

easy songs to play on ukelele

Easy songs to play on ukulele are a fantastic way to dive into the world of music, especially for beginners. The ukulele, with its cheerful sound and manageable size, has become increasingly popular among musicians of all ages. It's an instrument that is not only fun but also accessible, making it a perfect choice for those just starting their musical journey. In this article, we'll explore a variety of easy songs that you can play on the ukulele, along with tips and techniques to help you master them.

The Basics of Ukulele Playing

Before diving into specific songs, it's essential to understand some fundamental aspects of playing the ukulele.

Understanding the Ukulele

The ukulele typically has four nylon or gut strings, which makes it easier on the fingers compared to other stringed instruments. Here's a brief overview of its parts:

- Body: The hollow part that produces sound.
- Neck: The long part where the frets and strings run.
- Frets: The metal strips on the neck that divide it into sections.
- Headstock: The end of the neck where the tuning pegs are located.

Common Chords

To play most songs on the ukulele, you'll need to learn a few basic chords. Here are some common chords that are used in many easy songs:

1. C Major: Place your ring finger on the 3rd fret of the bottom string.
2. G Major: Place your index finger on the 2nd fret of the 3rd string, middle finger on the 2nd fret of the 1st string, and ring finger on the 3rd fret of the 2nd string.
3. F Major: Place your index finger on the 1st fret of the 2nd string and your middle finger on the 2nd fret of the 4th string.
4. A Minor: Place your middle finger on the 2nd fret of the 4th string.
5. D Major: Place your index, middle, and ring fingers on the 2nd fret of the last three strings.

Tuning Your Ukulele

Before you start playing, ensure your ukulele is in tune. The standard tuning for a soprano, concert, or tenor ukulele is G-C-E-A, from the top string to the bottom string. You can use

an electronic tuner or a tuning app to help you get the right pitch.

Easy Songs to Play on Ukulele

Now that you have a basic understanding of the ukulele, let's dive into some easy songs that are perfect for beginners. Each song includes the chords you'll need to play.

1. "You Are My Sunshine" by Jimmie Davis

Chords: C, C7, F, G7

This classic song is simple yet heartwarming, making it a favorite among ukulele players.

- Verse:

C

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.

C7

You make me happy when skies are gray.

F

You'll never know dear, how much I love you.

G7 C

Please don't take my sunshine away.

2. "Riptide" by Vance Joy

Chords: Am, G, C, F

"Riptide" is a modern classic that has captured the hearts of many, and it's super easy to play.

- Chorus:

Am

Lady, running down to the riptide,

G

Taken away to the dark side,

C

I wanna be your left hand man.

F

I love you when you're singing that song,

Am

And I got a lump in my throat,

G

'Cause you're gonna sing the words wrong.

3. "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" by Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

Chords: C, Em, F, G, Am

This beautiful rendition of a classic song is a must-know for ukulele players.

- Verse:

C

Somewhere over the rainbow,

Em

Way up high.

F

And the dreams that you dream of,

G

Once in a lullaby.

4. "Count on Me" by Bruno Mars

Chords: C, Em, Am, G

This upbeat and catchy song is perfect for singing along with friends.

- Chorus:

C

You can count on me like 1, 2, 3,

Em

I'll be there.

Am

And I know when I need it,

G

I can count on you like 4, 3, 2,

C

You'll be there.

G

'Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh yeah.

5. "Stand By Me" by Ben E. King

Chords: C, Am, F, G

This timeless classic is great for practicing chord transitions.

- Verse:

C

When the night has come,

Am
And the land is dark,
F
And the moon is the only light we'll see.
G
No, I won't be afraid,
C
Oh, I won't be afraid,
F G C
Just as long as you stand, stand by me.

Tips for Practicing and Improving

As you begin to learn these easy songs to play on ukulele, here are some tips to help you improve your skills:

1. Practice Regularly

Set aside time each day to practice. Even 10-15 minutes daily can lead to significant improvement over time.

2. Use a Metronome

Practicing with a metronome can help you maintain a steady rhythm, which is crucial for playing songs accurately.

3. Play Along with Recordings

Playing along with the original recordings of the songs can help you develop your timing and feel for the music.

4. Record Yourself

Listening to recordings of your playing can provide valuable feedback and help you identify areas for improvement.

5. Join a Community

Consider joining a local ukulele group or an online community. Sharing experiences and

learning from others can enhance your playing ability.

Conclusion

In conclusion, exploring easy songs to play on ukulele can be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Whether you're strumming classics like "You Are My Sunshine" or modern hits like "Riptide," the ukulele offers a variety of musical avenues to explore. Remember to practice regularly, stay patient with yourself, and most importantly, have fun! As you become more comfortable with these easy songs, you can expand your repertoire and even start writing your own music. Happy strumming!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some popular easy songs to play on the ukulele for beginners?

Some popular easy songs include 'You Are My Sunshine', 'Riptide' by Vance Joy, 'I'm Yours' by Jason Mraz, 'Count on Me' by Bruno Mars, and 'Hey, Soul Sister' by Train.

What chords are commonly used in easy ukulele songs?

Common chords for easy ukulele songs include C, G, F, Am, and Dm. These chords are often used in many beginner-friendly tunes.

Can you recommend easy songs that only use two or three chords?

Yes! Songs like 'One Love' by Bob Marley (C, G, Am), 'Lean on Me' by Bill Withers (C, F, G), and 'Jambalaya' by Hank Williams (C, G, F) are great examples.

What is a good resource for finding easy ukulele tabs or chords?

Websites like Ultimate Guitar, UkuTabs, and YouTube tutorials are excellent resources for finding easy ukulele tabs and chords.

Are there any children's songs that are easy to play on the ukulele?

Yes! Songs like 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star', 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat', and 'The Wheels on the Bus' are simple and fun to play.

What are some easy pop songs to play on the ukulele?

Easy pop songs include 'Someone Like You' by Adele, 'Stay With Me' by Sam Smith, and 'Shape of You' by Ed Sheeran.

Is it possible to play classic rock songs easily on the ukulele?

Absolutely! Classic rock songs like 'Sweet Home Alabama' by Lynyrd Skynyrd and 'Knockin' on Heaven's Door' by Bob Dylan can be played easily with basic chords.

How long does it take to learn easy songs on the ukulele?

Most beginners can learn to play easy songs on the ukulele within a few days to a couple of weeks, depending on practice frequency.

What tips can help beginners play songs more easily on the ukulele?

Start by mastering basic chords, practice strumming patterns, use a metronome to keep time, and play along with recordings to improve timing and rhythm.

What are some free apps to help learn easy ukulele songs?

Free apps like Yousician, Ukulele Tabs, and Uke Buddy offer lessons, tabs, and chord progressions for easy ukulele songs.

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