California State University, Northridge
Summer Academic Enrichment Program

# Ukulele for Beginners

***"I love the ukulele. It's got a beautiful, melodic tone to it. There's something innocent and romantic, and it's just a grand instrument to play."***
~Pierce Brosnan

**Course Overview:**

Each student will realize that they can be a ukulele player. This course serves as an introduction to the instrument and will provide students with an instant access to making music on the ukulele. Focus points will be strumming and rhythms, reading music, improvising, and beginning songwriting.

**Course Description:**

Students will be led through an intensive one-month course to introduce them to the ukulele. The course will be split into several units that cover various aspects of understanding the instrument and the music that can be created with it (see below for more in-depth descriptions). Each day, students will be led through a routine of tuning their ukuleles, warming-up, group instruction, and independent group practicing and playing. Students will also learn basic maintenance of the instrument and how to change strings, clean the ukulele's surface, clean strings, and maintain tuning. Throughout the one-month course, students will keep a ***learners journal*** and ***manuscript notebook***to record and reflect upon their process of learning.

**Course Goals and Objectives**

1. **Goal:** Students will recognize and identify fundamental aspects of beginning ukulele
    a. **Objective:** Students will be able to identify the parts of the ukulele and their uses
    b. **Objective:** Students will be able to apply tuning techniques using the relationships between the strings, note intervals, and chords.
2. **Goal:** Students will develop the finger dexterity and strumming abilities in order to begin making music.
    a. **Objective:** Students will perform exercises such as playing through scales, chord charts, strumming patterns and rhythms and they will practice these rhythms independently and in groups.
3. **Goal:** Students will be able to read basic music for the ukulele

    a. **Objective:** Students will play through simple solo songs and duets and will do so while staying ***on the beat*** and in the ***time signature.***

4. **Goal:** Students will be able to play popular songs using chord charts, lyrics, and time signatures.
    a. **Objective:** Students will recognize musical notation and chord charts and be able to produce and perform music from it.

5. **Goal:** Students will learn basic improvisation
    a. **Objective:** Students will combine their knowledge of scales and chords to learn approaches to improvisation.
    b. **Objectives:** Students will learn to play with their peers and compose music (such as blues, etc.) spontaneously.

6. **Goal:** Students will be introduced to the basic tenets of songwriting and some possible approaches for doing so.
    a. **Objective:** Students will compose songs using their knowledge of chords and keys.
    b. **Objective:** Students will perform these songs (if so desired) for their peers which may include lyrics, rhythm patterns, improvisation, duets etc.

7. **Goal:** Students will recognize the importance of steady practice routines, ukulele maintenance and regular tuning.
    a. **Objective:** Throughout the course, students will keep a ***learners journal*** and ***manuscript notebook*** to monitor and evaluate their learning and ideas.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

***Students who are a part of 'Beginning Ukulele' should be prepared to practice on their own time outside of class. To progress towards the course's final goals and objectives, daily independent practicing is essential. We have only one month together so let's make the most of it!***

<u>Course Materials</u> (not provided)

1) The Ukulele – acoustic (+ Ukulele picks and spare set of strings)

***available at McCabe's Music, Ukulele Center, Sam Ash, West L.A. Music, etc.***

2) A three ring notebook and dividers

***available at any store that sells school supplies***

**Grading:**
30% - attendance and participation
20% - classwork
10% - practice logs
5% - notebook
10% - playing quizzes
20% - quizzes and tests
5% - final performance

Attendance and participation: It is important that everyone is on time and ready to work in class. This means that students need to be in their seats before class begins with their guitar out and ready. Due to the fast paced nature of this class, being absent is highly discouraged, as we will be covering a lot of material everyday.

For every class period, students will be given points for attendance and participation. For full points, students need to be on time, have all of their materials, and willingly participate in class activities. Points will be given as follows:

3 pts. for attendance
2 pt. for being on time
3 pt. for having all required materials, including ukulele
+ 2 pt. for being actively engaged in classroom activities = 10 pts. total

Classwork**:** Any work not finished in class will need to be taken home and finished as homework due the following day.

Practice Logs: Learning to play an instrument takes a lot of time and practice. Since this class is so accelerated, it is imperative that all students practice at home. Practice logs will be passed out weekly and students will need to return them filled out and signed by a parent or guardian. Logs will be due every Monday. Students need to practice for a minimum of 20 minutes a day.

A = 140 minutes/week B = 120 min/week
C = 100 min/week
D = 80 or less min/week

Logs will be worth 20 points for an A. Not turning in a log will result in 0 points.

Notebook: Students will bring a three-ring binder, dividers, notebook paper and a pencil to every class. These items will be used to put together a music theory notebook. All tests, quizzes, worksheets and notes must be kept in an orderly fashion in this notebook. At the end of the summer, notebooks will be collected and graded on organization and completeness. Notebooks should be divided into five sections: Notes, Worksheets, Chord Charts/Scales, Songs and Tests/Quizzes. The Notebook will be worth 100 points.

Playing Quizzes**:** Every week students will be asked to play by themselves for the teacher in order to assess how each student is progressing. Playing quizzes will be based upon the techniques learned in class that week.

Quizzes**:** Quizzes will be given periodically to test for understanding of music theory.

Tests**:** One tests will be given during the final week of instruction. It will be on music theory and other concepts covered in class.

**Final Performance:** Student attendance at the final performance in the evening on **July 20th** (time to be announced) is imperative. Students are expected to provide all black clothing to wear at the concert.

**Classroom Behavior**:

The student is expected to demonstrate mature, polite behavior and extend courtesy to everyone at all times:

1. Actively participate, and respectful verbal and nonverbal interaction with all opinions must be shown at all times.
2. Since differing views will be expressed, the teacher and the student(s) will mutually maintain a safe environment for courteous dialogue.
3. Respect is to be shown for all CSUN property.
4. No food or beverages will be permitted in the classroom. Snacks must be eaten outside between the designated breaks.
5. Warnings for behavior / discipline problems will be given once. Any further problems will result in a phone call to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and possible dismissal from the program.

**SAEP Electronics Policy**

**Cell phones, music players and headphones are not permitted to be used during class hours.**

a. Please put your cell phone on silent (NOT vibrate).
b. No texting is allowed during class.

You will be given one verbal warning if the above is not followed. Should a second warning be necessary, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held by the teacher until after class. If a third time occurs, your cell phone, music player and/or headphones will be confiscated and held in the SAEP office and MUST BE PICKED UP BY A PARENT.

# Ukulele

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After reading through the syllabus, please sign and date and have your student return it to class. The signature constitutes your commitment to the class as we partner to make the next five weeks a life-long educational experience for your student.

**Student/ Parent Agreement**:

Please bring this signed and dated **Ukulele** syllabus agreement to class tomorrow.
If you do not understand any portion of this syllabus, or if you have any questions regarding this class, please do not hesitate to email the teacher.

We have read and understand the contents of this syllabus.

Student name ______________________________________________________

Student signature____________________________________________________

Date__________________

Parent/Guardian name _______________________________________________

Parent/Guardian signature_____________________________________________

Date_________________

Phone _______________________________________________________________

E-mail_______________________________________________________________
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