

How to Write A Song On Ukulele

The Chord First Approach



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Key: All 12 Keys

Tempo: Whatever you are feeling

Chords needed: Who knows?

Video Tutorial: Live at 4pm EST!

First you have to know all the chords for all the keys. We are going to list the some popular chords and keys in this PDF, but it is worth independently examining all 12 keys.

	I	ii	iii	IV	V	iv	VII°
C	C	Dm	Em	F	G	Am	Bdim
D	D	Em	F#m	G	A	Bm	C#dim
E	E	F#m	G#m	A	B	C#m	D#dim
F	F	Gm	Am	Bb	C	Dm	Edim
G	G	Am	Bm	C	D	Em	F#dim
A	A	Bm	C#m	D	E	F#m	G#dim

Step 1: Chose a key

Some things to think about when choosing a good starting places when choosing a key, are you familiar with the chords? Do they feel good with your voice? How many barre chords are there? Do you know what scale to use when playing it?

Step 2: Understanding intro, verse, chorus, bridge, etc

Will your song have an intro? Will the verse and the chorus be the same? By understanding what these pieces are you will be able to work more efficiently in step three.

Step 3: Creating Chord progression(s)

How many chord progression will you use in the song? Will it have a bridge with different chords? Will the chords in the chorus and the verse be the same? Remember resolution though, your last chord of the song should be the I chord. Being conscience of when and how to finish your chord progressions will make them stronger.

Step 3: Lyrics

After becoming comfortable with the chord progression, think about what emotions are created when you play these chords, are they happy? Sad? Do you have previous lyrics that you would like to apply to chords? Will you write new lyrics in the moment? We will later look at how to write a song with your melody first, which can make very strong compositions, but right now the goal should just be finding some lyrics you like and matching them to the chord progression.

Step 4: Ornamentation

This is the step in the song when I start thinking about things like a riff for example, will the song have a riff? Will it have a solo? What would the solo sound like? Can I make the rhythm more interesting? What about fingerpicking? These are all ideas I try in different places to create different results.

Step 5: Play the song... a lot! And be ready to rewrite.

Very rarely will a song come together in ten minutes, although sometimes they do, but be prepared to put the song down, add a bridge later, etc. This helps a lot to play with friends as well, jam the song, let friends improvise on it, songs can evolve naturally when they are played over time.

Step 6: Record yourself!

Listen to your music, it really helps you hear things you can't in the moment, and once you are comfortable with that, upload it to youtube and send me a link because I want to hear what good stuff you have created!