

Midwest Uke Camp 2018 Workshops (subject to change)

UKULELE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

BEGINNER - This level of has been playing for up to 6 months and has learned 3 - 4 chords but hesitates in between chord changes to move the fingers to the next location.

CONFIDENT BEGINNER - This player knows a handful of chords and can move from one chord to another without pausing. Has trouble with barre chords, and has developed a strum or two or a basic finger pattern for picking.

INTERMEDIATE - This player can hold a steady rhythm, and is competent with a variety of basic chords (for example: A, Am, Bb, B7, C, C7, D, Dm, E7, Em, G, and G7. Understands simple chord progressions (such as I, IV, V chords), can sing and strum at the same time, and learns chords to simple tunes fairly quickly.

ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE - This player can hear I, IV, and V chords, has mastered some chord inversions, knows there is life above the fifth fret, and has been there with barre or 4-fingered moveable chords. Plays lead and backup easily with others and keeps steady rhythm.

HARMONICA LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

BEGINNER - For those taking their first steps on the instrument. You have a hard time making clear single notes and are not sure how far to move your mouth up and down the harp in order to get the next hole. Trying to master simple melodies such as "Oh Susanna".

INTERMEDIATE - You can generally play single notes clearly. know simple melodies, and are somewhat proficient in note bending. You have experimented with blues "cross harp", but need work on improvising.

(BF) "Baritone Friendly" Classes - Classes labeled as such can be enjoyed by baritone players. You should know the baritone equivalent of of the standard ukulele chords used in the classes as they may not be provided on handouts.

FRIDAY

3:00

Beginner: Ukulele From Scratch: Beginning Ukulele (Swedberg)

This recipe uses only two ingredients: you and your new uke! We will start making music together right away, adding one skill at a time until you can play literally hundreds of songs. It seems too good to be true, but that is the magic of the ukulele. Heidi Swedberg loves working with absolute beginners, making the complicated simple and fun, and sharing their joy of musical discovery. Gestalts and laughs a plenty. Let's get cooking!

Confident Beginner: Fingerpicking 101 (Fink)

Strummer only? We can change that! Your first fingerpicking lesson will get you comfortable with this plucked style with a variety of patterns and songs.

Intermediate: Intro to Swing (Ross)

The 1930s and 40s were a magical time in the history of popular music. Swing was mainstream. The

ukulele was made for swing music! Any uke song can swing and sound jazzy. It's easy to make your instrumental accompaniment more interesting through chord substitutions and strumming patterns. The material covered in this class is not exclusive to the jazz/swing world, it can be used for all styles of music. No music theory needed. no music reading required. No knuckle-busting chord shapes to learn. Just fun! A concert or tenor sized uke tuned GCEA is recommended.

Advanced Intermediate: Accompanying and Dynamics (Chin)

An accompanist has the important role of painting the set for the melody to reside. In this advanced class, we talk about ways to elevate a song and some useful tips on becoming a better accompanist. We expand harmony, the sonic picture, and learn about playing in groups which end up in dividing into small groups so you can try it yourself. **(BF)**

Harmonica: Harmonica 101 (Lil' Rev)

This is an intro level course for the complete beginner focusing on all the basics that one might need to begin learning to play the harmonica, including: lip position, hand position, single notes, chords, train sound, blues riffs, simple folk songs and major scale. (Beginning)

Baritone: Getting into Baritone & Guitar-tuned Tenor Guitar (Marxer)

Learn the basics of these two instruments with the same tuning. Are you a guitar player who would like to use chops you already have with a new instrument? Do you play uke with friends and want to add a deeper sound? This class is for you. **(BF)**

All Levels: Ukulele Bootcamp (Chee)

Craig's most popular workshop! Craig's ever adapting Boot Camp will dive into a ton of exercises that will help strengthen and quicken your fingers as well as focus on your tone. He will then show how these exercises are applied to intermediate and even advanced techniques to take you to the next level! 'Ukulele beginners to intermediates will have lots to chew on as there are many variations for all levels. (High G tuning recommended)

4:30

Beginner: Play Ukulele by Ear I: Learning to Listen (D'Ville)

Get the most out of your ukulele experience by getting rid of that songbook and learning to Play Ukulele By Ear. This entertaining and informative workshop will give you the tools you need to tap into your innate musical abilities. Playing by ear is easy, fun, and it will propel your understanding of how music works to a new level. Learning the emotional value of just three major chords will open open your ears to the structure of millions of songs, in under an hour! This workshop will make you a better listener and student!

