

# JAMES HILL'S UKULELE BIG BAND!

That's right, ukulele big band. James Hill will lead your class through a four-part big band jazz arrangement written for ukulele ensemble! All sizes of ukulele are welcome (if you play baritone ukulele, please bring a capo). If you've always wanted to experience the thrill of playing in a jazz orchestra, this is your chance!

## How to Prepare: Pick, Read, Strum, Listen

C6 Tuning (g, c, e, a)

**1. Notes:** Practise the C major scale so that you can a) *pick* the scale ascending and descending without pausing between notes and b) *read* each note of the scale (either in standard notation, TAB, or both):

The diagram illustrates the C major scale on a ukulele fretboard. It consists of nine fretboard diagrams, each representing a note from C to D. Above each diagram is a small circle indicating the natural harmonic for that note. Below the diagrams is a standard musical staff with a treble clef, showing the notes of the C major scale: C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C, D. Each note on the staff is aligned with its corresponding fretboard diagram above it.

**2. Chords:** To be comfortable in the Ukulele Big Band workshop you should be able to *strum* the following chords and change between them without pausing:

The diagram shows the fretboard positions for five chords, each with numbered fingers (1-4) indicating the correct hand placement:

- G<sup>6</sup>**: Fret 2, strings 2 and 4.
- A<sup>9</sup>**: Fret 1, strings 1 and 4.
- B<sup>7</sup>**: Fret 2, strings 2 and 3; Fret 3, string 4.
- Em**: Fret 2, string 4; Fret 3, string 2.
- Cdim<sup>7</sup>**: Fret 1, strings 1, 2, 3, and 4.

**3. Listen:** Before you arrive at the Ukulele Big Band workshop, *listen* to some of the great jazz big bands. This will give you a “feel” for the music. Start with the Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller big bands. Enjoy!