



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 join this class, 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. You will not pre-register for classes.



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, like the morning classes, 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+	Confident Beginner and up
I+	Intermediate and up
BF	Baritone Friendly
ALL	All levels

CLASSES BY SKILL LEVEL

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

CONFIDENT BEGINNER | 4-DAY CLASS

Cathy Fink: Confident Beginner (CB)

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

Marcy Marxer: Play Melodies (I) (Sat-Sun)

Have fun playing melodies using familiar songs of several genres. We'll look at the basics of how each melody is constructed, chord changes, pinpoint hand position possibilities, and try out passages before each song. Playing the melody is so much easier when you have all the info you need before we play together!

Vinicius Vivas: Fingerpicking from A to Z (I) (Mon-Tues)

Learn my 26 fingerpicking patterns and get to the next level of your ukulele playing.

Ginger Johnson and Robyn Kneubuhl (The Hula Honeys): Hawaiian/Hapa Haole Repertoire (I) (Sat-Sun, 2 different songs Mon-Tues)

We have created two medleys of classic tropical tunes. Ginger will teach baritone while Robyn teaches tenor. Once these songs are learned, the classes will join together, highlighting and exploring the interplay between the two instruments. The second two-day class will be a different Hapa Haole medley exploring a different key so take one or both classes!

Robert Jones: Blues Innovations - Learning to Fingerpick the Blues and Gospel on The Ukulele (I) (Sat-Sun, repeated Mon-Tues)

This class celebrates using the ukulele in traditional African American music. We will learn a variety of rhythmic techniques like the Piedmont Roll, Shuffles, and Walking Bass. We will also explore 12 bar blues and how to find and use the major and minor pentatonic scale for improvisation and soloing in a variety of keys.

ADVANCED | 2-DAY CLASSES

VINICIUS WILL TEACH SATURDAY & SUNDAY AND MARCY WILL TEACH MONDAY & TUESDAY

Vinicius Vivas: Campanella Ukulele (A) (Sat-Sun)

Unison and second intervals; 3, 4, and 5 note sequences; exploring different keys (C, F, D, Dm) and a couple of songs, including a J.S. Bach Gavotte. All of that using campanella on the ukulele. The campanella effect is the result of a unique style of left-hand fingering.

Marcy Marxer: Chord Melody (A) (Mon-Tues)

Play and dissect my own Chord Melody arrangements on day one. On day 2 we'll write an arrangement in class. You'll be able to use this method to build Chord Melody arrangements of your own favorite songs.



WALK-IN CLASSES

SATURDAY - TUESDAY (1-hour classes)

2:00PM - 3:00PM

3:15PM - 4:15pm

Cathy Fink

Tips for Tone & Technique (ALL)

Your fingers are in the right places – almost, you’ve got your strums down or your fingerpicking patterns, but your uke doesn’t sound as awesome as it could or should. We’ll go over some basic tips for tone and technique and then give students an opportunity to play/show their own playing and find ways to improve the tone.

Appalachian Uke (ALL)

Learn to make the sounds of old-time Appalachian music and even a little bluegrass on the mighty ukulele. We’ll work on the bluegrass rhythm “chop” and on chord sounds that evoke tones made by dulcimers and banjos. We’ll learn 2 songs that practice these techniques.

Harmony Singing 101 (ALL)

Step one in singing harmony is to be confident on the melody. Step two is to find the notes that will sound nice with the melody and stay on those notes instead of drifting to the melody. Let’s do this!

Improve Your Performance (ALL) *(This class is offered twice.)*

Do you get nervous at an open mic or song circle? How do you prepare for a performance and then make the most of it? We’ll talk basics, details, song introductions and then as you are comfortable, try to put some of this into practice with your fellow participants, cheering you on!

Marcy Marxer

Rock Out on Johnny B. Goode! (ALL) (BF)

Sing, play rhythm and/or famous Chuck Berry Solos with his big hit Johnny B. Goode!

