

How to Find Lahaina Music

High-Tech Directions:

- ❖ Ask your iPhone, “Hey Siri, where is Lahaina Music,” and she will likely give you directions.

If she doesn’t, you can still go high tech and type in our name or address into your Maps program:

- ❖ “Lahaina Music” or “910 Honoapiilani Hwy”

Low-Tech Directions (Old School!):

1. Assume nobody can pronounce the street names.
2. From up North of here (Ka’anapali, Honokowai, Kahana, Napili or Kapalua):
3. **Head south on “The Highway”** (aka “Route 30”).
4. When you get to the Safeway (Lahaina Cannery Mall) **do not turn left** onto the bypass (aka “Route 3000”) or you’ll end up on the other side.

do not turn right, either, or you’ll end up lost down on Front Street (we’re not on Front Street).

5. **Continue Straight down The Highway**, for two signals past the Safeway (Lahaina Cannery Mall).
 - First signal has “Taco Bell”. (Keep going).
 - Second signal has “Subway Sandwich.”

Take the Left Turn Lane!

We’re on the **mountain side of the highway**,
...in the “West Maui Center.”

We hope you’ve enjoyed this free teaching booklet.
Let us teach you how to play ukulele! For free!



Beginning Ukulele Packet

How easy is it to learn ukulele?

Free from...
Lahaina Music
808-661-7625

How do I tune it? From top down, G-C-E-A

Green
Cats
Eat
Apples.

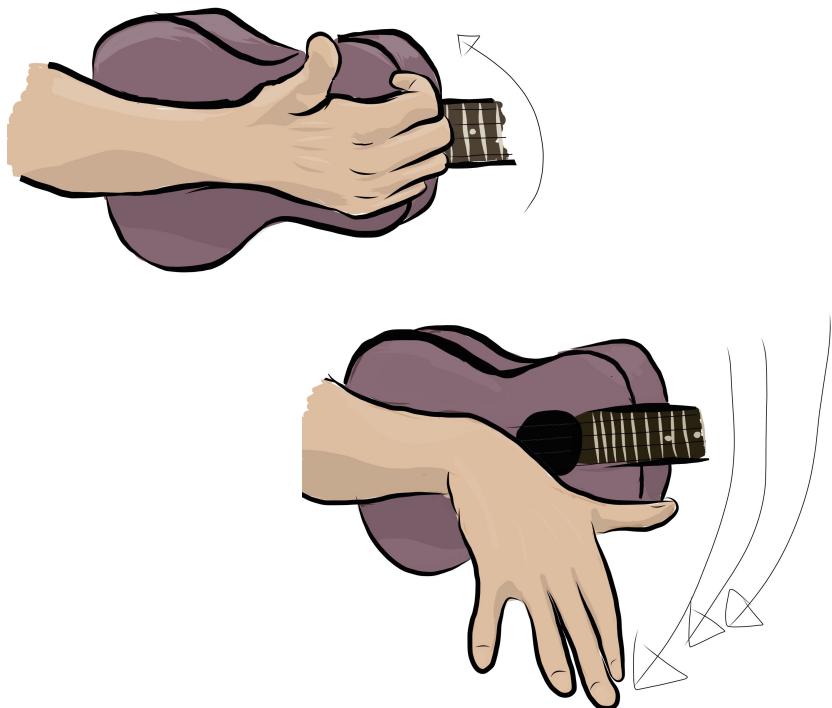
Or Sing “**My Dog Has Fleas**” (if you can sing it on pitch)

Or better yet:

Buy a good clip-on tuner. You’ll look back and think it’s the best 20 bucks you’ve ever spent.

Got a Smartphone? Download a tuner app for about \$3. However, these do not work well in noisy environments.

How do I strum it (so that it sounds the best)?



How to Learn More

1. www.lahainamusic.com

From there you can link to our YouTube video tutorials, which are free.

2. Jason’s Advanced Ukulele Book

If you like Jason’s teaching style, and would like to learn more, Jason’s Advanced Ukulele Book begins where this booklet leaves off, and takes you all the way through advanced soloing and virtuoso playing styles.

