

Foreword

HELLO,

We are uked; addicted to the ukelele. We are totally enthusiastic about the sound, the possibilities and the simplicity of the ukelele. It sounds great and it is very easy to play music with it. With this book we also want to get you uked. We are going to help you by starting with simple steps, even if you have never hold an instrument before. So that you can play your first song in just one weekend and that you can learn very cool techniques which you can use the rest of your life.

We both have no musical background at all. We do not know anything about music actually. That is not an apology, but a recommendation.

We make it simple.

We change chords without hesitation, if that makes a song easier to play. We cheat with fingers and strums when it suits us better. If someone who studied music got shocked and asks: oh but then you actually play B-fis-something and in the original it is with a minor third (for example), we just think whatever and play on. We prefer to be enthusiastic rather than complicated.

We would like to give back the fun in music for all of those who lost their dream or pleasure in making music yourself. The ukelele is the perfect instrument for this. It is forgiving, fear-free and accessible.

In this book you will learn the basic skills to play the ukelele. You will learn it with etudes, exercises that are already songs. No dull songs, but cool ones. For that we got help from the super funky singer-songwriter Shanin Blake. We may use exclusively some of her original songs and she wrote a couple of songs to help you on your way. You will learn techniques which are not complicated (yay) but do sound very cool once you made them your own. They are also interesting enough for the advanced player. You will learn to keep your music simple (yay) so that you can complete the song with your singing (we will explain how). In this book you will read it all on paper and we have also videos of all the songs of Shanin so you can play with her.

Playing the ukelele has two movements. An upward and a downward. Upwards is increasing your skills and downwards is adjusting your expectations. And you can have a lot of fun at the point where your skills and your expectations come together.

We're here to get you uked!

Liselotte & Barbara

Table of content

WELCOME

Hello 8

Barbara gets uked 12

Liselotte gets uked 16

Note 18

What now 21

PART 1 - INTRO

Workshops 24

Principles 26

Home 28

Everywhere 28

Portugal 31

Hawaii 31

Anatomy 32

Cover leaf 33

Maintenance 33

Size 34

Soprano 36

Concert 36

Tenor 36

Align 38

Child 41

God 41

PART 2 - BASICS

How to hold 44

Letting go 44

Tune 47

To tune 49

Strum 50

PART 3 - LEFT

Left right 55

Chord 57

Colour 58

Chord-notation 61

Chords scheme 62

One, two, three 63

Happy birthday 64

Chords 'Happy birthday' 65

Shanin Blake 68

One finger 71

Baby Love 72

Tab-notation 76

Tabs 'Happy birthday' 79
Desert island tuning 80
Tuning with a guitar 82
Tuning with your voice 83
Transposing/ Transpose 85
Finger Favorites 85
Free as a bird 86
Changing/Change 88
Automate 91
Visualizing/Visualize 91
Vocalizing/Vocalize 92
I am yours 92
Let it be 93

PART 4 - RIGHT

Groove 97
Strum-beads 98
Tempo 102
Cadence 102
Rhythm 103
Singing strum 105
Down 106
Singing 107
Am I in love 108
Upwards 111
Up and down 112
Island-strum 113
The tide 114
Jolene 116
Chuck 117
Barré 119
Stop wait a minute 120
Play 122
Pluck 125
Vow to be 126
Pick 128
Picking Patterns 129
Jax 131
House of the rising sun 132
Pick Pro 135
White specs 136
High note 139
Give it up 141
Slide 143
She is the fire 144
Encore 147
The game 148

DEEL 5 - OUTRO

Write yourself 153

Progression 153

Pattern 154

Melody 154

Honest 155

Word of thanks 157

Notation template 158

Colophon 160