

Midwest Uke & Harmonica Camp 2024 Workshop Schedule with Descriptions v4



Note: keep in mind that posted levels can be somewhat fluid depending on the instructor, the subject, and the make up of the class attendees; i.e. a class listed as “Confident Beginner” can be suitable for a Beginning or an Intermediate student. You do not need to pre-register for any of the workshops, just show up and then feel free to move to a different class if the one you’re in doesn’t suit you.

UKULELE LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

Beginner: This level has been playing for up to 6 months and has learned 3 – 4 chords but hesitates in between chord changes to move the fingers to the next location.

Confident Beginner: This player knows a handful of chords and can move from one chord to another without pausing. Has trouble with barre chords, and has developed a strum or two or a basic finger pattern for picking.

Intermediate: This player can hold a steady rhythm, and is competent with a variety of basic chords (for example: A, Am, Bb, B7, C, C7, D, Dm, E7, Em, G, and G7. Understands simple chord progressions (such as I, IV, V chords), can sing and strum at the same time, and learns chords to simple tunes fairly quickly.

Advanced Intermediate: This player can hear I, IV, and V chords, has mastered some chord inversions, knows there is life above the fifth, and has been there with barre or four-fingered moveable chords. Plays lead and backup easily with others and keeps steady rhythm.

Baritone-Friendly (BF)

Classes labels as such can be enjoyed by baritone players. You should know the baritone equivalent of the standard ukulele chords used in the classes as they may not be provided on handouts. If a class is not listed as BF, you may be able to use a ukulele capo.

HARMONICA LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS

Beginner: For those taking their first steps on the instrument. You have a hard time making clear single notes and are not sure how far to move your mouth up and down the hard in order to get the next hole. Trying to master simple melodies such as “Oh Susanna”

Confident Beginner: You can generally play single notes clearly, know simple melodies, and are somewhat proficient in note bending. You have experimented with blues “cross harp”, but need work on improvising.

Recommended Harmonicas: Use a harmonica in the key of C such as: Hohner Blues Band, Suzuki Folkmaster, Hohner Big Band, or Hohner Marine Band.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE WITH DESCRIPTIONS (subject to change)

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Friday 3 - 4:00 pm

Let's Start at the Very Beginning (Sigh) BEGINNER

The first lesson is always a blast! Learn your first four chords with ease and confidence. Get started by strumming through a large variety of songs that have simple ukulele accompaniments. You will be amazed at how much music-making we can do with four strings.

Spice Up Your Strumming (Chrissy) BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE (BF)

Are you tired of playing the same old calypso strum for all of your songs? This workshop will arm you with a toolkit of strumming patterns and teach you how to know which one to use for which song.

Chord Chemistry and the Circle of Fifths (Goldberg) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE (BF)

In this participatory workshop we'll explore how chords fit together in songs, starting with simple two-chord songs and building up to songs with five, six, or seven chords. Students will be introduced to the Nashville numbering system and the magical Circle of Fifths. Along the way we'll talk about transposing, songwriting, and being able to play along with others in a jam situation.

Navigating the Fretboard (Tolentino) INTERMEDIATE

Learn to play up and down the fretboard in a logical sense using the chromatic scale.

Fascinating Rhythm: Cliff Edwards (MacGill) CONFIDENT BEGINNER AND UP

Cliff Edwards is virtually unknown today but we've all heard him sing "When You Wish Upon a Star" as the voice of Jiminy Cricket. What all lovers of the ukulele should know is that he made the ukulele a fixture of 1920's entertainment, selling millions of records with his strumming and singing. This class will introduce you to three iconic tunes he introduced: "Fascinating Rhythm", "Singin' in the Rain", and "When You Wish Upon a Star." We'll have chord charts, lyrics to the songs and links to pictures and history of the guy who was just as fascinating as his rhythm!

Harmonica Fundamentals (Weltman) HARMONICA - BEGINNING

This class is for the beginning harmonica student. The title says it all. We'll be going thru a general overview of the harmonica. We'll also cover some of the basic techniques like the correct ways to hold a harmonica, breathing etc.. We'll also show you some basic note exercises along with a few simple tunes. This is a must if you've never played before or are a fairly new harmonicist (yes, thats a real word).

Friday 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Two-Chord Strummers (Viggy) BEGINNER

Going through a variety of different songs that only need two chords, along with introducing good practicing habits and techniques early on in our uke journey.

Hawaiian Turnarounds (Ohta) CONFIDENT BEGINNER AND UP

Learn to pick over a 2-5-1 chord progression.

