

2026 MIDWEST UKE & HARMONICA CAMP WORKSHOPS (subject to change)

WORKSHOP LEVELS

Beginner

This level 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, and has been there with barre or four-fingered moveable chords. Plays lead and backup easily with others and keeps steady rhythm.

Baritone-Friendly (BF)

Classes labeled as such can be enjoyed by baritone players. You should know the baritone equivalent of the standard ukulele chords used in the classes as they may not be provided on handouts. If a class is not listed as BF, you may be able to use a ukulele capo.

PERRY STAUFFER

Bass 101.1 – The Basics (Beginning)

Just got a bass and not sure where to start? This class covers everything you need for your first jam session. Learn the major scale and how to use roots and fifths, the foundational building blocks of bass lines. By the end, you'll be ready to follow a chord chart and play along with your ukulele friends.

What You'll Learn:

The major scale and its importance

Roots and fifths as bass line fundamentals

How to read and follow a chord chart

Building confidence for your first jam session

Prerequisites: No strict prerequisites.

Bass 101.2 – The Basics Continued (Beginning and Confident Beginner)

This class builds directly on Bass 101.1, expanding your root-and-fifth foundation into simple, musical walking bass lines. You'll learn how to use chromatic approach notes from above and below to add motion and groove, creating classic patterns such as the 1-below, 2-below and 3-below. We'll apply these ideas to familiar tunes so you can hear

—and feel—how walking bass supports the harmony in real songs.

Song Examples:

Basic Blues

Jazz Blues

Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out

All of Me

What You'll Learn:

Reviewing roots and fifths across common progressions

Using chromatic approach notes (from above and below)

Building simple walking bass patterns (1-below, 2-below, 3-below)

Connecting bass lines smoothly between chords

Applying walking concepts to jazz and blues standards

Strengthening fretboard awareness and time feel

Prerequisites

Bass 101.1 or equivalent experience is recommended. You should be comfortable playing roots and fifths and reading basic TAB.

Bass 101.3 – Walking with Triads (Confident Beginner and up)

This class continues the Bass 101 series by adding the 3rd to your walking vocabulary, completing the major and minor triads. After establishing strong roots and fifths in 101.1 and chromatic approach notes in 101.2, we now focus on how the 3rd defines chord quality and strengthens harmonic clarity. You'll learn how to incorporate 3rds into simple walking bass lines while maintaining solid time and smooth voice leading.

Song Examples:

Basic Blues

Jazz Blues

All of Me

Autumn Leaves

What You'll Learn:

Understanding the role of the 3rd in major and minor harmony

Completing major and minor triads on the fretboard

Adding 3rds to walking patterns

Connecting roots, 3rds, and 5ths smoothly between chords

Strengthening time feel and harmonic awareness

Applying triad-based walking lines to jazz and blues progressions

Prerequisites:

Bass 101.1 and 101.2 or equivalent experience is recommended. Students should be comfortable playing roots and fifths and reading simple TAB.

Bass 102 - Essential Pop Rhythms (Confident Beginner and up)

Expand your groove vocabulary with a practical look at essential bass rhythms across popular styles. This class focuses on how bass functions in pop, rock, Latin, country, reggae, and ska, giving you the tools to lock in with the groove and support the band in a variety of musical settings. You'll learn stylistically appropriate patterns and how to adapt them to real songs.

What You'll Learn:

Core bass patterns for pop and rock

Two-beat and walking feels for country
Basic Latin grooves and rhythmic concepts
Reggae bass fundamentals (space and feel)
Ska rhythm and offbeat emphasis
Adapting bass lines to different styles
Strengthening time feel and groove consistency

Prerequisites:

Bass 101.1 or equivalent experience is recommended. You should be comfortable playing basic root-based patterns and reading simple TAB or chord charts.

JIM BELOFF

A Ukulele and You: (Intermediate)

Work up an arrangement of this song (the last track on my new album, "mid-century modern") to be performed with Jim at some point during the fest.

Jazzing Up The Ukulele: (Intermediate/Advanced Intermediate)

Intro to using chord substitutions to "jazz up" a simple 4 or 5 chord song. Based on the 2015 Flea Market Music book. We'll also play through several Lyle Ritz classic jazz arrangements from his 3 FMM songbooks.