Folk Club 1 (ALL) (BF)

Picture yourself at the Gaslight in Greenwich Village, the place where Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton, Joni Mitchell, and so many others got their start. We’ll revisit those songs with ukuleles. Both Sides Now, Farewell Angelina, Man Gave Names to All the Animals, Bottle of Wine, Lay Down your Weary Tune, and Ramblin’ Boy.

16TH ANNUAL
UKEFEST



Folk Club 2 (ALL) (BF)

More Folk Classics from the Gaslight! Maggie's Farm, The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down, Black Is the Color, The Last Thing on My Mind, Your Shoes, My Shoes, and Forever Young.

Jazz Club 1 (I+) (BF)

Play the sophisticated rhythm and melodies to four (4) Classic Jazz tunes. Who knows, you might just have to break into song! After You've Gone, Polka Dots and Moonbeams, A Kiss to Build a Dream On, and What a Wonderful World.

Jazz Club 2 (I+) (BF)

More of a Jazzy Jammin' good time with four (4) more songs. Cheek to Cheek, Caravan, Lady Be Good, and When You're Smiling'.

Comedy Club (ALL) (BF)

Hilarious Songs from the past to present times. These songs are real crowd pleasers! They're great for entertaining yourself or groups, clubs, and friends. Come and have a laugh!

Join the Band! Zoe (Bass) and Marcy (Uke) (ALL) (BF)

Join the Band, Join the Fun! Play together. Simple charts.

Listening Session: Library of Congress Ukulele Archives (ALL)

Listen to recordings from the Ukulele Archives of the Library of Congress. Hear Wendell Hall, Harry Reser, the Duncan Sisters, May Singhi Breen, plus Eddie Kalima, Roy Smeck, and George Formby.

Vinicius Vivas

ENSEMBLE CLASS (4 days / 1 hour each day / Same people)

(Students in this class will perform on Wednesday night in the UkeFest Finale concert)

Menu:

Appetizer: Principles of Ukulele Ensemble Arranging

Dishes: 1 Beatles Song / 1 Hawaiian Song / 1 Hungarian Song

Dessert: Outdoor Concert Performance



Jazz Ukulele: So, What (Miles Davis) (CB+)

Let's play an iconic jazz song. Whether you are a beginner or advanced, trust me, you'll still have fun!

Bossa Nova Song: A rã (The Frog) by João Donato (CB+)

Learn how to pick and comp an iconic Brazilian Song.

Ukulele Workout (I+)

Scales, tremolo, arpeggios, harmonics, hammer on, pull off, pedal point. I will show you my daily basic ukulele workout and teach you how to build yours.

Brazilian Rhythms for Ukulele (I+)

Learn some Brazilian rhythm patterns and how to comp a couple of songs from my country.

Love Me Tender (Easy Chord Melody Arrangement) (I+)

A short and easy arrangement for those who want to start to play Solo Ukulele.

Ginger Johnson and Robyn Kneubuhl (The Hula Honeys)

Teaching Together: The Hula Honeys - Hawaiian/Hapa Haole Repertoire:

Easy Hawaiian Songs (CB+) (BF)

New to the feel of the Islands of Hawaii? Get into the music and feel the beautiful flow of the music in this unique class.

Advanced Hawaiian/Hapa (A) (BF)

Ginger and Robyn will demonstrate and teach some of their advanced concepts and passages.

Ginger Johnson

Ginger's Magic String Discovery (I+) (BF)

Find a huge number of chords up the fretboard by using my magic method of knowing the notes on only one string. This marvelous secret can work on either baritone or tenor and unlocks scads of chords using only four or five movable shapes.



Office Hours for Baritone Players (ALL)

Baritone players come to hang out, chat and ask questions in a loose, relaxed format where we can discuss the nuances of our instrument and anything else that comes to mind.

Fingerpicking (ALL) (BF)

Come and practice a ukulele-modified Travis pattern and train that right hand to work on its own. You have more important things to think about!

Western Swing (CB+) (BF)

Come swing along with Cindy Walkers great tunes made famous by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys.

If you don't have fun, it's all your fault! These easy-to-play songs will let you hold your own at the next jam session.

