Putting the FUN Into the FUN-damental’s of the Ukulele

Workshop for the Absolute Beginner up to the Intermediate Beginner
F.U.N.-damentals for playing your Ukulele

When you are learning Chords for the first time it helps to see the ukulele like this so you can visualize where the black dots on the chord pattern are on the fretboard of the instrument.

F.U.N. –damentals to remember

F – Form in holding your uke
U – Upper Body Position
N – Natural position of your hand for optimum playability with chords

Hold the ukulele against your chest with your right forearm across the top right edge of the body. Your strumming hand should reach almost to the 12th fret. The friction of your arm across the soundboard should be enough to keep the instrument under control.

Instruments Larger than a soprano? Try a strap or resting the instrument on your leg.

The K.I.S.S. Theory for the Ukulele – “Keep It Simple and Strum”

Everyone always wants to learn the most complicated ways to strum a particular piece of music. The reality of it is when beginning to play as well as throughout your life of playing a ukulele, sometimes the simplest of strums is the best way of achieving a sound you are striving for. The goal is always whatever sounds best to you and to make a song your own!

Your First Chords

GCEA TUNING

BARI TUNING
You are my Sunshine - Jimmie Davis        Arr. Pete McCarty

[C] You are my sunshine my only sunshine
You make me [F] happy when skies are [C] gray
You’ll never [F] know dear how much I [C] love you
Please don’t take my [G] sunshine a[C]way

The other [C] night dear as I lay sleeping
I dreamed I [F] held you in my [C]arms
When I a-[F] woked dear I was mis [C]taken
And I hung my [G] head and [C] cried

[C] You are my sunshine my only sunshine
You make me [F] happy when skies are [C] gray
You’ll never [F] know dear how much I [C] love you
Please don’t take my [G] sunshine a[C]way

I’ll always [C] love you and make you happy
If you will [F] only say the [C] same
But if you [F] leave me to love a- [C]nother
You’ll regret it [G] all some [C] day

[C] You are my sunshine my only sunshine
You make me [F] happy when skies are [C] gray
You’ll never [F] know dear how much I [C] love you
Please don’t take my [G] sunshine a[C]way

You told me [C] once dear you really loved me
And no one [F] else could come be[C]tween
But now you [F] left me and love a-[C]nother
You have shattered [G] all my [C] dreams

[C] You are my sunshine my only sunshine
You make me [F] happy when skies are [C] gray
You’ll never [F] know dear how much I [C] love you
Please don’t take my [G] sunshine a[C]way

[C] You are my sunshine my only sunshine
You make me [F] happy when skies are [C] gray
You’ll never [F] know dear how much I [C] love you
Please don’t take my [G] sunshine a[C]way

[C] You are my sunshine my only sunshine
You make me [F] happy when skies are [C] gray
You’ll never [F] know dear how much I [C] love you
Please don’t take my [G] sunshine a[C]way
Jambalaya – Hank Williams  Arr. Pete McCarty

[C] Goodbye Joe, me gotta go, me oh [G] my oh
Me gotta go pole the pirogue down the [C] bayou
My Yvonne, the sweetest one, me oh [G] my oh
Son of a gun, we'll have good fun on the [C] bayou

[C] Jambalaya, a-crawfish pie and-a fillet [G] gumbo
'Cause tonight I'm gonna see my machez a [C] mio
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar and be [G] gay-oh
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [C] bayou.

[C] Thibay-deaux, Fountaineaux, the place is [G] buzzin'
Kinfolk come to see Yvonne by the [C] dozen
Dress in style, go hog wild, me oh [G] my oh
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [C] bayou.

[C] Jambalaya, a-crawfish pie and-a fillet [G] gumbo
'Cause tonight I'm gonna see my machez a [C] mio
Pick guitar, fill fruit jar and be [G] gay-oh
Son of a gun, we'll have big fun on the [C] bayou.

Son of a [G] gun, we'll have big fun on the [C] bayou.
Son of a [G] gun, we'll have big fun on the [C] bayou. [CSTOP!]
“KAYYY=EEEEEEE!!!!”
Three Little Birds - Bob Marley  Arr. Pete McCarty

[C] Don’t worry about a thing ‘cause [F] every little thing is gonna be alright [C]
Singin, don’t worry about a thing ‘cause [F] every little thing gonna be alright [C]
Rise up this morning, smiled at the [G] rising sun.
Three little [C] birds pitch by my [F] doorstep, singin sweet [C] songs
Of melodies [G] pure and true,
Sayin, [F] “This is my message to [C] you-u –u…”

[C] Don’t worry about a thing ‘cause [F] every little thing is gonna be alright [C]
Singin, don’t worry about a thing ‘cause [F] every little thing gonna be alright [C]
Rise up this morning, smiled at the [G] rising sun.
Three little [C] birds pitch by my [F] doorstep, singin sweet [C] songs
Of melodies [G] pure and true,
Sayin, [F] “This is my message to [C] you-u –u…”

[C] Don’t worry about a thing ‘cause [F] every little thing is gonna be alright [C]
Singin, don’t worry about a thing ‘cause [F] every little thing gonna be alright [C]
Singin, don’t worry about a thing ‘cause [F] every little thing gonna be alright [C]
, [F] “This is my message to [C] you-[C]-u-[C] –u…”[C STOP]

GCEA-TUNING

BARITONE-TUNING
Can’t Help Falling in Love with you – Elvis Presley  Arr. Pete McCarty

[C-T][C] [Em-T][Em] [Am-T][Am][Am-T][Am] [F-T][F] [C-T][C] [G7-T][G7][G7-T][G7] [F-T][F] [G7-T][G7] [Am-T][Am] [Fv][Fv][Fv] [C-T][C] [G7-T][G7] [C-T][C][C-T][C]

[G7] with [C] you [C-T][C]

[Em] Like a river [B7] flows [Em] surely to the [B7] sea
[Em] Darling so it [B7] goes
[Em] Some things [A7] are meant to [Dm] be [G7-T][G7]

[G7] with [C] you [C-T][C]

[C-T][C] [Em-T][Em] [Am-T][Am][Am-T][Am] [F-T][F] [C-T][C] [G7-T][G7][G7-T][G7] [F-T][F] [G7-T][G7] [Am-T][Am] [Fv][Fv][Fv] [C-T][C] [G7-T][G7] [C-T][C][C-T][C]

[Em] Like a river [B7] flows [Em] surely to the [B7] sea
[Em] Darling so it [B7] goes
[Em] Some things [A7] are meant to [Dm] be [G7-T][G7]

[G7] with [C] you [C-T][C]

GCEA TUNING

BARI TUNING