Songwriting for Songwriters: (Intermediate/Advanced Intermediate) (BF)

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.

Very Bari Workshop/Jam: (Confident Beginner/Intermediate) (BF)

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! Will include arrangements from the soon to be released "Daily Ukulele: Another Year-Baritone Edition.

DANIEL WARD

Right Hand Left Hand Level (Confident Beginner - Intermediate)

This workshop is a passage to comfort. All of us spend time wondering why some things just don't come that easy. Daniel Ward has years of teaching experience helping people "align" their hands so they fit the instrument and don't have to fight it. Some people call them bad habits, but Daniel refers to them as "unfortunate angles" that make fingering and strumming difficult. This workshop concentrates on the magic of discovering how easy it is to play when you get a simple group of skills that lines up both hands, and frees you from some old demons. Handouts include simple warm ups and drills, fingerpicking, and strumming help, and a big overview of how it all fits.

Let's Get Down!! Into Baritone Uke (Confident Beginner and up) (BF)

Down a 4th that is... The baritone uke sounds a 4th lower than the standard uke, and has wonderful deep secrets that we will uncover in this workshop. Daniel Ward will take you through basic right- and left-hand techniques that both beginner and

advanced players will benefit from, and then explore the chord forms that are common to both standard and Baritone tunings. The workshop will concentrate on how to learn and play songs with the "5" root chord shapes that make everything work, and show you how they work together on both Baritone and standard tuning. If you come from a guitar background, this will show you how the 4 string uke works, and if you started with uke, you will come out of this one knowing how the guitar works!! Nice clean handouts for your review, and we will do some arranging for Bari and standard on the same songs and sing 'em too!!

Flamenco Ukulele? (Confident Beginner to Advanced Intermediate) (BF)

Oh yes... In this workshop you will get a real hands-on look at what a little Spanish spice can do for your playing. Almost any song you know can be infused with some passionate strums, and it's not as hard as you would think. Daniel Ward has worked for years to create a simple step by step approach to learning these rhythms and strums. Clear hand outs and vocal "phrases" that outline the patterns you are learning make it easy to add the Latin charm to the songs you already love to play. The workshop will concentrate on the flamenco rhumba strum, and other variations of Latin music. Participants will come away with a brand-new bag of skills.

70s Dance Party (Very Confident Beginner to Advanced Intermediate)

Fabulous, fun songs from the 70s with an emphasis on right hand technique. We will learn the 70s "play that funky music" type of strum and take it around the block through 4 or 5 of your favorite 70s hits. The strum itself is a powerful tool for playing rhythm in a group or alone, and you will leave the workshop with a new command of your right hand, perked up ears, and a better sense of time.

JOHN NASH

Learning Repertoire (All Levels) (BF)

How's your repertoire? Could you play a song from start to finish if someone asked you to? Learning repertoire can be a simple and repeatable process if we understand the fundamentals of how music functions. This class covers a little bit of everything from strum patterns to chord progressions, riffs to fingerpicking and everything in between. We'll even take some time to help us conquer some of the most common pitfalls like changing chords smoothly and learning to sing and play.

The Art of Solo Ukulele (Advanced Intermediate)

Solo playing w/ ukulele can be such a rewarding endeavor on the ukulele. When learning to juggle melody, harmony and rhythm it can be challenging to hold this last, and most important element down. In this workshop we'll be exploring the Django Reinhardt classic, Limehouse Blues and using it to learn some of the fundamental rhythms of gypsy jazz. At the same time we'll learn how to weave in the melody while keeping our strumming and chords consistent and solid.

Rooted in Rhythm (Confident Beginner/Intermediate) (BF)

Ever ask yourself, what is the strumming pattern? Ever wish you could hear a rhythm and be able to replicate it on the ukulele? This workshop will explore the fundamentals of how rhythm functions on the instrument and how we can move our strumming hand

in predictable ways to help us play what we hear and imagine. We'll also be exploring some of my favorite advanced techniques to add variety and texture to your rhythms.

Understanding the Fretboard (Intermediate/Advanced Intermediate)

Is this the only way to play a C chord? What's a chord inversion? This workshop is all about unlocking everything beyond the first few frets of our ukulele. We'll explore what makes up a chord and how we can use those relationships to help us find moveable chord shapes and chord inversions to be able to play any chord in any position on the fretboard.

