



Learn a song from Kipper's Snowy Day on the Ukulele

Hi there - this PDF will show you how to play one of the songs from our film of Kipper's Snowy Day, on the ukulele.

Once you've learnt this song, if you're going to watch Kipper's Snowy Day live at your local venue, great, take your ukulele with you, you can play along during the film.

If you're streaming the film at home, of course, you can play along from the comfort of your sofa.

So you know when to be ready to play, this song is 15 minutes and 30 seconds into the Kipper's Snowy Day film, so if you're at home you can set an alarm maybe, for 15 minutes, or just keep an eye on the clock, and get ready to play after 15 minutes - if you're at a cinema or theatre with your uke, **DON'T SET AN ALARM!**

You'll just have to be ready to play...

Also, if you haven't got a ukulele, but you still want to join in, if you watch this video and listen along to the song, you can learn the tune, and the words, and you can sing along, either at home or at the theatre.

This song is called Big Hill, and it's the song that Kipper and his best friend Tiger sing when they're out in the snow and they run up Big Hill to have a massive snowball fight - it's all about how **big** things are...

Note: I play the uke with my fingers, but you may be used to using a Plectrum - either is fine.

Tuning up - it's really important that you tune up before playing along, otherwise it'll sound rubbish.

I'm sure you all know the notes of the 4 ukulele strings, but just in case:

G C E A

You've probably all got ukulele tuners, but if not go to the lesson video on Vimeo, where you can tune up with me - to find the lesson video, go to Vimeo and search for 'Learn to play one of the songs from Kipper's Snowy Day'

Song Structure

This song is divided into 3 sections - section A, B and C

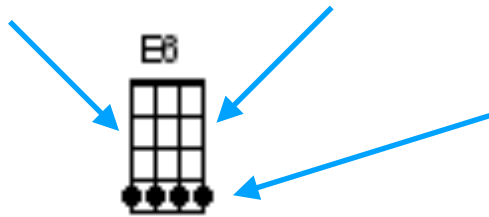
Section A and B are pretty easy, and are for beginner uke players

Section C is a bit more tricky and is for intermediate/advanced players

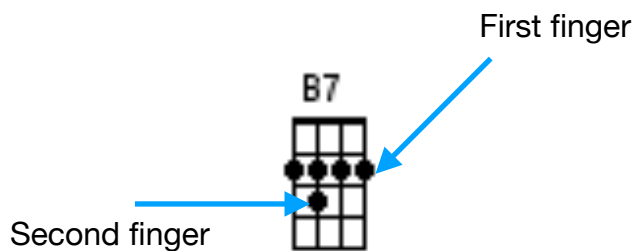
There are 3 chords in Section A:

Bottom string G

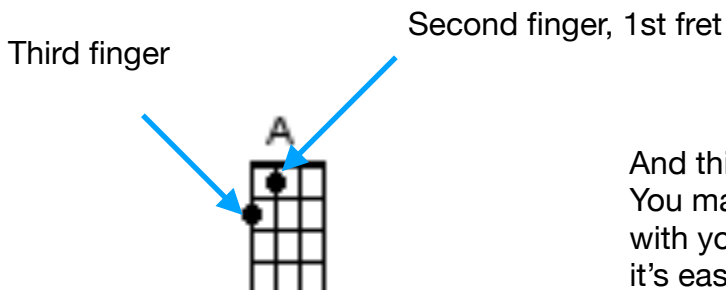
Top string A



This chord is called E6 - but that's really boring. How do you play it? Use your first finger to press all 4 strings down on the 4th fret. (if you can hear all 4 strings clearly, great, if you can't hear the very top string but only the bottom 3, that's also fine)




This chord is called B7... Again, use your first finger to press all 4 strings down, this time on the 2nd fret, then add your second finger on the 3rd fret



And this chord is called A. You may be used to playing this A chord with your first and second finger - BUT... it's easier for this song if you play it with your second and third finger, as shown - it's much easier to move from this position to the B7 position, which you will be doing a lot!