It is available as a download from our website, above, or in hard copy, at our store.

3. Uncle George Kahumoku’s Slack Key & Ukulele Workshop

It’s held each year on Maui in June. If you would like to learn from many of the people who taught me how to play, you’re going to love this Workshop, since all the other teachers are the people who influenced and taught me!

Visit www.kahumoku.com for dates, registration, or additional information about the Workshop on Maui.

4. Private Lessons

Jason loves to teach one-on-one, in addition to small or large groups. 2nd Fastest way to reach him is often by text to his cellphone (808) 283-4792. (Fastest way to reach him is to catch him after one of the free group lessons or otherwise stand in front of him). ☺

Somewhere Over the Rainbow (easy version, no Em)

(Arlen/Harburg, 1939, arranged by IZ in 1990)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

C C G7 G7 F F C C

Somewhere over the rainbow... ...way up high... ...

F F C C

And... the... dreams that you dreamed of

G7 G7 Am Am F F

Once in a lul-la-by... ahhh...

C C G7 G7 F F C C

Somewhere over the rainbow... ...bluebirds fly

F F C C

And... the... dreams that you dreamed of

G7 G7 Am Am F F

Dreams really do come true... ... Ooooo...

C C

Someday you'll wish upon a star,

G7 G7 Am Am F F

Wake up where the clouds are far behind... ... me... ...

C C

Where trouble melts like lemon drops

G7 G7

High above the chimney tops

Am Am F F

That's where... ... you'll find me

C C G7 G7 F F C C

Somewhere over the rainbow... ...bluebirds fly... ...

F F C C

And... the... dreams that you dare to

G7 G7 Am Am F F <end on C>

Why, oh why, can't I... ... !? ...

In general, a great ukulele strum can be had by positioning your hand in the area where the neck joins the body, and holding your arm steady, flick your fingers out toward the ground, as if brushing sand off the strings, and back down toward the beach.

(Visualizing the beach may improve your strum as well).

You don't need to strum hard to get good results – **smoother** is far more important than **louder**.

A good strum is:

- 80% finger extension
- 20% wrist rotation
- 0% elbow swing. Don't swing your whole arm like windshield wipers or Pete Townsend. (Who?)

If you want to make a \$300 uke sound like a \$100 uke, strum with only one finger... If you want to make a \$100 uke sound like a \$300 uke, check out our strum videos on our YouTube channel, or come visit us at Lahaina Music. We teach all day long.

We recommend avoiding strumming exclusively with your thumb, because after 15 minutes, time and time again, we see beginners, especially, get a blister right on the tip of their thumb. Most commonly this is with kids (enthusiasm without technique).

The good news is, if you strum well, every chord you play will sound better! The chords aren't that hard – 20 times easier than guitar. Conversely, if you have a lousy strum, every chord you play will sound... lousy. So, it makes sense to invest some practice time in doing it well.

To improve, please, come to one of our free classes or check out our YouTube strumming tutorials – it will make a wondrous difference, to you, your bandmates, and your audience too!

Most important word in strumming: **Gently**.

Please, don't do the "angry kindergartener" strum...

...you'll frighten everyone away!

How do I play chords (and which fingers)?

- First, make a “karate-chop” shape with your left hand.
 - Rest the uke on top of your hand, where the finger meets the palm. That’s the only point on your left hand that should touch.
 - Slide that point of your hand out the neck to the “chin,” in other words, the curve where the neck meets the head of the uke. Thumb goes behind the neck, behind the 2nd fret space.

First Chords (learning stability, hand position, changing fingers)

C7	Cmaj7	C	C6 (so easy)

Easiest possible three chord combination to play 100,000 songs

G6	D7	C	

Chords to add for some Hawaiian flair

A7	D7	G6	E7

Chords to play millions of songs

C	Am	F	G7

Practice to become smooth with these chords, one row at a time.

