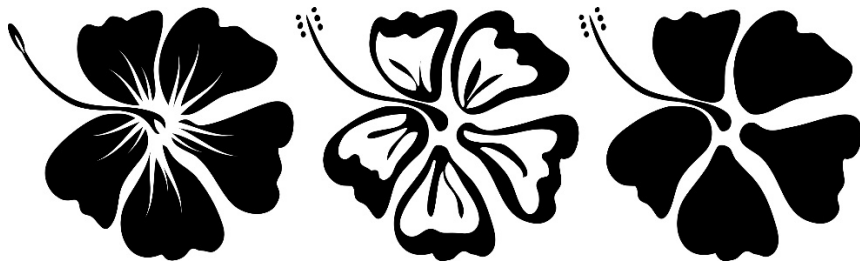


# Intro to Ukulele:

## Tricks of the Trade

*(AKA How do you play the ukulele?)*



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# Starting a Ukulele Unit



Consider classroom **set up**:

- Ukulele to Student ratio
- How will you distribute your ukuleles at the beginning of class?
- The tuning dilemma

Consider **skills** your students need before they play the ukulele:

- Classroom Management Expectations
  - Positives – “experiment time”
  - Consequences – 30 seconds of silence
  - Rest position
  - Signals
- Partner expectations
  - What is each person’s job?
- Posture
  - To mirror or not to mirror
- Parts of the ukulele
- Basic terminology
- Label fingers

Consider **presentation** when introducing these skills to your students:

- A good foundation will help ensure success.
- You’ll be amazed how quickly they take to the instrument.
- Be a salesperson.
- Don’t underestimate the power of desired difficulty.
- Many goals will only be reached through practice.
- Elemental concepts



# Ukulele without the ukulele

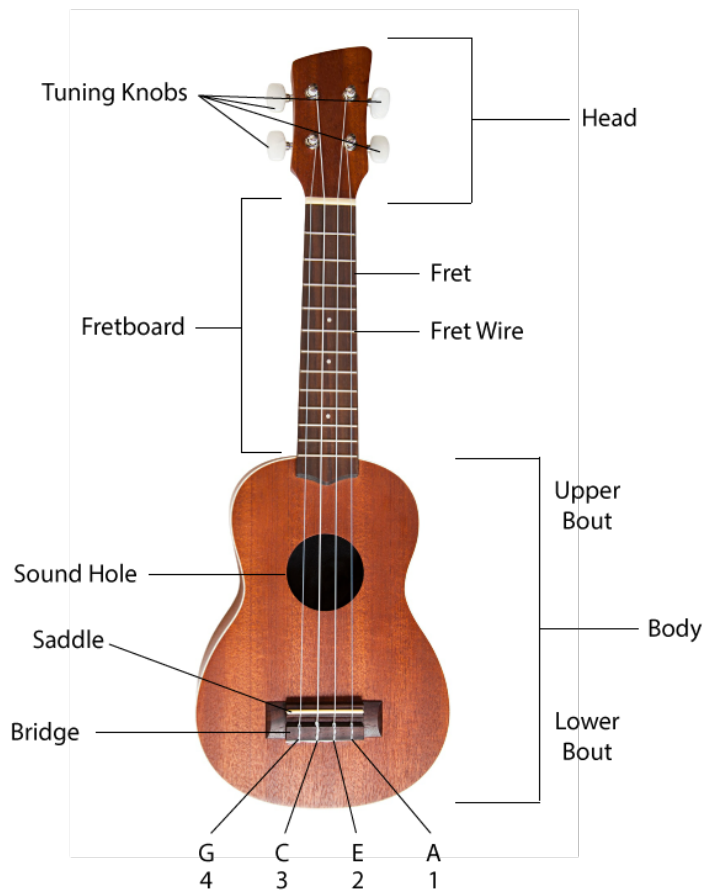


C	F	G	am
C	D	em	G
C	dm	F	B <sup>b</sup>
D	G	A	bm

OUT

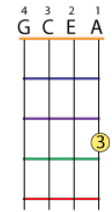
IN

OUT

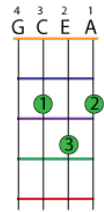




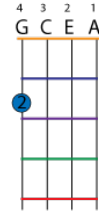
# The Show



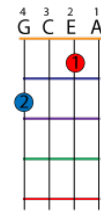
C Chord



G Chord



am Chord



F Chord

**Chorus**

C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
am	am	am	am	am	am	am	am	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

