



## CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

### SKILL LEVELS

#### CONFIDENT BEGINNER

You know C-F-G, G-C-D, and A-D-E7 chords and can do a simple strum while changing these chords and keeping a steady, slow beat. We are not hosting novice or total beginner classes this year. However, if you are not at the Confident Beginner level but want to join this class, you can learn from many sources in advance, including a free month of lessons at

<https://pegheadnation.com/string-school/instructors/marcy-marxer>

Use the code: MarcyM

#### INTERMEDIATE

You are comfortable playing 3-4 chords in 3-4 keys (C, G, F, A). You play a variety of basic chords (for example: A, Am, B7, C, C7, D, Dm, E7, Em, G, and G7) and understand simple chord progressions (such as I, IV, V chords). You can sing and strum at the same time and can learn chords to simple tunes fairly quickly. You're ready for some jazz chords, some snazzier right-hand techniques, and ready to explore a variety of repertoire on the uke.

#### ADVANCED

As an Advanced player, you have strong knowledge of open and closed chords throughout the ukulele neck in multiple keys, have experience playing lead, and willingness to move quickly through material. ***If you haven't taken the Advanced class at UkeFest in previous years OR have not received approval from the Artistic Directors, you must submit a 2-5-minute video to [uke@strathmore.org](mailto:uke@strathmore.org) and be approved by them to take the class. Your video submission should show open and closed chords in multiple keys and playing lead. You may be asked to send in a second video showing your skills.***

### HOW CLASSES WORK

#### CLASSES BY SKILL LEVEL

These are 2 and 4-day classes from 10am–12pm Saturday through Tuesday. These are continuous classes based on skill level, which means you will choose a class and stay with it for either two (2) or four (4) days. You will not pre-register for classes.



*As a reminder, if you are an advanced player, you need to send in a 2–5-minute video to [uke@strathmore.org](mailto:uke@strathmore.org) and be approved by the Artistic Directors to be placed in that class.*

**If you find you are not suited for a class during the first day, we encourage you to switch classes within the first 15 minutes and join another one.**

### **“WALK-IN” CLASSES**

These are one-hour classes and, like the morning classes, do not require pre-registration. Feel free to hop around as you wish.

### **BARITONE FRIENDLY**

Baritone Friendly classes are often taught on tenor ukuleles, but baritone chord charts or tabs are provided, and the instructor will have a baritone ukulele handy for answering any questions. For other classes, baritone players should either play a tenor/concert/soprano ukulele or use a Capo on the 5th fret.

### **KEY/LEGEND**

CB	Confident Beginner
I	Intermediate
A	Advanced
CB/I	Confident Beginner and Intermediate
ALL	All levels
BF	Baritone Friendly

## **CLASSES BY SKILL LEVEL**

**SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, & TUESDAY 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

### **CONFIDENT BEGINNER | 4-DAY CLASS**

#### **Aaron Keim: Confident Beginner**

You know some chords (C-F-G, G-C-D, and A-D-E7) and you can play a few songs with a simple strum. This class will take you to the next level. You'll learn new chords, strumming patterns, and learn to get your playing and singing to work smoothly together. We'll explore right-hand and left-hand techniques, as well as tips and tricks to spice up your playing. By the end of the class, you will be a more competent ukulele



player with more tools in your ukulele toolbox and hopefully be ready for the Intermediate level classes next year!

## **INTERMEDIATE | 2-DAY CLASSES**

CHOOSE ONE FOR SATURDAY & SUNDAY, CHOOSE ANOTHER FOR MONDAY & TUESDAY

### **Jeff Peterson: Fingerstyle Arrangement & Etudes (Sat & Sun)**

This intermediate class will cover fingerstyle technique fundamentals for good tone, relaxed hands, and finger independence playing solo arrangements of classical, folk, Hawaiian, and contemporary songs. We will also work on the song Aloha 'Oe as an ensemble.

### **Steve Espaniola: Beyond the Basics | Arranging Mele Hawai'i (Mon & Tue)**

Learn how to personalize a song and make it your own. Steven dives into the process of arranging Hawaiian songs using various tools such as rhythm, intros, dynamics, tempo, kaona (hidden meaning) and melody play, so that you can make any classic song your very own! These valuable arranging tools can be used for all genres of music and are presented in a fun, interactive format.

### **Marcy Marxer: The Magic of Inversions (Sat & Sun, Mon & Tue)**

There's more than one location on the fingerboard of the ukulele to play each chord. Learning and knowing your chord inversions opens a big palette of new sounds for arranging songs and tunes. We'll learn chord inversions AND how to use them in contexts such as a chord melody arrangement and playing with 2 or more ukuleles where each player utilizes a different inversion than the other, making a bigger and more harmonious sound.

