

## **MUD 2026 Preliminary Workshop Levels and Offerings (subject to change)**

*Note: Keep in mind that posted levels can be somewhat fluid depending on the instructor, the subject, and the make up of the class attendees; i.e. a class listed as “Confident Beginner” can be suitable for a Beginning or an Intermediate student. You do not need to pre-register for any of the workshops, just show up and then feel free to discreetly move to a different class if the one you’re in doesn’t suit you.*

### **Beginner**

This level has been playing for up to 6 months and has learned 3 – 4 chords but hesitates in between chord changes to move the fingers to the next location.

### **Confident Beginner**

This player knows a handful of chords and can move from one chord to another without pausing. Has trouble with barre chords, and has developed a strum or two or a basic finger pattern for picking.

### **Intermediate**

This player can hold a steady rhythm, and is competent with a variety of basic chords (for example: A, Am, Bb, B7, C, C7, D, Dm, E7, Em, G, and G7. Understands simple chord progressions (such as I, IV, V chords), can sing and strum at the same time, and learns chords to simple tunes fairly quickly.

### **Advanced Intermediate**

This player can hear I, IV, and V chords, has mastered some chord inversions, knows there is life above the fifth, and has been there with barre or four-fingered moveable chords. Plays lead and backup easily with others and keeps steady rhythm.

### **Baritone-Friendly (BF)**

Classes labeled as such can be enjoyed by baritone players. You should know the baritone equivalent of the standard ukulele chords used in the classes as they may not be provided on handouts. If a class is not listed as BF, you may be able to use a ukulele capo.

**FRIDAY 5/8**

**12:30 - 1:30**

**VIGGY Fingerstyle Fun! (beginning and confident beginner)**

New to fingerpicking but want to add some spice? We'll learn tips and tricks on how to nail hammer ons, pull offs, slides, bends with simple melodic lines

**NEAL CHIN The Magical 2-5-1 (confident beginner)**

Chord progressions are like musical sentences that weave together a story that is often felt rather spoken. The magical 2-5-1 is one of the fundamental building blocks in jazz harmony, painting a way to create motion in music. We'll talk about what exactly 2-5-1s are and some examples of them in the wild. There'll be a few voices with some extra material for you to take home and continue your journey.

**AMY KUCHARIK Bo Diddley and Beyond: The Clave Strum (Intermediate/all levels) (BF)**

Learn how to strum one of the most instantly recognizable, fun-to-strum rhythms in blues and rock history: The clave! With roots in Afro-Cuban music and known as the signature rhythm used by performer Bo Diddley, this 5-beat rhythm is key to playing dozens of songs, from "Willie and the Hand Jive" to "Faith" to U2's "Desire." We'll first break down the strum, then play as many tunes as time allows.

**2:00 - 3:00**

**VIGGY Blues Basics with The Beatles! (Beginner - advanced intermediate)**

Learn your Is, Fab IVs, and Vs with this blues workshop! We'll learn the blues in five different keys through five classic Beatles tunes, and talk about soloing within the blues scale. This is an all levels course featuring beginner friendly chords and soloing/riffs for intermediate/advanced players.

**NEAL CHIN Funky 'Ukulele (confident beginner - intermediate)**

Learn a few funky riffs - let's see just how deep of a pocket we can make together! We'll learn some techniques to help us become more agile, spice up our fretboards with some funky chords, and of course play that funky music! Must be rhythmically flexible with some basic picking to get the most out of this class.

### **DANIEL HO Learn To Play Jazz In One Minute! (all levels)**

Sounds too good to be true? Come and find out how to play Autumn Leaves with just one finger. Daniel will also be teaching the ubiquitous Hawaiian chord progression - the dominant circle of 5ths, using only two positions.

**3:30 - 4:30**

### **AMY KUCHARIK Take On Me (Intermediate, Bb chord required) (BF)**

Take on this beloved 80s classic and play the famous keyboard riff on ukulele! We'll cover fingerpicking (previous experience reading tablature is recommended, but not required), plus all the chords and strumming you need to play a cover -- plus tips on making it your own. (Intermediate -- Bb chord required)

### **DANIEL HO Finding your Space with Bass (confident beginner and up)**

Daniel will cover the basic patters that define different styles (latin, rock, jazz), how to create melodic bass lines, catchy ostinatos (repeated patterns), and more.

### **Evening Concert - Neal Chin, Vigg, Super Secret Cult Band**

**SATURDAY 5/10**

**11:00 - 12:00**

### **VIGGY Strum & Drum (intermediate) (BF)**

Want to be your own one-man-band? Let's learn how to turn our ukulele into a drum set with Strum & Drum! We'll learn the basics of percussive ukulele and how to incorporate kicks and snares into our strumming technique. (Baritone-friendly if you know the most popular bari chords.)

