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Join my newsletter for updates & tips Expect one or two emails a month, on average. I wont sell or spam your email. 47.8Kby Jenny SeligAre you a beginning ukulele player looking for easy songs to play? These 35 songs work well on ukulele and contain chords suitable for those at the beginner level.Common Beginner ChordsYou really could choose any chord as your first ukulele chord, and learn them in any order, but many beginning ukulele players start with 1- and 2-finger chords, and with songs that contain just a few chords total, before moving on to more fingers and more chords.Its very common for a ukulele player to start out by learning the 1-finger shapes of C, C7, Am, and A7 chords.These are frequently followed by F and/or A chords (2 fingers). G and G7 chords are 3-finger chords considered crucial by most players, as is the D chord. Em is another one I encourage you to learn early on.Eventually youll want to add D7 and E7, D7, B-family chords, and the much-maligned (but so worth learning!) E chord.Where to Start? Master the ukulele in 30 or less, Guaranteed!Choose a song on this list you know the sound of already. Most of us feel more motivated to practice songs we know, love, and want to play.If you dont know any here, listen to a few and pick one youd like to learn. You never know what will inspire you to spend another 15 minutes at play (pun intended)!Easy & Simple Ukulele Songs for Beginners1. Coconut, by Harry Nilsson (1971)1 chord C7 Click for chords This song can be played in its entirety with just one 1-finger chord, but you may need to sing along.2 Chord Ukulele Songs:2. Singin In the Rain, lyrics by Arthur Freed and music by Nacio Herb Brown (1929)2 chords F C7 Click for chords Here, the chord changes come slowly, giving you time to set up for each one. The player in the video is playing a more complicated version in the same key, and you can strum along.3. Iko Iko, by James Crawford, Barbara Hawkins, Rosa Hawkins and Joan Johnson (1965)2 chords F C Click for chords Especially fun in a group, this song is perfect for beginners just getting comfortable with changing chords.4. Jambalaya (On the Bayou), by Hank Williams (1952)2 chords C G Click for chords G is often one of the first 3-finger chords beginning players tackle, and its a versatile one.5. Draggin the Line, by Tommy James Bob King (1971)2 chords D C Click for chords Playing this song in this key allows you to practice the D chord, which can be tricky until youve got it down. Dont try to play along with this video until you learn F and Eb; shes playing in a different key.6. Istanbul, (Not Constantinople), lyrics by Jimmy Kennedy and music by Nat Simon (1953), famously covered by They Might Be Giants in 19902 chords* Em B7 Click for chords* Em is not the hardest chord, but switching to and from Em takes practice. B7 can be played with the same shape, so you can move just one shape around. *Skip the intro for a 2-chord version.7. Paperback Writer, by John Lennon and Paul McCartney for The Beatles (1966)2 chords G7 C Click for chords In the video, G and C7 are also played at times, but in the same key, so you can play along.3 Chord Ukulele Songs:8. Whats Up, by Linda Perry of 4 Non Blondes (1993)3 chords G Am C Click for chords If you know the vocal part to a song well, its even easier to strum while singing, something that can be tough for new players. So if you can belt this one out acapella, try it on ukulele!9. Shake It Off, by Taylor Swift, Max Martin, and Shellback (2014)3 chords G Am C Click for chords Am and C chords become second nature quickly, and G will become easier the more you play it.10. You Are My Sunshine, authorship disputed, usually credited to Jimmie Davis and Charles Mitchell (1939)3 chords C F G See more on YouTube: for chords A classic folk song, many people know this one well enough to sing along. The F chord is not difficult to form, but switching to and from it may take some practice, like any chord change.11. Johnny B. Goode, by Chuck Berry (1958).3 chords C F G See more on YouTube: for chords A lot of songs can be played using these three chords because they make a popular pattern (I-IV-V). Dont worry if that bit of music theory doesnt make sense to you just yet just know youll see or hear it again and again!12. Lean On Me, by Bill Withers (1972)3 chords C F G See more on YouTube: for chords This song is loved by many. If you know it, its a great choice.13. Somebody to Love, by Valerie June (2013)3 chords C G F See more on YouTube: for chords Simple to pick up, this song repeats itself, allowing players to really get comfortable with the lyrics and chord changes. If you have a banjolele, it will sound great on that, too, and work with picking or strumming!14. Down on the Corner, written by John Fogerty of Creedence Clearwater Revival (1969)3 chords C F G See more on YouTube: for chords This is a fun jam using chords that are quickly learned by most beginning players. Try it in a group!15. Bye Bye Love, by Felice & Boudleaux Bryant (1957), popularized by The Everly Brothers3 chords C F G See more on YouTube: for chords Play G7 instead of G, if you like. There are no rules in ukulele.16. Lava, by James Ford Murphy for the Pixar animated short (2014)3 chords C G7 F See more on YouTube: for chords Here, youll have a bit of time between chords, but pay attention to the rhythm because one change happens faster than the others. Become familiar with the song before playing it.17. The Lion Sleeps Tonight, by Solomon Linda, Hugo Peretti, Luigi Creatore, George David Weiss, and Albert Stanton (1961)3 chords C F G7 See more on YouTube: for chords A good foundation song, once you are comfortable with the chord changes you can play around with the strumming and singing. Theres a lot of room for personal interpretation.18. Island Style, by John Cruz (1996)3 chords C F G7 See more on YouTube: for chords One could argue that every ukulele player should give Hawaiian music a try. This would be a more modern choice than some, but its a great tune and not too difficult.19. Sweet Home Alabama, by Lynyrd Skynyrd (1974)3 chords D C G See more on YouTube: for chords D chords can be daunting to some beginners. Experiment with playing it with one, two, or three fingers.20. Ill Fly Away, by Albert E. Brumley (1929)3 chords G C D See more on YouTube: for chords Often played in gospel and bluegrass bands, this is a classic and beautiful choice for beginners whove gotten comfortable with G and are working on the D chord or vice versa.21. Love Me Do, written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney for The Beatles (1962)3 chords G C D See more on YouTube: for chords So many Beatles songs work beautifully on ukulele, and Love Me Do is especially well-suited to beginning players.22. Walk Like An Egyptian, written by Liam Sternberg and made famous by The Bangles (1986)3 chords A G D See more on YouTube: for chords This song has an unique and fun rhythm for chord changes. Watch out for those lyrics theyre a mouthful!23. Im Gonna Be (500 Miles), by Charlie Reid and Craig Reid as The Proclaimers (1988)3 chords D G A See more on YouTube: for chords This one is fun to play loud! Again, if youre finding it difficult to play and sing at the same time, practice those two elements separately until theyre smooth on their own before putting them together.24. Three Little Birds, by Bob Marley (1980)3 chords D G A See more on YouTube: for chords This reggae classic is great for beginners in several keys. The video gives you more options.4 Chord Ukulele Songs:25. The Promise, by Clive Farrington, Michael Floreale, and Andrew Mann of the band When in Rome (1987)4 