

# Learn to Play the



24 great songs!

Includes 1 chord songs, 2  
chord songs, and 3 chord  
songs!

# Ukulele

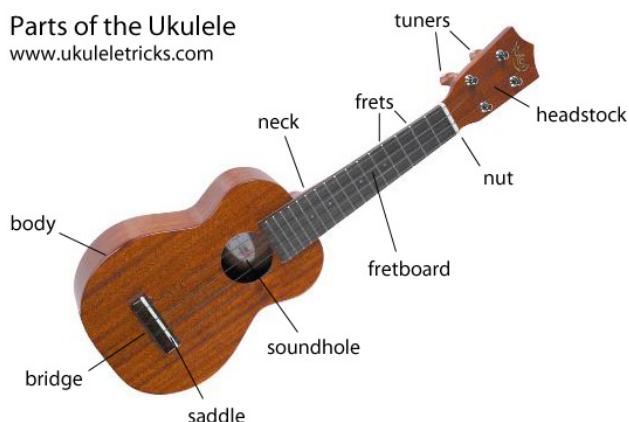
## Why learn to play the ukulele?

Learning to play the ukulele can be a fun and inexpensive introduction to playing a real stringed instrument. The skills you will acquire can be useful for learning other stringed instruments as well, such as guitar, mandolin, banjo, or violin.

## About the Ukulele

Commonly associated with the music of Hawaii (where, by the way, ukulele means “jumping flea!”), the ukulele is small enough to fit the hands of even the smallest of players. Ukuleles commonly come in four sizes: soprano, concert, tenor, and baritone.

Parts of the Ukulele  
www.ukuleletricks.com



## How to pronounce it

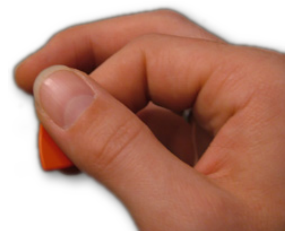
Hawaiians pronounce the word “OO-KOO-leh-leh.” The rest of us say “yuke-ah-LAY-lee,” or sometimes, just “uke” (“yuke”).

## How to hold the instrument

Be sure to always sit or stand tall when holding your instrument. Your left hand will be holding the neck of the ukulele for support and for changing the pitch of the strings as you play different notes and chords. Your right hand will be holding the pick, which is used to pluck the string, or strings. Look at the picture on the cover of this book if you need more help.

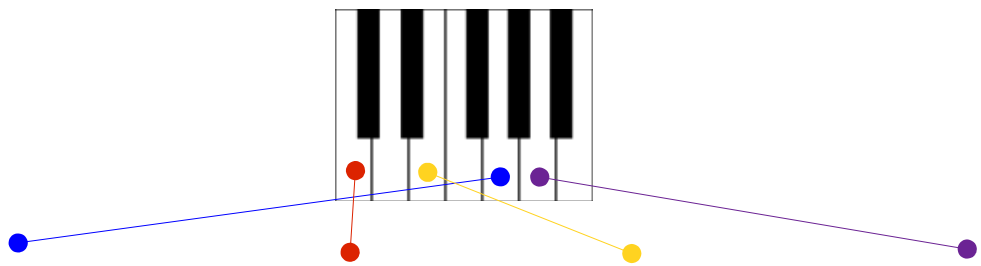
## How to hold the pick

The pick is held between your thumb and index finger of your right hand. Your index finger will make a “t” with your thumb, and will be underneath the pick, pointing in the same direction as the pick.



## How to tune the soprano ukulele

We will be using standard “C” tuning for these lessons: gCEA. We write the “g” in lower case to remind you that the 4<sup>th</sup> string “g” sounds higher than the 3<sup>rd</sup> string “C.” The “g” string is the one closest to you when you are holding the ukulele. It is also the first string you strum when using a down stroke. We recommend using an electronic tuner to get it right. Web sites such as [http://www.get-tuned.com/online\\_ukulele\\_tuner.php](http://www.get-tuned.com/online_ukulele_tuner.php) can also help.

