

# Midwest Uke & Harmonica Camp 2023 Workshop Schedule with Descriptions



*Note: keep in mind that posted levels can be somewhat fluid depending on the instructor, the subject, and the make up of the class attendees; i.e. a class listed as “Confident Beginner” can be suitable for a Beginning or an Intermediate student.*

*You do not need to pre-register for any of the workshops, just show up and then feel free to move to a different class if the one you’re in doesn’t suit you.*

## UKULELE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

**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 labels 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.

## 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 hard in order to get the next hole. Trying to master simple melodies such as “Oh Susanna”

**Confident Beginner:** 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.

**Recommended Harmonicas:** Use a harmonica in the key of C such as: Hohner Blues Band, Suzuki Folkmaster, Hohner Big Band, or Hohner Marine Band.

## **WORKSHOP SCHEDULE WITH DESCRIPTIONS (subject to change)**

### **SATURDAY, JULY 8**

**Saturday 3- 4:00 pm**

#### **Beginner**

##### **Music-Making from the First Strum: Ukulele for Complete Beginners (Sigh)**

Jump into the world of uke with catchy songs and easy ukulele chords. You will be amazed at the music-making that four strings can offer in this introductory lesson. We will learn four introductory chords that unlock a world of repertoire. Melissa can quickly apply labeling dots to your ukulele to help you learn your first chords with confidence.

#### **Confident Beginner**

*Parts for Confident Beginners will be available in the "Ensemblings" class located in the "Other" Column in this time slot.*

#### **Intermediate - Advanced Intermediate**

##### **Minor Swing: Django for 'Ukulele (Chin)**

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 and 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!

#### **Fingerstyle**

##### **Fretboard Techniques for Fingerpicking Ukulele (Kane)**

This workshop will teach you my foundational fretboard techniques acquired from my ukulele university studies for single-note picking. I will also show a few of my personal techniques on how to pick with your thumb. Building a strong foundation with this skill set will not only allow you to tackle more difficult songs down the road, but will complete, in my opinion, the "trifecta" of good technique; look, feel, and sound great!

#### **Bass**

##### **U-Bass Basics (Ukulenny)**

Bring some low-end into the band with this zero-to-hero U-Bass workshop! Especially geared towards ukulele players who want to moonlight on the bass, this course "walks" through playing roots, thirds, and fifths so you can accompany nearly every song in your book. You'll be slappin da bass in no time!

#### **Harmonica**

##### **Harmonica Fundamentals (Wilson)**

In this class, we will review fundamental harmonica techniques, and prepare every student for the classes to follow. We will learn how to achieve single notes and create simple melodies. We will dive into the magical world of note bending, which gives the harmonica its famous soulful sound. While parts of this class will be review for some advanced players, there will be a little something for everyone! (Beginner)

#### **Other**

##### **The Ensemblings: Part 1 of a 2-part Workshop**

Have you wondered what it would feel like to join an 'ukulele ensemble? In this two-part session, we'll learn a fun multi-part song with a variety of levels of difficulty. By the end, we'll have our very own

‘ukulele ensemble and an opportunity to play at the camp open mic. Ability to read standard notation and/or tablature helpful but not mandatory. Ukulele players, assemble!

### **Saturday 4:30 - 5:30 pm**

#### **Beginner - Confident Beginner**

##### **Beginning Variations on Chord-Melody Arrangements (Hoffman)**

Learn three versions of the classic melody Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star as a chord-melody arrangement. Workshop will study bare-bones chord and melody, then build up to a more complex chord-melody arrangement through three rhythmic variations. Students will leave with notation/tab for simple song melody as well as 3 versions of a chord-melody arrangement.

#### **Confident Beginner - Intermediate**

##### **I'll Be at the Barre (Vox)**

This will be a comprehensible "ice-breaker" into the world of Barre Chords. Guaranteed to be an enjoyable experience as we play with chords and chord qualities. Barre intimidation no more! We will end the class by playing Three Little Birds (Bob Marley) while using some barre chords, and even adding a melodic riff!

#### **Advanced Intermediate**

##### **Get Raggy with It (van't Hof)**

Learn a little about Ragtime, pre-jazz, and early jazz music as we tackle a tune and work through some sock-rhythm style lead and talk about how to work up a backup part.

#### **Fingerstyle**

##### **Fingerpicking Patterns (Terzian)**

In this workshop you will learn different fingerpicking patterns (in various time signatures) to expand your styles of playing.