Section B uses the same 3 chords, plus this one:

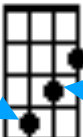


This chord is called F sharp, or F#. Use your first finger to press down across these 3 strings on the 1st fret (or you can press down all 4 strings if you find that easier)

Third finger

Second finger

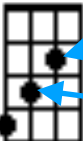
And Section C uses these 2 chords:



This chord is called E minor or Em. First finger goes on the 2nd fret

Third finger

Second finger



This is another way to play a B7 chord. First finger goes on the 2nd fret

Third finger

Second finger

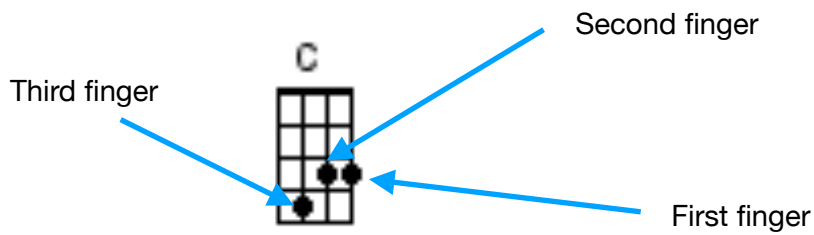
This is a different way to play B7 from the one in Section A - there are lots of ways to play the same chord on a ukulele, which is why it's such a great instrument.

Extra shape for advanced players

You can use this during Section C, the tremolo section, where Robin is singing.

Start on the Em chord, then move your first finger up one fret, until it's on the 3rd fret. You can move it backwards and forwards during this section, for a great effect.

By moving your first finger up one fret you're making a chord that is called C, like this.



How to learn this song

So the first thing for you to do is to learn these chords

really well

and get them 'under your fingers' - which just means it's easy for you to play any of them one after the other, you can hear all the notes clearly, it's not a strain to play any of them.

It's very important that you learn them

very slowly

until it's really easy for you to go backwards and forwards between them.

Don't rush this bit.

I know it's boring, but if you don't learn these chords slowly, you'll never be able to play them fast, believe me.

Then, once you've got the chords 'under your fingers', you can play along with the slower version of the song that I've put on Vimeo - search for this: 'Slowed down version of Big Hill, from Kipper's Snowy Day'.

And once you're used to playing along with this slower version, you can then go back to the main lesson video and play along to the slightly faster version, which is the speed of the song in the actual film.

Because there are lots of times in this song where you go backwards and forwards between 2 or 3 chords, the easiest way to learn it is to first learn the chords, then watch me playing it on the video, then play along with that.

I teach you Section A, so practise that until you can play it easily, then go on to Section B and do the same, then put the two together until you can play Section A going into Section B, then go on to Section C. Then you put the whole lot together, but...

DON'T TRY TO DO THIS ALL IN ONE GO!!!!

It's much better to practise for 10 minutes a day every day, than to try and learn it all in an hour - practising every day makes you remember it much much much much better.

There are more videos on things to make and do on our website, www.slotmachinetheatre.com, there's also an activity pack you can download, and links to where you can see the Kipper's Snowy Day film live, or stream it at home.

Big Hill - words

Tiger and Kipper:

Big hill

It's up and then it's down again - We really really like it when

We run up to the top - And then we stop - And then we run back down again

Big Hill

It's really really really steep - It even tires out the sheep

They all run out of puff - Had enough - And then they run back down again

Sometimes Big Hill looks so big - You just can't see the top

The only way to get there is to

Walk and walk and walk and walk and walk and walk all day until you drop

And there's the top - And then you stop - And then you run back down again

Big Hill

it's twice the size of everything - and perfect just for wandering

from here to over there - or over here

And then you run back down again

The problem with a big hill is it's really very high

and when you stand on top of it

you feel you might drop off of it - you're so up in the air you're in the sky

and that's quite high (slowing down)

no passers by... no passers by... no passers by...

(A robin runs onto the stage and takes over the song in a very operatic way...)

Robin:

Big Hill - a lovely place to sit and chat

But weather up here moves like that - Faster than a fly - A blinking eye

The clouds come down - And start to frown

Wind and blinding snow - Which way to go

you just don't know - you're cold and wet - you're not home yet

and now you're stuck - run out of luck...

and then you can't get down again

Big hill, Big hill - It's a very big hill - A very big hill indeed

Never in all my born days - Have I seen a hill - That is so enormously big

It's big, it's big - Don't tell me it's small - I just told you it's big

Robin (Spoken): Robin chats to audience for a while

Tiger and Kipper:

Big Hill

it's twice the size of everything - and perfect just for wandering

from here to over there - or over here

And then you run back down again

Big Hill

It's up and then it's down again

And nothing is more fun than when

You run up to the top

And then you stop

And then you run back down!

Big Hill Big Hill Big Hill Big Hill Big Hill!

Big Hill!