

Lyricism & Line

C6 TUNING (g, c, e, a)

How to Make the Ukulele Sing A Ukulele Workshop with James Hill

*In this workshop you'll explore the **lyrical** side of the ukulele. Discover how subtle changes in left-hand fingering and right-hand fingerpicking can make (or break) the lyrical qualities of the music. A workshop full of musical delights and ukulele insights.*

Preparing for the Workshop

The most important concept in this workshop is **chord voicing**. Before you come to the workshop, familiarize yourself with the difference between a 'chord' and a 'voicing.' Here's an example: at left is an F chord, at right are some voicings of the F chord.

The image shows a musical staff on the left with a treble clef and a chord of four notes (F, C, E, A) on the lines. Below it is the text "The F Chord". To the right are three fretboard diagrams for the F chord, each with a circled 'F' above it. The first diagram shows the standard voicing: finger 1 on the 1st fret of the C string, finger 2 on the 1st fret of the G string, and finger 3 on the 2nd fret of the E string. The second diagram shows a different voicing: finger 1 on the 1st fret of the C string, finger 2 on the 1st fret of the G string, and finger 3 on the 2nd fret of the A string. The third diagram shows another voicing: finger 1 on the 1st fret of the C string, finger 2 on the 1st fret of the G string, and the 4th string (E) is muted, indicated by an 'x' above it. A large bracket underneath all three diagrams is labeled "Some 'voicings' of the F chord."

The F chord contains three notes: **f**, **a** and **c**. There are many ways to play these notes on the ukulele. Each different arrangement of these notes on the fretboard (i.e. each 'voicing') has a different sound. By carefully planning which voicings you use, you can create the impression of a melody and chords being played simultaneously.

*Practise these F chord voicings before the workshop.
Can you find other ways to play the F chord?*