

QUICK LESSON 9 28th AUGUST 20

ENHANCING OUR CHORDS - THE BASIC FINGER LIFT

As we learned to play Ukulele we started with simple songs with maybe 2 or 3 basic chords in them. Mastering playing and changing chords using a basic strum got us started. The temptation is to stick at this level because we can do it almost without thinking. A reluctance to push ourselves out of our comfort zone is inherent in us all but it means we don't push on with our playing because it feels like going backwards when we can't initially do something new.

These lessons will help us break out of always doing what we have always done. The good news is they are very easy to do! With a little practice you will very easily master them so that they become second nature.

To help us we are going to use the familiar song Jambalya for these Quick Lessons, because it is well known to us all and only has 2 chords. Songs with only 2 chords are great songs and this is a feel good song that we love to play and people love to sing along with.

By using the simple techniques we will cover in the next Quick Lessons we can very easily enhance the sound of these songs.

1. The finger lift. We will learn this very simple but effective technique first off. Starting on the C Chord. We will learn to lift our finger within the count of each 4 beats to the bar. I will demonstrate this for you and then we will play it together.

We will move on to the G7 Chord. Again it will involve finger lifting within the 4 beats of the bar. Again, I will demonstrate this for you to follow and play along to.

This is our basics, we will be expanding on this technique as we progress.

You may have realised that by simple finger lifting you are actually taking a basic 2 chord song and turning it into a 4 or 5 chord song!

We will continue to explore this subject of enhancing chords next week.

Please have a copy of Jambalya with you for these Quick Lessons.

As always, I will post a video of the techniques for you alongside this Quick Lesson Sheet. You can then review this when you want and play it over and over until you are happy you can do it.