

# UKULELE HINTS



## Strumming Hand

- Pinch thumb and 1st finger lightly together.
- Strum with back of fingernail on the way down, and the pad of the 1st finger on the way up.
- Point your 1st finger up when you strum downward, and down when you strum upward.
- Keep your wrist super-doooper loose in all directions! Almost like you're painting your belly with a paintbrush.

## Fretting Hand

- Use your finger 'tips' to press lightly on the strings - between the fret wires.
- Curl your fingers so you only touch the strings with the finger 'tips.'
- We number our fingers. Our pointer finger is One, etc.. Ring finger is Three.

## Forming The Chords - holding the fretting hand.

- Some chords will require you to change the position and angle of your hand on the neck of the uke. You may even try changing the position of your elbow (placing it closer or further away from your body). Also, you may need to move your thumb up next to the neck, or behind the neck. Sometimes it helps to keep the palm of your hand against the neck, other times you may want to form a 'hollow' and not have your palm touch the neck. Do what feels right to you.

## The Frets

- There is a difference between the 'frets' and the 'fret wires.'
- Do not push down on the fret wires!
- The space 'between' the fret wires is like a trampoline - THIS is where you press! Take advantage of this - it's softer.

## The Ukulele Strings

- We 'number' the strings from the bottom (the floor) up.
- The 1st string is closest to the floor.
- The 4th string is closest to your nose.
- The strings are tuned (from top to bottom): gCEA 'good **C**hildren **E**at **A**pples'

## **Strumming**

- Strum slowly, quietly, and smoothly.
- If you only want to play one slow strum per chord that's OK.
- unlike a guitar, strum at the base of the 'neck,' not over the sound hole.

## **Learning The Chords**

- Don't 'try' to learn the chords. You will automatically learn them the more you play songs.
- Start with a 1 chord song, then a 2 chord song, then a 3 chord song...

## **Practicing**

- Don't practice, PLAY PLAY PLAY!
- Keep your ukulele OUT of it's case and close by - on the sofa, by the computer, etc. It does no good in it's case.
- Play an easy song whenever you can (esp. when commercials come on TV). The more you play, the quicker you'll progress. You won't learn anything if you only play when you come to the workshops.

## **Dealing With Sore Fingers As A Beginner**

- Know that it doesn't last. We've all been there.
- Give your fingers no more than one day of rest at a time. Maybe two at first. But that's it! Play a bit less for shorter periods. Eventually your skin will thicken and the nerves will take shelter a bit deeper. And no, there are not noticeable callouses. You can see no difference.
- Realize that you DON'T have to press down hard! Just enough to make the string 'touch' the fret wire - that's all. Pressing harder 'does not' make a different sound than pressing lightly.

## **Approaching Your Music**

- Look at the chords first. Try playing them to get acquainted with the fingering.
- If there is a difficult chord, look where it is in the music. See what chords come before or after the difficult chord. Sometimes the challenging chord comes after another chord which makes the chord change fairly simple (sometimes not).

# Little Liza Jane

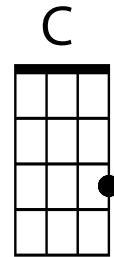
Origin:

*"Li'l Liza Jane" was first published in 1916 by Sherman, Clay & Co of San Francisco, California as a composition by Countess Ada de Lachau. It was described as a "Southern dialect song". The tune was featured in the 1916-1917 show "Come Out of the Kitchen".*

Nice beginner's song. Can be played using any one chord (here in 'C')

## Chorus:

Oh, Eliza, Little Liza Jane,  
Oh, Eliza, Little Liza Jane.