### **Cathy Fink: American Folk Styles and Songs (Sat & Sun, Mon & Tue)**

Fingerpicking, flatpicking, strumming, all attached to a cool repertoire of traditional songs and contemporary folk songs and tunes.

### **Jim Beloff: Daily Ukulele: Another Year (Sat & Sun, Mon & Tue)**

Based on the popular books, Daily Ukulele, Jim will lead you through fabulous repertoire while teaching strums and other accompaniment techniques. He'll choose from the 1096 songs from his three Daily Ukulele books. PDFs will be provided (online) and books will be available for purchase.



## **ADVANCED | 2-DAY CLASSES**

STEVE WILL TEACH SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JEFF WILL TEACH MONDAY & TUESDAY

### **Steve Espaniola: Advanced Hawaiian Strums (Sat & Sun)**

Learn a few of the more intricate strumming patterns used in traditional Hawaiian music: 'Ōlapa, Modern, Tahitian 'Aparima, 6/8 and waltz, IZ "Rainbow" strum. Traditional Hawaiian songs will be used to show the strums in a real-world context. The foundation of these techniques were featured in an article that Steven wrote for Ukulele Magazine. Class will be taught in a fun but fast paced kani ka pila type of environment!

### **Jeff Peterson: Fingerstyle Arrangements and Etudes (Mon & Tue)**

This advanced class will help take your playing to the next level with practice routines, fingerstyle solos, performance tips, position playing with chords and scales, arranging ideas, improvisation concepts, and ensemble playing. We will learn arrangements for the songs Simple Gifts and Jesu, Joy of Man's Desire. Low & high G ukes recommended.

## **WALK-IN CLASSES**

SATURDAY - TUESDAY (1-hour classes)

2:00PM - 3:00PM

3:15PM - 4:15PM

### **Jim Beloff**

#### **Confident Beginner Ukulele Workshop Part 1 & 2 (CB/I)**

For those who know a handful of chords and a basic up/down strum, here's a chance to take your skills to a new level. A dozen or so well-known songs will be played while learning more chords, new fingerings, new strums, transposing on the fly and performance tips and techniques along the way.

#### **Daily Ukulele: Another Year Jam (CB/I)**

An hour of strumming through a dozen or so songs from the new third edition (released in 2024) of the Daily Ukulele series with periodic stops to ooh and ahh over the cleverness of a specific chord change or the well-placed alliteration in a lyric.

#### **Jazzin' Up The Ukulele (A) (Offered Twice)**



How to use chord substitutions to “jazz up” a simple 4 or 5 chord song. Based on the 2015 Flea Market Music book. We’ll also play through several Lyle Ritz classic jazz arrangements. GCEA tuning.

**Songwriting for Songwriters (ALL)**

Fast-paced analysis of the technique behind several classic songs. We’ll consider structure, rhyme, alliteration, title-placement and other essentials that make a great song, great. Time will be set aside for performance and critique of original songs.

**Very Bari Jam (ALL) (BF)**

An hour of strumming the very mellowest of the uke family. We’ll sing and play through a selection of easy to more challenging arrangements in DGBE tuning with stops along the way to discuss the special challenges and opportunities that the bari uke player encounters. Bring your bari uke and be prepared to get down!

**Songwriters Round Table with Cathy (ALL)**

Performances, examples and discussion plus Q & A

**Hang out with Jim & Aaron (ALL)**

Do you ever know what’s on the mind of a great musician? Find out with two of the best! Talk, ask questions, listen and have fun- agenda is wide open to participants greatest wishes and desires, or at least those that Jim & Aaron can fulfill.

## **Steve Spaniola**

**Play Like IZ (I) (Offered twice)**

Based on a recent article that Steven wrote in Ukulele Magazine, we examine the key elements that define the unmistakable sound of Hawaiian music legend IZ Kamakawiwo'ole and what made his unique approach to 'ukulele so special. We will play and dive into a few of IZ's most iconic songs from his Facing Future album and look back at his legacy and impact.

**Advanced Hawaiian Strums (A) (Offered twice)**

Learn a few of the more intricate strumming patterns used in traditional Hawaiian music: 'Ōlapa, Modern, Tahitian 'Aparima, 6/8 and waltz, IZ "Rainbow" strum. Traditional Hawaiian songs will be used to show the strums in a real-world context. The foundation of these techniques were featured in an article that Steven wrote



for Ukulele Magazine. Class will be taught in a fun but fast paced kani ka pila type of environment!