chords C Am F G See more on YouTube: for chords If the 1980s are your era, you might recognize this hit. The chords are basic and theres a lot of repetition in the song.26. I Dont Know My Name, by Grace Vanderwaal (2017)4 chords C F Am G See more on YouTube: for chords Written by a young woman who rose to fame playing her ukulele and singing original songs on Americas Got Talent, this one may just inspire you (or your favorite pre-teen) to write something of your own! Great songs can be written with just a handful of beginner-accessible chords, as you might have noticed by now.27. Stand By Me, by Ben E. King, Jerry Leiber, and Mike Stoller (1961)4 chords C Am F G7 See more on YouTube: for chords A very popular choice for beginning ukulele players, the four chords in this song are some of the most commonly seen on this list.28. Hand in My Pocket, by Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard (1995)4 chords G F C D See more on YouTube: for chords Fun to sing (if youre into that) and not too hard to play, this nineties number sounds awesome on ukulele.29. Were Going to Be Friends, by Jack White of White Stripes (2001)4 chords G C D A See more on YouTube: for chords When youve moved past beginner, you may also want to play around with simple picking patterns, but it can certainly be strummed if thats more your comfort zone.30. A Million Dreams, written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul for The Greatest Showman (2018)4 chords G D Em B7 See more on YouTube: for chords A recent hit with children and grownups alike, this uses the same B7 shape as Istanbul (See #6).5 Chord Ukulele Songs:31. Im Yours, by Jason Mraz (2005)5 chords C G Am F D See more on YouTube: for chords Most of the song is just four chords, and the pattern repeats again and again.32. Ill Melt With You, by Robbie Grey, Gary McDowell, Richard Brown, Michael Conroy, and Stephen Walker (1982)5 chords C F Em G A See more on YouTube: for chords This song is mostly C and F chords. Dont get thrown off by the Em, which takes some practice. Its a chord youre going to want to have in your toolbox.33. Island in the Sun, by Rivers Cuomo of the band Weezer (2001)5 chords Em Am D G C See more on YouTube: for chords Bright and breezy, heres another song sounds sweet on ukulele. Keep practicing that Em!34. I Walk the Line, by Johnny Cash (1956)5 chords C G7 C7 F G See more on YouTube: for chords Like Hank Williams and The Beatles, Johnny Cash numbers sound great on uke. This one includes two versatile 7-chords. The video shows an even easier version.35. Roar, by Katy Perry, Lukasz Gottwald, Max Martin, Bonnie McKee, and Henry Walter (2013)5 chords G D Em C Am See more on YouTube: for chords It takes just five chords to get your Roar on! Happy Strumming!36. Crocodile Rock by Elton John (1973)Chords: A7, Bm, C, D, D7, E, Em, GSee more on YouTube: of Release: 1973Artist: Elton JohnAlbum: Dont Shoot Me Im Only the Piano Player37. Hey Good Lookin by Hank Williams (1953)Chords: C, D, F, GSee more on YouTube: of Release: 1953Artist: Hank WilliamsAlbum: Memorial Album38. Sweet Home Alabama, by Lynyrd Skynyrd (1974)3 chords D C G See more on YouTube: for chords D chords can be daunting to some beginners. Experiment with playing it with one, two, or three fingers.39. Ill Fly Away, by Albert E. Brumley (1929)3 chords G C D See more on YouTube: for chords Often played in gospel and bluegrass bands, this is a classic and beautiful choice for beginners whove gotten comfortable with G and are working on the D chord or vice versa.40. Love Me Do, written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney for The Beatles (1962)3 chords G C D See more on YouTube: for chords So many Beatles songs work beautifully on ukulele, and Love Me Do is especially well-suited to beginning players.41. Feliz Navidad by Jose Feliciano3 chords G, A7, DSee more on YouTube: for chords There are quite a few versions of this Christmas ukulele song, and the easiest has only three chords. Youve probably heard this one before, and you might already have the words memorized. No worries if its new to you: Even though some of the lyrics are in Spanish, there are only a few phrases to remember and the pronunciation is simple. Have fun this one is a favorite for holiday singalongs!42. Let it Be by The Beatles4 chords C, G, Am, FSee more on YouTube: for chordsHeres an easy ukulele song that just about everyone knows and in case they dont the lyrics are easy to learn and remember. Let it Be is a classic song that was released way back in 1970, but dont let that stop you from learning it: The tune is pleasant and catchy, and the meaning can be interpreted any way you like!43. Just the Way You Are by Bruno Mars3 chords Bb, Dm, FSee more on YouTube: for chordsAn easy, repetitive pattern makes this song so simple to play! Best of all, its a popular one that lots of people know, so singing along is easy if thats something youd like to do. Learn this song and itll be a favorite!44. Youre Beautiful by James Blunt4 chords C, G, Am, FSee more on YouTube: for chordsJames Blunt, Amanda Ghost, and Sacha Skabek pooled their creative talent, writing Youre Beautiful for Blunts first album, Back to Bedlam. If you like this easy ukulele song and youre curious about its backstory, heres what happened, in the words of James Blunt himself. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey, he said: Its about seeing my ex-girlfriend on the subway in London with her new man, who I didnt know existed. She and I caught eyes and lived a lifetime in that moment, but didnt do anything about it.45. One Love by Bob Marley5 chords Bb, F, Eb, F7, GmSee more on YouTube: for chordsLove reggae? Believe it or not, there are a few easy reggae songs for the ukulele, and Bob Marleys classic hit One Love tops the list! Give this song a try and within a few practice sessions, youll be on your way to playing it for friends. Dont be surprised if everyone joins in even though this is a simple song, its extremely popular.46. Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen5 chords C, Am, F, G, EmSee more on YouTube: for chordsEven though Leonard Cohens Hallelujah was originally released in 1984, the song didnt gain much popularity until it was featured in Shrek. These days, its even more popular and the odds are good that youre familiar with the tune and some of the lyrics!Also Read:Whenever I find a classic song like Down On The Corner with easy ukulele chords I get really excited. Its even better when the original recording uses those same easy chords! This Credence Clearwater Revival hit from the 60s only contains C, F, and G7. So its a perfect beginner song if youre just starting to strum the ukulele. Heres what the ukulele chords look like:C majorF majorG7You can use a strumming pattern something like this, but remember to keep your hand moving the WHOLE time (hand pattern shown with down and up arrows):V^V^V^V^V^V^V^V^D D DU U UD Join my newsletter for updates & tips Expect one or two emails a month, on average. I wont sell or spam your email. Youve got your first ukulele! Now what? Whether youre taking lessons or teaching yourself how to play the ukulele, easy songs can speed your progress and make learning a whole lot more fun.Sure chords are essential so much so that weve got a complete chord chart for you to use as you learn.But playing chords and simple kids songs like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star can get pretty boring. This collection of 50 easy ukulele songs for beginners does include a few old standards, but youll find lots of popular songs here as well.Limited Time Offer: 20% OffHave fun with these easy songs! Break them down by learning the