

Ukulele Yes!

The Ukulele in the Classroom Newsletter

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Welcome

From classrooms in Auckland, New Zealand, to Calgary, AB, to Langley, BC, to Truro, NS, there's no doubt about it: **ukulele is on the move!** In March 2008, over 100 teachers attended a *Ukulele in the Classroom* workshop at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. It was, apparently, the largest teacher workshop they've ever had. Over a dozen schools in Calgary have strong (and growing) ukulele programmes. Langley, BC just held it's fourth annual ukulele festival and here in Nova Scotia, ukulele groups are popping up like the sprouts in our spring flower beds!

Word is out, teachers and administrators are buying in, and students of all ages are learning. Now what? Now the fun really begins. This is where, as a community of teachers, musicians, students, and enthusiasts, we get to work together. We get to share ideas, compare notes, discuss problems and solutions, and experience the thrill of music education done right. We strongly encourage you to sign up at our free on-line forum (www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com/yabb) and join in the discussion.

Best wishes,

James Hill
J. Chalmers Doane

How to Order Your Books and CDs On-line

Ukulele in the Classroom has stepped into the 21st century! Gone are the days of "print off the order form and send it to us with a cheque." Now you can order your books, companion CDs, and more through our secure, full-featured on-line store at www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com/catalog. Visit the store, make your selections, and checkout with just a few clicks of the mouse!

New Items Added to Catalog

Class Sets: You can now order the class set that's right for you. Choose either a small class set (15 Student Editions) or a large class set (30 Student Editions). Both come with a Teacher Edition and a Companion CD. Order now and save 10% on the small class set and 15% on the large class set! Visit www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com/catalog to order.

CDs by the Authors: Recordings by James Hill and Chalmers Doane are now available through the on-line store! Inspire your students and enjoy the eclectic mix of music on these fine recordings. Now just \$14.95 each plus tax and shipping where applicable. Visit www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com/catalog to order.

Pedagogy Corner

Two common questions regarding Book 1 of the *Ukulele in the Classroom* series are:

- 1. Can I use this book with an intermediate-level class or is it just for beginners?**
- 2. Can I use this book as a self-teach manual?**

Here are some answers:

- 1. Can I use this book with an intermediate-level class or is it just for beginners?**

Yes, you can use this book with a class or a private student even if he/she/they are beyond the level of a raw beginner. Why? Because the *Ukulele in the Classroom* books are designed to accommodate many levels of skill simultaneously.

For example, in *Rocky Mountain* (Book 1 Lesson 5), beginner-level students play Uke II (open-string notes only), intermediate-level students play Uke I (pentatonic scale notes only), and advanced-level students are challenged to sing the melody while picking the Uke II part (a musical version of rubbing your belly and tapping your head).

Opportunities for this kind of "differentiated" instruction are embedded in every lesson in Book 1 and are discussed in detail in the Teacher Edition. In short, there's something for everyone in each lesson, regardless of their skill level.

- 2. Can I use this book as a self-teach manual?**

Yes. There's plenty of material--fun arrangements and creative exercises--for anyone looking to improve their ukulele and musicianship skills. To get the most out of the books as a self-studier we recommend getting a copy of Teacher Edition as well as the Student Edition. The finer details, challenge activities, and additional discussion in the Teacher Edition will get you "behind the scenes" on each lesson and help you to truly be your own teacher.

From the Vault: A Must-see Video Clip!

Chalmers Doane has a newly-renovated website (www.chalmersdoane.com). Among other things, the new site includes a terrific CBC news clip from 1980 that documents the music programme in Halifax, NS at it's peak. **How many ukulele players can you fit into a stadium?** Click on the link below to find out:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZf3z7fECDo>

Enjoy!

It's Fun. It Works. It's Music Literacy... the Ukulele Way!

www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com

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