

Why should you use the ukulele in a music classroom?

- The ukulele is inexpensive.
- The ukulele can engage students because of how “fun” it is.
- There are many popular artists playing, using, and recording songs on ukulele.
- The ukulele allows for quick results. With four strings, it is easy to learn basic chords and to play individual notes.
- Ukulele and singing are synonymous.
- The ukulele plays notes at the sung pitch of female singers and children.
- The ukulele can be used to play harmony, melody, and rhythm.
- The ukulele can be your accompanist (and students can play it!).
- Ukulele players that are “singers” see the power in being able to accompany themselves.
- The ukulele is an instrument that students can play for the rest of their lives or to transfer to guitar.
- The ukulele is a highly portable instrument.
- The ukulele can be used to achieve many National and State Arts (Music) Standards.
- The ukulele can adapt to any style of music from classical and jazz through popular and world music.
- Playing ukulele just makes you happy. You never see someone playing the ukulele without a smile on their faces.
- It is not a recorder!

What Type of Ukulele Should I Buy?

The four factors at play:

- Price
- Size
- Durability
- Musicality

Obviously, the best price you can get is going to be a big factor. However, there are certainly ukulele products out there that are very cheap, but more decoration than actual musical instrument. Aldi is not a good place to buy ukuleles.

The Soprano is the classic size ukulele and definitely a good size for younger hands. It is also, the most mass produced and cheapest option.

The brands that are at the top of the list are Mahalo and Kealoha. An Australian group called Uke4Kids has just brought out a rather awesome product that ticks all the above boxes however, it is a fraction more expensive.

IJam has an excellent range of ukuleles.

Having a good relationship with a local music shop has very good dividends.

How to Store your Class Sets?

There are many options for storage.

However, they all have some things in common.

- Easy Access
- Easy Viewing
- Cost
- Take Up the Smallest Footprint Possible
- Sturdy Enough to Protect the Ukuleles



What Else Do I Need for a Ukulele Classroom?

There are some vital tools needed to run a ukulele classroom.

- Philips Head Screwdrivers (Multiple Sizes)
- Needle Nose Pliers
- Normal Pliers
- Cheap Power Drill
- Tuning Peg Drill Bit
- Tuner
- Picks

Over Time, you will also pick up:

- Ukulele Nuts
- String Sets
- Super Glue
- End Pins/Straps
- Strap Hooks
- PICKS
- Virtual DJ software (for tuning mp3s up or down)

The Left Handed Question.

The High G, Low G Question.

What to Teach?

There are many excellent programs out there.

You do not need to follow just one.

The James Hill <https://ukuleleintheclassroom.com/>

Program is free and excellent.

They do like the low g tuning and that is tricky on a soprano ukulele though.

The Ukulele Blackbelt Program through IJam

https://ijam.com.au/product_info.php?products_id=5926&osCsid=f08046445bc987c206c4998ed9a74fa6

Is very good.

Orff is excellent.

The honest truth though is that kids don't want to learn music, they want to play music. The learning almost happens by accident...or careful planning by a crafty music teacher.

<https://singtokids.com/favorite-pop-songs-for-ukulele-c-f-g-am-edition/>

Any song you want to play or a student wants to play...the chords are available.

Invest in Ultimate Guitar Chords Pro <https://www.ultimate-guitar.com/>

By paying for membership, in conjunction with the education department's copyright payments, you are pretty much covered legally.

The Reality of the Internet.

You can find everything on the internet, both accurate and helpful as well as nonsense made up by someone who just doesn't know what they are talking about.

I have gone through the first 4 google search pages for resources for a ukulele classroom. Here are the useful links.

<https://ukuleleintheclassroom.com/>

<https://teachingwithorff.com/miw-ukulele-unit/>

<https://www.plan.lib.fl.us/files/UkuleleSocialClubHandbook.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MusicTeacher2010> Michael Lynch

https://musiciselementary.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/OMEA-2017-Notes_Intro-to-Ukelele.pdf

<https://techinmusiced.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/ukuleles-in-secondary-music.pdf>

<https://school-ukulele-orchestra.net/lessons-for-your-class/>

<https://singtokids.com/favorite-pop-songs-for-ukulele-c-f-g-am-edition/>