



CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

SKILL LEVELS

CONFIDENT BEGINNER

You know C-F-G, G-C-D, and A-D-E7 chords and can do a simple strum while changing these chords and keeping a steady, slow beat. We are not hosting novice or total beginner classes this year. However, if you are not at the Confident Beginner level but want to register for UkeFest, you can learn from many sources in advance, including a free month of lessons at

<https://pegheadnation.com/string-school/instructors/marcy-marxer>

Use the code: MarcyM

INTERMEDIATE

You are comfortable playing 3-4 chords in 3-4 keys (C, G, F, A). You play a variety of basic chords (for example: A, Am, B7, C, C7, D, Dm, E7, Em, G, and G7) and understand simple chord progressions (such as I, IV, V chords). You can sing and strum at the same time and can learn chords to simple tunes fairly quickly. You're ready for some jazz chords, some snazzier right-hand techniques, and ready to explore a variety of repertoire on the uke.

ADVANCED

As an Advanced player, you have strong knowledge of open and closed chords throughout the ukulele neck in multiple keys, have experience playing lead, and willingness to move quickly through material. ***If you haven't taken the Advanced class at UkeFest in previous years or have not received approval from the Artistic Directors, you must submit a 2-5-minute video to uke@strathmore.org and be approved by them to take the class. Your video submission should show open and closed chords in multiple keys and playing lead. You may be asked to send in a second video showing your skills.***

HOW CLASSES WORK

CLASSES BY SKILL LEVEL

These are 2 and 4-day classes from 10am–12pm Saturday through Tuesday. These are continuous classes based on skill level, which means you will choose a class and stay with it for either two (2) or four (4) days. While you don't have to pre-register for classes, we will ask you in the Pre-Event Information Form, to let us know what classes you plan to take. This will help us determine the location for each class based on capacity.

As a reminder, if you are an advanced player, you need to send in a 2–5-minute video to uke@strathmore.org and be approved by the Artistic Directors to be placed in that class.

If you find you are not suited for a class during the first day, we encourage you to switch classes within the first 15 minutes and join another one.



“WALK-IN” CLASSES

These are one-hour classes and do not require pre-registration. Feel free to hop around as you wish.

BARITONE FRIENDLY

Baritone Friendly classes are often taught on tenor ukuleles, but baritone chord charts or tabs are provided, and the instructor will have a baritone ukulele handy for answering any questions. For other classes, baritone players should either play a tenor/concert/soprano ukulele or use a Capo on the 5th fret.

KEY/LEGEND

CB	Confident Beginner
I	Intermediate
A	Advanced
CB/I	Confident Beginner and Intermediate
I/A	Intermediate and Advanced
ALL	All levels
BF	Baritone Friendly

CLASSES BY SKILL LEVEL

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, & TUESDAY 10:00AM – 12:00PM

CONFIDENT BEGINNER | 4-DAY CLASS

Confident Beginner with Lisa Webb

You know some chords (C-F-G, G-C-D, and A-D-E7) and you can play a few songs with a simple strum. This class will take you to the next level. You'll learn new chords, strumming patterns, and learn to get your playing and singing to work smoothly together. We'll explore right-hand and left-hand techniques, as well as tips and tricks to spice up your playing. By the end of the class, you will be a more competent ukulele player with more tools in your ukulele toolbox and hopefully be ready for the Intermediate level classes next year!

INTERMEDIATE | 2-DAY CLASSES

CHOOSE ONE FOR SATURDAY & SUNDAY, CHOOSE ANOTHER FOR MONDAY & TUESDAY

Playing Through the FUNdamentals with Marcy Marxer

Learn and understand the basics of music in this 2 Day Class by playing through musical concepts in 10-minute segments. The first 50 minutes of each day will include Warm-Ups, Scales, Circle of 5ths/4ths, Learning Cool Riffs and Picking Up Speed. The second hour will include Reading Chord Charts and Chord Vocabulary.



Folk Uke with Cathy Fink

“Folk Music” is a very broad term, but good folk songs, new or old, stick around. They are great solo pieces and community sing/jam session favorites. We’ll break down songs into right- and left-hand styles and techniques that work for each song.

We’ll also talk about song arrangement and create intros, turn-arounds, closings to songs and very simple instrumental solo lines. We’ll work on the versatility required to find the right key for your voice.

