

Lesson 1 - Teachers/Leaders Notes

This first lesson introduces the Ukulele as an instrument, before covering the basics of holding picking and strumming the instrument.

Objectives

-  To learn to hold the ukulele in the correct way.
-  To understand the terms picking/plucking and strumming and to had a go a playing both techniques.

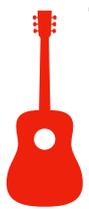
By the end of the lesson;

All Students will be able to recognise a ukulele, and be able to hold it the right way round as well as producing a simple sound from the instrument.

Most Students will be able to hold the ukulele in a good position; flat against their stomachs with a straight back the right way round and produce a good strumming or picking sound from the instrument and recognise the difference between the two

Some Students will be able to play the ukulele with a good technique holding it correctly with good posture and hand positions as well as being able to produce a clear sounding strum and picked sound and play a simple piece effectively.

Helpful Hints



Some pupils (particularly left handed) will try to hold the ukulele with the neck in their right hand. Whilst some ukulele players do play left handed it is not needed and will mostly confuse your lessons. We suggest everyone playing the same way as you will need dexterity in both hands anyway.



Try finding a reference point in the room for all pupils to point their ukulele at so that they are all facing the right way.



Strumming and picking with the thumb is easiest at this stage though if pupils are able to pick effectively with their fingers then it shouldn't be a problem



Some pupils may find it hard to pick a single string instead of strumming this is normal for some pupils. and can continue to be worked on for the next few lessons