chords first, then working on your strumming pattern. Once you can play, add in your vocals if you want to, working in small sections and just letting the songs progress until they feel natural to you. Starting with familiar songs can speed the process, and so can watching videos that feature the songs being played on the ukulele. Keep on practicing! Soon enough youll be taking your playing to the next level.1. Achy Breaky Heart" alt=""/>Performer: Billy Ray CyrusAlbum: Some Gave AllYear of Release: 1992No list would be complete without at least one country classic! This song is a lot of fun to play, but it has just two chords.Chords Used: A, EAchy Break Heart Lyrics and ChordsAchy Break Heart Sheet Music for Ukulele" alt=""/> Read: Ukulele Buddy Online Lessons Unbiased Review 2. All of the Stars" alt=""/>Performer: Ed SheeranAlbum: The Fault in Our StarsYear of Release: 2014All of the Stars is an easy song to play, and a heartbreakingly beautiful one to sing. We love Ed Sheerans original version, which was recorded for the soundtrack of the film The Fault in Our Stars, and there are plenty of fantastic covers to give you some inspiration for styling the song your own way. Be sure to check out Jackie Evanchos version: Its beautiful!Chords Used: F, C, Am, GAll of the Stars Lyrics and Chords 3. Amazing Grace" alt=""/>Performer: Chris TomlinAlbum: See the MorningYear of Release: 2006Yes, you can play Gospel songs on the ukulele! Amazing Grace is a great one to start with if youre into Gospel, then you probably know all the words. This song was published in 1779 and has been reworked countless times since then.Chords Used: C, F, G7, AmAmazing Grace Lyrics and Chords 4. Banana Boat Song" alt=""/>Performer: Harry BelafonteAlbum: CalypsoYear of Release: 1957Day-O (The Banana Boat Song) is based on a traditional Jamaican work song. Harry Belafonte made it famous, and it has been covered by many different folk singers over the years. The song is a lot of fun to play and sing and because it uses just two lyrics and a simple strumming pattern, its one of the easiest ukulele songs there is.Chords Used: C, G 5. Blowin In the Wind" alt=""/>Performer: Bob DylanAlbum: The Freewheelin Bob DylanYear of Release: 1963A classic folk song from the 1960s, Blowin in the Wind has wonderfully poetic lyrics that might take a little time to learn. But once you do, youll find yourself singing and playing a song thats as nice to listen to as it is to perform.Chords Used: G, C, DBlowin In the Wind Lyrics and Chords 6. Bonfire Heart" alt=""/>Performer: James BluntAlbum: Moon LandingYear of Release: 2013When James Blunt released Bonfire Heart, he said it was about love, life, fear, and hope. Despite topping charts worldwide, this beautiful song is easy to play once youve got the chords down. Itll take more practice than some other tunes weve covered here but the results are worth the effort! When youre ready, add in some fingerpicking and percussive taps.Chords Used: Am, C, Em, F, GBonfire Heart Lyrics and Chords 7. Breakfast at Tiffanys" alt=""/>Performer: Deep Blue SomethingAlbum: 11th SongYear of Release: 1994The lyrics to Breakfast at Tiffanys were inspired by the film Roman Holiday, and its a must for any Audrey Hepburn fan! Whether you remember the film or not, youll enjoy playing this catchy tune; the repetitive melody makes it easy to learn.Chords Used: D, G, ABreakfast at Tiffanys Lyrics and Chords 8. Brown Eyed Girl" alt=""/>Performer: Van MorrisonAlbum: Brown Eyed GirlYear of Release: 1967Yes, you can play classic rock on the ukulele and some of the songs are easy enough for new players to cover with little bit of practice! Brown Eyed Girl calls for just five chords, and you can expect your friends to sing along to the refrain once youve perfected your own version.Chords Used: G, C, D, D7, EmBrown Eyed Girl Lyrics and Chords 9. Budapest" alt=""/>Performer: George EzraAlbum: Did You Hear the Rain?Year of Release: 2013When talking with The Daily Telegraph about his hit song Budapest, George Ezra said that the song used the first three chords he ever learned, and that it was intentionally simple. If youre looking for an easy love song to play on the ukulele, be sure to give this one try!Chords Used: C, F, A#Budapest Lyrics and Chords 10. Clementine (Oh My Darling, Clementine)" alt=""/>Performer: Bing CrosbyAlbum: Twilight on the TrailYear of Release: 1941With just three chords and a simple rhythm, the old classic Clementine is among the easiest ukulele songs on our list. This traditional American folk ballad is believed to be the work of Percy Montrose, and it dates back to about 1884. Nobody really knows who recorded it first, but Bing Crosby is credited with taking it to the Billboard charts.Chords Used: G, D7, CClementine Lyrics and ChordsVideo: x 11. Counting Stars" alt=""/>Performer: OneRepublicAlbum: NativeYear of Release: 2013With an easy rhythm and just a few chords, Counting Stars makes a fun addition to your ukulele play list.Chords Used: Am, C, G, FCounting Stars Lyrics and Chords 12. Fireflies" alt=""/>Performer: Owl CityAlbum: Ocean EyesYear of Release: 2009While Owl Citys Fireflies has five chords, F, C, and G carry you through most of the song, with Em and Am putting in quick appearances along the way. Its a touch more challenging than some of the songs on this list, but still very easy to play!Chords Used: G, C, F, Em, AmFireflies Lyrics and Chords 13. Happy" alt=""/>Performer: Pharrell WilliamsAlbum: GirlYear of Release: 2013Fun and upbeat, Happy can be a pretty easy song to play on the ukulele. There are more complicated arrangements available too, so you can make the song more exciting once youve gotten the basics down.Chords Used: E7, C, Bm7Happy Lyrics and Chords 14. Happy Birthday" alt=""/>Performer: Patty Hill and Mildred J. HillAlbum: N/AYear of Release: 1893Now you can accompany this favorite with your ukulele! Happy Birthday is easy to play, and itll make you the life of the party. We found a great ukulele cover with some fun add-ins toward the end.Chords Used: C, F, G7Happy Birthday Lyrics and Chords 15. Heartache" alt=""/>Performer: One GrooveAlbum: Make Your MoveYear of Release: 2005Ready to play some Hawaiian reggae? Heartache is easy thanks to a repeating chord pattern! Once youve got the basics down and feel ready to take the song to the next level, consider learning how to fingerpick the intro lead.Chords Used: C, F, GHeartache Lyrics and Chords 16. Hey Soul Sister" alt=""/>Performer: TrainAlbum: Save Me, San FranciscoYear of Release: 2009The original ukulele chord structure for Hey Soul Sister is a little more complicated than this easy version, but youll get a similar feel and have fun playing a very popular song that lots of people know!Chords Used: A, B, Dbm, EHey Soul Sister Lyrics and Chords 17. Ho Hey" alt=""/>Performer: The LumineersAlbum: The LumineersYear of Release: 2012Believe it or not, the Lumineers created Ho Hey as a kiss-off to indifferent concert goers who failed to participate in the fun. Today, its one of their most popular songs.Chords Used: Am, C, F, GHo Hey Lyrics and Chords 18. I Still Havent Found What Im Looking For" alt=""/>Performer: U2Album: The Joshua TreeYear of Release: 1987Easily one of U2s greatest masterpieces! I Still Havent Found What Im Looking For has been ranked as one of Rolling Stones 500 Greatest Songs of All Time, yet its easy enough to play on our ukulele. Perfect for when youre feeling soulful!Chords Used: C, F, GI Still Havent Found What Im Looking For Lyrics and Chords 19. Im Yours" alt=""/>Performer: Jason MrazAlbum: We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things.Year of Release: 2007If you like to sing, youll