

Midwest Uke Camp 2017 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 101: Beginning Ukulele (Fuchs)

This workshop is for the many people who have thought about learning the ukulele, but haven't had the time or opportunity, or for folks who would like to review some of the foundations of ukulele playing and music study in general. Topics covered include

holding the uke in an ergonomic way for ease of play, creating a pleasing tone, fingering and strumming chords, playing single string melody lines, and more. Stu leads the group through a sequence of his "Ukulele Zen" exercises that will strengthen & improve the flexibility in your hands and fingers. You will be surprised by how much fun it is and how easily you can learn a song! We cover strumming, chords, how to practice for maximum benefit - and we'll jam on some very fun two and three chord songs! By the end of this session players understand how to play with greater coordination, speed, tone and relaxed control.

Confident Beginner: Cocktail Party Favorites (Marxer)

Sing and play a Musical Happy Hour with songs from Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and more. Cool, Baby!

Intermediate: C/Am/F/G Make them Swing! (Ross)

This simple chord progression is the basis of swing and popular music. 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.

Harmonica: Harmonica for the Complete Beginner (Lil' Rev)

An intro class for the complete beginner. Learn major scale, train, simple folk songs, blues riffs, chord patterns and more.

Bonus Room 1: Painless Transposing (Manke)

We will take an old Americana song and learn a technique that will have you jamming along with others and on your way to having a better ear. (Confident Beginner) **(BF)**

Bonus Room 2: Plectrum Tuning Styles for the Baritone Ukulele (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)**

4:30

Beginner: Boot Camp 101 (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. We will then show how these exercises are applied to intermediate and even advanced techniques to take you to the next level! (High G tuning recommended)

Confident Beginner: Beatles Jam (Beloff)

An hour of strumming through a bunch of Beatles songs with periodic stops to extol the songwriting genius of the Liverpool lads and a bit of history behind each song. Also the story about the day George Harrison came to our house.

Intermediate: Clawhammer Ukulele (Fink)

The classic banjo style adapts beautifully to ukuleles tuned with a high G. Learn the basic right hand technique and how it works with the left hand for a whole different sound.

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.

Bonus Room 1: 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.

Bonus Room 2: Hawaiian Kani Ka Pila I (Española)

Steven focuses on and dissects three popular traditional Hawaiian songs from the He Mele Aloha book with emphasis on arrangement. Learn how to lead a kani ka pila (Hawaiian jam session). (Confident beginner to Intermediate)

SATURDAY

9:15

Beginner: Beginners Unite (Marxer)

This class will feature play-along songs with a twist. Bring any questions you might have about the ukulele, theory, chords, scales, etc. and Marcy will answer them!

Confident Beginner: Six Triplet Strokes (Lil' Rev)

Learn how to execute a variety of triplet strokes and how to apply them. Tap Lil Rev's vast knowledge of strum hand techniques and have a load of fun along the way.

Intermediate: Take It! Single Note Soloing the Easy Way (Ross)

Have you ever wondered how musicians play just the right notes when it's time to take a solo? Do they randomly pick notes out of thin air or is there some logic to the musical lines they play? Have you ever been to a jam session and when it's time to take an instrumental solo everyone looks at you says "take it!". We will learn what to do when that situation arises. It's not as difficult or scary as you may think. You can do it! Single note soloing is easy. We'll learn some tricks and techniques that will have you playing more than just chords. You will be soloing within the first fifteen minutes of the class, guaranteed!

Advanced Intermediate: Song Arranging (Maisel)

This class will be focused on arranging for Jazz Standards. We will cover altered chord voicings, melodic movement, intros, and outros. Be prepared to do several chord shapes you are not used to using, and moving quickly through a musical chart. We will also discuss Jazz Notation, and creating charts for your band. To get the most out of this class, please refresh yourself on your basic Minor 7, Major 7, and Dominant 7 and 9 chords.

Harmonica: Beatles for Harmonica (Wilson)

Learn how The Beatles used chromatic, bass, and chord harmonica in many of their classic songs.

Bonus Room 1: Major to Minor (Hassenger)

Inspired by Chase Holfelder's creative YouTube project, we will take songs typically played in a happy-sounding major key and transpose them to a sad-sounding minor key. The process is fun, the results can be amazing, and you'll learn a little bit of basic music theory along the way. (Confident beginner to intermediate) **(BF)**

Bonus Room 2: Hapa Haole Songs (Pasant)

Learn the fun songs of the Islands! Hapa Haole songs are where it all started for the ukulele. These songs mix tin pan, jazz, blues, big band, and Hawaiian musical flavors with English and Hawaiian words to produce an intoxicating blend. Easy to play with great melodies these beautifully-crafted songs will take you to the sunny shores of Hawaii with staples every ukulele enthusiast should have in their repertoire.