Possible Songs:

If I Had a Hammer (Pete Seeger/Lee Hays), Four Strong Winds (Ian Tyson), Freight Train Elizabeth Cotton), Ramblin’ Boy (Tom Paxton), Wildwood Flower (Trad/Original Carter Family), The Water is Wide, (Traditional) The City of New Orleans (Steve Goodman), The Potato Song (Cheryl Wheeler)

Soloing and the Art of Noodling with Neal Chin

This is the one class where noodling is encouraged! In this class we will learn some strategies for creating melodies and look at different ways to use them. We'll learn some classic riffs and ways to use all those chord shapes for more than just strumming. From soloing to noodling, this class is for those who want to explore the fretboard, be creative, and learn a bit of theory along the way. Jazz and blues leaning in approach, but all genres are welcome. (Intermediate - Advanced)

Musicianship Bootcamp with Bob Tigert

We play music for fun, but isn’t it always MORE fun to play better? What realistically determines whether anyone is actually playing better? This ear-opening course explores systemized methods of maximizing those moments when you are working alone to “level up” AND when you collaborate with others to create better music. How do you both create and track your progress? What can you do on your own and when do you need help from an instructor or friend who has a few more skills than you have? And most importantly, we will learn to practice drills, focus on good tone, good ergonomics, great listening skills and better musicality. If you take this class and follow through on practice, you WILL become a better musician!

ADVANCED | 4-DAY CLASS

Masterclass with Herb Ohta, Jr.

Learn every aspect of Herb’s playing. Herb’s “style” is heavily borrowed from his father Ohta-San, but distinctly his own. This style is a chord melody technique meant for solo playing. Songs will include Hawaiian Wedding Song and Keauhou.

Example Videos:

<https://youtu.be/cqN00iywtrc>

https://youtu.be/WBhGr-HK_5Q



WALK-IN CLASSES

SATURDAY

1:15PM – 2:15PM

SUNDAY - TUESDAY

2:00PM – 3:00PM

3:15PM – 4:15PM

WEDNESDAY

11:15AM – 12:15PM

1:15PM – 2:15PM

Bob Tigert

Bass Players Rule! (ALL)

Ukulele bass players are ALWAYS in demand... well, at least the good ones. So, what makes a good bassist? How do I get better, in playing (the frustrations of bass practice are addressed directly); and (more importantly), we demonstrate by playing with trax and metronomes, how to understand what to play... and what NOT to!

"Plays Well with Others" (ALL)

This class coordinates Preparation, Practice and Performance for group players, band leaders or even solo musicians. We discuss (*and demonstrate!*) a logical and linked series of ideas that are integral to working with others in a musical context. Almost anyone will come away with a new idea (or several) and a better understanding of how to create a clearer, more systematic path to playing better. "We play for fun; but it's more fun to play better."

Owning the Song Session for The Art and Purpose of Song Arrangement (CB/I)

Performance, either with or without a group, demands creativity in putting your distinctive, and differentiating, personal stamp on each song. Like every creative discipline, there are specific steps that enable you to understand how to arrange and present songs with your own interpretative flair. Bob brings his arrangement techniques into 7 specific considerations that will dramatically affect and improve your arrangements for your group or for your solo performances... and we'll play through examples of each technique. Note: this class will be repeated on Saturday as an all-levels class.

Owning the Song Session for The Art and Purpose of Song Arrangement (Repeat) (ALL)

Performance, either with or without a group, demands creativity in putting your distinctive, and differentiating, personal stamp on each song. Like every creative discipline, there are specific steps that enable you to understand how to arrange and present songs with your own interpretative flair. Bob brings his arrangement techniques



into 7 specific considerations that will dramatically affect and improve your arrangements for your group or for your solo performances... and we'll play through examples of each technique.

"Play This Song; Learn That Technique"(I)

This class clearly demonstrates how different songs or play- along sessions can almost always teach important techniques, including appropriate, non- invasive playing prowess for the experienced player, and also re-arranging a song for group performances which can teach new skills for less experienced players. Here is proof positive about how even the simplest "chestnut" songs become important to playing skills and leadership in surprising ways.

Bob and Ben (ALL)

Ben and Bob freeform workshop. That means they'll do whatever they and you want. The possibilities are endless! Bring ukes, basses...no finger symbols, please. Cowbells require advanced permission.

Marcy Marxer

Ukulele Performance Ensemble (ALL) (BF) (4 days plus Wednesday required)

Three songs will be arranged in parts with Basic Chords, Melody, Harmony, Baritone and Bass. Players can play the parts of their choice. This year the material will be chosen from Soul, Jazz and Blues. There will be 6 folders in your UkeFest materials. CB, I, I-A, A, Baritone and Bass.

