

Lesson 2 - Teachers/Leaders Notes

Lesson 2 revisits the basics of lesson one whilst also introducing the concept of Rhythm and Beat. Pupils are expected to strum in rhythms. Towards the end of the lesson they are also introduced to their first chord - C Major

Objectives

-  To understand the concept of a rhythm.
-  To repeat a rhythm by strumming the Ukulele.
-  To understand the idea of a chord and have attempted to play C Major

By the end of the lesson;

All Students will understand that beat and rhythm are different and that rhythm has notes of different lengths. That you get a chord when you strum the ukulele.

Most Students will be able to repeat a simple rhythm played to them on the ukulele and play a song using that rhythm. They will also be able to put their fingers in the correct position for a C Major chord.

Some Students will be able to play and compose simple rhythms on the ukulele and use rhythm effectively within a song. They will be able to play a clear C Major chord on their instruments.

Helpful Hints



Some pupils will struggle to play a rhythm correctly (you may especially find that they just play a steady beat instead), just four steady strums will work in these pieces instead. In the longer term encourage them to strum faster and slower quietly on their own to get used to the idea of different length notes.



Try clapping rhythms before you strum them. (You might find that some pupils can clap the rhythm but not play it).



When learning a C Major allow the pupils plenty of time to find the finger position and let them strum

it to themselves to hear how the chord sounds it will soon become obvious if they have any of the technique wrong.



One of the biggest difficulties new players face when pressing fingers down on the ukulele is making sure that they are only touching the correct strings. Any contact with the other strings will stop them from sounding. Make sure pupils are using the very tips of their fingers and that they are pressing hard enough. If they are encountering dead sounding strings, then try picking each string one at a time to find out where they have gone wrong.



Pupils might complain that their fingers hurt as they press than down. This is normal and actually a good sign that they are pressing hard enough. Within a few lessons their fingers should start to harden and this problem will go away.