#### **Bass**

##### **Slap Bass (Kumalo)**

Get your thumb working and learn to play expressive and percussive slap bass in the style of Bakithi Kumalo. U-Bass and electric basses welcomed.

#### **Harmonica**

##### **Music Theory for Harmonica (and how to use it) (Weltman)**

This class is open for anyone at any level. We'll learn how the diatonic harmonica is set up to be played ( tuning wise) and then we'll explore some basic music theory in order to get the most out of this very interesting tuning scheme. More knowledge means more progress. (All levels)

### **SUNDAY, JULY 9**

#### **Sunday 9:15 - 10:15 am**

##### **Beginner**

##### **Beyond the First Four Chords (Sigh)**

We will add a new chord or two at a time, without overwhelming your chord memory. With the right songs presented in the right order, this workshop will stay fun and beginner friendly as we learn a variety of new chords, including: A/A7, D/D7, Dm, Em/Em7, and E7.

#### **Confident Beginner**

##### **Rhythm is Going to Get You (Kinnunen)**

That trusty old “down up” strum has been your go-to but you’re ready to step it up and add some spice to your songs. Let’s take a look at how we create rhythm on our ukuleles through a variety of strum techniques, including chunking, muting, and more. (BF)

### **Intermediate - Advanced Intermediate “Remember the Music” Tutorial (Vox)**

How much can one learn in one song? With Victoria’s original song called “Remember the Music” you will learn about strumming / rhythm, chord changes, song structure, diminished chords, vamping intros and outros, minor line clichés, and singing and strumming at the same time. This song is jam-packed with musical know how that you’ll never forget!

### **Fingerstyle**

#### **Chord Efficiency for Fingerstyle (Kane) (Advanced-Beginner - Intermediate Level)**

*This workshop will teach you how to improve your transitions between chords using the Chord Efficiency technique that I learned in my ukulele university studies. Completion of this workshop will have you thinking of different ways to hold your favorite, or not so favorite chords, while also thinking critically on how we can efficiently transition from one chord to another.*

### **Baritone**

#### **Daddy Played Baritone (van’t Hof)**

We’ll get the breakdown on the uke in country music while we also work through an introduction to the baritone uke. Yeah the tuning is different, but you’ll be surprised how much you know already and how exciting the lower register is for backing up classic country tunes! (BF)

### **Harmonica**

#### **Reggae Harmonica Jam (Weltman/Kumalo)**

We are going to be learning a simple reggae-ish 10 bar blues (yes, I said 10 bar blues) on the harmonica and also explore some fun ways of improvising on it. Must be able to do your draw bends effectively for this one. With special guest Bakithi Kumalo on bass! We be jammin’ ...

### **Sunday 10:45 am - 11:45 pm**

#### **Beginner and up**

#### **Play By Number: Easy Songs for Understanding Nashville Numbering (Sigh)**

We will start each song in the key of C and expand our chord repertoire as we take familiar songs into different keys. All music will show new chords as we change keys, but we will also use roman numerals for those that want to ditch the charts and play by number (with I, IV, V, etc). This workshop will stay friendly for beginners while experienced strummers can test their ear training and transposing skills.

### **Confident Beginner**

#### **Can’t Help Falling in Love: Split Measures (Hoffman) (BF)**

This workshop will take a look at classic songs with simple chords quick chord changes, such as Can’t Help Falling in Love and All I Have to Do is Dream. Students will learn what a split measure is, how to recognize it in both traditional notation and chord charts, and techniques for smoothing transitions.

### **Intermediate - Advanced Intermediate**

#### **All About Intervals (Terzian) (BF)**

A crash course on intervals. Intervals tend to be taught in a complicated way which involves looking at the number of whole steps and half steps, but Gracie will teach you how to properly name intervals in

a much easier way. If there is time, the class will also tackle descending intervals, and practice singing different intervals by ear and associating them with famous songs and melodies, which is great for ear training.

## **Bass**

### **Ukulenny's Essential Basslines (Ukulenny)**

Ukulenny will show you how to play some of the most famous basslines in popular music including; Smoke on the Water, Seven Nation Army, Oye Como Va, Low Rider, Play That Funky Music, and more. Tablature and standard notation provided.