Sing & Play: Linking Voice and Strings (I)

Playing the notes you want to hear is the first step towards soloing, improvising and playing with emotion. We'll play the notes of a Chord, then play the scale of the chord leading to finding melodies in the scale position.

Fingerstyle Blues (A)

Learn some favorite licks and phrases of the legendary guitar players Josh White and Josh White, Jr. rearranged for 'Ukulele. We'll apply those passages to songs Careless Love and House of the Rising Sun.

Django for Uke (I/A)

UkeFest is rockin' the Django this year! Learn these two tunes with rhythm and melody. After You've Gone, Dark Eyes

Herb & Marcy (ALL)

Herb and Marcy talk shop.



Cathy Fink

Preparing for Open Mic Performance Technique (ALL)

Performance tips, do's and don'ts, ways to improve your performance so that both you and the audience enjoy it!

Learn to Yodel (ALL)

Bette Midler learned how to yodel from Cathy, and so can you! We'll learn some yodeling basics including finding where your voice "breaks." From the Jimmy Rogers country yodel to Patsy Montana's fancy yodeling, we'll listen to audio samples, try out some yodeling and learn a song or two.

Practice Smarter, Play Better (ALL)

Do you learn so much at uke camp and then go home and keep playing the way you played before? Don't worry, you're not the only one! This class will strategize ways to take this week's lessons and put them to work so you become a better ukulele player.

Classic Country Songs (ALL)

Country music is often thought of as "three chords and the truth." We might slip in a fourth chord while we play some of the classics by Hank Williams, Kitty Wells, Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash and more. We'll also work on strums for ukulele that work to accompany these songs.

Fingerpicking 101 (CB/I)

Right hand patterns for fingerpicking with 2,3 and 4 fingers. We'll apply this to a few songs to get you started.

Fingerpicking 102 (CB/I)

A few more right-hand patterns for fingerpicking with 2,3 and 4 fingers and the practice that will help them stick! Must have taken Fingerpicking 101.

Songwriters Song Swap (ALL)

Come swap songs that you've written or just come to listen. This is a welcoming atmosphere to share original songs.

Appalachian Uke sounds and songs (I/A)

How do you make a ukulele exude the sound of the Appalachian Mountains? We'll explore these secrets along with a few songs that can help you create that "High Lonesome Sound" on your Ukulele. We'll work on the bluegrass rhythm "chop" and on chord sounds that evoke tones made by dulcimers and banjos. Songs: Shady Grove, High on A Mountain.



Lisa Webb

Vocal Techniques and Your Uke (ALL)

Want to have a blast singing and sounding your best? Lisa has studied and taught voice for years and has a lot of good stuff to share. Join her as she takes you through some easy exercises and fun techniques to improve your vocals and customize your uke playing to show off your best voice! *(Note: Lisa teaches a version of this that specifically covers Scat Singing.) This class will be repeated.*

Blues Scale, Riffs and Rhythm (CB/I)

Are you ready to start picking? Take a solo break? Step on out there and take a cool ride in the middle of a song? Well, me too! It is very cool and not as hard as you might expect. We will learn a moveable blues scale, break it down into riffs and go to town soloing over the 12-bar blues. This is a very laid-back way to learn a little improvisation, and everyone will walk away having played a blues solo break!

Singin', Scattin' & Strummin' (ALL)

Who hasn't enjoyed the artistry of Ella Fitzgerald, Louie Armstrong or Bobby McFerrin? Heck, even Steven Tyler scats! Scat singing can add a great dimension to your ukulele performances. This workshop is a fun way to get your feet wet with vocal improvisation by providing some great scale examples and chord exercises we can all do to improve our ear and vocal flexibility. We will also touch on what I call Instrument intimacy - and maybe a bit of mouth trumpet! Lots of great fun!

Ukulele Jazz (I/A)

Jazz up your playing for the Great American Songbook! Oh, those great songs of the 20's, 30's & 40's! What made them so fabulous and enduring? What made them so jazzy? Have fun with Lisa as she takes you cool cats through some chord extensions, intros & outros, and strumming techniques to put a little Jazz in your style! *This class will be repeated.*

Performance Etiquette & Professionalism - Led by Lisa Webb & Bob Tigert (ALL)

The ukulele community appeals to the "new" musician (no matter what age) because it is a relatively straightforward instrument to learn HOW to play. However, the idea of performing - either as a solo, in a small group, or as part of a large group - demands more than a G-C-D progression. What should you practice to prepare for a performance? What are you EXPECTED to know when you show up at the venue? How do you interact with fellow performers, your tech crew, and your hosts? How can you ensure that not only is your performance polished, but also how can you learn to be someone that others will be glad to see sharing the stage? And, importantly, what are the preferred reactions when curve balls start flying around?