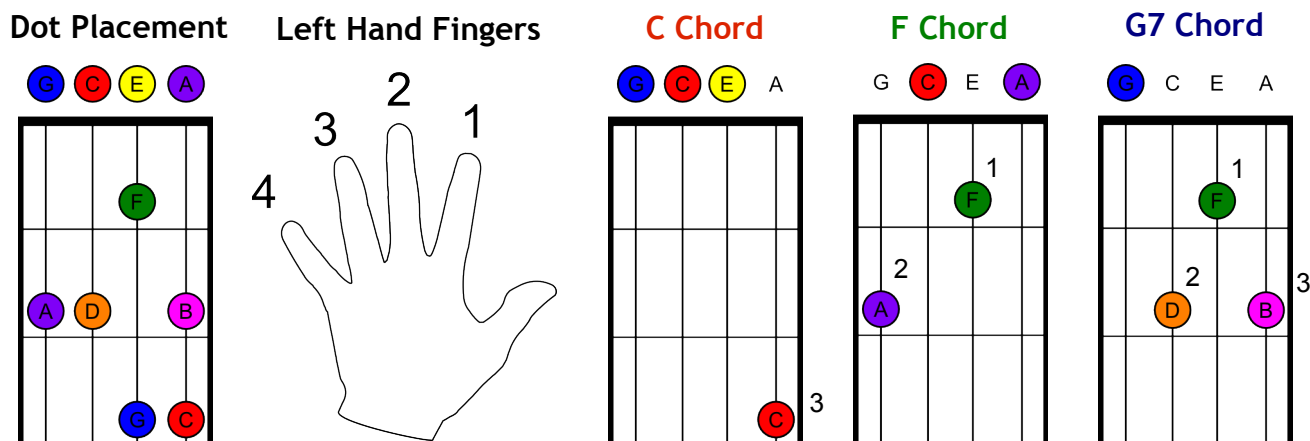


A diagram of a piano keyboard showing the notes G, C, E, and A. Colored dots are placed on the keys: a red dot on G (below C), a yellow dot on C, a blue dot on E, and a purple dot on A. Lines connect these dots to the corresponding string columns in the table below.

4 <sup>th</sup> String	3 <sup>rd</sup> String	2 <sup>nd</sup> String	1 <sup>st</sup> String
g	C	E	A
392 Hz	261.6 Hz	329.6 Hz	440 Hz

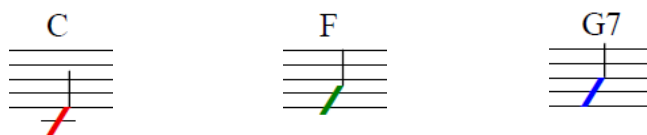
## How to play notes and chords

For this introductory course, we will be using colored notes that match the colored dots on your ukulele. The dots should look like the diagram below. If your ukulele is not already prepared with colored dots, simply use a hole puncher to cut the dots out of colored construction paper and use a strip of transparent tape to stick them on the fingerboard. Be sure to study the finger numbers for determining which fingers to use while playing the chords you will be learning.

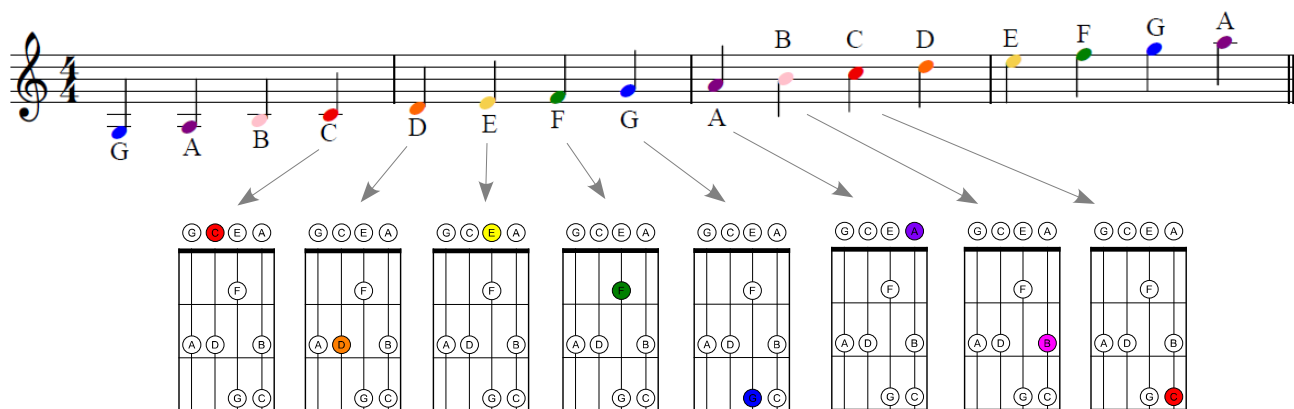


## How to read the music

Each of the songs in this book have two music lines. The top staff shows what notes to play to make the melody, or tune of the song. The bottom staff shows what chord to strum, and indicates where the main beats should be played. C chords are indicated by a red strum note, F chords are indicated by a green strum note, and the G7 chords are shown as a blue strum note.






If you would like to play the melody of one of your songs, just find the corresponding colored dot on your ukulele. Note that some of the low notes are not available on the ukulele. However, if you wish to substitute the pitches that sound an octave higher (by using the same color dots), you can still come up with satisfactory results.



## 20 Steps to Playing the Ukulele

1. ☐ Learn the parts of the ukulele.
2. ☐ Learn your left hand finger numbers.
3. ☐ Learn the letter names of the four strings.
4. ☐ Learn the colors of the notes.