## **Harmonica**

### **Spice It Up! (Wilson)**

Add flavor to your music with some of the harmonica's signature idiomatic effects. We will study various vibrato techniques, hand effects, shakes, tongue blocking, and more. Adding these effects will wow your listeners, and spice up your music! (All levels)

## **Other**

### **One-Hand Ukulele (Jackson)**

Join Karl as he shares his story, and we explore the power of one finger chords and how they can be used in place of full chord shapes to quickly reach confidence in playing a song (one-handed or with both hands). After some hand stretches the fun will begin with a blues shuffle, a sweet jazz number, and a brief study in power chords. This course is designed for beginner to advanced players; the goal of this course is to help you shift your thinking about the possibilities for you and your ukulele no matter your limitations. (All levels)

## **Sunday 1:30 - 2:30**

### **Beginner**

#### **Playing Well With Others (van't Hof) (BF)**

An illustrated introduction to jamming for the complete beginner. We'll discuss how to approach different kinds of jams, Share ideas on must-have items to keep in your case, and work through a song while we talk about how to support the other players in the jam while having all the fun ourselves!

### **Confident Beginner - Intermediate**

#### **The Magical 2-5-1 (Chin) (BF)**

Chord progressions are like musical sentences that weave together a story that is often felt rather spoken. The magical 2-5-1 is one of the fundamental building blocks in jazz harmony, painting a way to create motion in music. We'll talk about what exactly 2-5-1s are and some examples of them in the wild. There'll be a few voices with some extra material for you to take home and continue your journey

### **Advanced Intermediate**

#### **Unlocking Inversions: Four-Part Chord Voicings (Hoffman) (BF)**

Unlock the realm beyond the third fret by learning four-part chord inversions up the neck in the key of C (G for baritone)! Workshop will briefly cover the music theory behind chord inversions, offer chord charts/tablature of the different chord shapes, and discuss arrangement choices/ease of motion in selecting chord inversions.

## **Harmonica**

### **Blow Bending and the Music of Jimmy Reed (Wilson)**

Upper register blow bending can give a player 3 full octaves of soulful bent notes! We will look at the playing of blow bending pioneer, Jimmy Reed, as we study his classic solo on "Bright Lights, Big City."  
NOTE: Please bring a key of A harmonica to this class. (Intermediate)

## **Bass & Ukulele**

### **The Songs of Graceland (Kumalo/Ukulenny)**

Explore the classic Paul Simon songs that helped bring the rhythms and sounds of South Africa to the Western world. Bakithi will call out the chords to the songs and play his distinctive bass lines while Ukulenny leads you playing along on uke. Confident beginner on up.

## **Other**

### **Get in the Groove (Vox)**

In this very hands-on class, we'll play around with different rhythms and grooves. Over a very simple chord progression, we'll work on loosening up the right hand for fun strums! The groove even starts before you play a note! We'll play a simple tune in many different styles: Pop / Jazz / Ska / Swing / Blues / Reggae / Opera / Bluegrass, etc. This class is groovy, 100% fun, and a bit of a strumming crash course!

## **Sunday 3:00 - 4:00**

### **Beginner and up**

#### **How to Sing While You Strum (Sigh)**

We will keep our uke chords simple while we focus on vocal technique + strumming coordination. Pitch, phrasing, breath control and vocal health will deserve our focus. The best tricks for vocal control are not intuitive, so a little instruction goes a long way. Give some love to your individual singing voice in this comfortable workshop setting.

## **Confident Beginner - Intermediate**

### **Chuck, Shmute, and other Strumming Mysteries (Ukulenny) (BF)**

If you still haven't unlocked the mystery that is chucking, this workshop is for you! We'll break it down and also introduce strumming techniques like "shmute" and the perplexing triplet strum.

## **Advanced Intermediate**

### **All About Intervals (Terzian) (BF)**

A crash course on intervals. Intervals tend to be taught in a complicated way which involves looking at the number of whole steps and half steps, but Gracie will teach you how to properly name intervals in a much easier way. If there is time, the class will also tackle descending intervals, and practice singing different intervals by ear and associating them with famous songs and melodies, which is great for ear training.

## **Fingerstyle**

### **Achieving Good Tone with Fingerstyle Playing (Kane) (Intermediate - Advanced Level)**

This workshop will cover different right/left-hand techniques from my university classical guitar/ukulele studies to improve your tone with fingerstyle playing. Building a strong foundation with this skill set will not only allow you to tackle more difficult songs down the road, but will complete, in my opinion, the "trifecta" of good technique; look, feel, and sound great! (To get the most out of this workshop, players should be comfortable using their thumb, index, and middle fingers to pick.)