love playing this easy ukulele version of Im Yours! Dont be surprised if it ends up to be one of your favorites.Chords Used: C, G, Am, F, D7Im Yours Lyrics and Chords 20. I Make My Own Sunshine" alt=""/>Performer: Alyssa BonaguraAlbum: I Make My Own Sunshine (Single)Year of Release: 2012Looking for a happy ukulele song thats not too hard? This one might be just right!Chords Used: G, D, Em CI Make My Own Sunshine Lyrics and Chords 21. I Wont Back Down" alt=""/>Performer: Tom Petty and The HeartbreakersAlbum: xYear of Release: xDescription goes hereChords Used: Em, D, G, CI Wont Back Down Lyrics and Chords 22. Island in the Sun" alt=""/>Performer: WeezerAlbum: Weezer (The Green Album)Year of Release: 2001Island in the Sun uses just 5 chords, but its incredibly catchy. Once youve got the chords figured out, work on imitating Weezers strum pattern, and then add in your vocals. Soon enough, youll be playin and havin fun!Chords Used: Am, C, D, Em, GIsland in the Sun Lyrics and Chords 23. Island Style" alt=""/>Performer: John CruzAlbum: Acoustic SoulYear of Release: 2003Island Style is a great tune to play and sing and its also one of the easiest ukulele songs for beginners!Chords Used: C, C7, F, G7Island Style Lyrics and Chords 24. Just the Way You Are" alt=""/>Performer: Bruno MarsAlbum: Doo-Wops & HooligansYear of Release: 2010Just the Way You Are was written in celebration of a womans beauty. This romantic song is a great one to play for someone special!Chords Used: A#, Dm, FJust the Way You Are Lyrics and Chords 25. Kuu Home O Kahalau" alt=""/>Performer: OlomanaAlbum: Like a Seabird in the WindYear of Release: 1976Play this song and youll feel like youre on a beach in Oahu. Its a classic Hawaiian standard, with easy chords and words that might be a little bit hard to pronounce at first. Have fun!Chords Used: C, F, G7Kuu Home O Kahalu Lyrics and Chords 26. Leaving on a Jet Plane" alt=""/>Performer: Peter, Paul & MaryAlbum: Album 1700Year of Release: 1969Written by John Denver in 1966, Leaving on a Jet Plane has a cool, easygoing vibe. With just three chords and simple, memorable lyrics, this classic folk song is a fun but easy addition to your ukulele play list!Chords Used: G, C, DLeaving on a Jet Plane Lyrics and Chords 27. Let it Be" alt=""/>Performer: The BeatlesAlbum: Let it BeYear of Release: 1970Let it Be was released after the Beatles broke up in 1970; nevertheless, it was a top hit. The song is sweet, lyrical, and easy to play.Chords Used: C, Am, F GLet it Be Lyrics and Chords 28. Love Yourself" alt=""/>Performer: Justin BieberAlbum: PurposeYear of Release: 2015Love Yourself is a Justin Bieber favorite, but did you know that Ed Sheeran took part in the writing process? This song is fun and catchy, so be sure to give it a try!Chords Used: C, G, Am, Dm, FLove Yourself Lyrics and Chords 29. LullabyPerformer: Front Porch StepAlbum: AwareYear of Release: 2013As the name of the song suggests, Lullaby is simple and sweet! Just four chords and a few easy-to-remember lyrics make it a favorite.Chords Used: Am, C, F, GLullaby Lyrics and Chords" alt=""/> 30. Margaritaville" alt=""/>Performer: Jimmy BuffetAlbum: Changes in Latitudes, Changes in AttitudesYear of Release: 1977Believe it or not, Margaritaville has been popular for more than 40 years! This easygoing summertime hit is fun to play, with just four chords and plenty of sing-along potential.Chords Used: A, D, D7, GMargaritaville Lyrics and Chords 31. Mele Kalikimaka (Hawaiian Christmas Song)" alt=""/>Performer: Bing Crosby and The Andrews SistersAlbum: Merry ChristmasYear of Release: 1950Mele Kalikimaka is Hawaiis way to say Merry Christmas! This isnt the easiest ukulele song on our list but its not at all difficult to play, even though there are five chords. Dont be surprised if everyone starts to sing along!Chords Used: G, D7, E, C, A7Mele Kalikimaka Lyrics and Chords 32. No Tears Left to Cry" alt=""/>Performer: Ariana GrandeAlbum: SweetenerYear of Release: 2018Ariana Grandes No Tears Left to Cry is a heartfelt tribute to the victims and survivors of the Manchester Arena Bombing. Give it a try and as Ariana mentioned in an interview, Dance and live ya best life!Chords Used: C, G, F, AmNo Tears Left to Cry Lyrics and Chords33. One Love" alt=""/>Performer: Bob MarleyAlbum: ExodusYear of Release: 1977Believe it or not, Bob Marleys One Love uses easy chords, and is a lot of fun to play. This is a great song to try if youre interested in working on your timing and getting well-acquainted with the classic sound of reggae.Chords Used: C, F, G, AmOne Love Lyrics and Chords 34. Over the Rainbow" alt=""/>Performer: Israel KamakawiwooleAlbum: Ka Anoi / Facing FutureYear of Release: 1990One of the sweetest renditions of Somewhere Over the Rainbow and What a Wonderful World, this is a beautiful tribute to ukulele great Israel Kamakawiwoole. Practice makes perfect! Listen to Israels version as you work on your own stylings, and youll soon be ready to show off for friends.Chords Used: C, Em, F, G, AmOver the Rainbow Lyrics and Chords 35. Perfect" alt=""/>Performer: One DirectionAlbum: Made in the A.M.Year of Release: 2015While Perfect is a top hit, its also one of the easiest ukulele songs to play. With just three chords, its a song you can use to impress others once youve got the lyrics down.Chords Used: Bm, D, GPerfect Lyrics and Chords 36.Riptide" alt=""/>Performer: Vance JoyAlbum: God Loves You When Youre Dancing / Dream Your Life AwayYear of Release: 2013One of the most popular ukulele songs ever written, Riptide also happens to be fairly easy to play. Itll take more practice and memorization than some of the other songs on this list, so be patient with yourself!Chords Used: Am, C, G, FRiptide Lyrics and Chords 37. Rude" alt=""/>Performer: Magic!Album: Dont Kill the MagicYear of Release: 2013If you want to learn how to play reggae on the ukulele, then Rude is a good song to start out with. Once you have the chords down, practice the strum pattern. After a while, youll be ready to add the lyrics!Chords Used: F, G, C, AmRude Lyrics and Chords 38. Saturday Sun" alt=""/>Performer: Vance JoyAlbum: Nation of TwoYear of Release: 2018Sweet lyrics and simple chords make Vance Joys Saturday Sun a great ukulele song for beginners. With just a little effort, youll put it all together.Chords Used: Am, C, D, Em, GSaturday Sun Lyrics and Chords 39. Save Tonight" alt=""/>Performer: Eagle Eye CherryAlbum: Desireless3Year of Release: 1997Save Tonight is a romantic song with just four chords and an easygoing strum. It moves at a slower pace than some other tunes, and you can play at a relaxed pace until youre ready to pick up the tempo. Have fun with this one!Chords Used: Am, C, F, GSave Tonight Lyrics and Chords 40. Shine On" alt=""/>Performer: John CruzAlbum: Acoustic SoulYear of Release: 1996With just two chords, Shine On is one of the easiest ukulele songs youll ever play. Its beautiful, too particularly if you can find a friend to sing harmony.Chords Used: C, G7Shine On Lyrics and Chords 41. Someone Like You" alt=""/>Performer: AdeleAlbum: 21Year of Release: 2011If youre in the mood for a sad breakup song, try playing Someone Like You on your ukulele. Just five chords and a slow tempo add up to a song thats easy to learn and play.Chords Used: G, D, Em, C, AmSomeone Like You Lyrics and Chords 42. Something Just Like This" alt=""/>Performer: The Chainsmokers & ColdplayAlbum: Memories Do Not OpenYear of Release: 2017One of the most popular songs of 2017 and pretty easy to learn, with just three chords. Something Just Like This makes you realize that you really dont need superhuman gifts to play the ukulele!Chords Used: C, D, EmSomething Just Like This