#### **Intermediate Hawaiian Strums (I)**

Learn a few of the more intricate strumming patterns used in traditional Hawaiian music: 'Ōlapa, Modern, Tahitian 'Aparima, 6/8 and waltz, IZ "Rainbow" strum. Traditional Hawaiian songs will be used to show the strums in a real-world context. The foundation of these techniques were featured in an article that Steven wrote for Ukulele Magazine. Class will be taught in a fun but fast paced kani ka pila type of environment!

#### **Hawaiian Kani Ka Pila 101 & 102 (ALL)**

Focus on traditional Hawaiian songs from the extremely popular He Mele Aloha book with emphasis on arrangement and working in a group. Learn how to lead a kani ka pila or jam session and get familiar with some of the common "rules" and terminology of a good kani ka pila jam session from intros to solos to outros!! These techniques were elaborated in an article that Steven wrote for Ukulele Magazine and also covered in Steven's YouTube channel. The concepts can be utilized in any jam session environment. Music handouts from the He Mele Aloha book will be provided.

#### **Beyond the Basics: Arranging Mele Hawai'i (I/A)**

Learn how to personalize a song and make it your own. Steven dives into the process of arranging Hawaiian songs using various tools such as rhythm, intros, dynamics, tempo, kaona (hidden meaning) and melody play, so that you can make any classic song your very own! These valuable arranging tools can be used for all genres of music and is presented in a fun, interactive format.

#### **The Voice-Falsetto & Yodeling with Steven & Cathy (ALL)**

Two masters of related vocal styles will sing, teach, and compare and contrast Hawaiian falsetto singing with American (US) western style yodeling.

### **Marcy Marxer**

#### **Ukulele Performance Ensemble (ALL) (BF) (4 days plus Wednesday required)**

The Ukulele Performance Ensemble is open to all level players with parts for melody, harmony and Baritone Ukes. This group is not a drop-in class. **Players will meet every day in the afternoon with an additional rehearsal on Wednesday morning and will**



**perform at the evening UkeFest Finale Concert for the public.** Be prepared to accept flowers and chocolates from the appreciative audience after your performance.

**EZ Songs with 3 Chords (CB)**

How do you get confident on any instrument? Play, play play! That's exactly what we're going to do. Join the fun. We'll play 10 songs with 3 chords. Note\*- They won't all use the same 3 chords.

**Songs of Pete Seeger and Tom Paxton (I) (BF)**

Play and sing the classic songs of Folk and community building music.

I'll tell some background stories of working with both Pete and Tom as we play some of their songs.

**Songs of Bob Dylan (ALL) (BF)**

Dylan has written some of the most beautiful and timely songs of multiple generations.

The recent movie "The Complete Unknown" shines a new light on many of his songs.

We'll play and sing some of the songs from the movie along with some other favorites.

**Play Melody Today (CB/I)**

Playing melodies is FUN! Believe it or not, playing melody is sometimes easier than playing chords. Come on in and we'll break the ice. You'll leave class able to find melodies to songs yourself and with friends.

## Cathy Fink

**Improve Your Musicianship (ALL) (offered twice)**

One definition of "musicianship" is "knowledge, skill and artistic sensitivity in performing music." I'll change that to "in playing music." No matter your level, there are always ways to improve your musicianship- sometimes it is activating the art of deep listening to know what sounds you want to make, sometimes it is in the execution of those sounds. Bring your musicianship questions and issues to this workshop and we'll work through them, along with some well-used tips and ideas for improving your musicianship.

**Take Your First Solo (CB/I)**

You've been playing chords and singing along, but when someone offers you a "solo" or instrumental break, you pass up the opportunity. We're gonna keep it VERY simple,



make a few mistakes in front of each other, and have some fun with single note lead lines.

**Improve Your Performance (I/A)**

Do you get nervous at an open mic or song circle? How do you prepare for a performance and then make the most of it? We'll talk basics, details, song introductions and then as you are comfortable, try to put some of this into practice with your fellow participants cheering you on!

**Play by Ear – Paper Free! Ear Training (CB/I) (BF)**

You CAN do it. You were BORN with ear training, and Cathy can show you how to make it work for you! What key do I sing in? How do I know what chord to play? Where are the notes to this song? You will be amazed at how easy it is to take your eyes off the page and start training your ear to play what you want.