10:45

Beginner: Beginning Fingerpicking (Manke)

You have mastered 3 - 5 chords and are confident moving back and forth between them. Here you will learn how to get started with finger picking. Excellent for slower songs and adding an instrumental break in your songs. If you've felt intimidated by the idea of picking, this is the class for you. **(BF)**

Confident Beginner: Rockabilly for Uke: 'Uke-a-billy' (Fuchs)

Go cat go!!! Rock and roll ukulele is not so much about technique as it is about an attitude. This workshop is about shedding inhibitions and letting your inner rock and roller out. In this workshop, Stuart Fuchs adapts Rockabilly & Rock n' Roll guitar styles adapted for Ukulele. You'll play classic songs and learn the style of Rockabilly rhythm & lead playing in the styles of Carl Perkins, Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Eddie Cochrane, The Beatles, Elvis, and more. Stuart orchestrates the group into a fun multi-part band. This workshop will teach you some killer rock n' roll tricks for ukulele including:

- Songs by Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Carl Perkins, Eddie Cochrane, Elvis, The Beatles and more
- Rock 'n' roll strums & different feels
- Boogie woogie bass lines
- Chord-based fills & solos

- Single note & double stop soloing (ala Chuck Berry)
- 12 bar blues form & other common song structures used in Classic Rock n' Roll
- Stage presence and showmanship “tricks”

Intermediate: Boot Camp 201 (Chee)

Now that you've gone through Bootcamp 101, you are ready to move on to Level Two! This class expands on the exercises from the previous class and how to utilize them in your playing. You'll work on fills, rhythm, chord voicings, and more. Be prepared to give your fingers a workout!

Advanced Intermediate: Songwriting for Songwriters (Beloff)

Fast-paced analysis of the technique behind several classic songs. We'll consider structure, rhyme, title-placement and other essentials that make a great song, great. Time will be set aside for performance and critique of original songs. **(BF)**

Harmonica: Sonny Boy Williamson (Wilson)

An in-depth look at the Sonny Boy Williamson solo that has been copied by blues players for decades.

Bonus Room 1: 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. (All levels)

Bonus Room 2: Hawaiian Strumming I: Olapa, Classic, Modern (Española)

Steven teaches three of the most widely used strumming patterns in traditional Hawaiian music. (Confident beginner to Intermediate) **(BF)**

2:00

Beginner: The Notes Are in Your Left Hand, The Music is in Your Right: Strumming Patterns (Youngman)

Many songs have the same notes and chords, but they can sound completely different from one another - the secret is in the strum. Learn a variety of strumming patterns that help make your playing more musical. **(BF)**

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

Learn the art of setting up a song with a classy intro or a well stated ending. Discover

how to use Vamps and turnarounds both as intros and in between verses of a song. These are the ultimate missing pieces in your strum puzzle. Join Lil Rev as he explores the lost art of intro and endings. **(BF)**

Intermediate: Life After the Third Fret (Maisel)

Learn what 2nd position chords are and how to use them to enhance songs you already know. You will learn 4 basic chord shapes and how to use them on the ukulele as well as cover Major, Minor and Dominant 7 Chords.

Advanced Intermediate: Intro to Soloing (Chee)

Ever wondered how the pros do it? Craig will show you the tricks to starting your solos. Whether it's playing solo, or jamming with others, he will get you feeling confident about your skills. He will utilize drills and exercises that are fun and easy to practice. Get out of your strumming rut and start soloing!

Harmonica: Harmonica Playing By Positions (Weltman)

Are you feeling like you're in a "harmonica rut"? Do you play everything in cross harp (2nd position), or all of your simple melodies in 1st position? There are a lot more possibilities out there on that tiny little 10 hole instrument. In this class we will understand more deeply the importance of different harmonica "positions" and a new palette of sounds and possibilities which they offer. We will also learn how to play in minor and major keys as well as an approach to playing in six different positions (keys) on one harmonica. (Intermediate)

Bonus Room 1: Practice Techniques (Fink)

Make the most of your practice time, become a better uke player (or other instrument) faster by being organized and thoughtful about when and how to practice. You'll be surprised *and* pleased at the difference it makes. All levels will benefit from this class. **(BF)**

Bonus Room 2: Hawaiian Kani Ka Pila II (Española)

Steven focuses on and dissects three popular traditional Hawaiian songs (different from Kani Ka Pila I) from the He Mele Aloha book with emphasis on arrangement. Learn how to lead a kani ka pila (Hawaiian jam session). (Confident beginner to Intermediate)

Beginner: When Do I Change Chords? Ear Training 101 (Fink)

You *can* do it. You were *born* with ear training, and Cathy can show you how to make it work for you! **(BF)**

Confident Beginner: Hey! It's About Ragtime! (Manke)

It's in the rhythm, it's in the style, and we'll sit and rag for a while. We'll talk style and learn some good tunes. We'll learn ragtime rhythms, how to apply them to strumming and some songs in the style. **(BF)**

Intermediate: Three Note Chords - All You Need to Get that Jazzy/Bluesy Sound (Ross)

Just because the ukulele has four strings doesn't mean you have to play them all! Many times you can say more musically with two or three notes than you can with four. We will learn easy to finger three note chords that sound much more bluesy and jazzy than their four note counterparts. Easy blues songs will be used to demonstrate this very effective, very hip sounding style. No music theory needed. no music reading required. No knuckle-busting chord shapes to learn. Just fun! Any sized uke tuned GCEA will work

Advanced Intermediate: Chorded Melody I (Marxer)

This class will build skills needed to play your own Chorded Melody arrangements. These same skills will also help you learn other ukulele arrangements much faster. This class will focus on major chords.