Lyrics and Chords 43. Stand By Me" alt=""/>Performer: Ben E. KingAlbum: Dont Play that Song!Year of Release: 1961Simple, repetitive chord patterns and a slow, easygoing tempo make this classic easy to learn. The vocals are beautiful, but not at all difficult to add.Chords Used: C, Am, F, G7Stand By Me Lyrics and Chords 44. Stay with Me" alt=""/>Performer: Sam SmithAlbum: In the Lonely HourYear of Release: 2014While Stay with Me is Sam Smiths most popular song to date, its an easy one to play on your ukulele. The gospel-inspired tempoChords Used: Am, F, C, GStay with Me Lyrics and Chords 45. Sweater Weather" alt=""/>Performer: The NeighbourhoodAlbum: I Love YouYear of Release: 2012Ready for a change of scene and a fun song to play? Sweater Weather might be just the thing. This one requires some practice! Be sure to listen to the strum and percussion so you can get the tempo right.Chords Used: F, Dm, Am, C, GmSweater Weather Lyrics and Chords 46. Sweet Home Alabama" alt=""/>Performer: Lynyrd SkynyrdAlbum: Second HelpingYear of Release: 1974Since its release in 1974, Sweet Home Alabama has been covered countless times. Once you learn the main riff, youll find that the rest of the song comes together pretty quickly.Chords Used: D, C, GSweet Home Alabama Lyrics and Chords 47. Thinking Out Loud" alt=""/>Performer: Ed SheeranAlbum: XYear of Release: 2014Despite its sweet, romantic sound, Ed Sheerans Thinking Out Loud is a simple song to play. The slow tempo and easy chords make it perfect for newer players who want to build confidence while playing a popular song!Chords Used: C, Am, F, G, DmThinking Out Loud Lyrics and Chords 48. You Are My Sunshine" alt=""/>Performer: Pine Ridge BoysAlbum: Bluebird: You Are My SunshineYear of Release: 1939One of the easiest ukulele songs ever! You are My Sunshine isnt just a tune for beginnersits been covered by famous performers including Johnny Cash! Add your own vocal stylings once youve got the chords figured out, and you may just have a hit on your hands. Yodeling is optional.Chords Used: C, C7, F, GYou Are My Sunshine Lyrics and Chords 49. Youre Beautiful" alt=""/>Performer: James BluntAlbum: Back to BedlamYear of Release: 2004Youre Beautiful is James Blunts most popular US single, despite its easy tempo and simple chords. Practice the vocals carefully and youll have a hit on your hands.Chords Used: C, G, Am, FYoure Beautiful Lyrics and Chords 50. 22 by Taylor Swift" alt=""/>Performer: Taylor SwiftAlbum: RedYear of Release: 2013Taylor Swifts 22 celebrates the wonders being a 22-year-old with your whole life ahead of you. Whatever your age, be sure to give this song a try! Once you get the lyrics and chords down, work on adding percussive taps.Chords Used: G, D, Dsus4, C22 Lyrics and Chords Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Class of musical instruments with vibrating stringsThis article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources:"String instrument"news newspapers books scholar JSTOR (January 2013) (Learn how and when to remove this message)Various string instrumentsPart of a series onMusical instrumentsWoodwindsBagpipesBassoonContrabassoonCor anglaisClarinetFluteOboePiccoloSaxophoneBrass instrumentsBaritone hornCornetEuphoniumFlugelhornFrench hornMellophoneTenor hornTromboneTrumpetTubaString instrumentsBowedCelloDouble bassHuqinHurdy-gurdyViolaViolinPluckedBanjoGuitarBass guitarGuzhengKotoLyreMandolinHarpShamisenSitarTamburaUkuleleZitherPercussionBass drumBellCarillonCelestaCymbalsGlockenspielGongHandbellLithophoneMarimbaMridangamSnare drumSteelpanTimpaniTriangleTubaphoneTubular bellsVibraphoneXylophoneKeyboardsClavichordElectronic keyboardHarmoniumHarpsichordOrganPianoSpinetVirginalsvteIn musical instrument classification, string instruments, or chordophones, are musical instruments that produce sound from vibrating strings when a performer strums, plucks, strikes or sounds the strings in varying manners.Musicians play some string instruments, like guitars, by plucking the strings with their fingers or a plectrum (pick), and others by hitting the strings with a light wooden hammer or by rubbing the strings with a bow, like violins. In some keyboard instruments, such as the harpsichord, the musician presses a key that plucks the string. Other musical instruments generate sound by striking the string.With bowed instruments, the player pulls a rosined horsehair bow across the strings, causing them to vibrate. With a hurdy-gurdy, the musician cranks a wheel whose rosined edge touches the strings. Bowed instruments include the string section instruments of the orchestra in Western classical music (violin, viola, cello and double bass) and a number of other instruments (e.g., viols and gambas used in early music from the Baroque music era and fiddles used in many types of folk music). All of the bowed string instruments can also be plucked with the fingers, a technique called "pizzicato". A wide variety of techniques are used to sound notes on the electric guitar, including plucking with the fingernails or a plectrum, strumming and even "tapping" on the fingerboard and using feedback from a loud, distorted guitar amplifier to produce a sustained sound.Some string instruments are mainly plucked, such as the harp and the electric bass. Other examples include the sitar, rebab, banjo, mandolin, ukulele, and bouzouki.In the HornbostelSachs scheme of musical instrument classification, used in organology, string instruments are called chordophones. According to Sachs,[1]Chordophones are instruments with strings. The strings may be struck with sticks, plucked with the bare fingers or a plectrum, bowed or (in the Aeolian harp, for instance) sounded by wind. The confusing plenitude of stringed instruments can be reduced to four fundamental type: zithers, lutes, lyres, and harps.In most string instruments, the vibrations are transmitted to the body of the instrument, which often incorporates some sort of hollow or enclosed area. The body of the instrument also vibrates, along with the air inside it. The vibration of the body of the instrument and the enclosed hollow or chamber make the vibration of the string more audible to the performer and audience. The body of most string instruments is hollow, in order to have better sound projection. Some, howeversuch as electric guitar and other instruments that rely on electronic amplificationmay have a solid wood body.In musicology, string instruments are known as chordophones. It is one of the five main divisions of instruments in the HornbostelSachs scheme of musical instrument classification.HornbostelSachs divides chordophones into two main groups: instruments without a resonator as an integral part of the instrument (which have the classification number 31, also known as 'simple'); and instruments with such a resonator (which have the classification number 32, also known as 'composite'). Most western instruments fall into the second group, but the piano and harpsichord fall into the first. Hornbostel and Sachs's criterion for determining which sub-group an instrument falls into is that if the resonator can be removed without destroying the instrument, then it is classified as 31. The idea that the piano's casing, which acts as a resonator, could be removed without destroying the instrument, may seem odd, but if the action and strings of the piano were taken out of its box, it could still be played. This is not true of the violin, because the string passes over a bridge located on the resonator box, so removing the resonator would mean the strings had no tension.Curt Sachs also broke chordophones into four basic subcategories, "zithers, lutes, lyres and harps."