Neal Chin

Funky 'Ukulele (I)

Learn a few funky riffs - let's see just how deep of a pocket we can make together! We'll learn some techniques to help us become more agile, spice up our fretboards with some funky chords, and of course play that funky music! Must be rhythmically flexible with some basic picking to get the most out of this class.

3 Stringed Uke (I/A)

One of the virtues of the 'ukulele is learning just how much we can do with so little. We take it one step further and focus on just 3 strings at a time to help visualize the fretboard a bit differently: with constraints. We'll walk through a small tune and do some finger picking to help train our fingers and ears to traverse the fretboard. High G and Low G friendly.

Minor Swing: Django for 'Ukulele (I)

Master guitarist Django Reinhardt revolutionized both the guitar and how it was played, creating his own sound and bringing his music to the world. His classic Minor Swing is a wonderful place to enter into his music and to take a look at some of the colorful sounds of playing in a minor key. We'll learn how to play the tune, take some time finding our swing, and in the tradition of the tune, learn how to solo ala Django!

"Jawaiian" Music: Riffs and Tunes (CB/I)

Jawaiian music is a unique blend of reggae that comes from Hawaii. Mixing the culture of life in Hawaii with catchy reggae beats makes for great songs to jam on and even more fun to play with friends. We'll go through some of the basics of the genre by learning some of the classics with their foundational rhythm and licks.

Blues to Jazz (I/A)

Being one of the bedrocks of so many different styles of music, the blues has always been a master class of the large tenets of music. Join us as we explore the blues with some of the greats and learn how to hear the elements that make the blues the blues. We'll explore call and response, melody making, and slowly change the harmony to watch the blues evolve into jazz. A general knowledge of chords and some picking technique will help you get the most of this class.

Soloing: Creating Melodies on the 'Ukulele (I)

Everyone takes a solo in this class! It's a safe place to explore the fretboard and try out new ways to express yourself. Here we will discuss strategies for taking solos and hop between styles to get our ideas going. Basic picking, chords, and some music theory will help you most in this class. Come talk story with your 'ukulele!



The Bingo Chords (I/A)

B7b9b13 - This class is for the nerds who want to get weird with chords. We take a look at the basics in creating chords by stacking thirds and slowly adding more color in a way that sweeps the fretboard, choosing voices in a justifiable way. General music theory and chords will be needed for this class. Bring pencil, paper, your instrument and love for harmony.

Easy Repertoire: The 'Ukulele Waltz (CB)

Learn a simple arrangement on the 'ukulele that uses basic chords and a little bit of finger picking. Knowing C, F, and G7 will get you the most out of this class.

Herb Ohta, Jr.

Arpeggios (I)

Learn picking patterns Herbs' father taught him. After, the class will try to use some of them in a song.

3 Songs For Confident Beginners (CB)

Learn to play 3 beautiful Hawaiian Songs.

4 Songs for Intermediate and Advanced Players (I/A)

Learn to play 4 beautiful Hawaiian Songs.

Hawaiian Turnarounds (I/A)

Different picking phrases used while playing a Hawaiian song.

Introduction to Improvising (I/A)

This class will be repeated.

Strumming (CB/I)

Basic strumming patterns and learn how to create your own.

Advice for Advancing Players (A)

Get advice on anything and everything from Herb Ohta, Jr.



Maureen Andary

Note Reading 1 of 2 (ALL)

In this class we will use our ukuleles to learn how to read standard music notation in treble clef. We'll begin learning how to play and read the C scale, whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, and rest markers. Here's why you should learn to read notation: it helps with your ability to play instrumental solos, arranging chord melodies becomes a snap, and you can learn to sing more accurately, matching pitch on your favorite melodies.

Note Reading 2 of 2 (ALL)

In this class we'll build on class #1, finishing the C scale and then playing some of our first basic melodies (maybe even in harmony!). Here's why you should learn to read notation: it helps with your ability to play instrumental solos, arranging chord melodies becomes a snap, and you can learn to sing more accurately, matching pitch on your favorite melodies. Must have taken Note Reading 1.