Under the Boardwalk (Young/Resnick 1964)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

C C G7 G7

Oh, when the sun beats down, and burns the tar up on the roof... ...

G7 G7 C C

And your shoes get so hot, you wish your tired feet were fire-proof...

F F C C

Under the boardwalk... ...down by the sea... ...yeah

C G7 C C

On a blanket with my baby is where I'll be... ..

Am Am

(Under the boardwalk)... out of the sun

G7

G7

(Under the boardwalk)... we'll be havin' some fun

Am Am

(Under the boardwalk)... people walking above

G7

(Under the boardwalk)... we'll be falling in love

Am ...

Under the board - walk (board-walk!)

Notes from Jason:

This is, by the way, a great song to use as a background for learning to play solos. To learn that and more, I recommend getting "**[Jason's Advanced Ukulele Book](#)**" from our website.

It starts where this one leaves off and goes all the way from beginner, through intermediate, to virtuoso level advanced. Want to learn more? I definitely recommend it.

Let's add more chords... F and G7

Stand By Me - (Ben E. King/Leiber/Stoller, 1961)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

C C Am Am
When the night has come... ...and the land is dark

F G7 C C
And the moon is the only light we'll see... ...

C C Am Am
No I won't, be afraid, no I won't, be afraid

F G7 C
Just as long, as you stand, stand by, me...

C
So darling, darling,

C C Am Am
Stand... by me... Oh, stand... by me,

F G7 C C
Oh stand.... stand by me... stand by me ...

Notes from Jason:

This is a great song for teaching ukulele, for several reasons:

1. It's been popular now for 50 or 60 years.
2. The chords always flow in the same sequence.
3. 50% of the whole song, you're on a C chord.
4. 75% of the whole song, you're on a one finger chord.
5. Once you know these chords, you can play millions of songs just by rearranging the chords into a different sequence. Like Legos. You can build almost anything.

Hound Dog - (Leiber/Stoller, 1952)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

G6 G6 G6
You ain't nothing but a hound dog

G6 G6
...Crying all the time...

G6 C
...You ain't nothing but a hound dog

C G6
...Crying all the time...

G6 D7
...Well you ain't never caught a rabbit

C G6 (End on G6)
And you ain't no friend of mine...

Notes from Jason:

No chord chart? It's on the previous page, on purpose. I recommend spending time learning the necessary chords *before* jumping into a song. (You don't want to have to refer to a chord chart in the middle of playing music). In the case of this song, we need only three: G6, D7, and C. Learn them first.

Notice how the chords line up with the words in the song. This format of music is called a "lead sheet" and it functions as a reminder of what the words are, and where the chords change. However if you aren't familiar with the song, it does not tell you *everything* about how to play it.

If you need a reminder of how it goes, I recommend checking our website for links to our video tutorials. www.lahainamusic.com

Amazing Grace - (John Newton, 1779)

- play three down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

G6 G6 C G6

Ama-zing grace, how sweet the sound

G6 G6 D7 D7

That saved a wretch like me... ...

G6 G6 C G6

I once was lost but now I'm found

G6 D7 G6 (end on G6)

Was blind but now, I see... ...

Notes from Jason:

This song has a different time signature than the other songs in the book—it gets three beats, or three down strums, each time you see a chord printed.

Even if you never go to church, you probably have heard this song, so it's good for learning.

You can learn the other verses too – the chord pattern remains the same for each verse.

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

You can also try some Hawaiian lyrics:

Replace the lyrics “Amazing Grace” with the Hawaiian translation... “Loko-mai-ka‘i”

Riptide (Vance Joy, 2013)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

Am G6 C

Lady, running down to the riptide

C Am

Taken away to the dark side

G6 C C

I wanna be your left hand man

Am G6 C

I love you, when you're singing that song and

C Am

I got a lump in my throat 'cause

G6 C <end on C>

You're gonna sing the words wrong

*Just the chorus printed here, in the interests of space;
the chords of the verses are the same as the chorus above.

Notes from Jason

I guess let me be the first to say, I don't understand the meaning of these lyrics, and it gets even more perplexing when the verses are included, so, I just typed in the chorus.

