

Ukulele Lesson Ten for Stages Two and Three

This lesson works with chords previously introduced.

Objectives - students will:

- Play notes and tunes on the ukulele by reading and following tablature.
- Play simple arrangements of songs in which some students play chords and other students play the melodies.

Reference Curriculum Outcomes: Performing, Listening

MUS2.1 Sings, plays and moves to a range of music, demonstrating a basic knowledge of musical concepts.

- *plays music using body percussion, percussion instruments and other sound sources to explore and demonstrate the concepts of duration, tone colour, pitch, dynamics and structure*

MUS3.1 Sings, plays and moves to a range of music, individually and in groups, demonstrating a knowledge of musical concepts.

- *plays a variety of music, individually and in groups, using a range of vocal and instrumental sound sources to explore musical concepts*
- *explores aspects of musical concepts in singing, playing and moving activities to heighten musical understanding and perform music with a greater sense of style.*

MUS2.4 Identifies the use of musical concepts and musical symbols in a range of repertoire.

- *identifies basic musical features of the music that is performed and listened to, eg rhythm, tempo, pitch, structure, dynamics, tone colour*

MUS3.4 Identifies the use of musical concepts and symbols in a range of musical styles.

- *identifies the use of musical concepts and changes that occur in relation to music that they perform, compose and listen to, eg rhythm, tempo, pitch, structure, dynamics, tone colour and the changes that occur within the music*

Resources – ukuleles (pre-tuned), School Ukulele Orchestra (S.U.O.) Tuition Books or PDF presentation slides. Video archives for lesson ten. (See the class lesson section of www.school-ukulele-orchestra.net)

Time Allocation

Aim for up to 30 minutes of playing time. This lesson reviews the tablature system, which was new in the last lessons. Additional time might be needed to go over aspects of tablature before proceeding with the activities in this lesson.

Teaching and Learning Activities

- If needed, briefly review Positive Behaviour for Music Learning expectations that you have established for your class. (See downloadable PBL suggestions in the class lesson section of www.school-ukulele-orchestra.net)
- Singing together – *Start with singing a familiar song from your class repertoire. Perhaps students can request a song.*

Ukulele

- You might use the Ukulele Tuning Check video (or lesson slide directions) as an activity for students while ukuleles are distributed. This activity, with its focus on playing individual strings, is a good starting point for the learning in this lesson.
- This lesson begins with a quick review of reading Tab to play the C scale and “Mary Had a Little Lamb”. (Slides, book pages 51 to 54) Be prepared to go back into the lesson nine slides if it seems that students are struggling with reading the TAB.
- The “Mystery Tune” is a way for students to test their tab reading by working out a tune without knowing what it is. Students attempt to play the first version of this tune, raising their hands as soon as they recognise what they are playing. When a significant number of students have recognised the tune, ask for an answer and encourage student to help each other to all play this tune. (Video P55 Mystery Tune TAB)
- Move onto the second version of the tune. You may decide to have students try it individually, which can be noisy but allows keen students to get on with it, then call the class to a stop and try it together.
- The following exercises provide a good opportunity for differentiation. All are songs that have been covered in previous lessons, now presented with a tabulated tune. While all students can try to play the tunes, it is likely that most will not yet be able to do this at a steady pace. Working in groups allows some students to play the chords and some to play the tunes. You might even choose to have some students focus on leading the singing parts for these songs.
- One suggestion is to start with “Hill and Gully Rider”. The example on the book and the slides has been colour coded and can be performed as multiple groups - chords, “call” tune (blue) “response” tune (red). The response tune is simple, involving just one note, played rhythmically. Students can support the rhythm of their playing by also singing the words. (Slides, book page 58, video P58 Hill and Gully TAB)
- Learn and play the TAB and chord parts together for more of the examples in this lesson. (Slides, book pages 55 to 58, videos P55 This Old Man TAB, P56 Frere Jacques TAB, P56 Ten in the Bed TAB, P57 Head Shoulders TAB)
- Have ukuleles collected or returned. Give feedback - including, hopefully, a lot of praise - for the reading and playing of the TAB as well as the working together to play songs and music in different parts.

Evaluation Points

Reflect on how the students performed in relation to the objectives:

- Playing notes and tunes on the ukulele by reading and following tablature.
- Playing simple arrangements of songs in which some students play chords and other students play the melodies.

Did you observe progress on reading and using the TAB?

How well did students play and sing when they were working in different groups on the one piece of music?

Going Forward with Instrumental Playing

The S.U.O. Instrumental Book contains tabulated arrangements for seventeen classic tunes. The arrangements provide melodies along with chords and/or harmonies as accompaniment. Designed for mixed ability performance groups, the music allows students to perform with each other, and to learn the way all the parts sound better when played together. Even the simplest part is important to the overall sound - which perhaps provides a good lesson for more than just our music groups.

Along with the Accompaniment Book, this resource is provided to support teachers and students who want to develop and on-going Ukulele Orchestra in their school. The book can be downloaded at <https://school-ukulele-orchestra.net/tuition-resources/>