Getting Spicy with Embellishments (Cygrymus) CONFIDENT BEGINNER AND UP

In this workshop, we will explore some great techniques to make our playing more dynamic. Chord

suspensions, double stops, palm muting and some different strum patterns

Delicious Diminished and Amazing Augmented Chords (Rozel) INTERMEDIATE

We'll study the sound of diminished and augmented chords and how they can be inserted in a chord progression to drive a tune with both elegance and moxie. This class covers blues, spirituals, and tunes from the 1960s and beyond.

Get in the Bass Groove (Stump) BEGINNER - CONFIDENT BEGINNER BASS

Being a bass player requires knowledge of all different kinds of music in order to support your fellow musicians in any given context. Participants in this workshop will be exposed to a wide variety of styles and genres through active listening and analyzing musical recordings, and will be able to identify and perform several different popular grooves in music such as Rock/Pop, Funk, Folk/Country, Samba/Bossa Nova, Latin "Tresillo" groove, Blues Shuffle, etc.

Country and Bluegrass Harmonica (Wilson) HARMONICA - ALL LEVELS

Blues harmonica techniques can be directly applied to country and bluegrass music! This class will focus on the 2nd position, adding hand vibrato techniques to achieve that southern sound. We'll cover everything from classic bluegrass numbers to modern country hits!

SATURDAY, JULY 20

Saturday 9:00 - 10:00 am

I Know Four Chords, Now What? (Sigh) BEGINNER - CONFIDENT BEGINNER

Strum a large variety of simple songs that each teach a new chord (or two)! Build on your existing skills to progress beyond the chords C, Am, F and G. Learn strategies for mastering and memorizing new beginner-friendly chords. Take home new charts with memorable melodies and simple chord-changes.

Fingerpicking Fun (Viggy) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE

How to read tablature notation + fingerpicking techniques, and learning to incorporate fingerpicking into our strumming technique.

You Can Solo, Too! (Cygrymus) CONFIDENT BEGINNER AND UP

In this workshop, we will break down some of the fears you may have with improvisation by learning some simple solo patterns and riffs. We will put together what we've learned at the end of class to have a super fun jam session.

Arpeggios (Ohta) CONFIDENT BEGINNER AND UP (BF)

Learn the various different picking patterns taught to Herb by his father, Ohta-San and enhance your performances.

Carter Family-Style Ukulele (Goldberg) CONFIDENT BEGINNER

The Carter Family were one of the most influential music groups in North American country music, recording hundreds of classic songs that are still heard at folk, country and bluegrass jams and song circles everywhere. Mother Maybelle Carter's pioneering guitar style anchored their sound and paved the way for generations of guitar players to come. In this workshop, we'll look at how to adapt Mother Maybelle's style to the ukulele and learn a Carter Family song.

Finding the Key (Wilson) HARMONICA - ALL LEVELS

Have you ever been to a jam session and nobody told you what key they were in? A lot of players find themselves grasping at various harps and guessing wildly at which to play. In this session, we

will develop a strategy to find the key quickly! This skill will be invaluable when listening to a recording that you want to play along with.

Saturday 10:30 am - 11:30 pm

Funky Strumming (Chrissy) INTERMEDIATE - ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE (BF)

This workshop will introduce you to left-hand muting techniques and syncopated strumming patterns guaranteed to funk up your sound. You'll begin with some basic left-hand muting techniques and then work to a more intermediate and advanced level while working through the 8th and 16th-note patterns that we will apply to popular songs.

Blues Bass Improvisation (Stump) CONFIDENT BEGINNER BASS

The blues are the facts of life and are the roots of all American music. Participants in this workshop will have an introduction to playing the blues by learning about the history of the style, actively listening to musical examples, and have a feeling for the basic form. This knowledge will provide an entry-level concept on how to improvise over the 12-bar blues form and will help participants expand their musicianship.

Blues with a Feeling (MacGill) (BF) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE

We'll learn three classic blues; "Can't be Satisfied" (Muddy Waters), "Blues With a Feeling" (Little Walter), and "You Got Me Runnin'" (Jimmy Reed). We'll discuss the feel of the rhythms, vocal styles and strumming techniques. Easy music, few chords, and an emphasis on style, feel, attitude. We'll also include brief histories of the artists.

Beginner Ukulele Orchestra Part I (Rozel) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE (BF)

This two-session class for beginners will cover basic ensemble playing using traditional and pop tunes. We'll cover the chords, picking a melody, and singing in parts. While reading music is not required, it is an absolute advantage in this class. A low-G ukulele is also highly recommended!

