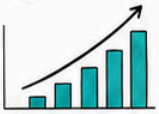
PLAYING IN A UKULELE GROUP

1 WHY GROUP PLAYING WORKS



- BUILDS CONFIDENCE
- IMPROVES TIMING
- MAKES PRACTICE MORE FUN
- HELPS YOU LEARN FASTER
- CREATES COMMUNITY



YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PLAY PERFECTLY TO PLAY TOGETHER.

2 KEY INSIGHTS

- LISTENING IS AS IMPORTANT AS STRUMMING
- SIMPLE PARTS CREATE A BIG SOUND
- CONSISTENT RHYTHM MATTERS MORE THAN FLASHY PLAYING
- THE GROUP SOUNDS BETTER WHEN EVERYONE LEAVES SPACE

3 CORE GROUP SKILLS

1. COUNTING IN
2. KEEPING STEADY RHYTHM
3. FOLLOWING CHORD CHANGES
4. WATCHING THE LEADER
5. SINGING OR HARMONY
6. ENTERING AND STOPPING TOGETHER

4 ROLES IN A UKULELE GROUP

RHYTHM STRUMMER	CHORD SUPPORT	MELODY PLAYER	SINGER
BASS / LOW END	LEADER / CUE GIVER	PERCUSSION / CHOPS	BEGINNER FRIENDLY PART

NOT EVERYONE NEEDS TO PLAY THE SAME THING.

5 GROUP ETIQUETTE

- ARRIVE IN TUNE
- BRING YOUR MUSIC
- LISTEN MORE
- PLAY SOFTER WHEN OTHERS HAVE THE MELODY
- WATCH FOR CUES
- SMILE + ENCOURAGE
- LEAVE EGO AT THE DOOR

GOOD ENSEMBLES RUN ON KINDNESS + ATTENTION.

6 THE REHEARSAL FLOW

1. TUNE UP
2. WARM UP TOGETHER
3. COUNT IN 1-2-3-4
4. PLAY THE SONG
5. FIX TROUBLE SPOTS !!
6. RUN IT AGAIN + END CLEAN

7 PRACTICE FRAMEWORKS THAT HELP

CHUNKING – ONE SECTION AT A TIME	LOOPING – REPEAT THE HARD PART	SLOW TO SMOOTH TO FAST	CALL + RESPONSE	DYNAMICS – LOUD / SOFT	80/20 – FOCUS ON A FEW HIGH-IMPACT SONGS	LISTEN + BLEND
			CALL / RESP.		20% / 80%	

8 COMMON CHALLENGES + SMART FIXES

CHALLENGE	SMART FIX
PLAYING TOO LOUD	LIGHTER STRUM + LISTEN
GETTING LOST	MARK YOUR CHORD SHEET
RUSHING THE TEMPO	WATCH THE LEADER + METRONOME
DIFFERENT SKILL LEVELS	USE EASIER AND HARDER PARTS
LATE CHORD CHANGES	PRACTICE TRANSITIONS
FEELING NERVOUS	STRUM SIMPLE + STAY IN TIME

9 EXAMPLES

- JAM CIRCLE: EVERYONE STRUMS THE SAME CHORDS
- ENSEMBLE ARRANGEMENT: SOME PLAY MELODY, SOME STRUM
- SING-ALONG: SUPPORT THE VOCAL
- PERFORMANCE: WATCH CUES, START AND END TOGETHER

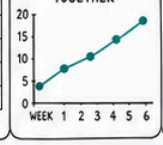
10 HOW TO MEASURE PROGRESS

STREAK CALENDAR

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
✓	✓	✓				★

BUILD THE HABIT!

SONGS PLAYED TOGETHER



CLEAN STARTS + STOPS



CONFIDENCE



CAN I:

- ☐ KEEP TIME
- ☐ FOLLOW CUES
- ☐ CHANGE CHORDS
- ☐ BLEND WITH OTHERS?

WHAT GETS TRACKED GETS IMPROVED.

11 COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- ⚠ OVERSTRUMMING
- ⚠ PLAYING WITHOUT LISTENING
- ⚠ IGNORING THE LEADER
- ⚠ STOPPING WHEN YOU MAKE A MISTAKE
- ⚠ TRYING TO SHOW OFF
- ⚠ PLAYING EVERY BEAT THE SAME WAY
- ⚠ FORGETTING TO HAVE FUN ☺

12 ACTIONABLE TAKEAWAYS

1. START SIMPLE — EASY CHORDS. STRONG FOUNDATION.
2. STAY IN TIME — STEADY BEAT = STRONG GROUP.
3. WATCH + LISTEN — SEE CUES. HEAR THE GROUP.
4. SUPPORT THE SONG — IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU. IT'S ABOUT THE SONG.
5. PRACTICE WITH OTHERS OFTEN — CONSISTENCY BUILDS CONFIDENCE + CONNECTION.

PLAY TOGETHER.
LISTEN DEEPLY.
KEEP THE GROOVE.
ENJOY THE MUSIC.

