Intro to Ukulele: Tricks of the Trade

(AKA How do you play the ukulele?)

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Starting a Ukulele Unit

Consider classroom **set up**:
- Ukulele to Student ratio
- How will you distribute your ukuleles at the beginning of class?
- The tuning dilemma

Consider **skills** your students need before they play the ukulele:
- Classroom Management Expectations
  - Positives – “experiment time”
  - Consequences – 30 seconds of silence
  - Rest position
  - Signals
- Partner expectations
  - What is each person’s job?
- Posture
  - To mirror or not to mirror
- Parts of the ukulele
- Basic terminology
- Label fingers

Consider **presentation** when introducing these skills to your students:
- A good foundation will help ensure success.
- You’ll be amazed how quickly they take to the instrument.
- Be a salesperson.
- Don’t underestimate the power of desired difficulty.
- Many goals will only be reached through practice.
- Elemental concepts
Ukulele without the ukulele

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<th>C</th>
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The student will:

- Demonstrate appropriate proficiency of the C, G, a minor, and F chords on the ukulele.
- Demonstrate form through performance of the song, *The Show*.

Consider:

- Elemental teaching. Break down concepts into manageable chunks and then piece it together.
- Practice technique – Place it in the body first.
I'm just a little bit caught in the middle.
Life is a maze and love is a riddle.
I don't know where to go. I can't do it alone I've tried.
And I don't know why.

Slow it down, make it stop.
Or else my heart is going to pop.
'Cause it's too much, yeah, it's a lot,
To be something I'm not.

I'm a fool, out of love,
'Cause I just can't get enough.

The sun is hot, in the sky,
Just like a giant spotlight.
The people follow the sign,
And synchronize in time.
It's a joke, nobody knows.
They've got a ticket to that show.

Just enjoy the show.
Just enjoy the show.

Dum de dum
Dum de dum
Just enjoy the show

I want my money back
I want my money back
I want my money back
Just enjoy the show

And just enjoy the show.
**Lava Song**

**VERSE**

A long long time ago
there was a volcano
living all alone in the
middle of the sea.

He sat high above his bay
watching all the couples play,
and wishing that he had someone too.

And from his lava came this song of hope
that he sang out loud
every day
for years and years.

**CHORDS**

B驾照 B驾照 B驾照 B驾照 FF C7 C7 C7 C7

B驾照 B驾照 B驾照 B驾照 FF C7 C7 C7 C7 FF

I have a dream, I hope will come true, that you're here with me and
I'm here with you.

**CHORUS**

wish that the earth, sea, and the sky up above will send me someone to
la-va.

**The student will:**

- Demonstrate appropriate proficiency of the barred chord, B-flat.
- Demonstrate pulse with the strum pattern, D D-U U D-U

**Consider:**

- BARRED CHORDS! Don’t give up!
- Steady pulse with the strum pattern. Slow the tempo until it becomes second nature.
A long long time ago there was a volcano
living all alone in the middle of the sea.
He sat high above his bay watching all the couples play,
and wishing that he had someone too.
And from his lava came this song of hope that he sang out
loud every day for years and years.

I have a dream I hope will come true
that you're here with me and I'm here with you.
I wish that the earth, sea, and the sky up above will
send me someone to lava.

Rising from the sea below stood a lovely volcano
looking all around but she could not see him.
He tried to sing to let her know that she was not there alone but
with no lava his song was all gone
He filled the sea with his tears and watched his dreams disappear as
she remembered what his song meant to her.
Apple Tree
(finger picking)

Consider:
- Introducing melodic playing with open strings before adding left hand.
- Bringing back song repertoire from primary grades.
- Using strum patterns to compose a rhythmic/melodic selection.

Consider:
- Following a similar tone set process that you use for melodic skills
- Major scale fingerings are transposable. PATTERNS!
  - 1 – 3 / 1 – 2 – 4 / 1 – 3 – 4
  - 0 – 2 / 0 – 1 – 3 / 0 – 2 – 3 (C Major exception)
Playlist

Finger Warmups:
Work This Body – Walk the Moon

Songs:
The Show – Lenka
The Lava Song – from the Disney short, “Lava”

Tech & Apps

Ukulele On-line tutorials

Audio Apps
Spotify – Streaming Music Service
Amazing Slow Downer ($14.99) – Modify tempo and pitch; Create loops for practice; works with Spotify
Anytime Pro (14.99) – Same features as ASD with a few more options; works with iTunes playlists only

Ukulele Skills
Infinaut Ukulele Companion (chord chart and fingerings) – Chords plus alternate fingerings; finger numbers
Power Tuner
Ultimate Guitar – good resource for user generated tabs for popular music
C Chord  cm Chord  C7 Chord  G Chord  gm Chord  G7 Chord
D Chord  dm Chord  D7 Chord  A Chord  am Chord  A7 Chord
E Chord  em Chord  E7 Chord  B Chord  bm Chord  B7 Chord
F Chord  fm Chord  F7 Chord  Bb Chord