Confident Beginner: Beyond C, Am, F, G/G7 (Sigh)

We will strum a large variety of simple songs that each teach a new chord (or two)! This workshop will be designed to build on your existing skills and gently help you progress towards a whole new world of "beginner" chords. With the right songs, it's easy to learn a large variety of chords, including: A/A7,

D/D7, Dm, Em/Em7, and E7. We will review strategies for mastering and memorizing new chords and take home a lot of new material with memorable melodies and easy-to-read charts.

Intermediate: Jazz Blues (Maisel)

Already know your 12 bar blues and want to kick your learning up a notch? Well- this class is meant for you. Get your fingers (and mind) ready for a work out. It should be a lot of fun and a great way to expand your repertoire. The focus will be on the Key of C

Intermediate: Get in the Groove (Vox)

Rhythm can be played straight, or swung. You've got to swing to be swung! It's all about the groove and feeling, and you'll *feel* the difference. Let's work on loosening up the right hand so that beats are subdivided with heart, and less brain. The groove even starts before you play a note! **(BF)**

Advanced Intermediate: Flamenco Sevillanas (Ward)

In this workshop, we'll learn two short traditional songs in the flamenco style that is named after the town they came from . . . Sevilla. There are hundreds of these songs that all share the same form. They are easy to learn and combine a tasty right hand strum with Spanish melodies. They can be played solo or as a duet or group as well, and will lead to hours of fun long after we class is over.

Harmonica: Advanced Beginner Harmonica (Wilson)

Take the next step on the harmonica! If you've learned to achieve a single note, and can move around on the instrument some, this workshop is for you. We will focus on melodic playing, as well as comping styles to back up other musicians. Idiomatic effects will be explored, which can add color to your melodies and improvisations. (Beginner and up)

Baritone: Plectrum Styles for the Baritone (Weltman)

This class will delve into a wonderful tuning scheme called "plectrum tuning" for the baritone ukulele. It's a great alternative for pop and jazz arrangements using a chord/melody approach and integrating movable bass lines. It's name is derived from the "plectrum banjo" tuning. By tuning down the 1st and 4th strings of the baritone ukulele a whole step, a new palette of beautiful sounds and possibilities emerges. It also allows the instrument to resonate at a warmer deeper level. We will be learning some chord shapes and instrumental song arrangements using the chord melody approach. Not too hard to do and lots of fun. (Intermediate level) **(BF)**

All Levels: Music Theory (Youngman)

No, you don't have to be a graduate of Interlochen to play the ukulele, but a little basic music theory can help you understand the instrument better and how to get the most out of your playing. Learn basic scales and chord patterns that are in hundreds of songs.

SATURDAY

9:15

Beginner: Strumtastic (Lil' Rev)

Learn a massive variety of genre based strums for all your favorite music styles along with sample songs to practice each strum with. A very user friendly class for all levels. **(BF)**

Confident Beginner: Hawaiian Music Essentials (Chin)

The 'ukulele has a special place in Hawaiian music as both a rhythm and lead instrument. Learn the basic form and work on licks and chords to enhance your next kanikapila!

Intermediate: Fingerpicking 201 (Fink)

We will take the song, My Old Kentucky Home, and learn to play a melodic, fingerpicked version that accommodates singing and instrumental soloing.

Advanced Intermediate: Introduction to Line Cliches (Vox)

A line cliché is a descending or ascending line that moves against a single stationary chord. Famous line cliché tunes include the James Bond theme song, "Michelle" (McCartney / Lennon), "Blue Skies" (Irving Berlin), "One" (Harry Nilsson), and Victoria's own "Mon Coeur Vide". We can alter the harmony of a song to incorporate the use of line clichés, in both major and minor keys. It's a great way to embellish a chord progression or spice up a stagnant melody line. We'll also dip into a little music theory... but don't be scared!