[2]Zithers include stick zithers such as the musical bow, tube zithers with a tube as the resonator such as the valiha, raft zithers in which tube zithers are tied into a single "raft", board zithers including clavichord and piano and dulcimer, and long zithers (described as combination of half-tube and board zithers) including Se and Guzheng families.Lutes are stringed musical instruments that include a body and "a neck which serves both as a handle and as a means of stretching the strings beyond the body."[3] The lute family includes not only short-necked plucked lutes such as the lute, oud, pipa, guitar, citole, gittern, mandore, rubab, and gambus and long-necked plucked lutes such as the tanbura, swarabat, balama, bouzouki, veena, theorbo, archlute, pandura, sitar, setar, but also bowed instruments such as the Yayl tambur, rebab, erhu, and entire family of viols and violins.[3]The lyre has two arms, which have a "yoke" or crossbar connecting them, and strings between the crossbar and the soundboard.[2] Sachs divided this into the box lyre such as the Greek kithara and the bowl lyre which used a bowl on its side with skin soundboard.[2]The harp which has strings vertical to the soundboard.[2]Bow Harp or Harp Lute, West AfricaMusical bows have survived in some parts of Africa.Dating to around c.13,000 BC, a cave painting in the Trois Frres cave in France depicts what some believe is a musical bow, a hunting bow used as a single-stringed musical instrument.[4][5] From the musical bow, families of stringed instruments developed; since each string played a single note, adding strings added new notes, creating bow harps, harps and lyres.[6] In turn, this led to being able to play dyads and chords. Another innovation occurred when the bow harp was straightened out and a bridge used to lift the strings off the stick-neck, creating the lute.[7]This picture of musical bow to harp bow is theory and has been contested. In 1965 Franz Jahnel wrote his criticism stating that the early ancestors of

per unit length produces the lower pitch.The length of the string from nut to bridge on bowed or plucked instruments ultimately determines the distance between different notes on the instrument. For example, a double bass with its low range needs a scale length of around 42 inches (110cm), whilst a violin scale is only about 13 inches (33cm). On the shorter scale of the violin, the left hand may easily reach a range of slightly more than two octaves without shifting position, while on the bass' longer scale, a single octave or a ninth is reachable in lower positions.The strings of a pianoIn bowed instruments, the bow is normally placed perpendicularly to the string, at a point halfway between the end of the fingerboard and the bridge. However, different bow placements can be selected to change timbre. Application of the bow close to the bridge (known as sul ponticello) produces an intense, sometimes harsh sound, which acoustically emphasizes the upper harmonics. Bowing above the fingerboard (sul tasto) produces a purer tone with less overtone strength, emphasizing the fundamental, also known as flautando, since it sounds less reedy and more flute-like.Bowed instruments pose a challenge to instrument builders, as compared with instruments that are only plucked (e.g., guitar), because on bowed instruments, the musician must be able to play one string at a time if they wish. As such, a bowed instrument must have a curved bridge that makes the "outer" strings lower in height than the "inner" strings. With such a curved bridge, the player can select one string at a time to play. On guitars and lutes, the bridge can be flat, because the strings are played by plucking them with the fingers, fingernails or a pick; by moving the fingers or pick to different positions, the player can play different strings. On bowed instruments, the need to play strings individually with the bow also limits the number of strings to about six or seven; with more strings, it would be impossible to select individual strings to bow. (Bowed strings can also play two bowed notes on two different strings at the same time, a technique called a double stop.) Indeed, on the orchestral string section instruments, four strings are the norm, with the exception of five strings used on some double basses. In contrast, with stringed keyboard instruments, 88 courses are used on a piano, and even though these strings are arranged on a flat bridge, the mechanism can play any of the notes individually.Similar timbral distinctions are also possible with plucked string instruments by selecting an appropriate plucking point, although the difference is perhaps more subtle.In keyboard instruments, the contact point along the string (whether this be hammer, tangent, or plectrum) is a choice made by the instrument designer. Builders use a combination of experience and acoustic theory to establish the right set of contact points.In harpsichords, often there are two sets of strings of equal length. These "choirs" usually differ in their plucking points. One choir has a "normal" plucking point, producing a canonical harpsichord sound; the other has a plucking point close to the bridge, producing a reedier "nasal" sound rich in upper harmonics.Arab string musical instrument on display at the Debbane Palace museum, LebanonA single string at a certain tension and length only produces one note. To produce multiple notes, string instruments use one of two methods. One is to add enough strings to cover the required range of different notes (e.g., as with the piano, which has sets of 88 strings to enable the performer to play 88 different notes). The other is to provide a way to stop the strings along their length to shorten the part that vibrates, which is the method used in guitar and violin family instruments to produce different notes from the same string. The piano and harp represent the first method, where each note on the instrument has its own string or course of multiple strings tuned to the same note. (Many notes on a piano are strung with a "choir" of three strings tuned alike, to increase the volume.) A guitar represents the second methodthe player's fingers push the string against the fingerboard so that the string is pressed firmly against a metal fret. Pressing the string against a fret while plucking or strumming it shortens the vibrating part and thus produces a different note.Some zithers combine stoppable (melody) strings with a greater number of "open" harmony or chord strings. On instruments with stoppable strings, such as the violin or guitar, the player can shorten the vibrating length of the string, using their fingers directly (or more rarely through some mechanical device, as in the nyckelharpa and the hurdy-gurdy). Such instruments usually have a fingerboard attached to the neck of the instrument, that provides a hard flat surface the player can stop the strings against. On some string instruments, the fingerboard has frets, raised ridges perpendicular to the strings, that stop the string at precise intervals, in which case the fingerboard is also called a fretboard.Moving frets during performance is usually impractical. The bridges of a koto, on the other hand, may be moved by the player occasionally in the course of a single piece of music. Many modern Western harps include levers, either directly moved by fingers (on Celtic harps) or controlled by foot pedals (on orchestral harps), to raise the pitch of individual strings by a fixed amount. The Middle Eastern zither, the qanun, is equipped with small levers called mandal that let each course of multiple strings be incrementally retuned "on the fly" while the instrument is being played. These levers raise