:|| 2X  
(except for intro)

C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	G			
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

intro tag 2nd/4th time

**Verse**

C	C	C	C	G	G	G	G	am	am	am	am	F	F	F	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	---	---	---	---

:|| 3X  
(except for outro)

G	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Verse/Bridge lead in

**Bridge**

F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	G	G	G	G	G			

## The student will:

- Demonstrate appropriate proficiency of the C, G, a minor, and F chords on the ukulele.
- Demonstrate form through performance of the song, *The Show*.

## Consider:

- Elemental teaching. Break down concepts into manageable chunks and then piece it together.
- Practice technique – Place it in the body first.

C I'm just a little bit caught in the middle.  
 G Life is a maze and love is a riddle. F  
 am I don't know where to go. I can't do it alone I've tried.  
 C And I don't know why.

C Slow it down, make it stop. G am  
 F Or else my heart is going to pop. C  
 G 'Cause it's too much, yeah, it's a lot, am  
 C To be something I'm not.

G I'm a fool, out of love, am  
 F 'Cause I just can't get enough. G

C I'm just a little bit caught in the middle.  
 G Life is a maze and love is a riddle. F  
 am I don't know where to go. I can't do it alone I've tried.  
 C And I don't know why.

C I'm just a little girl lost in the moment.  
 G I'm so scared but I don't show it. F  
 am I can't figure it out. It's bringing me down I know.  
 G I've got to let it go,

C And just enjoy the show.

C The sun is hot, in the sky, G am  
 F Just like a giant spotlight. C  
 G The people follow the sign, am  
 F And synchronize in time. C  
 G It's a joke, nobody knows. am  
 F They've got a ticket to that show. G

CHORUS

F Just enjoy the show. C  
 F Just enjoy the show. G

CHORUS

C Dum de dum G  
 Dum de dum am  
 F Just enjoy the show C

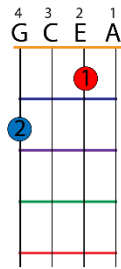
REPEAT

C I want my money back G  
 I want my money back am  
 I want my money back C  
 F Just enjoy the show C

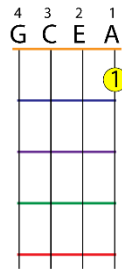
REPEAT



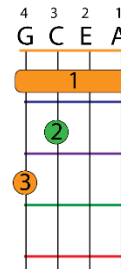
# Lava Song



F Chord



C7 Chord



B<sup>b</sup> Chord

VERSE

F	F	F	F	C7	C7	C7	C7	B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	F	F	C7	C7
A long long time ago				there was a volcano				living				all alone in the middle of the sea.			
He sat high above his bay				watching all the couples play,				and wishing that he had someone too.				:   3X			
And from his lava came this song of hope that he sang out loud				every day				for years and years.							

CHORUS

B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	F	F	F	F	C7	C7	C7	C7	F	F	F	F
I have a dream, I				hope will come true, that				you're here with me and				I'm here with you. I			
B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	F	F	F	F	B <sup>b</sup>	B <sup>b</sup>	C7	C7	F	F	F	F
wish that the earth, sea, and the sky up above will				send me				someone to				la-va.			

## The student will:

- Demonstrate appropriate proficiency of the barred chord, B-flat.
- Demonstrate pulse with the strum pattern, D D-U U D-U

## Consider:

- BARRED CHORDS! Don't give up!
- Steady pulse with the strum pattern. Slow the tempo until it becomes second nature.

F C7  
A long long time ago there was a volcano  
Bb F C7  
living all alone in the middle of the sea.  
F C7  
He sat high above his bay watching all the couples play,  
Bb F C7  
and wishing that he had someone too.  
F C7  
And from his lava came this song of hope that he sang out  
Bb F C7  
loud every day for years and years.