Harmonica: Coming Out of the Harmonica Closet (Weltman)

Large amounts of people play small amounts of harmonica, and... many more actually own one. However, how many of these same folks actually feel confident enough to perform in front of their friends, families, co-workers. This class will provide the tools, information and encouragement to take you to that next level. All in a fun and relaxed environment. Whether you're a beginner or intermediate player, if you're ready to grow in your harmonica passion, you belong here. (Beginning to Intermediate)

Baritone: Applying the Baritone (Wilson)

In this workshop we will learn how to use a baritone ukulele without learning "all new chords." The secret is transposition. We will also discuss how to augment a group with a baritone, creating bass lines and lower voicings that support those tenor, concert and soprano ukuleles. **(BF)**

All Levels: Ukulele Bootcamp (Chee)

Craig's most popular workshop, that's why we're offering it twice! Craig's ever adapting Boot Camp will dive into a ton of exercises that will help strengthen and quicken your fingers as well as focus on your tone. He will then show how these exercises are applied to intermediate and even advanced techniques to take you to the next level! 'Ukulele beginners to intermediates will have lots to chew on as there are many variations for all levels. (High G tuning recommended)

All Levels: Beginning Meditations for Ukulele (Ward)

Daniel will share a number of easy-to-learn, fun-to-play, short songs and warm-ups that you can "loop" over and over. It's a great way to build even rhythm, tone, and chord changing chops while you float in a warm tub of beautiful, repeating patterns that make you a better player as you soak them in. You'll come away with productive tools to practice with whenever you pick up your uke and become a much more expressive player in the process. If you're a beginner, these are great tools to start out with. If you're more advanced, it's a great way to break out of whatever rut you may have fallen in to.

10:45

Beginner: Closed Chord Confidence for Beginners (Marxer)

Comfortable hand positions and thinking ahead will help players glide from chord to chord with ease. Are there any chords you find particularly challenging? Bring them to class. If they're challenging for you they're challenging for everyone.

Confident Beginner: Ukulele by Ear II: Chord Progressions and the Circle of Fifths (D'Ville)

Being able to hear and identify chord progressions will go a long way toward demystifying the basic structure of music. Before you know it you'll be hearing and recognizing dominant seven and diatonic chord progressions. This exciting workshop will open your ears to the way all songs work around the Circle of 5ths. Knowledge of chords C F G7 A7 D7 E7 Am Dm Em is helpful.

Confident Beginner: Intro to Tab & Notation (Sigh)

Do you already know how to strum chords and are looking for a new way to play your uke? This workshop will teach the basics of reading ukulele tablature and standard notation. Instead of strumming four strings, we will start with plucking one string at a time. We will focus on a few simple and familiar melodies to get you started with a small collection of songs to take home and practice. While this workshop will be friendly for beginners, we will review resources that will help you get beyond the basics once you've mastered intro-level tab and notation material.

Intermediate: You're Already Moving (Ross)

When playing a song in a given key the only chord that provides a feeling of rest and completion is the named chord of that key or the "one" chord. For example: in the key of C it's the C chord. In the key of G it's the G. The remaining chords in the key create a feeling of movement and tension. We will play and learn songs that start on chords other than the one chord. Starting a song on these "alternate" chords is fun and exciting - you are moving from the moment you start - the train has already left the station! Duke Ellington's "Satin Doll", "Honeysuckle Rose", "I Can't Believe You're In Love With Me" and other popular tunes will be used to demonstrate this technique. No music theory needed. no music reading required. No knuckle-busting chord shapes to learn. Just fun! A concert or tenor sized uke tuned GCEA is recommended.

Advanced Intermediate: Who Needs a Chord Book? (Maisel)

We have all gotten stumped at some point because there was a chord in a song that we did not know, and we had no way to figure it out. With this class, we will discuss how chords are made and how to create them on the ukulele, all without using a book. It will be a fun way to learn your fretboard and discover more about the joy of music and chords.

