Familiarize with the ukulele:
Strung like the top 4 strings of a guitar (baritone uke) Tuned 5 frets up from a guitar (G C E A) for tenor, concert, and soprano ukes 4th string tuned 1 octave higher (concert and soprano ukes) Use common guitar chord shapes (D=A, G=D, A=E, C=G, F=C, Am=Em) Most chords can be played using all 4 strings (easier to strum) Strum in the middle of the neck without a pick 1st and 2nd strings are the 5th and 6th strings on a guitar (for solos or riffs)

1) COMMON OPEN CHORD SHAPES CAN BE PLAYED ON THE UKULELE
   a) G for ukulele is the D shape guitar chord. Easy keys for ukulele are G, A, C, and D.
   b) Most chords are played using all four strings, making strumming easier. The small neck width allows young students to play without overstretching their fingers. Its simplicity makes it a nice introductory instrument.
   c) In standard tuning, the 1st and 2nd strings are the same as the 5th and 6th strings of a guitar. This allows for easier transfer of guitar riffs.

2) EASY CHORD PROGRESSIONS:
   a) C, F, G, Am (Dm, E7)
   b) G, C, D, Em (Am, Bm)

3) STRUMMING
   a) Strumming on the ukulele is really easy using the fingers. You can use a pick if you prefer, but isn’t how the instrument is traditionally handled. There are a couple of ways to strum with the fingers and we’ll take a look at each!
      i) Using only the thumb
         (1) Because the thumb is so “fleshy”, strumming with it can give us a quiet intimate sound
      ii) Using the Index Finger
         (1) This is probably the most common way to strum a Ukulele. With your index finger slightly rounded, alternate between pointing it to the ground (down strum) and pointing at your chest (up strum)
      iii) Playing a Roll
         (1) This is when you choose to make a stronger sounding beat on a down strum by using all of your fingers in a row, resulting in a slightly longer and
(CONTINUED)

louder strum.

(2) Just like a cymbal crash on a drum set, use this at the beginning of a phrase or new section.

iv) “Chunking”

(1) This is the equivalent of what is called the “dead string hit” on the guitar. It is hitting the muted strings usually on beats 2 and 4 to imitate where the snare would be in a drum beat.

4) POPULAR SONGS

a) Rock and Roll Chords Medley
   i) C F G F
   ii) C G F G
   iii) C C F G

b) Axis of Awesome Medley
   i) C G Ami F
      (1) (In the style of Jason Mraz “I’m Yours” and Train “Hey Soul Sister”)

c) Ice Cream Changes Medley
   i) C Ami F G

d) Somewhere Over the Rainbow - Israel Kamakawiwo’ole

5) SOLOING

a) Taking a solo on the Uke is similar to soloing on the guitar. Although strumming is done using fingers for the most part, soloing may project better with a pick.
   i) In C we can use the “open position” box shape.
   ii) Or we can use the “C Extension” which uses the same notes and adds a cool little “slide note”

6) YOUTUBE RESOURCES

a) How to Strum
   i) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_pxb4FetTSO

b) How to Chunk
   i) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O5yFj1RnRvQ

c) How to Play a Roll
   i) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYpdLGZAOs4