

Fun With the Ukulele Session 2

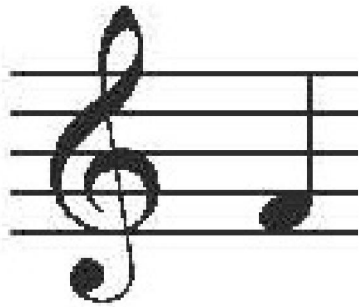
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WCCC Continuing Education

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Note Review



Sharps and Flats

- The Sharp symbol # indicates that the note to which it is attached is to be played one fret higher in pitch than the natural note. The flat symbol \flat indicates that the note is to be played one fret lower. I will use the lower case b to indicate flats in chord symbols. The natural symbol \natural indicates that following a sharped or flatted note, the note is to again be played at its natural pitch.

Notes with sharps



Musical notation for notes with sharps and flats. The staff shows a sequence of notes: C, Db, D, Eb, E, F, Gb, G, Ab, A, Bb, B, C. Below the staff are two sets of fretboard diagrams. The first set shows frets 0-3 for notes C, Db, D, Eb, E, F, Gb, G, Ab, A, Bb, B, C. The second set shows frets 0-1 for notes Gb, G, Ab, A, Bb, B, C.

Notes with flats



Musical notation for notes with sharps and flats. The staff shows a sequence of notes: C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B, C. Below the staff are two sets of fretboard diagrams. The first set shows frets 0-3 for notes C, C#, D, D#, E, F, F#, G, G#, A, A#, B, C. The second set shows frets 0-1 for notes G, G#, A, A#, B, C.

Timing

- Music is based on two fundamental items for all performers, pitch and timing. Last session we learned how to identify notes by their respective pitches. Now, we are going to learn how to play the notes at the right time.
- Notes in standard notation represent mathematical division and are arranged in groups called MEASURES.

Measures

- Measures are simple divisions of musical notes separated one from next by a vertical line from the bottom of the staff to the top.



- This is a convenience to the musician. Imagine the staff without the bar lines:



- A long piece of music would be very difficult to read

Notes and Rests

- Notes are written to indicate how long the note should sound when played. They are represented as fractional values. The types of notes you are most likely to encounter are identified below:



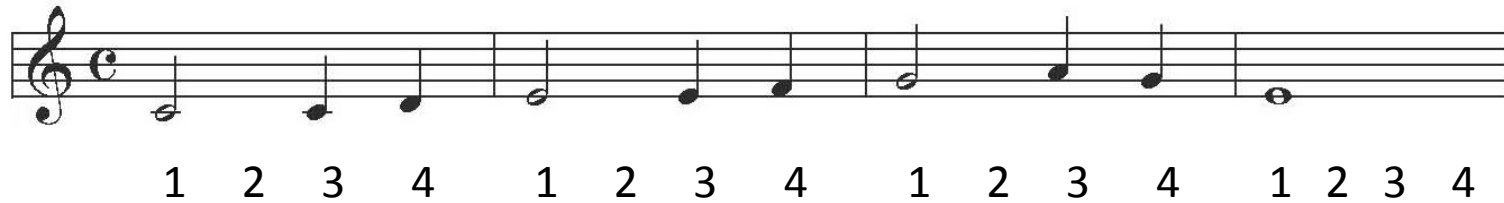
- Dotted notes are equal to the note value + $\frac{1}{2}$.

Time Signatures

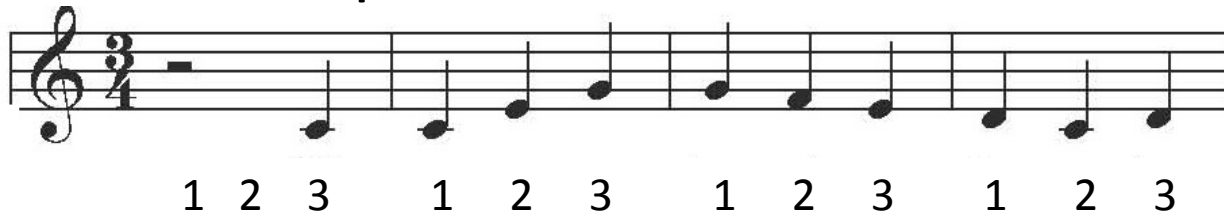
- The timing of a piece of music is indicated by Time Signatures, most represented by fractions, beats per measure over the note that indicates one beat: e.g. 4/4 (Common tempo also indicated by the symbol C), four beats per measure, quarter note receives one beat. Other standard time signatures are: 2/4 (march), 3/4 (waltz), and 12/8 (doo-wop). They are presented following the Clef sign in standard notation.

Counting Time

- When you play a song, you must keep track of the timing measure for measure. This is done in your head and with your foot. A 4/4 measure would be counted as follows:

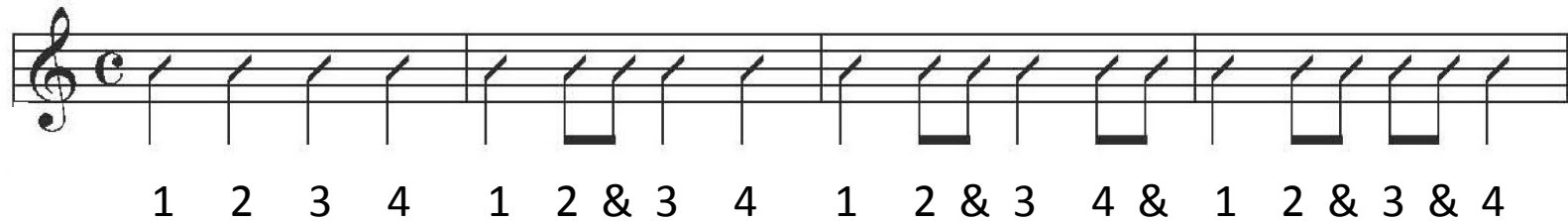


- A waltz tempo, 3/4, would be counted this way:

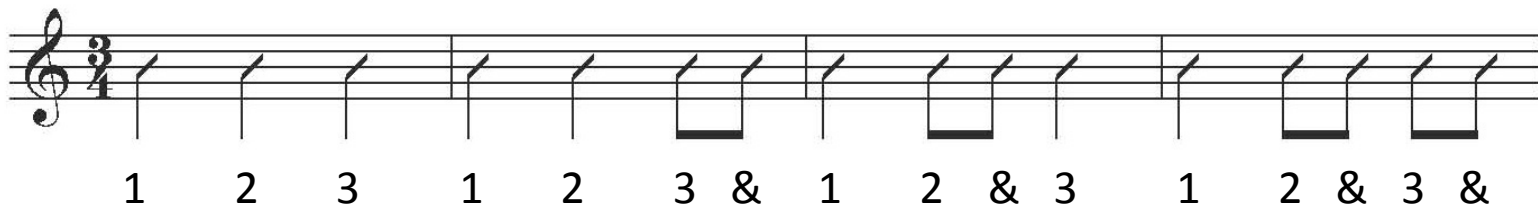


Strum Patterns

- A special notation is used to indicate the strumming of chords it is presented as follows:

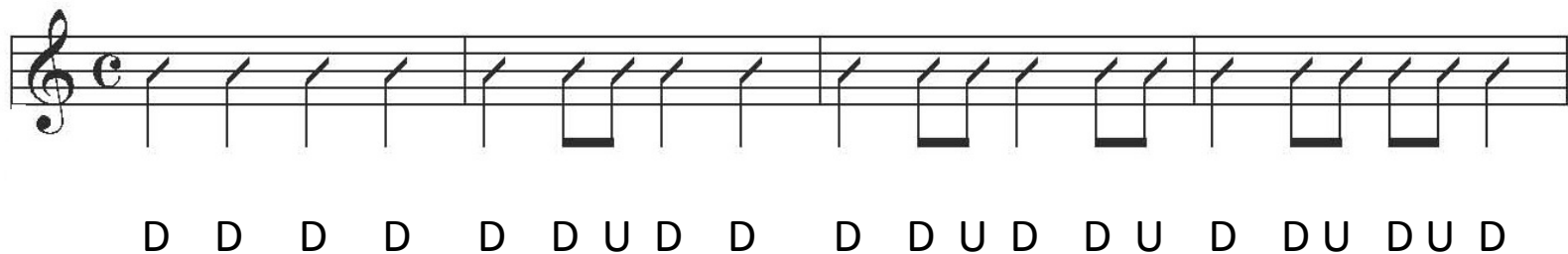


- You will note that counting time of rhythmic notation is the same as the counting of notes on the staff. Here are some in 3/4 time:

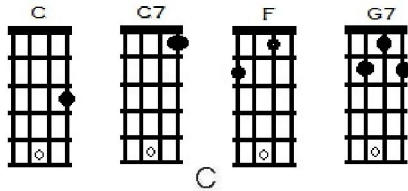


Up and Down Picking: Chords

- The same up and down wrist technique used for picking individual notes applies to chords as well. Quarter note rhythmic chords are played as all down strokes; eighth and sixteenth note chords are played up and down.



Playing from a Chord Chart



Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace

Chord Chart: C, C7, F, G7

5 saved a wretch like me I
9 once was lost but now I'm found once
13 blind but now I see

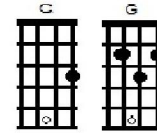
The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of three systems of music. Each system has four measures. The lyrics are: 'Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me I once was lost but now I'm found once blind but now I see'. Chord changes are indicated above the staff: C (measures 1-4), C7 (measures 5-6), F (measures 7-8), and C (measures 9-12). The final measure of the third system (measure 13) ends with a diamond symbol on the first string, indicating a final chord.

Tremolo

- Because notes decay more quickly on the nylon strings of the ukulele, one picking technique to ensure that half and whole notes resound for their full amount of time is called known as tremolo. It is a common convention for three diagonal slashes on or over a note to be interpreted as "as fast as possible", or at any speed to be left to the player's judgment. This requires rapid up and down movement of the wrist with only the tip of the pick against the string.

Song with Tremolo

Long Long Ago



C

Ukulele

Musical notation for the first system of the Ukulele part. It consists of a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff. Below the staff are two lines representing the ukulele fretboard, with fret numbers (0, 2, 1, 0) indicating the fingerings for each measure. The lyrics are: Tell me the tale that to me was so dear. Sing me the song I de-light-ed to hear.

G

C

Uke

Musical notation for the second system of the Ukulele part. It starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. A '5' is written above the first note. The melody is written on a five-line staff. Below the staff are two lines representing the ukulele fretboard, with fret numbers (1, 0, 2, 1, 0, 2, 0) indicating the fingerings for each measure. The lyrics are: long long a-go long long a-go. long long a-go long long a-go.

Using a Capo

- A capo is a mechanical device that clamps across all four strings of the ukulele, changing their pitch by shortening the distance between the nut and the bridge. This allows you to use a basic set of chord forms on any position on the neck.



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