Harmonica: Note Bending Demystified (Wilson)

Learn what happens inside the harmonica when a note is bent! Note bending is what gives the harmonica its unique soulful sound. It also provides us with the chromaticism to perform certain pieces of music. In this workshop we will develop the technique necessary to bend notes correctly, without damaging our harmonicas. We will study both low register draw bends, and high register

blow bends. (Beginner on up)

All Levels: Fearless: Conquering Stage Fright (Swedberg)

Why am I shaking and what can I do about it? In this class we will explore the phenomenon of stage fright, arm you with some very practical ways to ward it off. Then class participants have the option to work through their fears "Master Class" style, or learn from watching others brave the stage. **(BF)**

All Levels: It's All About That Bass (Youngman)

Learn the "bass"ics of the instrument that holds it all together in a combo or group. Simple patterns and scales will be explored.

2:00

Beginner: Doo-Wop 'Til You Drop (Maisel)

This class focuses on popular progressions, including Doo-Wop, Blues, and Pop. With those we will also discuss holding the instrument, barre chords, and creating efficiency while playing. It's a perfect class for the beginner 'ukulele player who wants to expand their command of the instrument.

Confident Beginner: Mastering the C Scale (Vox)

There's a reason why the C chord is so easy to play on the ukulele! It's like playing all the white keys on a piano. It's made for C. So we'll start by mastering the C scale and then start adding suspensions and extensions onto easy / familiar chords. Get ready for a big "Ah-HA" moment.

Intermediate: Tame Your Low G (Chin)

Though it be a small difference in tuning, changing from a high G 'ukulele to a low G 'ukulele can redefine your approach to the instrument whether you're a singer songwriter or an instrumental soloist. We will observe some of the subtle differences and a few tools to fully utilize a low G 'ukulele including expanding chords, creating a second voice in the bass, and some right hand techniques for low G. Low G 'ukulele required to attend.

Intermediate: Once in a Blue Moon (Ross)

The popular song Blue Moon is a fun song to play on the ukulele using basic open-string chords. However, using these chords does not achieve the sound and rhythm associated with a bluesy/swing beat. In this fun, easy-to-understand workshop we will learn a few closed position chords that will have you playing that correct swing sound. The material covered in this workshop is not exclusive to the blues/swing world, it can be used for all styles of music. No music theory needed. no music reading required. No knuckle-busting chord shapes to learn.

Advanced Intermediate: Songs of Romance from the American Songbook (Marxer)

Who said "romance" better than Dorothy Fields, George Gershwin and their counterparts? Nobody! We'll sing classic love songs like, "The Way You Look Tonight" and "Let's Do It, Let's Fall In Love".

Harmonica: Approaching Jewish/Gypsy Klezmer Harmonica (Weltman)

This class will focus on an approach to learning, understanding and playing Klezmer music in a soulful way on the tiny little ten hole diatonic harmonica. We will learn some basic middle eastern

scales and patterns, proper “harmonica positions” for Klezmer music and finally a few easy to learn klezmer tunes to get you going. You don’t have to be Jewish to learn this wonderful music on the harmonica (but it couldn’t hurt), being able to “bend” notes on the harmonica couldn’t hurt either. (Intermediate)

Baritone: Standard to Baritone and Back (Swedberg)

Do you have a standard tuned (low g or re-entrant) AND/OR a baritone? Here’s a great class for you, whether you play GCEA, DGBE or both! Instruments with different voices played together create a rich sound; baritone uke is beautiful on it’s own, and even better when played alongside its little friend. Switching back and forth is a breeze because the chord shapes are the same! We will be learning the Cole Porter classic “Too Darn Hot” on soprano and baritone and switching the chord shapes back and forth. It's a great lesson in transposing and instrumentation, which could turn you into a multi-instrumentalist! **(BF)**

All Levels : Non-Intimidating Intro to Music Theory on the ‘Ukulele (Chee)

Craig will give you that jump start in learning about basic music theory and how it's applied on the 'ukulele. By the end of the class you'll know why chords are named the way they are, how to anticipate chord changes, utilize this new knowledge to start improvising and be able to play chord shapes all over the neck!