Harmonica: Approaching Jazz & Swing on the Diatonic Harmonica (Weltman)

This class will focus on an approach to learning, understanding and playing jazz/swing on the tiny little ten hole diatonic harmonica. We will learn some basic jazz scales and patterns, proper "harmonica positions" for jazz and finally a few easy to learn jazz tunes to get you going. Being able to adequately "bend" notes is a must.

Bonus Room 1: Very Bari Jam (Beloff)

An hour of strumming the very mellowest of the uke family. We'll sing and play through a selection of easy to more challenging arrangements in DGBE tuning with stops along the way to discuss the special challenges and opportunities that the bari uke player encounters. Bring your bari and be prepared to get down! **(BF)**

Bonus Room 2: A Funky Uke Time (Fuchs)

To quote the great James Brown . . . "ALRIGHT!!!" Get down & funky in this very fun class, old school funk ain't nothin' but a party! In this ukulele playshop you'll learn solid rhythmic groove and feel, chunking, funky riffs, and those jazzy 7th, 9th, & 13th chords. Stuart will demystify 16th note "scratch strums", all of which use left hand muting for easier technique & better rhythmic articulation. This left hand technique applies to ALL styles of music but is very important in FUNK! Participants will learn classic songs from James Brown, soul & hip hop. (Confident beginner on up.)

SUNDAY

9:15

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: The Blues and Boogie of Leadbelly (Lil' Rev)

Join Lil Rev for a rollicking exploration of the life and music of Huddle Leadbetter aka: Leadbelly. This repertoire class will include folk, blues, boogie, kids songs, work songs and more. Along with this we'll learn a couple of cool blues licks, how to play boogie boogie on the Uke and some incredible blues history.

Intermediate: Paper-Free! Ear Training 201 (Fink)

What key do I sing in? How do I know what chord to play? Where are the notes to this song? You will be amazed at how easy it is to take your eyes off the page and start training your ear to play what you want. Must know four chords in four keys, the keys of C, D, G and A. **(BF)**

Advanced Intermediate: Chorded Melody II (Marxer)

Class II will be a continuation of Chorded Melody I with the focus on Dominant 7 chords

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)

Bonus Room 1: Music Theory for the Ukulele (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. Confident Beginner on up.

Bonus Room 2: Hawaiian Strumming II: Swing, Chalangang, IZ Strum (Española)

Steven teaches three more of the most widely used strumming patterns in traditional Hawaiian music. (Confident beginner to Intermediate) **(BF)**

10:45

Beginner: Writing Song Parodies (Manke)

Entertain and amaze your friends! Take that favorite song that you can play perfectly and make it your own. We'll go through a simple method of how to write song parodies. A barrel of laughs, the whole time. (All levels) **(BF)**

Confident Beginner: Group Play (Chee)

You've been playing the 'ukulele for a while now. You go to your uke jam every week or so and all of you play the same songs, chords, and strums every week. It's time to spice up those songs and get your group sounding better than ever! This class is perfect for those who are looking to enhance their chord vocabulary and learn how to interact and play with others in a group. This is perfect for small or large groups, and you are guaranteed to learn a lot and have fun.

Advanced Intermediate: At the Ritz (Beloff)

A challenging but revealing hour of working through the unique beauty of standards arranged by the father of the jazz ukulele, the late, great Lyle Ritz.

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.

Bonus Room 1: 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)

Bonus Room 2: Zen Bandcamp (Fuchs)

Playing music with others in a band setting is a joyful experience and can accelerate one's learning by having so much fun with your fellow players. In this workshop, Stu facilitates a fun "bandcamp" and shares his easy-to-play ukulele band arrangements of popular songs that are a blast to learn. Stu will lead you through some of his signature "Ukulele Zen" exercises that will offer players of any level of experience the chance to improve their skills with chords & rhythmic strums, while learning lead melody lines that will fill out each arrangement. No matter how long you've played, there is a place for *everyone* in the Ukulele Zen Band! Stuart will also share many of his lighthearted and effective "Ukulele Zen" practice techniques that have helped thousands of people to play with greater ease. Be ready to strum, pick and sing songs from blues, funk and rock n roll styles while having a great time together! (Confident Beginner - Intermediate)