ability.

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GERALD ROSS

HOW TO READ AND WRITE A CHORD CHART (All Levels)

Have you ever wondered how professional musicians perform an unknown piece of music; a song they've never heard before? Typically they are handed a sheet of music, they take a few quick glances at it, the band leader counts off the song and they immediately play the song. Can a hobbyist musician do this? Does one need to spend years learning music theory and perfecting sight-reading skills? Yes they can and no, years of training are not needed. The secret is learning to read and write a standard chord chart. We will learn the universal agreed-upon standard for "charting" a tune. This skill will allow you to share your music with any musician world wide.

This fun and easy class so if you own a pencil and can count to four you are more than ready for this class. No music theory needed. No music reading required.

INTRO TO CHORD MELODY (Levels 2,3,4,5)

Chord Melody is a solo approach to fretted instrument playing where both the chord and melody line are played at the same time. This is a very popular style in the guitar world where many virtuoso players exist. Can this solo style of playing be achieved on the tiny ukulele with its four strings and very short scale? Yes it can! Have no fear this class should actually be titled "Four strings are plenty enough!" This fingerstyle technique will use chord substitutions and single-note lines to craft complete, stand-alone arrangements. Songs from the Swing Era will be used as tools to learn this very rewarding technique.

A concert or tenor sized uke tuned GCEA is recommended. Some basic right-hand fingerpicking skills under your belt will speed you along as well. No music theory needed and no music reading required. No knuckle-busting chord shapes to learn. Class level: Confident beginner to Intermediate.

INTRO TO SWING UKULELE (Levels 2,3,4)

The 1930s and 40s were a magical time in the history of popular music. Swing was mainstream. The ukulele was made for swing music! Any uke song can swing and sound jazzy. It's easy to make your instrumental accompaniment more interesting through chord substitutions and strumming patterns. The material covered in this class is not exclusive to the jazz/swing world it can be used for all styles of music. No music theory needed. No music reading required. No knuckle-busting chord shapes to learn.

Just fun! A concert or tenor sized uke tuned GCEA is recommended. Confident Beginner to Intermediate.

THREE NOTE CHORDS (Levels 2,3,4)

All you need to get that bluesy/jazzy sound. Just because the ukulele has four strings doesn't mean you have to play them all! Many times, you can say more musically with two or three notes than you can with four. We will learn how easy it is to finger three-note chords that sound much more bluesy and jazzy than their four-note counterparts. Simple Blues songs will be used to demonstrate this very effective, very hip-sounding style. No music theory needed, no music reading required, no knuckle-busting chord shapes to learn just fun!

Any sized uke tuned GCEA will work. Confident Beginner to Intermediate

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CARL VENTIS

CHORD MELODY 1 – ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM (Levels 2,3,4)

Want to learn how to play a beautiful song using chord melody? It's easier than you think! Using the great Everly Brothers song, "Dream," we will use basic ukulele chords and tablature to play a chord melody passage. Participants should be familiar with how to read basic tablature and know basic ukulele chords.

CHORD MELODY 2 – BEATLES (Levels 3,4)

If you have taken a beginning Chord Melody class (or are familiar with Chord Melody,) and are ready for more, you won't want to miss this fun workshop. Expand your repertoire of chord melody with the classic Beatles song, "And I Love Her," using basic ukulele chords and tablature to play this classic song simply, easily, beautifully.

VICTORIA VOX

MAKING SENSE OF THE FRETBOARD (Levels 2,3,4)

This is an intermediate level workshop about making sense of chords, movable shapes, dumbing down "complicated" chords... and making the instrument more playable! Basic music theory made easy. Counting on your fingers is totally acceptable (we'll only go to 7!). Learn how to move from major to minor and add color. We'll get inside diminished chords, augmented chords, and suspended chords, so that you don't have be afraid of them anymore!

SONGWRITING WITH UKULELE (Levels 2,3,4,5)

There are many ticking parts in getting a song to work. Melodies, rhythms, chords, and lyrics... Which chords will work? What notes will work? In this interactive workshop we can look at a tune you have written, or are working on, and we'll take a look at what works or . . . doesn't! Learn about songwriting techniques to get you out of a rut, or to perhaps inspire new ideas. There is no right or wrong answer here. All levels welcomed.

STRUMMING PATTERNS (Levels 2,3,4)

If you are new to the uke, or rhythmically challenged, this strumming class will break down strumming patterns in a 4 or 8 count pattern to get you set up to strum ASAP. Bring your ukes and a toe to tap.