All Levels: How to Sing While You Strum (Sigh)

We will focus on vocal technique (including pitch, phrasing, breath control and vocal health) while we learn a diverse collection of songs with catchy melodies. We will practice navigating the challenges of *simultaneously* performing accurate melodic rhythm, strumming patterns, and chord changes. You will take home practice strategies that will help you build your vocal skills. Whether you enjoy singing solo or in a group, this workshop has a lot to offer. Proper vocal production is not intuitive - a little bit of instruction goes a long way in training your singing voice!

3:30

Beginner: Strumming by Ear (D’Ville)

Free yourself from memorizing Down-Up patterns! Starting with the basic index finger strum, Jim will quickly have your muscle memory absorbing fun strums like The Gallop Triplet, The Chunky Chop and many more strumming techniques that will spice up your playing. **(BF)**

Confident Beginner: Irish Songs, Melody, and Rhythm (Lil’ Rev)

Learn some fun ballads, drinking songs, how to back a jig, and 3 Irish fiddle melodies. Overall, a nice overview of Irish approaches to playing the ukulele.

Confident Beginner: How to Transpose (Sigh)

Learn how to play any song in any key! We will study the Nashville Numbering System (I, IV, V, etc) to gain an understanding of how chords function and relate to each other. We will strum familiar songs in multiple keys to provide plenty of practice with transposing. Utilizing a capo (capos provided by G7th capos) will allow us to strum in the most challenging keys while maintaining chord shapes

that are friendly for confident beginners. Transposing is useful for uke players at every level: whether you are searching for the perfect key to accompany your singing voice or are hoping to strum along with recordings of your favorite songs.

Intermediate: Clawhammer 101 (Fink)

In re-entrant tuning (high G), this style completely emulates the right hand method of old time clawhammer banjo technique. Clawhammer is great for chordal backup and for playing rhythm and melody at the same time. This class will focus on the right hand for clean technique. (Must be confident with changing chords and keeping time.)

Advanced Intermediate: Chord Chemistry (Ward)

“The theory of connectivity” Explore all the chords you already know, but connected. Get ready for light bulbs to snap on when we learn songs you already know, with chords you already know, but connect the different families of shapes. We will take the time to slowly identify the common tones that connect to the next chord for major, minor, and 7th chords in their basic forms. Then we’ll put on the gas, and find out how it feels to be truly free, playing any song in any key with any shapes you want.

Harmonica: Harmonica & Ukulele Strum (Wilson)

Let’s get the ukuleles and harmonicas together! Bring a friend to this jam session featuring ukes, harps, and singing. We will play everything from campfire songs to The Beatles, with brief instruction for both the harmonica and ukulele parts. Bring a harmonica holder, and play both parts simultaneously! Baritone ukulele parts will be provided to fill out the sound. **(BF)**

All Levels: Harmony Singing (Youngman)

A bit of ear training, a little theory, and lots of practice hearing and finding the part that works for you. This is designed to help you find the joy of singing harmony.

SUNDAY

9:15

Beginner: “500 Miles” in Every Key (Swedberg)

The folk standard “500 Miles” provides a blank canvas for learning about chord shapes. Light bulbs will go on in your head as you move familiar first-position chords up the neck and see them in a new light. The possibilities are exponential when we play this 5-chord song with 7 shapes in 12 keys with 3 variations. Sound complicated? It’s not - the simplicity may be the most stunning realization!

Confident Beginner: Intros, Endings, Turnarounds, and Vamps (Lil’ Rev)

Learn how to dress up the songs in your repertoire with jazzy chord style intros, blues turnarounds, melodic twang-endings, Tin-Pan Alley, Ragtime and Rock flavored gems. We’ll also learn how to use simple Hawaiian vamps as intros to any type of tune, the history of intros and so much more. This class is open to anyone who knows their basic chords and, is willing to learn some new moveable chord forms as well.

Intermediate: Clawhammer 201 (Fink)

For folks who have been practicing clawhammer ukulele and/or have taken Cathy's Clawhammer 101 workshop, we will explore two additional tunings and what can be played in them.