<b>C</b> <b>red</b>	<b>D</b> <b>orange</b>	<b>E</b> <b>yellow</b>	<b>F</b> <b>green</b>	<b>G</b> <b>blue</b>	<b>A</b> <b>purple</b>	<b>B</b> <b>pink</b>
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5. ☐ Learn to play the C chord by pressing your 3<sup>rd</sup> finger down on the red dot.
6. ☐ Strum a steady 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 beat with a downward stroke on each beat.
7. ☐ Strum your C chord while singing the one chord songs marked with a 
8. ☐ Learn the G7 chord.
9. ☐ Practice switching between the C chord and the G7 chord smoothly and quickly.
10. ☐ Strum the chords while singing the two chord songs marked with a 
11. ☐ Learn the F chord.
12. ☐ Practice switching between the three chords: C to F, F to C, F to G7.
13. ☐ Strum the chords while singing the three chord songs marked with a 
14. ☐ Learn a new strumming pattern: down - down up - down - down.
15. ☐ Strum your favorite songs using the new pattern.
16. ☐ Learn a third strumming pattern: down - down up - (silent down) up - down.
17. ☐ Strum your favorite songs using this third pattern.
18. ☐ Practice playing the melody of one of your favorite songs.
19. ☐ Master several songs and put on a concert for your family and friends.
20. ☐ Teach someone else how to play.

# Ukulele Songbook

Rhythm Exercises

down, down, down, down      down, down-up, down, down      down, down - up, up, down  
1      2      3      4      1      2      and      3      4      1      2      and      (3)      and      4

## I. Row, Row, Row Your Boat (Round)

Part 2

Melody

1 Row, row, row your boat gent - ly down the stream.\_\_\_\_\_

Strum

Part 3

Part 4

Melody

Mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, mer - ri - ly, life is but a dream.\_\_\_\_\_

Strum

## 2. Are You Sleeping? (Round)

Part 2

Melody

1 Are you sleep - ing, are you sleep - ing bro - ther John, bro - ther John?

Strum

Part 3

Part 4

Melody

Morn-ing bells are ring-ing, morn-ing bells are ring-ing: "Ding ding dong, ding, ding, dong."

Strum

### 3. Ring Around the Rosies

Melody

**1**

Ring a - round the ro - sies, a pock - et full of

C

Strum

Melody

po - sies. Ash - es, ash - es, we all fall down.\_\_\_\_\_

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the first two lines of the song 'Ring Around the Rosies'. The first line of music is in 6/8 time, with a melody line and a strum line. The melody starts on a blue note (C4), goes up to a yellow note (D4), then a purple note (E4), and continues with various notes. The lyrics 'Ring a - round the ro - sies, a pock - et full of' are written below the melody. A red circle with the number '1' is next to the first measure. The strum line consists of red diagonal slashes. The second line of music continues the melody and strumming pattern, with lyrics 'po - sies. Ash - es, ash - es, we all fall down.\_\_\_\_\_'. The strum line continues with red slashes.

### 4. Praise the lord

Melody

**1**

Praise the Lord, Oh, praise the Lord, Oh, praise the Lord, for He is good!

C

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the first line of the song 'Praise the lord'. The music is in 4/4 time. The melody line starts on a red note (C4), goes up to a yellow note (D4), then a blue note (E4), and continues with various notes. The lyrics 'Praise the Lord, Oh, praise the Lord, Oh, praise the Lord, for He is good!' are written below the melody. A red circle with the number '1' is next to the first measure. The strum line consists of red diagonal slashes.

### 5. The farmer in the Dell

Melody

**1**

The farm - er in the dell,\_\_\_\_\_ the farm - er in the dell,\_\_\_\_\_

C

Strum

Melody

Hi, ho, the dai - ry - o, the farm - er in the dell.\_\_\_\_\_

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the first two lines of the song 'The farmer in the Dell'. The first line of music is in 6/8 time, with a melody line and a strum line. The melody starts on a blue note (C4), goes up to a red note (D4), then a yellow note (E4), and continues with various notes. The lyrics 'The farm - er in the dell,\_\_\_\_\_ the farm - er in the dell,\_\_\_\_\_ are written below the melody. A red circle with the number '1' is next to the first measure. The strum line consists of red diagonal slashes. The second line of music continues the melody and strumming pattern, with lyrics 'Hi, ho, the dai - ry - o, the farm - er in the dell.\_\_\_\_\_'. The strum line continues with red slashes.

## 6. Go Tell Aunt Rhody

Melody

2

Go tell Aunt Rho - dy, go tell Aunt Rho - dy,

C G7 C

Strum

Melody

go tell Aunt Rho - dy the old gray goose is dead.

