

UKE U



An All-Day
Celebration of the Ukulele
with Jim & Liz Beloff,
Ron Gordon and Amy Kucharik

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Ukulele Workshops 11 a.m. to 4:30 pm
Evening concert 7:30 p.m.

UKE U is The Sounding Board's first ever intensive all day teaching event for ukulele players, those who want to play, and people who just enjoy one of the world's most accessible musical instruments.

Ukulele masters **Jim & Liz Beloff, Ron Gordon** and **Amy Kucharik** will lead six hour-long workshops (participants may choose three) tailored to uke players of all abilities.

The daytime event will also include an open mic hosted by Amy and a uke jug band jam led by Ron. Jumpin' Jim's Ukulele Emporium will be open at lunchtime, during the breaks between the workshops, and at the evening concert. Lunch is included for all workshop participants.

The evening concert features all three workshop leaders in concert. **Advance tickets or reservations are recommended for workshop participants.** You need to bring your own instrument to participate in the workshops.



See reverse side for
schedule and ticket prices

For more information
and tickets, go to
soundingboardcoffeehouse.org/#ukeu



The Sounding Board

A folk and acoustic music series since 1973

The Universalist Church of West Hartford
433 Fern Street, West Hartford, CT

SCHEDULE

- 11:00 a.m. **Welcome** (Doors open 10:30 a.m.)
- 11:15 a.m. **Workshop Session A**
Beginning Uke (Ron Gordon)
Strums, chords, and two songs to leave singing! Get a great foundation of skills and concepts to jumpstart your future ukulele endeavors. Learn and practice the right hand rhythms that make the ukulele so bouncy, and accessible to so many genres of music: basic one finger strum, thumb drag, triplet. We'll learn a few chords and hand positioning, along with two songs to put the right and left hands together...and off you go! Handouts provided.
Uke Tricks & Licks (Amy Kucharik)
This workshop explores how the ukulele can help unlock your song-writing potential. Amy demonstrates a few music theory and instrumental skills (such as chord relationships, hammer-ons, moveable chords and ukulele picking patterns) and how they inspired some of her original music. The group will experiment with how any of these might trigger, cultivate, or enhance a new song seed. You will come away from this workshop with a few new techniques under your fingers and ideas for incorporating those into songwriting projects.
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch** (included for all workshop participants)
- 1:15 p.m. **Workshop Session B**
Uke Fingerpicking with Style (Amy Kucharik)
This class teaches fingerpicking techniques as options for accenting songs you already play and foundations for playing new songs. Learn exercises to help you build finger strength and abilities needed for finger-style ukulele, including finger-picking tablature, arpeggios and some more complicated picking patterns. The class concludes with a group jam for multiple levels of singers, strummers, and pickers, (emphasis on the pickers!) with opportunities for harmony singers and instrumental soloists to strut their stuff, if desired.
The Daily Ukulele Jam (Jim Beloff)
An hour of strumming through a dozen or so songs from both *Daily Ukulele* songbooks with periodic stops to ooh and ahh over the cleverness of a specific chord change, the enduring elegance of the AABA song structure and how the major 7th chord became a defining sound of the 1970s.
- 2:15 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30 p.m. **Workshop Session C**
Chord Melody (Ron Gordon)
Learn a few ways to move closed chord shapes on the uke, and apply a few concepts to enhance your songs. Moving chords on the uke is generally much more doable on the short scale and nylon strings, as compared to other fretted instruments. This workshop covers sliding, chromatic movement, and using different chord shapes up and down the neck as a way to introduce this technique. You'll learn two great songs that apply these left hand chord movements: *Separation Blues* and the Hawaiian classic; *Hula Blues*. Recording devices recommended and handouts provided.
Playing The Beatles Songbook (Jim Beloff)
An hour of strumming through a bunch of Beatles songs with periodic stops to extol the songwriting genius of the Liverpool lads and a bit of history behind each song. Also the story about the day George Harrison came to our house.
- 3:30 p.m. **Break**

- 3:45 p.m. **Open Mic** (Hosted by Amy Kucharik)
Share your songs and tunes with your fellow players. Sign up at the event to reserve a slot
Jug Band Jam (Hosted by Ron Gordon)
Many uke players earned their chops playing jug band music with friends. Ron leads this jam that will cover several different jug band favorites. Words and music provided.
- 4:30 p.m. **Workshop ends**
- 6:45 p.m. **Doors open for Evening Concert**
- 7:30 p.m. **Evening Concert with Jim & Liz Beloff, Ron Gordon and Amy Kucharik**

INSTRUCTORS

Jim & Liz Beloff – Finding a ukulele at a flea market in 1992 inspired Liz and Jim Beloff to start Flea Market Music, Inc., publisher of the popular Jumpin' Jim's series of ukulele songbooks. As performers, Liz and Jim have become known for their breezy, close harmonies on standards and Jim's original songs. They perform together regularly throughout the USA, playing their family-made Fluke, Flea and Firefly ukuleles. Jim is also author of *The Ukulele—A Visual History* (Backbeat Books), producer of *Legends of Ukulele*, a CD compilation for Rhino Records and has made three how-to-play DVDs for Homespun. Jim's 2014 two-CD set, *Dreams I Left In Pockets*, features 33 songs he wrote or co-wrote with uke legends Herb "Ohta-san" Ohta and Lyle Ritz.

Ron Gordon – From Schnectady, New York, Ron is the ukulele guru of New York's Capital Region. He has long crusaded for all things uke in upstate New York, spreading the uke gospel to both kids and adults. He has performed with the St. Regis String Band, Mandolin Madness, and the Festival Jug Band, and teaches acoustic music in varied styles on several fretted string instruments. Ron's repertoire ranges from old-time string band music to jazz standards of the 1930s. He is known for his interpretations of the early music of Louis Armstrong and other performers from the early years of jazz.

Amy Kucharik – Kerrville New Folk winning songwriter and performer Amy Kucharik draws from blues, folk and Vaudeville traditions. She tours and performs as a one-woman band with ukulele, foot percussion, mouth trumpet and harmonica, or with her Boston-based bands Friends With Benefits and Tiger Moan. Amy's music has drawn comparisons to Maria Muldaur, Lake Street Dive, and Anais Mitchell. Her second full-length album of original music, *Until the Words Are Gone*, was released worldwide in June 2018.

TICKETS

Advance tickets available at soundingboardcoffeehouse.org

WORKSHOPS/CONCERT ALL-DAY COMBO TICKET (Includes lunch)

\$70 General; \$56 Sounding Board Members

\$40 Full Time College/High School Students

DAYTIME WORKSHOPS ONLY TICKET (includes lunch)

\$50 General; \$40 Sounding Board Members

\$30 Full Time College/High School Students

EVENING CONCERT ONLY TICKET

\$25 General; \$20 Sounding Board Members

\$12 Full Time College/High School Students; \$10 Child 12 and under with adult

DIRECTIONS

Take exit 43/Park Road-West Hartford Center off I-84. Get in the center lane on the exit ramp and turn right on Park Road. Then take an immediate left at the next light on Trout Brook Drive. Follow Trout Brook Drive to the fourth traffic light and turn left on Fern St. Go halfway up the hill to the Universalist Church of West Hartford and turn left into church driveway. Park in the lot behind the church. There are several handicapped parking spaces along the driveway leading to the parking lot. Enter through the side doors.