[Chorus]  
Bb F  
I have a dream I hope will come true  
C7 F  
that you're here with me and I'm here with you.  
Bb F  
I wish that the earth, sea, and the sky up above will  
Bb C7 F  
send me someone to la-va.

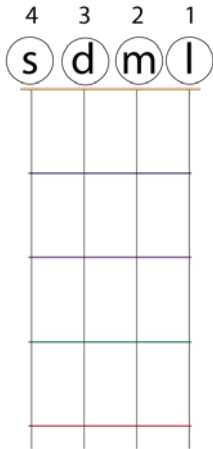
[Verse 3]  
F C7  
Rising from the sea below stood a lovely volcano  
Bb F C7  
looking all around but she could not see him.  
F C7  
He tried to sing to let her know that she was not there alone but  
Bb F C7  
with no lava his song was all gone  
F C7  
He filled the sea with his tears and watched his dreams disappear as  
Bb F C7  
she remembered what his song meant to her.

[Chorus]  
Bb F  
I have a dream I hope will come true  
C7 F  
that you'll grow old with me and I'll grow old with you.  
Bb F  
We thank the earth, sea, the sky we thank too  
Bb C7 F  
I lava you  
Bb C7 F  
I lava you  
Bb C7 F  
I lava you

[Verse 4]  
F C7  
Oh they were so happy to finally meet above the sea  
Bb F C7  
all together now their lava grew and grew.  
F C7  
No longer are they all alone with aloha as their new home and  
Bb F C7  
when you visit them this is what they sing.

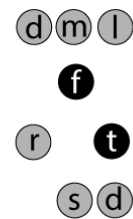
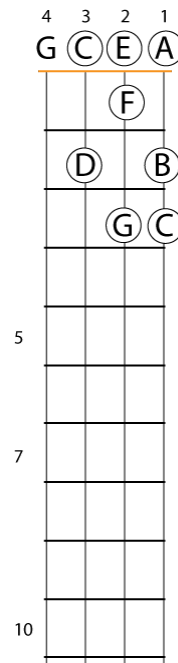
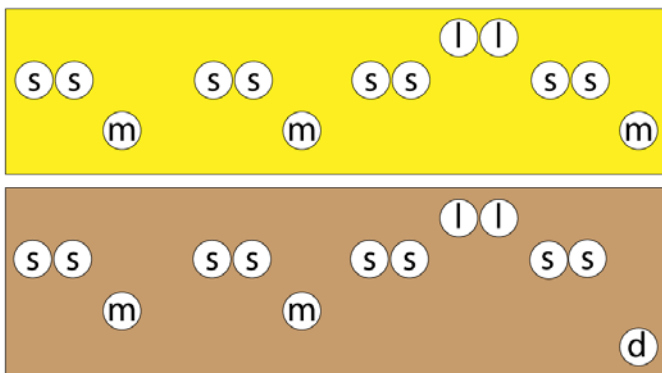


# Apple Tree (finger picking)



## Consider:

- Introducing melodic playing with open strings before adding left hand.
- Bringing back song repertoire from primary grades.
- Using strum patterns to compose a rhythmic/melodic selection.



Major Scale  
Fingerings (shape)

## Consider:

- Following a similar tone set process that you use for melodic skills
- Major scale fingerings are transposable. PATTERNS!
  - 1-3 / 1-2-4 / 1-3-4
  - 0-2 / 0-1-3 / 0-2-3 (C Major exception)





## Playlist



Finger Warmups:

Work This Body – Walk the Moon

Songs:

The Show – Lenka

The Lava Song – from the Disney short, “Lava”



## Tech & Apps



Ukulele On-line tutorials

Ukulele Underground – [www.ukuleleunderground.com](http://www.ukuleleunderground.com) – free and subscriber ukulele lessons.

