Two Chord Folk Songs

We’ve included versions of Lovely Evening and Lil’ Liza Jane in the keys of F and C. Both songs are easier to play in the key of C, and easier for most folks to sing in the key of F. We’ve assumed you already know how to play these chords:

If you are new to the ukulele, we suggest starting with Lil’ Liza Jane in the key of F. To play the song in F you’ll need the F and the C7 chord. Once you are comfortable with the song in F, try it in C. To play the song in C you’ll need the C and G7 chords. G7 is a harder chord for most people because it uses three fingers.

How to Play the B Flat Major Chord

Lovely Evening in F uses the B flat chord, which is one of the hardest three-finger ukulele chords. It is a commonly used chord, so it’s best to master it. If you are struggling to play this chord, you might want to play only the C major version of Lovely Evening. You can always come back to the F major version later. The E Minor chord (see the chapter on “Minor Mode”) will help you learn the B flat chord shape.

As you can see from the photograph, you will need to put your first finger on two strings at once to master this chord. Experiment with different finger angles and pressures to make sure your first finger is fretting two strings at once. You might try practicing just the first finger position by itself until it is comfortable, or at least sounding good, and then try adding the other fingers.

Using one finger to stop more than one string at a time is a technique used in another type of ukulele chord called a barre chord. While learning this skill can be challenging, the advantage of a barre chord is that you can move it to different frets to get lots of different chords from one hand shape.
Lovely Evening is a German folk song. It’s usually sung as a round. Bing Crosby recorded the song in a medley on his 1961 album 101 Gang Songs. The music sounds very calm because there are only two chords. There’s also a feeling of gentle swaying created by the use of three beats per measure.

Lil’ Liza Jane is a song dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. It’s become a standard, not only in New Orleans Jazz, but also in folk music, bluegrass, and rock and roll. It is one of the most recognized songs in the world, which makes for a perfect sing-along.

A 1918 book by Natalie Curtis Burlin titled Negro Folk-Songs documents a dancing game played to this song. Couples dance in a circle around a man in the middle who has no partner. He does a solo dance until he can steal a partner from the circle of couples. The man who has lost his partner now dances in the middle until he can steal a new one.

You can access the lesson videos for “Lovely Evening” and “Lil’ Liza Jane” by logging into your member account at:

ukulele.io/members/sign-in-to-access-online-video-lessons/

If you have not created your member account yet, please turn to the section called “How to Access Your Free Video Lessons at ukulele.io” in the back of the book. You’ll find detailed instructions and screenshots to help you set up your member account at ukulele.io.
Lovely Evening

Strumming Pattern:

\[\begin{array}{c}
\downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \downarrow \\
\end{array}\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
F \\
Bb \\
F \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Oh how lovely is the evening,} \\
1 \quad 3 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 3 \quad 1 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
Bb \\
F \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
is the evening. When the bells are \\
1 \quad 0 \quad 0 \quad 3 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 0 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
Bb \\
F \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
softly ringing, softly ringing, \\
5 \quad 3 \quad 3 \quad 1 \quad 0 \quad 5 \quad 3 \quad 3 \quad 1 \quad 0 \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
F \\
Bb \\
F \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{c}
ding, dong, ding, dong. \\
1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \quad 1 \\
\end{array}
\]
Lil' Liza Jane

Strumming Pattern:
\[\downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>G7</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I've got a friend in Baltimore Lil' Liza Jane
I've got a friend in Chicago
I've got a friend in Tokyo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>G7</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Street cars and running by cold blooms in winter
Lil' Liza Jane

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>G7</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oh Eliza Lil' Liza Jane

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>G7</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oh Eliza Lil' Liza Jane.
Strumming Pattern: \( \downarrow \, \downarrow \uparrow \, \downarrow \, \downarrow \uparrow \)

Lil' Liza Jane

\[ \text{F} \quad \text{C7} \quad \text{F} \]

I've got a friend in Baltimore
I've got a friend in Chicago
I've got a friend in Tokyo

\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \\
1 & 0 & 3 & 3 \\
5 & 3 & 0 & 3
\end{array} \]

Streetcars running by her door
Walls running by her door

\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
0 & 0 & 3 & 1 \\
0 & 3 & 3 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 3 & 1
\end{array} \]

Lil' Liza Jane
Lil' Liza Jane

Oh Eliza Lil' Liza Jane

\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
8 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\
0 & 0 & 3 & 0
\end{array} \]

Lil' Liza Jane.

\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
8 & 3 & 5 & 3 \\
0 & 0 & 3 & 1
\end{array} \]
Strumming Pattern: \(\downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow\)

Lil' Liza Jane Chord Melody

\[\text{F} \quad \text{C7} \quad \text{F}\]

I've got a friend in Baltimore Lil' Liza Jane
I've got a friend in Chicago

Street cars running by her door
Lil' Liza Jane

Walk and feel the cole blos soms grow

Oh Eliza Lil' Liza Jane

Walk and feel the cole blos soms grow
Lil' Liza Jane

Oh Eliza Lil' Liza Jane.