

RHAN WILSON – COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Rhythm and Strumming

Want to learn some new "strums?" What is DDUDUD really referring to? Why do all our songs sound the same?

Well, once you get a handle on rhythm, you will be able to create more strums than you ever thought possible. Strumming down, down-up, down-up, down, etc. is fine, but you need to know *why* that works before you will really be able to settle into a song with confidence and feel. Do you know the two basic rhythm groups: swing, and straight 8ths?

In this workshop, Rhan will start you off simple – with a basic understanding of how time is counted while playing. Then, as you strum down and up, you will be able to “see” what you are actually doing while you are strumming. Experiment with some simple variations, and you've learned a new strumming pattern! This is very basic information, yet it is rarely taught and explained outside of more formal music learning institutions. Taking this workshop will allow you to begin seeing the architecture behind the music you are playing.

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Intro to Basic Theory

What's the difference between a note and a chord, major and minor, and for goodness' sake - what are those I, IV, V numbers all about?

Like any language; one often first learns the most very basic vocabulary, then proceeds to a more nuanced understanding of phrases and context.

In this workshop, Rhan starts you off by simply looking at a piano keyboard and understanding how the 12 notes in our Western musical language are laid out. We all know the song, Do, Re, Mi - did you know the musical pattern to play that simple scale? (It's a song, too.) Building on those notes, we learn how to make chords and how to modify them to make others.

And like any foreign language, one needn't be fluent to pick out a few keywords and phrases here and there. Hopefully, with a basic understanding of some simple theory, the rest won't sound like musical "gibberish."

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How to Play Together - The Art of Leading and Following

Playing together is most likely what attracted you to the ukulele in the first place. Getting together with other players is a joy, but have you ever wondered why some songs are a breeze to start and end, while others struggle from the get-go? Do all the songs seem to sound the same? Who is leading the song, anyway?

In this popular and informative workshop, Rhan helps you learn to be a better group player and offers tips to become a better leader. Understanding the basics: counting in a song, starting together, and ending together – are simple and effective ways to make your sing-along experiences even better than they already are. Learn some simple cues and signals and get started on a whole new level of playing.