Audio Apps

Spotify – Streaming Music Service

Amazing Slow Downer (\$14.99) – Modify tempo and pitch; Create loops for practice; works with Spotify

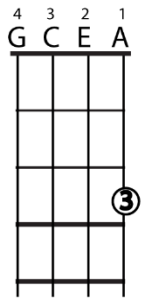
Anytime Pro (14.99) – Same features as ASD with a few more options; works with iTunes playlists only

Ukulele Skills

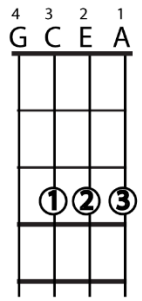
Infinaut Ukulele Companion (chord chart and fingerings) – Chords plus alternate fingerings; finger numbers

Power Tuner

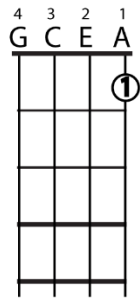
Ultimate Guitar – good resource for user generated tabs for popular music



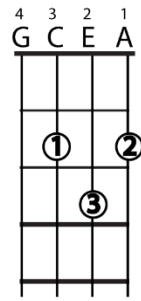
C Chord



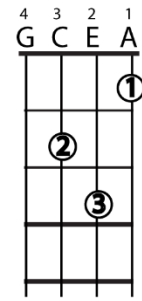
cm Chord



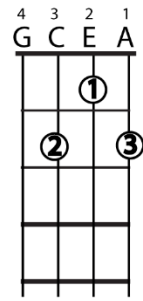
C7 Chord



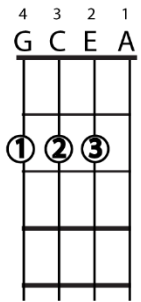
G Chord



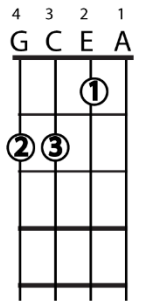
gm Chord



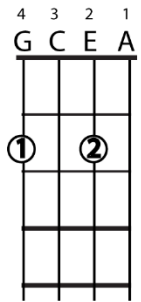
G7 Chord



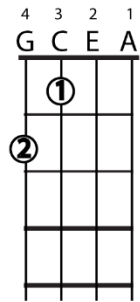
D Chord



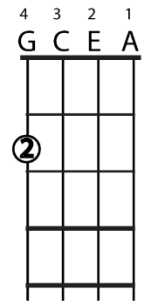
dm Chord



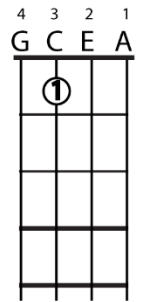
D7 Chord



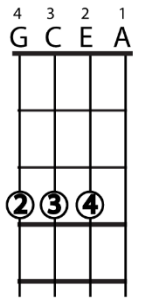
A Chord



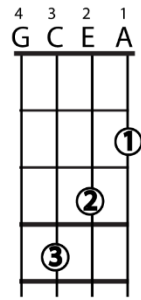
am Chord



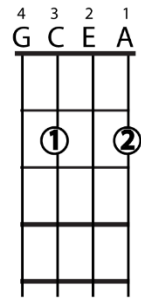
A7 Chord



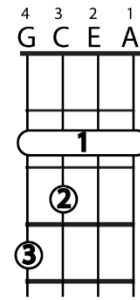
E Chord



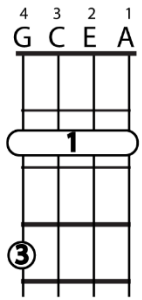
em Chord



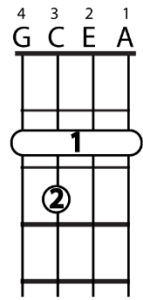
E7 Chord



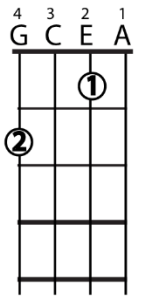
B Chord



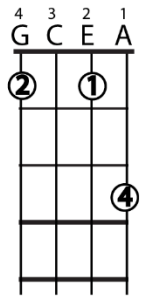
bm Chord



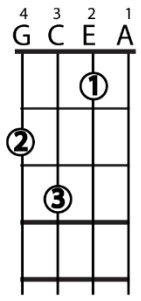
B7 Chord



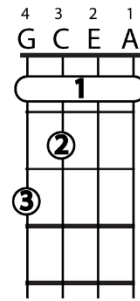
F Chord



fm Chord



F7 Chord



B<sup>b</sup> Chord