MELISSA SIGH

All the Numbers (Confident Beginner and up)

From Nashville numbering (I, IV, V, etc) to chord variations (7, sus4, etc), learn the math of music! Nashville numbering helps with changing keys and understanding how chords function. Chord variations allow you to alter songs and chord charts. (For example, you can add a 7, or take one away, to simplify/advance existing charts and create your own arrangements). Gain understanding through strumming: your ears will be your guide to unlocking "ah-ha!" moments during our workshop and beyond.

I Know Four Chords . . . Now What?! (Beginner and up)

Strum a large variety of simple songs that each teach a new chord (or two)! Build on your existing skills to progress beyond the chords C, Am, F and G. Learn strategies for mastering and memorizing new beginner-friendly chords. Take home new charts with memorable melodies and simple chord-changes.

How to Teach Uke to Kids (All Levels)

Ukulele 101 presented with engaging, effective, and gentle teaching methods. Learn introductory songs for children, movement activities for children, and a pedagogical approach that will get your students (or family members) strumming with comfort and proper technique from the start.

How to Sing While You Strum (All Levels)

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. Proper vocal production is not intuitive - a little bit of instruction goes a long way in training your singing voice!

HEIDI SWEDBERG

Ukulele from Scratch (Beginners)

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!

Hawaiian for Beginners(Beginners and up)

Ha'ina `ia mai ana ka puana! Get started with the Hawaiian language by learning a few simple songs with deep roots. Popoki Make a Cat employs the "Hawaiian turn-around" sound, and Kahuli Aku is a traditional chant set to music by Winona Beamer. Bonus: seated hula!

Sing Hawaiian and Hula, too! (Beginners and up)

Learn three songs in Hawaiian with hula movements. Boy From Lapahoehoe (traditionally done by men), Pupu Hinu Hinu and Kahuli Aku are simple, family friendly songs, fun to learn and share. Hulas can be done seated. (Great to combine with Hawaiian for Beginners as a 2 day or extended class)

Too Darn Hot! (Intermediate) (BF)

Cole Porter's hot standard is too cool - especially on the ukulele in the summertime! Bring your standard tuned (GCEA) or Baritone (DGBE) uke or both to this class and we will explore jazz chord comping, transposition and rhythmic picking while learning a tune indispensable in the age of global warming. BONUS: Lyric improvisation! The verses lend themselves to creative rhyming, making this song the life of any party!

DANI JOY

Royal Chord Family - Basic Music Theory thru Storytelling (Beginner) (BF)

Meet the King, Queen, King's Guard and the visiting minor chord family in this perception altering class. We will tap into the emotional personality of each chord using a common storytelling trope which will unite your ear with the chord like never before. Get off the page and into the music in this fun and exhilarating class with Dani Joy.

An Old Fashioned Love Song - Conquer the Bb! (Confident Beginner and up)

Do you feel stuck in 1st gear on the ukulele fretboard while your friends around you are forming chords with ease? Let's get those hands into shape with some fun left and right hand challenges! We will go very slow as we navigate these cool new techniques. And that Bb won't be a problem anymore after this! Heck, you'll even do the Eb! It's time to loosen up... 5 6 7 8! Low G preferred

Hello Strum, Nice to Meet You! (Beginner - Confident Beginner) (BF)

Is your club in the down-up strumming rut, otherwise known as Incessant Strumming Syndrome? In this workshop you will learn some simple dynamic techniques which will take your strum to the next level. We will talk about volume control, attack, how to add flourishes to spice things up and above all; how to listen. You'll be adding texture and soothing accompaniment before you know it!

Starman by David Bowie (Confident Beginner and up)

Starman is an incredible pop song that has so much to teach us. It focuses on chords in the key of F with chords that will be played on 3 strings with some variation of chord inversions up the neck on the second chorus. The right hand finger picking pattern is simple and will help prep you for future latin rhythms. Low G required

LIL' REV

Baritone Blues Class (Confident Beginner and up) (BF)

Join Lil Rev for a fun exploration of blues styles on the baritone ukulele. We'll look at 12 bar, 8 bar, licks, boogie and some fun songs. Students should know their basic chords and can read tab to play simple melodies.