Modern Pop! (ALL)

Learn how to pick and strum in a modern pop style. We'll listen to 3 pop hits in class, take note of the rhythms, and learn right hand-techniques to recreate them. We will then play through Maureen's ukulele arrangement of each song. Attendees will walk away with meticulously arranged sheet music for their repertoire and right-hand techniques they can employ for pop music and beyond! Must be able to do more than just one strum and play more than 3 chords.

Sing Your Heart Out (ALL)

How do I make sure I'm not damaging my voice? What makes good singing good? How do I try and get there? Maureen will lead this session in basic tools to care for and warm up your voice. Years of singing and taking vocal instruction inform Maureen's techniques and she would love to share her tips and tricks with you!

Ukulele Chord Theory (ALL)

Chords - what even are they!? Learn what makes a Dm7 a Dm7 and why it's called that. Why this class is useful: You'll be empowered to adjust/edit chords to make them easier while retaining accuracy. We'll discuss the makeup of minor chords, major chords, minor7th, major7th, 6th, and 5 chords!

Ben Hassenger

How to get the most from your UkeFest Experience (CB)

Are you new to UkeFest? Never fear! Ben, Michigan's Official Ukulele Ambassador, is here! Ben will get you warmed up, charged up, and ready to make the most of your experience. Meet the other people in the Confident Beginner group and start building



friendships right away. Learn to stretch. Please don't stress, Ben is here for you and so is everyone else.

Uke the Beatles (CB/I)

Beatles songs sound great on the ukulele, and we'll play an array of Fab Four tunes from simple to sophisticated, using an assortment of strums and chords.

Intros, Endings, and Everything In Between (CB) (BF)

Ben shares his nifty tips for getting your song off to a good start, working on fills and transitions in the body of the song, and wrapping things up with the proper ending. Learn to arrange the song to make it your own with accents and dynamics and you'll have your audience swaying their cell phones to and fro and throwing money at your feet!

Become One with the Strum (CB) (BF)

Learning to play a variety of strums makes your playing more interesting to you and your audience. We'll explore basic folk, calypso, rock, polka, ska, and reggae strums along with the incredibly versatile "Benstrum" using some of your favorite songs.

EZ Tab (CB/I)

Do you have a good handle on strumming, but would like to learn to play the melodies of songs on your ukulele? Ben will teach you how to read tablature, a way to read music for the ukulele without having to understand actual music notation. You'll be playing everything from "You Are My Sunshine" to "Ode to Joy" by the end of class.

Too High? Too Low? Transpose! (CB/I) (BF)

Have you ever had a song you'd really like to play on your ukulele that was either too high or too low for you to sing along to? Learn the easy way to transpose, or change the key of a song, to make it easier to sing and/or play. Ben Hassenger has proven techniques that take the mystery out of this sometimes-confusing topic. We'll take some popular songs and play them in a variety of keys, as well as explore using a capo to change keys while using chord shapes you're familiar with.

Strike a Chord (CB/I)

Take your playing to another level by learning to play chords in various ways including moveable/barre chords, power chords, and "James Hill" chords. Great for players who want to differentiate their sound when playing with others.

Play (Almost) Every Song in the World (CB/I) (BF)

What do songs like "Last Kiss", "Where Have All the Flowers Gone", "With or Without You", and "Say Something" have in common? They all use the same four chords. Learn to play every song ever written (well, most of them, anyway) with these "Fantastic Four" chords and find out how to switch keys easily by using the Nashville Numbering System.



Jam With Ben (ALL)

Play and sing with Michigan's ukulele Ambassador!

Ben and Bob (ALL)

Ben and Bob freeform workshop. That means they'll do whatever they and you want. The possibilities are endless! Bring ukes, basses...no finger symbols, please. Cowbells require advanced permission.

Instructor Led Jam Sessions

Saturday – Tuesday (post-lunch)

SATURDAY: Maureen Andary (2:30pm – 3:15pm)

SUNDAY: Ben Hassenger (1:00pm – 1:45pm)

MONDAY: Maureen Andary (1:00pm – 1:45pm)

TUESDAY: Ben Hassenger (1:00pm – 1:45pm)

Community Closing Jam

Join all UkeFest Instructors and fellow students for a UkeFest Community Closing Jam on the last day of UkeFest to commemorate the hard work made during the week!

UkeFest Meet Up & Networking Jam

Continue to get to know your fellow UkeFester's through this meet up and networking jam! There will be some student facilitation along with casual conversation and jamming. Join other likeminded Ukulele enthusiasts while meeting people that are from your area, keep the conversation going, and make fast friends with UkeFest students in a casual and collaborative environment.

This entire program is subject to change.