Jazzy Bits, Slips, and Slides (I+) (BF)

Much of fluid playing is filling in those spots between chords. Learn to relax that left hand and fill in with slides, hammer-ons, and alternate chord shapes.

Robyn Kneubuhl

Hula With Robyn (ALL) *(This class is offered twice)*

Isn't it time to give your body, your fingers, and brain a rest? A little stretching and loosening of those hips are just what the doctor ordered. Come to a friendly, easy, basic hula class. A tropical breeze, some moonlight and palm trees, and there you are in Hawaii. In this class, we'll learn the basic hand and foot movements and have some fun! A drop in 1 hour afternoon class (twice) for you adventurous souls!

Coloring with Chords (A)

Major 7's, minor 7's, and 9's are such colorful chords. Holding bar chords will be part of this class and listening to the color of these chords will also help with creating the mood you want to convey. In this class, we'll explore some of the more sophisticated chords that can be employed within a song.

Inversions (I+)

Getting tired of playing the same chords? Why not get out of the first position and play up the neck with some inversions. Explore new territory, stretch, and get out of your comfort zone.

Ask Me Anything (ALL)

The title says it all: ask me anything! Preferably about music and ukulele, not the universe in general. Bring your uke and your questions!



Robert Jones

Boogie Blues in the Key of A (I+)

Taking a cue from Detroit blues artist John Lee Hooker we will learn how to play such seminal blues tunes as “Baby Please Don’t Go” and “Boogie Chillun” in the key of A. This style of blues uses a minimal number of chords (only 2 or 3), but the challenge lies in rhythmic strumming.

The Music of Washington Phillips (I+)

Washington Phillips was an early Texas based singer of spirituals. He accompanied his songs on a zither-like homemade instrument, but the ukulele works perfectly for his music. We will learn to play two of his classic songs, “What Are They Doing in Heaven Today?” and “A Mother’s Last Words to Her Son”.

A Classic Blues Progression (I)

Blues women like Sippie Wallace and Ida Cox, and East Coast Blues players like Blind Boy Fuller and Blind Blake used a very simple but versatile blues progression (C-E7-A7-D7-G-C). This progression works on the uke for songs from “Keep on Truckin’” to “Alice’s Restaurant”.

Gospel 101 (I+)

Gospel is an iconic style of American popular music. Even though it is based in blues, gospel has its own aesthetic. You will learn how to play “Precious Lord” in the key of G, utilizing movable chord shapes and alternate chord voicings that are part of the sound of classic gospel.

Slide Ukulele (I)

We will use Robert Johnson’s “Crossroad Blues” as a vehicle to learn how to play slide blues on the ukulele. We will play in an open C tuning and introduce a number of licks and runs that are emblematic of traditional Mississippi Delta blues. It is recommended that students bring a lightweight glass or metal slide that fits the little finger.

Singing With the Ukulele (CB)

The ukulele is a fun instrument and is an ideal instrument for self-accompaniment. Learning three chords and a simple strum can allow you to play and sing hundreds of songs. We will explore musical techniques like call and response, triplets, and shuffles, to enliven even the simplest of folk songs and tunes. The idea behind this workshop is learning how to learn.

The Movement That Sang (ALL)

This class explores how songs and music have been used historically as a weapon for social change and empowerment. We will learn early spiritual songs and learn how they functioned for work and passive resistance of folks that were enslaved. We will learn other songs that were used to convey information for the Underground Railroad. Other songs sought the recruitment



of black soldiers in the Civil War. Over one hundred years later many of these songs were modified for use in the Civil Rights Movement, in the Labor Movement, and in other battles for political and social change.

Zoe Jorgenson

The Circle of 5ths (ALL)

What it is and how you can apply it.

Simple Music Theory Made EZ (ALL) *(This class is offered twice)*

We can do this together! Simple charts!

Join the Band! Zoe (Bass) and Marcy (Uke) (ALL)

Join the Band, Join the Fun! Play together. Simple charts.

Bass Class - 4 Days! (ALL)

Bass, Ubass, IBass, We ALL Bass – every day.

This program is subject to change