Crucial Chord Progressions (Confident Beginner and up)

Learn a fascinating array of famous chord progressions, practice new strumming patterns, learn how to do chunking, listen for I, IV, V chord changes, basic music theory, playing by numbers, improv your chord vocabulary, parody song writing and more from this comprehensive, fun strum class!

Fingerpicking 101 (Confident Beginner and up)

Learn how to fingerpick using Lil Rev's tried and true approach to pattern playing, w/ song samples, and we'll explore 5 of the most common picking patterns and how to use them to accompany yourself, others, and improv.

Fiddle Tunes For Ukulele (Intermediate to Advanced Intermediate)

Learn 4 common fiddle tunes for uke, accompaniment tips, flat-picking techniques, skill builders for building speed, and much more in this class for intermediate and advanced melody players. Must be able to play melody and read tab.

MARNIE WARD

'Ukulele Orchestra (Confident Beginner and up)

Let's play together! So often we play in isolation. What if you had the opportunity to sit and make instrumental music with others with a multi-part arrangement? It's kind of like band camp with goosebumps We'll briefly discuss TAB reading, the layout of the arrangement, who's going to play what and then we'll play, play, play! *TAB reading a bonus but not necessary

Get Out of Your HEAD and into your MUSIC! (All levels) (BF)

What if you could feel fearless stepping on to stage? in joining the open mic? or playing for friends and family? Are you "terrified" to play in front of people? In this class, we will dive into reframing our language about "nervousness," walk through physical and brain exercises to help us make the switch, talk about anatomy, and create our personal mantra! Let's build confidence together!

Learn a Jazz Song in Nine Steps (Intermediate and up)

Let's immerse ourselves in the jazz style by learning and internalizing a song through 9-steps. We will mastering the original melody and lyrics and then personalize it through rhythmic, harmonic and melodic choices. This workshop will give you the foundation to take with you and create your own versions of your favorite jazz songs at home.

Moooooovable Chords (Confident Beginner and up)

Are you tired of the same old C, G and F chords? Let's spice up your chord selections and get you off the first 4 frets while expanding the harmonic sounds in your

arrangements. We'll use well-loved classic songs to cover simple ways to incorporate chord inversions on the "dusty end of the neck." These techniques can be transferred to any song!

Dean Rochester

Going Paperless with Chord Pro (all levels)

Ditch the binders and put all your chord/lyric sheets on your tablet or other device. In this workshop, Dean-O will give you all the info you need regarding using your device including recommended hardware, programs, and more.

Mixer 101: Making Sense of All the Knobs (All Levels)

Mixer Setup: Making Sense of All the Knobs

Have you ever looked at a sound mixer and felt overwhelmed by all the knobs, buttons, and sliders? This hands-on workshop is designed for musicians, singers, worship teams, sound volunteers, and anyone who wants to better understand live sound. Participants will learn the fundamentals of mixer operation, including signal flow, gain staging, channel setup, EQ, effects, and proper startup and shutdown procedures. We'll cover both analog and digital mixers, explain common audio connections, and demonstrate how to achieve clear, professional sound without feedback or distortion.

Through practical examples and live demonstrations, you'll gain the confidence to set up a mixer for solo performers, bands, community events, churches, wineries, and small venues. By the end of the session, you'll understand what each control does, how to quickly dial in a good mix, and how to save time by documenting your settings for future events.

Who Should Attend: Musicians, singers, sound volunteers, worship teams, event organizers, and anyone interested in live audio.

What You'll Learn:

Mixer basics and signal flow

Understanding channels, gain, EQ, and effects

Proper mixer and speaker setup

Avoiding feedback and distortion

Working with microphones and instruments

Tips for faster setup and better sound

No prior audio engineering experience is required.

HARMONICA TRACK WITH ANDY WILSON, SANDY WELTMAN, AND JAKE ROBINSON

- Campfire Songs for Diatonic Harmonica (Wilson)
- Harmonica Phrase-ology (Weltman)
- Train Rhythms and Chugging Patterns (Robinson)
- Harmonica Improv (Weltman)
- Note Bending 101 (Robinson)
- Blues Jam for Harmonica and Ukulele (Weltman/Wilson)
- Sunday Morning Gospel Harmonica (Robinson)
- The Harmonica Games (Weltman/Wilson/Robinson)