or lower the pitch of the string course by a microtone, less than a half step.Main article: Sympathetic stringSome instruments are employed with sympathetic stringswhich are additional strings not meant to be plucked. These strings resonate with the played notes, creating additional tones. Sympathetic strings vibrate naturally when various intervals, such as the unisons or the octaves of the notes of the sympathetic strings are plucked, bowed or struck. This system is used on the sarangi, the grand piano, the hardanger fiddle and the rubab.See also: Musical acousticsThe Moroccan loutar uses a soundboard made of goatskin.A vibrating string strung on a very thick log, as a hypothetical example, would make only a very quiet sound, so string instruments are usually constructed in such a way that the vibrating string is coupled to a hollow resonating chamber, a soundboard, or both. On the violin, for example, the four strings pass over a thin wooden bridge resting on a hollow box (the body of the violin). The normal force applied to the body from the strings is supported in part by a small cylinder of wood called the soundpost. The violin body also has two "f-holes" carved on the top. The strings' vibrations are distributed via the bridge and soundpost to all surfaces of the instrument, and are thus made louder by matching of the acoustic impedance. The correct technical explanation is that they allow a better match to the acoustic impedance of the air.[citation needed]It is sometimes said that the sounding board or soundbox "amplifies" the sound of the strings. In reality, no power amplification occurs, because all of the energy to produce sound comes from the vibrating string. The mechanism is that the sounding board of the instrument provides a larger surface area to create sound waves than that of the string and therefore acts as a matching element between the acoustic impedance of the string and that of the surrounding air. A larger vibrating surface can sometimes produce better matching; especially at lower frequencies.All lute-type instruments traditionally have a bridge, which holds the string at the proper action height from the fret/finger board at one end of the strings. On acoustic instruments, the bridge performs an equally important function of transmitting string energy into the "sound box" of the instrument, thereby increasing the sound volume. The specific design, and materials used in the construction of the bridge of an instrument, have a dramatic impact upon both the sound and responsiveness of the instrument.Achieving a tonal characteristic that is effective and pleasing to the player's and listener's ear is something of an art and craft, as well as a science, and the makers of string instruments often seek very high quality woods to this end, particularly spruce (chosen for its lightness, strength and flexibility) and maple (a very hard wood). Spruce is used for the sounding boards of instruments from the violin to the piano. Instruments such as the banjo use a drum, covered in natural or synthetic skin, as their soundboard.Acoustic instruments can also be made of artificial materials, such as carbon fiber and fiberglass (particularly the larger, lower-pitched instruments, such as cellos and basses).In the early 20th century, the Stroh violin used a diaphragm-type resonator and a metal horn to project the string sound, much like early mechanical gramophones. Its use declined beginning about 1920, as electronic amplification through power amplifiers and loudspeakers was developed and came into use. String instrument players can electronically amplify their instruments by connecting them to a PA system or a guitar amplifier.Most string instruments can be fitted with piezoelectric[24] or magnetic pickups to convert the string's vibrations into an electrical signal that is amplified and then converted back into sound by loudspeakers. Some players attach a pickup to their traditional string instrument to "electrify" it. Another option is to use a solid-bodied instrument, which reduces unwanted feedback howls or squeals.Amplified string instruments can be much louder than their acoustic counterparts, so musicians can play them in relatively loud rock, blues, and jazz ensembles. Amplified instruments can also have their amplified tone modified by using electronic effects such as distortion, reverb, or wah-wah.Bass-register string instruments such as the double bass and the electric bass are amplified with bass instrument amplifiers that are designed to reproduce low-frequency sounds. To modify the tone of amplified bass instruments, a range of electronic bass effects are available, such as distortion and chorus.The string instruments usually used in the orchestra,[25] and often called the "symphonic strings" or string section are:[26]Violins (divided into two sectionsfirst violins and second violins; these sections play exactly the same instruments; the difference is that the first violins play higher-register lines and the second violins play lower-register parts, accompaniment parts or counter-melodies)ViolasCellosDouble bassesWhen orchestral instrumentation specifies "strings", it often means this combination of string parts. Orchestral works rarely omit any of these string parts, but often include additional string instruments, especially the concert harp and piano. In the Baroque orchestra from the 1600s1750 (or with modern groups playing early music) harpsichord is almost always used to play the basso continuo part (the written-out bass line and improvised chords), and often a theorbo or lute or a pipe organ. In some classical music, such as the string quartet, the double bass is not typically used; the cello plays the bass role in this literature.Wikimedia Commons has media related to String instruments."Essay on the fingering of the violoncello and on the conduct of the bow"List of string instrumentsLuthier (maker of stringed instruments)Musical acousticsRavanahathaString instrument extended techniqueString instrument repertoireString orchestraStringed instrument tunings^ Sachs 1940, p.463.^ a b c d Sachs, Curt (1940). The History of Musical Instruments. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. pp.463467. ISBN9780393020687. {{cite book}}: ISBN / Date incompatibility (help)^ a b Sachs 1940, p.464^ Campen, Ank van. "The music-bow from prehistory till today". HarpHistory.info. Archived from the original on April 2, 2015. Retrieved March 26, 2015. A cave-painting in the "Trois Frres" cave in France dating from about 15,000 years ago. The magician-hunter plays the musical bow.^ "Trois Freres Cave". Archived from the original on March 18, 2015. Retrieved March 27, 2015.^ Dumbrill 2005, pp.179, 231, 235236, 308310.^ Dumbrill 2005, pp.308310.^ a b Jahnel, Franz (1965). Manual of Guitar Technology: The History and Technology of Plucked String Instruments. Fachbuchreihe "Das Musikinstrument", vol. 37. p.15. ISBN0-933224-99-0. There have been some uncertain presumptions concerning the "invention" of the bowed harp...The "musical bow" conjectured by many music scholars is not definitely recognizable in any cave paintings. The fact that some African negroes held the end of their bow-shaped harp in their mouths in order to improve the tone...should not be taken as proof that the first European bowmen were also conversant with the musical bow.^ Campos, Fredeliza Z.; Hull, Jennifer R.; Hng, Vng Thu (2023). "In search of a musical past: evidence for early chordophones from Vietnam". Antiquity. 97 (391): 141157. doi:10.15184/aqy.2022.170. ISSN0003-598X. S2CID257039609 via Cambridge Core.^ "The Deceased is the Young Lutaia Lupata Who is Shown Playing the Lute or Pandurium". 