Intermediate: Shaping Your Sound (Chee)

Every musician has their own voice, and this class will help you create yours. Craig will take you through expanding the basics of Hammer ons/Pulls offs, Percussive elements, as well as some right hand techniques to get you on your way. You'll be surprised at how simple elements can completely change the feel and sound of a song. All the techniques taught in this class can be used on any form of music; whether it be Island Pop, Jazz, or Rock and Roll. This is the perfect class for the strummer who is looking to do more than strum. You must be comfortable with your basic chord shapes and be prepared to play a few barre chords. (High G tuning recommended)

Advanced Intermediate: Bye Bye Blues (Marxer)

Learn one of Roy Smeck's biggest hits just the way he taught it to me, by ear. There will be paper backup so you don't need to take notes, but the focus will be on playing a show-stopping tune learned the old fashioned way, by ear.

Harmonica: A Pentatonic Approach for the Harmonica (Weltman)

I like to tell my students that if they learn nothing else but the pentatonic and blues scale along with some associated licks and patterns, they will probably be able to jam along very competently on any folk, rock, blues or bluegrass song or jam session that they encounter. In this class we are going to dig into the five note pentatonic scale for the harmonica. We will learn licks, patterns and approaches to jamming with this simple yet profound scale. Being able to "bend" notes is a must. (Intermediate)

All Levels : Intro to Mouth Trumpet (Youngman)

Learn the art of blowing your own horn! Whether your hands are full with your ukulele or not, you may have found yourself wishing you had a horn player from time to time. The Mouth Trumpet, also called a Mouth Horn or Lips-aphone, is an old jazz-era vocal technique first heard by the Mills Brothers. Today, it is used by beat-boxers and vocalists. This non-ukulele class is focused on singing and learning some techniques to give your "horn" some edge!

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10:45

Beginner: Picking By Ear (D'Ville)

Learn to pick the melodies to your favorite songs without tab! This ground-breaking workshop is the first of its kind to use the solfege syllables to organically train your ears to hear and play the scale patterns where all the melodies live. Topics will include playing scales, arpeggios, rolls and fills, and of course songs! This workshop is the first step to being able to play anything that comes into your head!

Confident Beginner: Beginning Chord Melody (Maisel)

You can play melodies and you can play chords, but can you do them at the same time? YES YOU CAN, and Sarah will show you how easy it can be. This class is perfect for those that have been

intimidated by Chord Melody and have always wanted to try it. High G recommended, but not required.

Intermediate: Diggin' Into the Blues (Chin)

In this class we will see just how far we can take the blues! We will focus on creating melodies and plucking to bridge the gap from playing notes to creating a solo. We will visit the Blues Hall of Fame by playing licks by BB King, Albert King, and the man himself: Robert Johnson.

Advanced Intermediate: Advanced Meditations (Ward)

Daniel will share a number of easy-to-learn, fun-to-play, short songs and warm-ups that you can "loop" over and over. It's a great way to build even rhythm, tone, and chord changing chops while you float in a warm tub of beautiful, repeating patterns that make you a better player as you soak them in. You'll come away with productive tools to practice with whenever you pick up your uke and become a much more expressive player in the process. If you're a beginner, these are great tools to start out with. If you're more advanced, it's a great way to break out of whatever rut you may have fallen in to.

Harmonica: Harmonica Maintenance and Repair (Wilson)

Bring your damaged harmonica to this workshop, and we will learn how to bring it back to life! Harmonicas can be repaired, and can also be adjusted to suit your playing style. We will look at the inside of the harmonica, and show how it can be improved.

All Levels: How to Read and Write Chord Charts (Ross)

Have you ever wondered how professional musicians perform an unknown piece of music; a song they've never heard before? Typically they are handed a sheet of music, they take a few quick glances at it, the band leader counts off the song and they immediately play the song. Can a hobbyist musician do this? Does one need to spend years learning music theory and perfecting sight-reading skills? Yes they can and no, years of training are not needed. The secret is learning to read and write a standard chord chart. We will learn the universal agreed-upon standard for "charting" a tune. This skill will allow you to share your music with any musician world wide. This fun and easy class is open to all levels. If you own a pencil and can count to four you are more than ready for this class. No music theory needed. No music reading required. **(BF)**

All Levels: Rhythmic Structures and Time Signatures (Youngman)

Explore basic rhythmic structure and different time signatures and learn where the accents are in different rhythms.