

# CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Version 180728



## **BRAND-NEW-BEGINNER 5-Week Ukulele Class**

*Prerequisite: None*

It's time to begin! Yes, you can be musical...even if you've never played an instrument before! But, most ukulele teachers move too quickly for brand-new beginners, boasting playing songs in one day. Far more important is ensuring you'll continue playing after class finishes. We do that by a) making learning fun b) explaining things slowly, clearly, repeatedly, with plenty of time for questions c) providing lots of empathy and encouragement, and d) most importantly, connecting you to community. Since the ukulele generates happy moods, you could say we want to help you "habituate happiness". After five weeks, you'll feel confident enough to play in the key of C major with other beginners...so we've sneakily created beginner groups around town (hee-hee) just for you. Good days ahead!

## **CONTINUING-BEGINNER 5-Week Ukulele Class**

*Prerequisite: Brand-New-Beginner class or equivalent experience.*

Ah! You've been flea bitten; ukulele smitten! You've graduated from the cloudy question "can I do this?" to the clear-sky forecast "heck yeah; give me that thang!" Beautiful, musical landscapes await! In this class, you'll expand both your chord and strumming repertoires enough to be "certifiably dangerous". That's problematic for other musical instruments; not ukulele. Dangerous is good. You'll also be dangerously introduced to additional song keys (F & G major) and chord-change strategies. After five weeks, you may even wander dangerously (of course) into an open mic at a local café and discover you've wanted to do THAT since you were 6 years old! Remember to smile.

## **CONTINUING-BEGINNER DROP-IN Ongoing Ukulele Class...R.S.V.P. Required...Pay At Door**

*Prerequisite: Brand-New-Beginner class or equivalent experience.*

Each 1.5-hour class covers topics similar to 5-week Continuing Beginner class, but spread across 3 months, repeating 4 times per year. Includes playing songs together that illustrate relevant topics. Weekly topics and RSVP links available through the MAUI website. Limit: 15 people per event.

## **STRUMMING 5-Week Ukulele Class**

*Prerequisite: Continuing-Beginner class or equivalent experience.*

Have you been asking: "What are some new strum patterns I could learn?" and "How do I know which patterns match which songs?" We hear you. In this mixed-skill-level class, we'll explore a range of patterns and strumming techniques, from simple to complex, including snazzy accents & flourishes. We'll apply them to example songs, illustrating how each is typically used. After five weeks, you'll 1) feel confident strumming our example songs 2) know how to build a broad strumming repertoire that adds variety to your accompaniment, and 3) enjoy some new musical friendships. You might even start a ukulele band! What will you name it ?

## **FINGERPICKING 5-Week Ukulele Class**

*Prerequisite: Continuing-Beginner class or equivalent experience.*

Picking individual strings in repeating patterns adds subtlety, texture, and greater emotional range to your accompaniment. The uke's naturally high voice suits fingerpicking very well. We'll learn the rich patterns of folk guitar, the delicate patterns of lute and classical guitar, the rapid trickery of banjo magicians, and the synchopated rhythms of ragtime piano. We'll also explore how left-hand chord variations can add interest through simple motifs, melodic phrases, and runs. Our 5 weeks closes by combining both picking and strumming within a given song. Low-G uke tuning encouraged but not required.

## **EARLY-INTERMEDIATE 5-Week Ukulele Class**

*Prerequisite: Continuing-Beginner class or equivalent experience.*

Have you recently dropped a few Franklins on a new KoAloha? Fingertips callused? Do you proselytize the "Gospel of Uke" and think global peace is possible if everyone just played ukulele? Well, this class might scratch that itch of yours. After reviewing essential beginner topics, we'll move on to "movable chord shapes" and then roam outside the major/minor box into more exotic chords. You'll discover multiple ways to play common chords and why you might do that. We'll nab some fun patterns from the "Strumming" and "Fingerpicking" classes and explore combining them within songs. Lastly, we'll explain how "chord progressions" help you: figure-out chords to songs, remember songs, play with other musicians, and even write your own ditties. "Ah-hah" moments guaranteed; epiphanies probable. Sing amen sister!