I gotta Gal/Guy and you got none, Little Liza Jane  
Come my love and be the one, Little Liza Jane  
(Chorus)

I got a house in Baltimore, Little Liza Jane,  
Street cars running by my door, Little Liza Jane.  
(Chorus)

Lets go out to the record hop, Little Liza Jane  
Let's get there by eight o'clock, Little Liza Jane  
(Chorus)

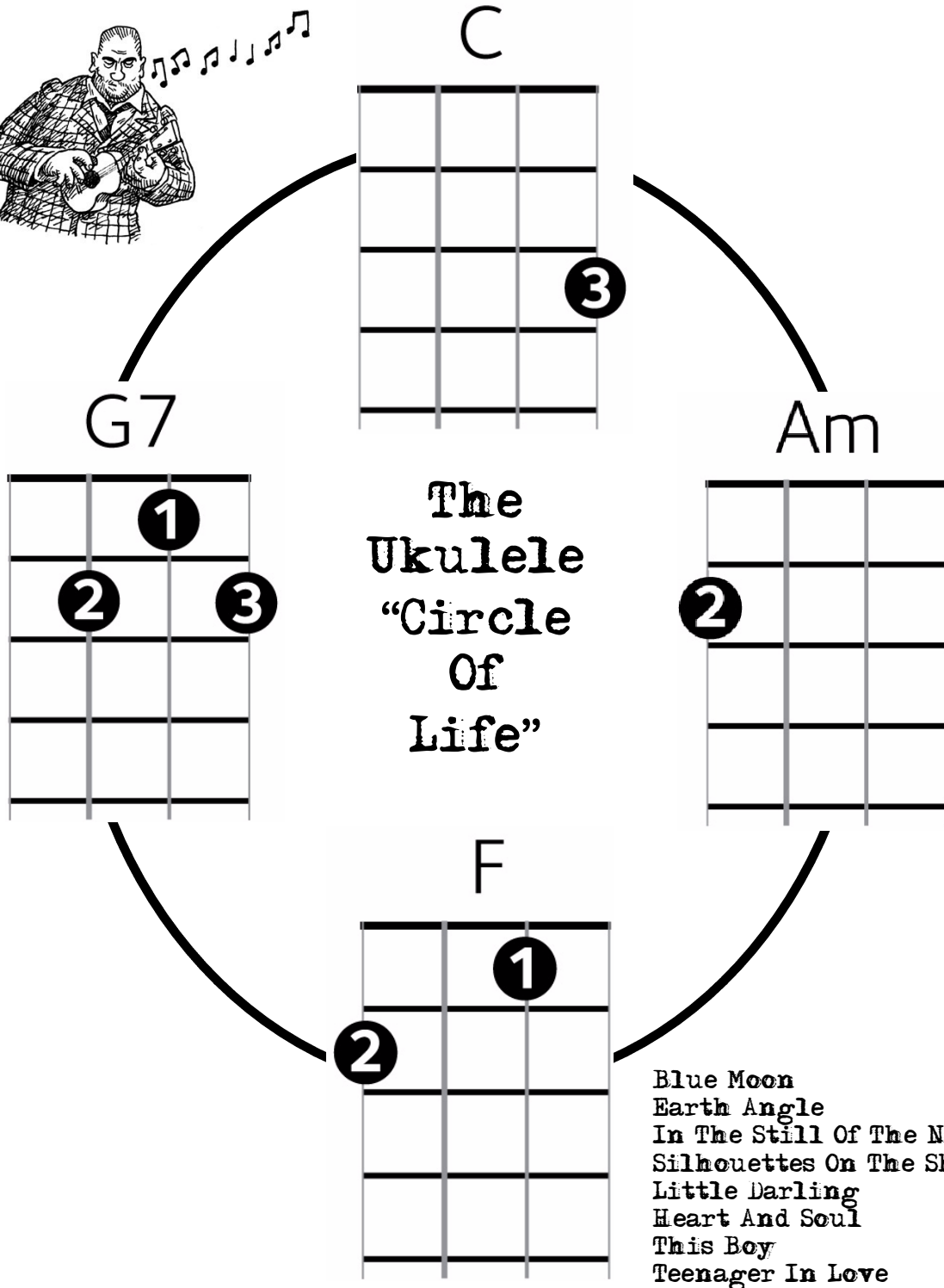
Brussels carpet on my floor, Little Liza Jane,  
Silver doorplate by my door, Little Liza Jane.  
(Chorus)

