

DR. DENNIS FISHER – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction to Bluegrass Ukulele

Most of us began our ukulele journey strumming, but fingerpicking on the ukulele opens a whole new way of accompanying a song as well as playing solos. If you know the C, Am, F, and G7 in standard tuning, you are on your way to learning this exciting new way of playing the ukulele.

It would also be good if you have some basic understanding of how to read ukulele tablature. But even if you don't know how to read tablature, we will teach you the basics of reading it. The picking pattern of the right hand will use the thumb, index, and middle fingers in our playing. It would be desirable if you could do simple picking patterns already.

In this workshop, we will teach you how to retune your uke from a 1st string A down to a G in "slack key tuning." From there we will teach you a simple picking pattern (forward reverse roll) which will help you learn your first bluegrass song, "Banjo in the Hollow." We will also examine "Cripple Creek - Melodic Style." Lots of fun!

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Introduction to Chord Melody Ukulele

Chord melody is a style of playing ukulele where you strum the chords and pick the melody at the same time. Both Jake Shimabukuro and James Hill come to mind as masters who have brought so much attention to this way of playing the uke.

How will we approach learning this style of playing? The short answer is "baby steps."

Our technique will be tablature. Instead of reading notes on a scale, we will look at strings and frets as applied to the ukulele. What we will discover is that the tablature will combine lovely chords which complement simple melody lines. Already knowing how to read ukulele tablature will be a great help in this workshop. But even if you don't know tablature, we will teach you the basics of reading it. If you know the F, Dm, Gm, and Bb in standard tuning, you will be well prepared for the workshop. In this introduction to chord melody, we will learn to play the beautiful song "Today." In 1961 Randy Sparks founded The New Christy Minstrels an American 9-person folk music group that recorded the hit song "Green Green." Sparks wrote and sang "Today" which also became a hit. The song's theme seeks to savor romantic love by living in the moment. Melodic style is a joy to play!

