

Lesson 2



Picking and strumming revisited

 Remember last lesson? Try picking up your ukulele and holding it. Do you have it the right way round? (The neck should be pointing left). Is the ukulele flat against your stomach? Are you sitting up straight at the edge of your chair?

 Try the trading fours exercise from last week as a group. One person should strum four times and everyone else should answer with another four. (Use a drumbeat backing to keep in time or you could use the video)

Rhythm and Beat

 So far you have only played a regular beat on your Ukulele, we are now going to play a rhythm

 Non-musicians sometimes use the words rhythm and beat to mean the same thing however it is better to think of them as being almost the opposite of each other.

 A beat is when the notes you hear are all the same length. (Sometimes this is also called the pulse, think about what the word pulse means, music has to have a steady heartbeat to keep things moving). You can hear the beat in any piece of music try listening to one of the songs from lesson one and clapping a steady beat as you listen

 Unlike a beat, rhythm has notes of different lengths, these could be a repeating pattern or it could keep changing. The important thing is that at least some of the notes are shorter (quicker) or longer (slower) than the others.

 Try Strumming beats or rhythms on your Ukulele and seeing if everyone else can tell you which you just played.

GOATS!

Each of the strings on your ukulele is named after the note that it plays. From top to bottom (the string closest to your nose going down to the string closest to your feet) the notes are G C E A.

The best way to remember this is to use the phrase Goats Can Eat Anything if you want to really remember this watch the video and try singing the Goats Can Eat Anything Song.



Try the teacher or a leader from the group calling out either G,C,E or A and see if you can all play the note that is called out try speeding up and slowing down to see how quickly everyone can find each string. (Or watch the video and we'll do it for you!)

Piece - E C Peasy



This next piece uses a rhythm that you will need to pick. The rhythm goes like this te te ta ta te te taa If you are unsure watch the video and we will play the rhythm for you.



Try playing the rhythm on the C string of your ukulele.



Listen to the backing and try clapping the rhythm along in time.



Try picking along to the backing on your Ukulele. Look carefully at which strings you need to pick on. It changes from E to C.

The C major Chord



Well done! We have now got to the point where we can learn our first proper major chord. All chords have a name made up of a letter (the note that the chord is built around) followed by what type of chord it is. This chord is called C major (a major chord based on the note C).



In order to change the sound of your ukulele to a C major you will need to press the fingers of your left hand down on the neck of your ukulele. Take your third (ring) finger and press it as hard as you can against the neck of the ukulele. Use the tip of your finger as if your pointing at the neck and line your finger up so that you are pushing a single string down. (You will notice that you get a line across the tip of your finger, it might also hurt your finger this is actually a good thing and it will get better the more you play). Don't try strumming yet your finger will not be in the right place.



You now need to put your finger in the right place. We will always describe fingerprints positions by telling you which string and which fret to put your finger on. **Frets - are the spaces between the vertical raised lines that cross the neck of your ukulele.**



Put your finger (it doesn't matter if you use the others but it will make things easier in a few lessons time if you use your ring finger) on to the A string (remember the goat?) in the third fret and press down hard.



Keeping that finger down strum the ukulele with your other hand. You should get a nice cheerful sounding chord. If your finger is accidentally touching any other strings or not pressing hard enough then it won't sound clearly.

Piece - Ole'!



You can now play a piece using C major



Find the C Major chord with your left hand (remember to put your finger on the 3rd fret of the A string) and keep your hand in the right position.



After a short introduction strum four C major chords then rest for four beats.



The ending has a traditional Cha cha cha ending see if you can clap this rhythm and then try playing along with it at the end of the song.