**Practice Smarter, Play Better – All Instruments (ALL) (BF)**

Learn to organize your practice time so that you improve your playing systematically. We bring a ton of information home from camp but sometimes we are overwhelmed by it and don't know how to approach learning one new thing at a time. We'll discuss the tangible and intangible tools for good practice as well as learning to schedule "manageable bites" of music to learn in manageable time frames.

**3 Chords, 10 More Songs (CB/I)**

The more you do it, the easier it is! We'll play through 10 songs that have 3 chords in 3 keys each! Let's do this!!!

**The Voice-Falsetto & Yodeling with Steven & Cathy (ALL)**

Two masters of related vocal styles will sing, teach, and compare and contrast Hawaiian falsetto singing with American (US) western style yodeling.

**Aaron Keim**

**Fingerstyle Etudes (A)**

Etudes are short instrumental pieces that are designed to teach you a technique or musical concept. These fun musical vignettes are intended to expand your finger style technique and melodic vocabulary. Knowledge of tablature is required.





### **Clawhammer Ukulele (I/A)**

Clawhammer style is a banjo playing technique that also sounds great on the ukulele. For this workshop, we will get the basic techniques and learn two short tunes. Students will also go home with a series of practice exercises and more tunes for enrichment.

### **Chords Up the Neck (CB)**

You have all those frets, but you seem to be trapped on the first 3! We don't have to be crazy virtuosos, but it's pretty easy to learn some new chord shapes higher up the neck. These new positions will make your songs more interesting and challenge you for a lifetime. We will also take some of this knowledge and harmonize some simple melodies. We will also learn about how music theory supports this idea, but don't worry, it won't be scary!

### **Jug Band Songs (ALL) (BF)**

Jug bands are a unique mix of blues, jazz and country music, often played on simple homemade instruments. We will learn how to strum and sing two classic songs, along with some licks, fills and solos for more advanced players. This music is fun and challenging and great for your ukulele repertoire!

### **American Work Songs (ALL) (BF)**

Explore American history through work songs, songs about work and labor protest anthems. This repertoire class will not only provide you with some catchy new songs but will also help you understand the important history and culture behind each one. Expect some harmony singing, a little picking and lots of fun!

### **Learn It from the Source (ALL)**

For this workshop Aaron will show you his process for learning songs from old records. He will pick a piece he has never learned and dive in with you watching and helping. Words, chords, intros, endings, solos, the whole works!

### **The Spanish Fandango (A)**

This fingerstyle piece has been in Aaron's repertoire for more than 10 years. In this workshop, we will learn the tab for Aaron's version, as well as a version published in 1910. While we are at it, we will also dive into the history of the piece, the nature of oral tradition, pedagogy and Hawaiian musical history.

### **All Things Baritone for Baritone Players and the Baritone Curious (ALL) (BF)**



Bring your Baritone Ukes to this class that is just for you. Aaron is a world-class Bari maker and player. Play, ask questions and get to know the other Baritone players. Air you're not yet a Baritone player but would like to see what it's all about you are more than welcome.

**Hang out with Jim & Aaron (ALL)**

Do you ever know what's on the mind of a great musician? Find out with two of the best! Talk, ask questions, listen and have fun- agenda is wide open to participants greatest wishes and desires, or at least those that Jim & Aaron can fulfill.

**Jeff Peterson**

**Delta Blues (I/A)**

Learn classical blues phrases and techniques inspired by Robert Johnson and blues songs for fingerstyle ukulele.

**Rhythm Workshop (CB/I)**

Rhythm is often one of the biggest hurdles to playing songs smoothly. We will dive into learning how to understand the rhythms you play, count consistency, and subdivide tricky rhythms to make them easier to play.

**Technique Tune-Up (I/A) (offered twice)**

This workshop will dive into essential right- and left-hand exercises to improve your playing overall

**South American Waltz (I/A)**

We will explore the exciting sound of South American waltzes from the Joropo tradition of Venezuela by Antonio Carrillo and Antonio Lauro. This music will make you smile and want to dance!

**Pearls of Wisdom (ALL)**

Hang out with Jeff, ask him anything about Hawaiian music, play a few things together.

**Hawaiian Slack Key Ukulele #1 (I/A)**

We will explore the GCEG tuning and some classic Hawaiian repertoire from the slack key tradition.



**Hawaiian Slack Key Ukulele #2 (I/A)**

*Must have taken #1 on Saturday as this is a continuation of that class.*

We will explore the GCEG tuning and some classic Hawaiian repertoire from the slack key tradition.

**Swing (A)**

We will learn melodies and chord accompaniment for jazz standards and the Hawaiian song Maile Swing.

*This program is subject to change.*