

## UKULELE Class      Handout #1

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[www.AmyConleyMusic.com/playshops.html](http://www.AmyConleyMusic.com/playshops.html) special page just for my students with audio, songs, strums, play-along tracks, etc.

INTERNET SOURCE for ukulele songs with chords: [www.doctoruke.com](http://www.doctoruke.com) from which I borrowed this list below of little points to remember.

### LITTLE (BUT VERY IMPORTANT) POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Keep your left thumb low in the back of the neck.
2. Strum over the fingerboard, not over the sound hole.
3. Keep the fingernails of your chording (not strumming) hand short.
4. Practice chord changes and strumming even when you're not playing aloud.

**STRUMMING** - When you practice strumming, it will become automatic! Lots of fancy strums are based on one of these two motions, where you keep your hand moving.

1. The "shuffle" or swing strum... (has a triple feel)  
1    2    3    1    2    3    1    2    3    1    2    3    etc.  
/ Down (rest) Up Down (rest) Up Down (rest) Up Down (rest) Up / repeat then speed it up as you get comfortable with it.  
1    2    1    2    1    2    1    2
2. The Even Strum, just "down up down up down up down up" etc in nice even rhythm, each beat (or strum) is the same length in time.

**TUNING** Standard Ukulele Tuning: (starting at top string) G C E A (Goats Can Eat Apples)

You'll get better at tuning with practice! Buy a digital tuner to fine-tune your ukulele -- it's handy when your phone is not around, where you can keep an online tuning app (there are many). Here is one, got it years ago. <http://www.ukuleletricks.com/ukulele-tuner/>

**Favorite Ukulele Players** to watch/hear: Jake Shimabukuro, Taimane Gardner.

**Favorite Ukuleles:** [www.magicfluke.com](http://www.magicfluke.com) These ukuleles are made in a small shop in Sheffield, Massachusetts. They sound beautiful and come in many designs

**Great Teacher** on Youtube: Cynthia Lin