Come, my love, and be with me, Little Liza Jane,  
Let me take good care of thee, Little Liza Jane.  
(Chorus)

Hey pretty baby let's go downtown, Little Liza Jane  
I'm just tired of hanging 'round, Little Liza Jane  
(Chorus)

# Start at "C" going around clockwise (C, Am, F, G7)

Numbers indicate which fingers to use to make the chord



Blue Moon  
 Earth Angle  
 In The Still Of The Night  
 Silhouettes On The Shade  
 Little Darling  
 Heart And Soul  
 This Boy  
 Teenager In Love

# Songs Using "The Ukulele Circle Of Life"

## HEART AND SOUL

by Frank Loesser

[C] Heart and [Am] soul, [F] I fell in [G7] love with you,  
[C] Heart and [Am] soul, [F] the way a [G7] fool would do,  
[C] Mad-[Am]-ly...  
[F] Because you [G7] held me [C] tight,  
And [Am] stole a [F] kiss in the [G7] night...

## BLUE MOON

by Ella Fitzgerald

Blue [C] Moon [Am]  
[F] You saw me [G7] standing [C] alone [Am]  
[F] Without a [G7] dream in my [C] heart [Am]  
[F] Without a [G7] love of my [C] own [Am] [F] [G7]  
Blue [C] Moon [Am]  
[F] You know just [G7] what I was [C] there [Am] for  
[F] You heard me [G7] saying a [C] prayer [Am] for  
[F] Someone I [G7] really could [C] care [Am] for [F] [G7]

## EARTH ANGEL

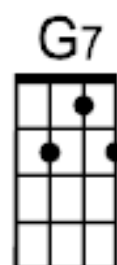
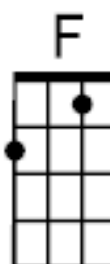
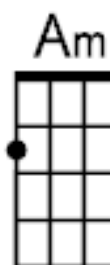
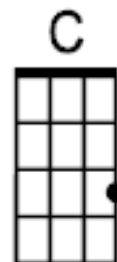
by The Four Seasons

Earth [C] Angel  
Earth [Am] Angel  
[F] Will you be [G7] mine?  
[C] My darling [Am] dear  
[F] Love you all the [G7] time.  
[C] I'm just a [Am] fool  
[F] A fool in [G7] love with [C] you.  
[Am].. [F].. [G7]..

## SILHOUETTES (ON THE SHADE)

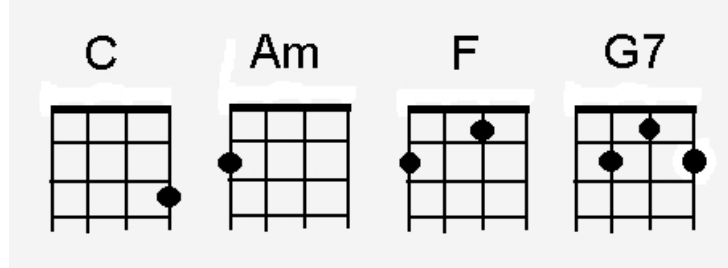
by Herman's Hermits

[C] Took a [Am] walk and passed your [F] house [G7] late last [C] night  
All the [Am] shades were pulled and [F] drawn [G7] way down [C] tight  
From with-[Am]-in, the dim light [F] cast two [G7] silhouettes on the [C] shade  
Oh what a [Am] lovely [F] couple they [G7] made  
[C] Put his [Am] arms around your [F] waist, [G7] held you [C] tight  
Kisses [Am] I could almost [F] taste [G7] in the [C] night  
Wondered [Am] why I'm not the [F] guy who's [G7] silhouette's on the [C] shade  
I couldn't [Am] hide the [F] tears in my [G7] eyes