Hearing and Playing I, IV, V (Tolentino) INTERMEDIATE

Melodies by Ear (Weltman) HARMONICA - ALL LEVELS

In this workshop we're going to learn the many important reasons to incorporate learning melodies into your practice regimen. Learning lots of melodies, everything from simple to hard, all play an important role in your musical development. I'm going to teach you some simple and reliable ways to begin to pick out melodies on your own and also some fun and practical ways to use them for ear training and more. Along with that we'll cover a tiny bit of some basic music theory as it applies to our harmonica purposes.

Saturday 1:30 - 2:30

Barre Chord Bootcamp (Viggy) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE

Tackling barre chords and four-finger chords of all shapes and sizes! We're talkin' healthy habits when it comes to making tricky chords, some helpful chord substitutes, and playing techniques.

Chord Melody "I'll Remember You" (Ohta) INTERMEDIATE

Learn to play one of Hawaii's most famous songs. Should be able to read notation or tablature.

Intros and Endings (Rozel) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE

Want to spice up your performances? Learn how to create a great intros and tags using chords, lyrics, and melody playing. We'll run through the mechanics of creating the basic format as well as using a few of the classic blues turnarounds.

The Great American Songbook for Ukulele (Goldberg) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE
"The Great American Songbook" is a loose term used to refer to a group of classic American popular songs and jazz standards from the early-20th-century. Written by songwriters like Irving Berlin, The Gershwins, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, Dorothy Fields, Johnny Mercer, Hoagy Carmichael, and more (often for Broadway musicals or Hollywood films), many of these songs have passed into the repertoire of jazz musicians and song interpreters. In this workshop we'll learn one of these great songs, with easier and more challenging options to accommodate a wide range of playing experience.

Vocal Workshop for Singing Players (Cygrymus) ALL LEVELS (BF)

In this workshop we will explore some proper singing techniques and exercises to help improve our singing performance.

Third Position and the Dorian Mode (Wilson) HARMONICA - CONFIDENT BEGINNER/ INTERMEDIATE

Perhaps you've played harmonica in both straight and cross harp, but struggle to play on songs that are in a minor key. You don't need to buy minor tuned harmonicas! Not only is 3rd position the most common way to play in a minor key, it's the perfect way to play folk songs in the Dorian mode. We'll study both of these tonalities in this workshop.

Saturday 3:00 - 4:00

All the Numbers (Sigh) CONFIDENT BEGINNER AND UP (BF)

From Nashville numbering (I, IV, V, etc) to chord variations (7, sus4, etc), learn the math of music! Nashville numbers help you change keys and understand how chords function. Chord variations allow you to alter songs and chord charts. (For example, you can add a 7, or take one away, to simplify/advance existing charts and create your own arrangements). Gain understanding through strumming: your ears will be your guide to unlocking "ah-ha!" moments during our workshop and beyond.

Introduction to Improvisation (Chrissy) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE

Have you ever wanted to learn how to improvise but were unsure how to do it? You don't need to know all the notes on the fretboard or memorize all your scales in order to play a solo. In this workshop, you will begin by tapping into your intuitive brain and learning to improvise and create musical phrases with as little as 3 notes. This is a very hands on and intuitive approach to improvising and will help you get out of your head and 'feel' the music by soloing over backing tracks to different musical genres and learning how to tap into emotions.

Walking Basslines (Stump) INTERMEDIATE - ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE BASS

You can't play jazz without the bass! Being the backbone of swing, the bass has a very important role at the intersection of harmony and rhythm. Participants in this workshop will develop their swing feel and will learn how to construct their own walking basslines.

My Three Strums (MacGill)

The three strums Casey uses regularly are THE SWING STRUM, THE SHUFFLE STRUM, and THE RUMBA STRUM. We will spend the most time learning the swing strum technique to create a danceable rhythm feel with the ukulele. We will learn the damping technique that is essential to creating the swing rhythm. Damping the strings is also important in the shuffle strum, which comes from the rhythm feel of the classic rhythm n' blues records of Louis Jordan, Wynonie Harris, up to and including Elvis Presley. Last but not least the rumba strum is a bit more complex, but we break

it down to three bite-sized morsels, and learn to count and play it together. It comes in handy with 1950's anthems like "Save the Last Dance for Me", "Three Cool Cats", "Lonely Teardrops", and "Under the Boardwalk".

Hawaiian Vamp and Turnarounds (Tolentino) INTERMEDIATE
Chord and picking variations as used in Hawaiian music.