However, once you establish the chord pattern, it goes the same way for both the verse and the chorus.

Notice how it is the same chords as the Taylor Swift song on the previous page—only in a different sequence.

Songs tend to be like that—once you learn a song, you probably have the tools to play 1000 other songs like it, you just may not know which ones they are yet.

Let's start adding more chords... Am

Shake it Off- (Taylor Swift, 2014)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

Am

Well the player's gonna play play play play play

C

And the hater's gonna hate hate hate hate hate hate

G6

I'm just gonna shake shake shake shake shake shake

G6

Shake it off, shake it off (oh-oh oh!)

Am

Heart breaker's gonna break break break break break

C

And the faker's gonna fake fake fake fake fake fake

G6

I'm just gonna shake shake shake shake shake shake

G6

Shake it off, shake it off (oh-oh oh!)

*Just the chorus printed here, in the interests of space;
the chords in the verses are the same as in the chorus above.

Notes from Jason

A more recent song—just to show that you don't have to pull from material written over 50 years ago if you don't want to.

Three Little Birds - (Bob Marley, 1977)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

G6 G6 G6 G6

Don't worry... ...about a thing... ...

C C G6 G6

Because every little thing... is gonna be alright... ...

G6 G6 G6 G6

Singing don't worry... ...about a thing... ...

C C G6 G6

Because every little thing... is gonna be alright... ...

G6 G6 D7 D7

Rise up this morning... smiled with the rising sun... ...

G6 G6 C C

Three little birds... ...pitch by my doorstep... ...

G6 G6 D7 D7

Singing sweet songs... ...of melodies pure and true... ...

C C G6 (End on G6)

Saying: ... This is my message to you-oo-oo... ...

Notes from Jason:

So far, we're working with songs that you've probably heard. (And if you haven't heard this one, you've got to get out more).

Also, so far, none of these songs are from Hawai'i specifically. This is because it's easier (far easier) to learn ukulele using songs with which you are *more* familiar, rather than *less* familiar. Regardless of where you live, you probably know these songs.

Here Comes the Sun (George Harrison 1969)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

G6 G6 C D7
 Little darling, it seems the ice is slowly melting

G6 G6 C D7
 Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear

G6 G6
 Here comes the sun, ba n 8eed ah

C *C G6 D7
 Here comes the sun, and I say... It's alright!

G6 G6 C D7
 Little darling, it's been a long and lonely winter

G6 G6 C D7
 Little darling, it seems like years since it's been clear

G6 G6
 Here comes the sun, ba n 8eed ah

C *C G6 D7
 Here comes the sun, and I say... It's alright!

G6 G6
 Here comes the sun, ba n 8eed ah

C *C G6 D7 (end on G6)
 Here comes the sun, and I say... It's alright!

Notes from Jason:

Can I make this song harder? Of course. But at what cost?
 Kanikapila style, *include* your friends, don't leave them out!

If you like, replace the *C chord with A7, when you're ready.

Let's start adding more chords... A7

Pearly Shells - (English lyrics: Edwards/Pober)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

G6 G6 G6 G6

Pearly shells... ...from the ocean... ...

C C A7 D7

Shining in the sun... ...covering the shore... ...

G6 G6 C C

When I see them... ...my heart tells me that I love you

G6 D7 G6 G6

More than all... the little pearly shells <end here, or go on...>

D7 D7

For very grain of sand upon the beach

G6 G6

I've got a kiss for you

D7 D7

And I've got more left over from each star

A7 D7

That twinkles in the blue

<repeat from the top>

Notes from Jason

This is called a “**hapa-haole**” song—a Hawaiian song, but with English lyrics. It’s a little easier than learning to play ukulele while simultaneously learning to read and pronounce the Hawaiian language.

Eventually though, learning some Hawaiian is way cool. For example, the name of this instrument is pronounced “oo-koo-leh-leh” rather than “yoo-koo-lay-layee.” Now you know! But it’s not worth arguing over—a sense of “Aloha” is more important to ukulele culture than merely how to say it.