### **DANIEL HO Adding Depth and Dimension to your Music the Hawaiian Way (confident beginner - intermediate)**

With his original Hawaiian love song "Aloha Pumehana" as a reference, Daniel will share how to create interesting layers of arrangement using color tones, counterpoint, fingerstyle, and strumming. He'll discuss:

- How to make simple chords even simpler and sound better by adding "open string color tones."
- How to play and sing
- How to produce a beautiful fingerstyle tone

- A little about the Hawaiian language
- How to create interesting arrangements using color tones, movement, finger style, and strumming

**GERALD ROSS Take it! Single-note Soloing the Easy Way - part one (confident Beginner and above)**

- Have you ever wondered how musicians play just the right notes when it's time to take a solo? Do they randomly pick notes out of thin air or is there some logic to the musical lines they play?
- Have you ever been to a jam session and when it's time to take an instrumental solo everyone looks at you says "take it!". We will learn what to do when that situation arises. It's not as difficult or scary as you may think. You can do it!
- Single note soloing is easy. We'll learn some tricks and techniques that will have you playing more than just chords. You will be soloing within the first fifteen minutes of the class – guaranteed!

**12:30 - 1:30**

**AMY KUCHARIK Cooking With Jazz Substitutions (Intermediate, barre chords required)**

Chords are like spices, and which ones you choose can give your song a distinctly different flavor. In this workshop, learn what jazz chord substitutions are and why would you want to make them. We'll play a few jazzy standards from the American songbook and see what chords have been substituted (and why), plus see how we can change them to make our own unique recipe. You'll learn a few new chords, a little music theory, and some fun songs -- plus you'll have a guide to using jazzy chords on your own!

**NEAL CHIN Hawaiian Music: Riffs and Tunes (confident beginner)**

Hawaiian music is a unique blend of reggae that comes from Hawaii. Mixing the culture of life in Hawaii with catchy reggae beats makes for great songs to jam on and even more fun to play with friends. We'll go through some of the basics of the genre by learning some of the classics with their foundational rhythm and licks.

**JOHN FRENCH Play the 12-Bar Blues! (all levels) (BF)**

In this workshop, John will teach you about the structure behind this legendary blues and pop music genre with play-along examples. You'll

also write your own 12-Bar Blues song by the end of class. (Baritone-friendly if you know your basic chords.)

**2:00 - 3:00**

**VIGGY Barre Chord Bootcamp (intermediate)**

Ten-hut! Time to tackle barre chords and 4 finger chords of all shapes and sizes! We'll learn some small adjustments to eliminate chord shape buzz and learn movable chord shapes.

**AMY KUCHARIK Songwriting Ukulele (all levels) (BF)**

In this workshop, we'll look at the fundamentals of writing a song -- verse, chorus, melody, chord progression, and choosing the best words to express yourself. It's not as hard as you think!

**DANIEL HO Having Fun with Rhythm! (all levels) (BF)**

Do you ever want to change things up during a jam session with a different sound? Do you have a partner who's not yet ready to pick up 'ukulele? Why not give percussion a try? A shaker is a fun instrument you can play along with to any song. Daniel will show a multitude of sounds and techniques you can create using the Shakerlele, a percussion instrument he co-designed with Ohana Ukuleles. He will go over rock and Latin rhythms, back beats, accents, and playing in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time. \*Daniel will be lending Shakerleles for participants to get the most out of enjoying this class and they will also be available for sale.

**3:30 - 4:30**

**NEAL CHIN Minor Swing - Django for 'Ukulele (intermediate)**

Master guitarist Django Reinhardt revolutionized both the guitar and how it was played, creating his own sound and bringing his music to the world. His classic Minor Swing is a wonderful place to enter into his music and to take a look and some of the colorful sounds of playing in a minor key. We'll learn how to play the tune, take some time finding our swing, and in the tradition of the tune, learn how to solo ala Django!

**GERALD ROSS Take it! Single-note Soloing the Easy Way - part two (confident Beginner and above)**

- Have you ever wondered how musicians play just the right notes when it's time to take a solo? Do they randomly pick notes out of thin air or is there some logic to the musical lines they play?

- Have you ever been to a jam session and when it's time to take an instrumental solo everyone looks at you says "take it!". We will learn what to do when that situation arises. It's not as difficult or scary as you may think. You can do it!

- Single note soloing is easy. We'll learn some tricks and techniques that will have you playing more than just chords. You will be soloing within the first fifteen minutes of the class – guaranteed!

NOTE: Part One is not required to take Part Two, but is geared more towards the intermediate player as a stand-alone workshop

**DEAN-O ROCHESTER Going Paperless with Chord Pro (all levels) (BF)**

Ditch the binders and put all your chord/lyric sheets on your tablet or other device. In this workshop, Dean-O will give you all the info you need regarding using your device including recommended hardware, programs, and more.

**Concert - Daniel Ho, Amy Kucharik, The Corner Laughers**