Funky Harmonica (Weltman) HARMONICA - INTERMEDIATE

In this class, we get funky . . . at least as far as the harmonica is concerned. Sandy will be teaching a few funk tunes with lots of variations. We'll try to get thru as many of them as we can. Most (but not all) of the tunes and variations require some bending. We'll send you home with a few backing tracks and some tablature to practice along with. Come prepared with your phones (or other recording device) to record the tunes so you can work with when you get home.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

Sunday 9:00 - 10:00 am

What Key is Best for You? (Sigh) ALL LEVELS (BF)

If you have songs that you love to play, but they feel too low or too high for your singing voice, this workshop is for you! You can change the key (and the starting pitch) of any song to fit your own vocal range. We will play through examples of songs in different keys to understand how to transpose. You can bring your own charts for Melissa to help you find the perfect starting note for your favorite songs.

Fairy Dusting (Tolentino) *Embellish your songs the Tolentino Way with Bryan's special "fairy dusting" techniques.*

Beatles Ukulele (Goldberg) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE

In this workshop we'll explore a song from the Fab Four. Starting with a basic introduction to strumming and singing the song, we'll work on adding a fun strumming or fingerpicking pattern, look at chord variations and voicings that bring the song to life, and explore some instrumental fills and licks that will add that extra zing to your rendition.

Strum and Drum (Viggy) INTERMEDIATE

Learn to play percussive beats (kicks and snares) along with our strumming technique for harmonious play.

Making the Changes Bass Improvisation II (Stump) INTERMEDIATE - ADV INTERMEDIATE BASS

As your soloing develops to the next level, you will begin to add more improvisational tools to your toolbox. Participants in this class will dive deeper into the nuances of improvising over the blues by introducing more concepts like more sophisticated chord changes, phrasing, and developing more harmonic and rhythmic language.

Playing Minor Keys in the 5th Position (Weltman) HARMONICA - INTERMEDIATE

Hopefully by now you're familiar with the concept and terminology of position playing on the harmonica. You're most likely familiar with 2nd position (also called cross harp) and may have dabbled a bit in 1st and 3rd position. So why do I need to learn a new position? What are the advantages of 5th position over 2nd, 3rd or 4th? How do I get started in 5th position? You've got questions and we've got answers. We'll do a thorough walk thru of the amazing possibilities of 5th position along with a few licks, ideas and songs to get you started.

Sunday 10:30 - 11:30

Songwriting Express (Chrissy) BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE (BF)

You will leave this workshop having completed a song from start to finish. This is a foundation crash course on writing songs and will walk you through from choosing a song title, building a chorus, creating verses, creating chord progressions and knowing what chords to put together, writing effective melodies and giving your songs dynamics.

Chord Melody “Mâlie” (Ohta) INTERMEDIATE

Learn to play this unrecorded original song by Herb. Must be able to read notation or tablature.

Polishing the Details: Vamps, Turnarounds, and Outros (MacGill) ALL LEVELS

OK; you’ve just learned a new tune. The first question that pops up is “How do I start it?” soon after, the next question arrives, “How do I end it?” This class is all about answering those important questions. We will discuss the reasons for vamps, turnarounds, and intros/outros. Playing level can be beginner. You may end up doing a lot of listening, but the information will be good for your approach to learning and playing songs. The class can also benefit intermediate and advanced students with new ideas and increased musical satisfaction by enhanced organization and flavorful details.

The Tasteful Use of Effect Pedals (Cygrymus) ALL LEVELS

In this workshop , we will learn about common effect pedals, the best ones for ukulele , how they work, and how to properly use them. The end of the class will include an open mic where the students can play a song of their choice while experimenting with various effect pedals to tastefully enhance the song.

Beginner Ukulele Orchestra Part II (Rozel) CONFIDENT BEGINNER - INTERMEDIATE (BF)

This two-session class for beginners will cover basic ensemble playing using traditional and pop tunes. We’ll cover the chords, picking a melody, and singing in parts. While reading music is not required, it is an absolute advantage in this class. A low-G ukulele is also highly recommended!

Harmonica and Ukulele Jam (Wilson/Weltman) HARMONICA & UKULELE - ALL LEVELS (BF)

Students of the ukulele and harmonica are both welcome at this jam. Andy and Sandy will call off tunes and jam on their ukuleles and harmonicas. We will discuss the ways that we communicate musically to make it happen. Select students will be asked to join the jam at various points, and everyone will get a chance to play as the jam concludes!