Puamana (Irmgard Farden Aluli, 1937)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

G6 G6 C G6

Pu - a - ma - na ... ku'u home i La-hai-na

D7 D7

Me na pu-a, 'a-la o-nao-na

D7 G6 <Simple Vamp:... D7...G6...>

Ku'u ho-me i a-lo-ha 'i-a

<repeat verse>

Ku'u ho-me, i ka ulu o ka niu

O ka niu ku kila-kila

E nape-nape malie

<repeat verse>

Home nani, home i ka 'ae kai

Ke konane a ka mahina

I ke kai ha-wana-wana

<repeat verse>

Ha'ina, 'ia mai kapuana

Ku'u home i Lahaina

Ua piha me ka hau'oli

Notes:

This is maybe my favorite hula from the island of Maui.

Notice how we can play this song (and other Hawaiian songs) using the same chords as many non-Hawaiian songs.

By the way, dancing the hula to this mele is very impressive and considerably more difficult than playing the ukulele!

The Lion Sleeps Tonight - (Solomon Linda, 1939)

- play two down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

G6 G6 C C G6 G6 D7 D7

In the jungle the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight

G6 G6 C C G6 G6 D7 D7

In the jungle the mighty jungle, the lion sleeps tonight

G6 G6

O-weem-o-wop, O-weem-o-wop,

C C

O-weem-o-wop, O-weem-o-wop,

G6 G6

O-weem-o-wop, O-weem-o-wop,

D7 D7

O-weem-o-wop, O-weem-o-wop,

Notes from Jason:

Go for it, sing the high falsetto part (eeeeeee! Etc.)

Just not too early in the morning.

This song's timing is a little different

Only 2 strums each time you see a chord printed.

By the way, “Brown Eyed Girl” by Van Morrison

has the same chord progression for most of the song.

Many songs are like that—the more songs you learn, the more you realize they are very much like some other song which you previously learned.

I Saw Her Standing There (Lennon/McCartney 1963)

- play four down strums (beats) each time you see a chord listed

G6 G6 C G6

Well, she was just, seventeen, You know what I mean

G6 G6 D7 D7

And the way she looked was way beyond compare... ...

G6 G6 C **C

So how could I dance with another... ... (Whooh!)

G6 D7 G6 G6

When I saw her standing there... ...

G6 G6 C G6

Well she, looked at me, and I... I could see

G6 G6 D7 D7

That before too long ...I'd fall in love with her... ...

G6 G6 C **C

She wouldn't dance with another... ...(Whooh!)

G6 D7 G6 G6

When I saw her standing there... ...

C C C C

Well, my heart went boom, when I crossed that room

C C D7 D7 C C

And I held her hand in mine...

G6 G6 C G6

Whoah, we danced through the night, and we held each other tight

G6 G6 D7 D7

And before too long... I fell in love with her... ...

G6 G6 C **C

Now I'll never dance with another... ... (Whooh!)

G6 D7 C G6 (end on G6)

Since I saw her standing there....

Notes from Jason for previous page:

This is a simplified version, and so far everything has been in the key of G. This is because it enables us to play all these songs using the same three chords—a great way to get started on ukulele. If you want to raise the difficulty bar you could replace the **C chord with the substantially more challenging E-flat chord. But importantly, we can just play C there and the song will still work (that's what we do in our free group lessons).

Happy Birthday (Patty Hill, 1912)

- note here that the strum pattern includes a "slash" symbol, which indicates to strum the previous chord an additional time. Mostly this song is three strums per chord—except the last line.

G6 / / D7 /

Happy birthday to you

/ D7 / / G6 /

Happy birthday to you

/ G6 / / C /

Happy birthday dear _____? _____-

/ G6 / D7 G6

Happy birthday to you

Notes from Jason:

Hint: if you're doing it at your friend's birthday party, be sure you start playing *before* they start singing—otherwise (typically) each person will sing in a different key from everyone else.