20 September 2014 via flickr. Museum information sign for the stele. Circa 2nd century AD memorial stele from Augusta Emerita in modern Spain for a Roman boy, Lutaia Lupata, showing him with his pandurium, the Roman variant of the Greek Pandura. Kept at the Museo Arqueologico, Mrida, Spain.^ a b Dumbrill 2005, p.321^ "Cylinder seal". British Museum. Archived from the original on 2017-07-02. Retrieved 2017-06-15. Culture/period Uruk, Date 3100BC (circa1), Museum number 141632^ Dumbrill 2005, p.310.^ Dumbrill, Richard J. (2005). The Archaeomusicology of the Ancient Near East. Victoria, British Columbia: Trafford Publishing. pp.319320. ISBN1-4120-5538-5. OCLC1020920823. The long-necked lute in the OED is orthographed as tambura; tambora, tamera, tumboora; tambur(a) and tanpoora. We have an Arabic unbur; Persian tanbur; Armenian pandir; Georgian panturi, and a Serbo-Croat tamburitza. The Greeks called it pandura; panduros; phanduros; panduris or pandurion. The Latin is pandura. It is attested as a Nubian instrument in the third century BC. The earliest literary allusion to lutes in Greece comes from Anaxilas in his play The Lyre-maker as 'trichordos'... According to Pollux, the trichordon (sic) was Assyrian and they gave it the name pandoura...These instruments survive today in the form of the various Arabian tunbar...^ "Barbat". Encyclopdia Iranica. 1988-12-15. Archived from the original on 2015-05-17. Retrieved 2023-06-15.^ "Five Celestial Musicians". LACMA.org. Archived from the original on 10 October 2017. Retrieved 15 May 2017. Views 3 & 4 show a musician playing a 4th- to 5th-century lute-like instrument, excavated in Gandhara, and part of a Los Angeles County Art Museum collection of Five Celestial Musicians^ "Bracket with two musicians 100s, Pakistan, Gandhara, probably Butkara in Swat, Kushan Period (1st century-320)". The Cleveland Museum of Art. Archived from the original on April 2, 2015. Retrieved March 25, 2015.^ Michael Chanan (1994). Musica Practica: The Social Practice of Western Music from Gregorian Chant to Postmodernism. Verso. p.170. ISBN978-1-85984-005-4.^ a b "Oxford Music Online by subscription". www.oxfordmusiconline.com. Archived from the original on 2011-02-24. Retrieved 2015-09-17.^ Scott, Heather K. (January 5, 2004). "The Differences Between Dark and Amber Rosin". Strings Magazine. 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ISBN0-19-311302-3. {{cite book}}: ISBN / Date incompatibility (help)Wikimedia Commons has media related to String instruments.Savart Journal Archived 2021-04-21 at the Wayback Machine, an online resource published in collaboration with the Guild of American Luthiers.The physics of the bowed stringInstruments in Depth: The Viola, an online feature presented by Bloomingdale School of Music (2010)Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). "Stringed instruments". Encyclopdia Britannica (11thed.). Cambridge University Press.A Brief History of String Instruments Archived 2016-03-03 at the Wayback MachineRetrieved from " this song sheet to learn the ukulele chords to Riptide by Australian singer-songwriter Vance Joy. Its easy for a beginner and youll also find lots of tips below to help bring life to the bizarre lyrics.Why Does the Recording Sound Different than my Uke?The recorded key is actually A#m. This means the above chords need to be A#m, G#, C#, and F# to match the pitch. Since playing in A#m makes for hard chords, its a lot easier to simply use a capo on the first fret. (You could also tune up a half step to G#-C#-F-A# to achieve the same result.)I use and recommend this capo.When you use a capo you can play the easy Am, G, C, and F chords youre familiar with, but they will sound correct if you play with the recording.AmGCF A little theory goes a long ways toward understanding how songs and tunings are transposed. Even if you use a capo to match the pitch of the Riptide recording, the tone will still be off.This is because instead of using a capo, Vance actually tunes down WAY down. He drops all the strings down a major 3rd interval or four frets from standard GCEA.His uke is tuned Eb-Ab-C-F (your tuner might also display it as: D#-G#-C-F).Detuning a normal-sized ukulele so far down is what gives the Riptide strumming its low, flabby sound. You can see in this video that it looks like hes playing a Kala tenor similar to this one.What Are the Chords if I Tune Down?If you choose to tune your ukulele like this, you have to use a different set of chord shapes to match the recording. Vance uses baritone shapes to play the same-sounding chords on the de-tuned uke.Remember, because of this in-between tuning, the chords are shown as Am, G, C, and F, but sound as if they were up a half-step in A#m.AmGCF If you want to learn more about transposing, moveable chord shapes, and chord theory, check out my ebook, Ukulele Chord Shapes: A neo-traditional chord reference book. Learn to create 2,268 chords out of 189 moveable shapes and learn the theory behind the magic. What is the Strumming Pattern for Riptide?The strumming pattern is: D D UDU.Thats down, down, up, down, up (then repeat). The trick is to keep your hand moving down and up even when you arent strumming the uke! If you keep the strumming hand ghosting over the strings during the times you dont play, its much easier to keep your momentum and build a groove.To do this, you need to change how you think of the pattern a bit. Your hand is now going to make the motion of: DUDUDUDU in the same space as the real strum, which, remember, is: D D UDU. But you arent going to hit the strings for every strum otherwise it would sound wrong! Instead, you are going to (while continuing the non-stop down/up pattern) move your hand closer to your body when its time to sound the strings and further away from your body when its not.If you superimpose the two on top of each other it looks like this:The Strum: D D U D UThe Motion: D U D U D U D UEverywhere there is a gap in the original pattern you dont strum but your hand keeps moving! So all together the pattern will look like:D(U)D(U)(D)UDUOn the strums in parenthesis you miss the strings as you go by. For more on this concept, check out my book, which includes the secret to groovy strumming: My ear tells me that its likely that Vance used a thin flatpick (like these) to strum the rhythm part. Getting one might help you achieve the sound if you want to be super exact.The Breakdown Riff Picking TabHere are two versions of the breakdown picking shown in tab:(High-g tuning)A |----------------|E |------0-------0--| x4C |--2h4-------0----|G |--------0--------|*OR*(Low-G tuning)A |----------------|E |------0-3-----0--| x4C |--2h4-------0----|G |----------------|The first is for high-g tuning. This one sounds best to my ears since it utilizes the open G-string to create a ringing sound.The second is for low-G tuning. This one isnt as nice, but works in a pinch if you only have a low-G uke.Adapting the Picking for Vances Down-TuningIf you tune your uke to Eb-Ab-C-F, as shown in the section on tuning, youll have to play the picking differently. This is actually how Vance plays it with a high-g (even though its tuned down).F |------0-3-----0--|C |----5-----------| x4Ab |-----------5----|Eb |--0-------------|If youre down tuning with a low-G, just move the open Eb-string note onto the 3rd fret of the C-string.Chords and lyric sheet removed due to copyright concerns.However, you can find an even nicer looking one from Ukulele Go by clicking on the button below.Riptide PDF Join my newsletter for updates & tips Expect one or two emails a month, on average. I wont sell or spam your email.

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