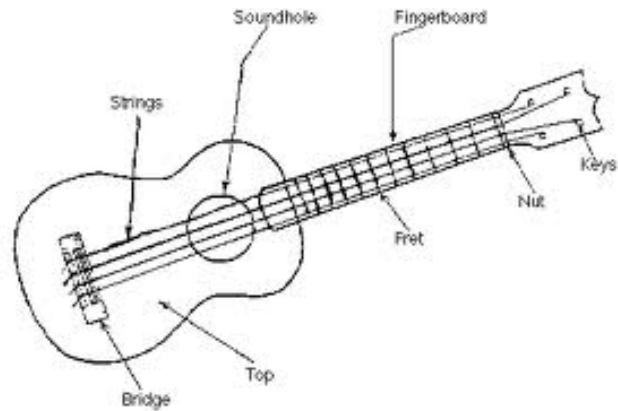


UKULELE LAURENTIAN SCHOOL OF ED – PJ CLASS 2013

Knowing your Uke!

Ukes have four strings. They are stretched over the Fretboard, and sound is caused by plucking or strumming across the strings between the **BRIDGE** and the **NUT**. Experiment with where your plucking will produce the best quality of tone from your Uke. Consider that your Uke is ready and willing to make beautiful music with you and it is your role to open yourself to those beautiful sounds. Respect and love your instrument and she or he will reward you with a lifetime of joy.



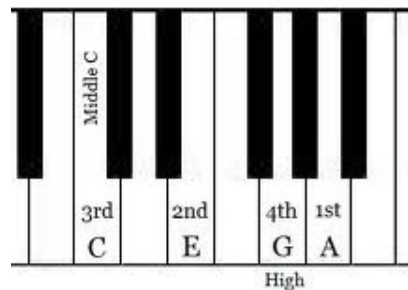
Tuning the Strings:

You are playing on a 'Concert' Uke – which is a slightly larger version of a Soprano Uke. These can be tuned in various ways. We are going to use the standard Hawaiian version – with strings sounding A, E C and (high) G. For reasons we may discover later this is called the “My Dog Has Fleas tuning” or, perhaps more correctly, the “C6 tuning”.

On a keyboard those pitches look like this:

The A string is thus tuned at 440 HZ - just like the tuning fork I use in class.

The A string (or first string) will be the string closest to the ground. The G string (or fourth string) will be the string closest to your chin. C (next away from your chin) is the 3rd string, and the 2nd (the other) string is the E string.



The very first and **most important thing** you can learn to get really good at (and it's OK if this takes a while....) is learning how to TUNE your Uke.

Here is a great site to get started with that:

http://www.ukeschool.com/ukulele/lessons/uke_tuner.html

where you can hear the strings' pitches and match them PLEASE prevent yourself from getting distracted from everything else you might find there. **FOCUS on TUNING** your horn. (aka Uke). No one wants to listen to people playing out of tune.

BUT – THIS might make things easier:

Here is a great **FREE APP** to get started with that:

Free download for ipad, ipod, iphone or ANDROID devices.

<http://ntrack.com/ios-tuner.php>

CHORDS to get you started

C Chord use your 3rd finger to play on the 3rd fret of the 1st string



F Chord use your 1st finger in the first fret of the 2nd (E) string
your 2nd finger of the 2nd fret of the 4th (G) string



Two-Chord Songs - using F and C (I and V)

• SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT

Swing Low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home
Swing Low, sweet chariot, comin' for to carry me home

I looked over Jordan and what did I see?, comin' for to carry me home
A band of angels comin' after me: comin' for to carry me home

Make up some more verses....

• SKIP TO MY LOU

Fly's in the buttermilk, shoo fly shoo
Fly's in the buttermilk, shoo fly shoo
Fly's in the buttermilk, shoo fly shoo
Skip to my Lou, my darling.
Loo Loo, skip to my Lou, x3
Skip to my Lou, my darling.

Lost my partner, what'll I do? Etc

I'll get another one, prettier than you. Etc.

• CLEMENTINE

In a cavern, in a canyon
Excavating for a mine
Dwelt a miner, forty-niner, and his daughter clementine
O my darling, O my darlin', O my darling; Clementine
You were lost and gone forever, dreadful sorry, Clementine.

Or

FOUND A PEANUT...

• ALOUETTE

Alouette, gentille alouette,
allouette, je te plumerai

je te plumerai la tête, je te plumerai la tête

E! La tête: E! La tête:

O - Alouette, gentille alouette, alouette, je te plumerai

Le bec, (nose) les yeux, (eyes), le cou (neck), le dos (back), etc.

JUMP DOWN TURN AROUND

Jump down, turn around, pick a bale of cotton
Jump down, turn around, pick a bale of hay

Lukey's Boat

Traditional Newfoundland

F

Oh, Luk - ey's boat is paint - ed green, a - ha, me boys. Oh,

5 F C

Luk - ey's boat is paint - ed green, the fin - est boat you've

8 F F C F

ev - er seen, a - ha me rid - dle I - day.

O Lukey he sailed down the shore, aha me boys!
O Lukey he sailed down the shore,
to catch some fish from Labrador
Aha me riddle I-day!

Oh Lukey's roling out his grub, aha me boys!
Oh Lukey's roling out his grub
A barrel a bag and a ten-pound tub
Aha me riddle I-day!

More 2-chord songs

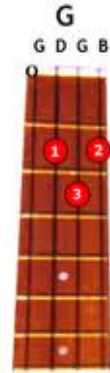
Can you figure out how to play them with F and C?

- Hokey-Pokey
- London Bridge is Falling Down
- How Much is the Doggie in the Window?
- The Wheels on the Bus
- Itsy Bitsy Spider
- He's got the Whole World in His Hands
- Way Down Yonder in the Paw-Paw Patch
- Simple Gifts

Do this G- Chord only if you feel really good about C and F!

G Chord use your 2nd finger of the 2nd fret of the 1st (A) string,
your 1st finger on the 2nd fret of the 3rd (C) string
your 3rd finger on the 3rd fret of the 2nd (E) string

NB: if this ties your fingers in knots try placing fingers
1 and 3 on their strings first, then add finger 3



Find ways to go from one chord to another. To get ready, try this game:

*Game: Strum the G Chord on the note indicated,
then use your LEFT hand to tap your knee on the cross-head notes! Remember to go slowly at first!*