## **Harmonica**

### **Combining The Blues and Pentatonic Scales (Weltman)**

Learning the second position blues scale and then the second position pentatonic scale opens up a ton of doors for jamming on probably 97% of the music you listen to (excluding opera of course!)



Mastering the ability to move in and out of and combine those two scales will make you a star! ( but don't give up your day job just yet). A good command of draw bending is essential.

## **Other**

### **The Ensemblings Part 2 of 2 (Kinnunen)**

The second session of this ensemble workshop as mentioned in the 3:00 Saturday time slot.

### **Sunday 4:30 - 5:30 SPECIAL EVENT!**

#### **My Journey: From Soweto to Graceland (Kumalo)**

From a scrappy beginning on the streets of Soweto, South Africa, where he embraced music amid much personal and political strife, to meeting Paul Simon and coming to the U.S. to record Graceland; Bakithi Kumalo has a most fascinating journey than he will share in this interview session with Ben. You do not want to miss this engaging exploration of Bakithi's amazing adventures.

## **MONDAY, JULY10**

### **Monday 9:15 - 10:15 am**

#### **Beginner**

#### **Master the Ukulele: Tips and Tricks for Beginners & Confident Beginners (Mata)\**

*Needs description*

#### **Confident Beginner**

#### **Like, Totally 80s! (Kinnunen)**

There are four chords that can open up a world of righteous 80s repertoire. We'll explore how these totally tubular chords work with so many songs from this decade and how some choice strum pattern changes can switch it up even more. Ukulele to the max, dude.

#### **Confident Beginner - Intermediate**

#### **Jammin' on C Jam Blues (Chin)**

Learn how to play the Duke Ellington classic and jam circle favorite C Jam Blues! We'll talk about the blues and how to start swinging and having fun with the rhythm. Great place to start taking solos, getting into swing, and jamming with others.

#### **Advanced Intermediate**

#### **Building a Jazz Chord-Melody Arrangement (Hoffman) (BF)**

Learn to build your own chord-melody arrangement using Doc Watson's Deep River Blues as a template. Workshop will study notation/tab of melody, chords and inversions up the neck, and work on incorporating the two to create a solo arrangement. Students will leave with notation/tab for song at all 3 levels (melody, chords, and chord-melody).

#### **Fingerstyle**

#### **Adding One-Hand Artificial Harmonics to Your Fingerstyle Playing (Kane) (Advanced Level)**

Want to add that extra sparkle of sound to your intros and endings? Or maybe you just want to add a little something special in that song you're playing. This workshop will have you learn various skills through multiple levels of difficulty, along with practice exercises for the one-handed artificial harmonic technique. Completion of this workshop will provide the foundation and practice routines to help add some of that sparkle in your playing. (To get the most out of this workshop, players should be comfortable using at least your thumb and pointer in fingerstyle playing.)

#### **Harmonica (This class is open to all instruments!)**

#### **How To Practice (anything) (Weltman/Wilson)**

Practice makes perfect, and that's no joke. If you only take one class this decade, take this one. I wish I had learned all of these practice philosophies, skills and ideas when I first began. If I had, I might be teaching at the Midwest Uke and Harmonica Camp today....oh wait... It's open to both harmonica and ukulele players.... but tuba players and in fact, anyone else is most welcome. Andy and Sandy will be teaching together on this one!

## **Other**

### **Paddle Faster! Banjo Uke (van't Hof)**

It's a uke! It's a banjo! It's a banjo-uke! In this crash course intro to the banjo uke we'll talk about appropriate repertoire to let loose with this fun little instrument and see just how versatile the banjo uke really is! (Beginner - Confident Beginner)

### **Latin American Cousins to the Ukulele (Kruschwitz) (BF)**

An introduction to ukulele-like instruments from the Americas. Learn some common strumming techniques borrowed from the playing styles of instruments such as the cuatro, charango, vihuela, and jarana and try your hand at playing these instruments towards the end of the workshop.

## **Monday 10:45 - 11:45**

### **ALL!**

### **Studio Jam (Kumalo and others)**

How do professional musicians go into a studio with a song they've never played together before and come up with an arrangement that will knock your socks off? In this engaging and enlightening demonstration, you will observe a give and take among a group of our camp teaching artists and how they listen to each other and use complimentary dynamics, chord inversions, rhythms, to each find their individual place in the mix to best serve the the song and the group as a whole. A wonderful way to end the weekend!