# Teenager In Love

*Dion and the Belmonts*



[C] Each time we [Am] have a quarrel [F] it almost [G7]  
breaks my heart

[C] Cause I am [Am] so afraid [F] that we will [G7] have to  
part

[C] Each night I [Am] ask the [F] stars up [G7] above

[C] Why must I [Am] be a teen-[F]ager in [G7] love

[C] One day I [Am] feel so happy [F] next day I [G7] feel so  
sad

[C] I guess I'll [Am] learn to take [F] the good [G7] with the  
bad

[C] Each night I [Am] ask the [F] stars up [G7] above

[C] Why must I [Am] be a teen-[F]ager in [G7] love

## **Chorus**

*[F] I cried a [G7] tear for [F] nobody but [G7] you*

*[F] I'll be a [G7] lonely one if [F] you should say we're  
[G7] through*

Well [C] if you want to [Am] make me cry [F] that won't be so  
[G7] hard to do

And [C] if you [Am] say goodbye [F] I'll still go on [G7] loving  
you

[C] Each night I [Am] ask the [F] stars up [G7] above

[C] Why must I [Am] be a teen-[F]ager in [G7] love

# Jamaica Farewell

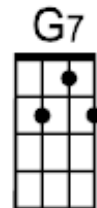
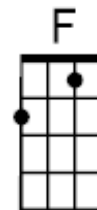
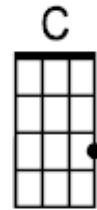
**INTRO:** [C] [F] [G7] [C] [C]  
My [C] heart is down, my head is [F] turning around  
I had to [G7] leave a little girl/boy in [C] Kingston town

## Verse 1.

[C] Down the way where the [F] nights are gay  
And the [G7] sun shines gaily on the [C] mountain top  
[C] I took a trip on a [F] sailing ship  
And when I [G7] reached Jamaica I [C] made a stop

## Chorus

[C] But I'm sad to say, [F] I'm on my way  
[G7] Won't be back for [C] many a day  
My [C] heart is down, my head is [F] turning around  
I had to [G7] leave a little girl/boy in [C] Kingston town



## Verse 2.

[C] Down at the market [F] you can hear  
Ladies [G7] cry out while on their [C] heads they bear  
[C] Akee, rice, salt, [F] fish are nice  
And the [G7] rum is fine any [C] time of year

## (Chorus)

## Verse 3.

[C] Sounds of laughter [F] everywhere  
And the [G7] dancing girls sway [C] to and fro  
[C] I must declare my [F] heart is there  
Though I've [G7] been from Maine to [C] Mexico

## (Chorus x 2)

I had to [G7] leave a little girl/boy in [C] Kings-[G7]-ton [C] town

# Show Me The Way To Go Home

(Strum Pattern: Swing Strum)

C  
Show me the way to go home,

F C  
I'm tired and I want to go to bed.

I had a little drink about an hour ago

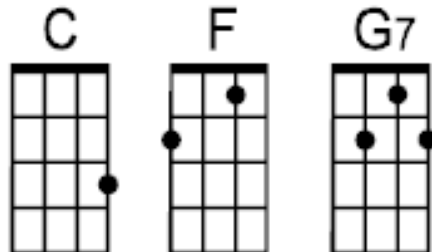
G7  
And it went right to my head,

C  
No matter where I roam,

F C  
On land or sea or foam,

You will always hear me singing this song

G7 C  
Show me the way to go home.



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*An intellectual version of the above...*

Indicate the direction of my abode,  
I'm fatigued and I want to repose.  
I had liquid refreshments sixty minutes ago  
And it's gone straight to my cerebellum  
Where ever I may perambulate  
On land or sea or agitated water  
You can always hear me singing this melody  
Indicate the direction of my abode