

What I Like About My Ukulele and My Story

- David Smith aka- George



The ukulele is in a comeback phase. And I am happy to be a part of it. It's called many things, like The Happiness Machine and The Four String Wonder and others. It's easier to learn than guitar or piano and you can do a lot with a little. Look what you can do with this delightful instrument. You can play Pop, folk, rock, classical, blues, Hawaiian, Traditional, instrumental, jazz and country, and sing-a-longs. Put another way, play the songs you love from Elvis, Madonna, Tony Bennett, Peggy Lee, Mozart, Ella Fitzgerald, Johnny Cash, Leonard Cohen, Jason Mraz, and almost anyone you can think of, even a ditty you write yourself.

I had a friend once who said he only drank at two times: when he was alone and when he was with friends. It's like that with an instrument. Alone, you find songs you love and start to study them, practice them and play them over and over. Then you bring that to a meeting, with uke friends, and at Open Mike, you have a go Soloing with a supportive audience. Self-confidence, ability, improvement and encouragement are all in the mix plus the group camaraderie. That Club experience is part of the group dynamic and that also includes Duets, Orchestra, and Sing-a-longs and is a wonderful atmosphere in which to improve your skills.

When I thought about ukulele last April, I was still undecided and then I found there was ADUS, right here in my neighbourhood. So I attended the meeting the following Monday, and the following week I bought my Kala Maple Spalted Electric Uke. Ugh, what a mouthful~ and I love it. At the next meeting I joined the club. I've not looked back, having fun every single day. I'm pleased to see new friends taking the time to travel and come to club meetings from far away. We are glad you are there!

Now, a word about ADUS, the club. Eliezer has done a superb job in founding this club and putting his excitement and passion into it- for years! For me, it is You, the ukulele folks, who are joyful, exuberant, and inspiring. You all help me improve and I thank you. The meetings are free but when you have come a few times you really should pay the money and join officially. Take ownership and make your place within the club. Put yourself in and call it your club!

(I used to belong to walking/ hiking clubs and the fees were small for a single hike or for a series of five. The cost covered transportation and some going to the planner/ organizers. With Toastmasters, to improve your speaking skills, it starts at around \$120. Meetings cost \$2 to \$25 or more per meeting depending on the club. There are around 20 clubs in our area, so many are willing to pay those fees. The amount asked for ADUS membership is not expensive. In my private life, I try to have some change in my pocket so if asked I can give it away. This is always having something to give.)

As a ukulele student, you don't need tons of music theory, 12 scales or elaborate chording. You can just play music and have fun.

After Dinner Ukulele Society
www.adukes.org