G7 C

Strum

## 7. London Bridge Is falling Down

Melody

2

Lon - don Bridge is fall - ing down, fall - ing down, fall - ing down,

C G7 C

Strum

Melody

Lon - don Bridge is fall - ing down, my fair la - dy.

G7 C

Strum

## 8. Mary Had a little lamb

Melody

2

Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb, lit - tle lamb, lit - tle lamb,

C G7 C

Strum

Melody

Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb, its fleece was white as snow.

Strum

G7 C

This block contains the musical notation for the first song, 'Mary Had a Little Lamb'. It features a melody line with notes colored yellow, red, and blue, and a strum line with red and blue slashes. The lyrics are 'Ma - ry had a lit - tle lamb, its fleece was white as snow.' The chords G7 and C are indicated above the strum line.

## 9. Clementine

Melody

Oh, my dar - lin', Oh, my dar - lin', Oh, my dar - lin' Clem-en -

Strum

C

This block contains the musical notation for the second song, 'Clementine'. It features a melody line with notes colored red, blue, and yellow, and a strum line with red slashes. The lyrics are 'Oh, my dar - lin', Oh, my dar - lin', Oh, my dar - lin' Clem-en -'. The chord C is indicated above the strum line.

Melody

tine, you are lost and gone for - ev - er, Oh, my dar - lin' Clem-en - tine.

Strum

G7 C G7 C

This block contains the musical notation for the third part of 'Clementine'. It features a melody line with notes colored yellow, green, and red, and a strum line with blue and red slashes. The lyrics are 'tine, you are lost and gone for - ev - er, Oh, my dar - lin' Clem-en - tine.' The chords G7 and C are indicated above the strum line.

## 10. The Wheels on the Bus

Melody

The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round. The

Strum

C G7 C

This block contains the musical notation for the first part of 'The Wheels on the Bus'. It features a melody line with notes colored blue, red, and yellow, and a strum line with red slashes. The lyrics are 'The wheels on the bus go round and round, round and round, round and round. The'. The chords C, G7, and C are indicated above the strum line.

Melody

wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town.

Strum

G7 C

This block contains the musical notation for the second part of 'The Wheels on the Bus'. It features a melody line with notes colored red, yellow, and blue, and a strum line with red and blue slashes. The lyrics are 'wheels on the bus go round and round, all through the town.' The chords G7 and C are indicated above the strum line.

# 11. Skip to My Lou

Melody

2

Fly in the but - ter - milk, "Shoo, fly, shoo!"

Strum

C

Melody

Fly in the but - ter - milk, "Shoo, fly, shoo!"

Strum

G7

Melody

Fly in the but - ter - milk, "Shoo, fly, shoo!" Skip to my Lou, my dar - ling.

Strum

C G7 C

Melody

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou,

Strum

G7

Melody

Lou, Lou, skip to my Lou, skip to my Lou my dar - ling.

Strum

C G7 C

## 12. Do Your Ears Hang low

Melody

2

Do your ears hang low, do they wob - ble to and fro? Can you

C

Strum

Melody

tie them in a knot, can you tie them in a bow? Can you

G7

Strum

Melody

throw them o - ver your should - er like a con - ti - nen - tal sold - ier? Do your

C

Strum

Melody

ears hang low?

G7 C

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the song 'Do Your Ears Hang Low'. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a 'Melody' staff and a 'Strum' staff. The melody is written in 4/4 time and features various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests. The lyrics are written below the melody. The strumming pattern is indicated by red and blue diagonal lines on the strum staff, with some lines having a '3' above them indicating a triplet. Chords 'C' and 'G7' are marked above the strum staff. A large number '2' in a circle is placed to the left of the first system.

## 13. How Much Is That Doggy in the Window

Melody

How much is that dog - gy in the win - dow? The one with the

C G7

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the song 'How Much Is That Doggy in the Window'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a 'Melody' staff and a 'Strum' staff. The melody is written in 3/4 time and features various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests. The lyrics are written below the melody. The strumming pattern is indicated by red and blue diagonal lines on the strum staff. Chords 'C' and 'G7' are marked above the strum staff.

Melody

wag - gl - y tail? \_\_\_\_\_ How much is that dog - gy in the win - dow? \_\_\_\_\_

Strum

C G7

Melody

I do hope that he is for sale. \_\_\_\_\_

Strum

C G7 C

#### 14. Itsy, Bitsy Spider (Round)

Melody

The it - sy, bit - sy spi - der went up the wat - er spout.

Strum

C G7 C

Part 2

Melody

Down came the rain and washed the spi - der out.

Strum

C G7 C

Part 3

Melody

Out came the

Strum

C C

Part 4

Melody

sun and dried up all the rain, and the it - sy, bit - sy spi - der went

Strum

G7 C

Melody

up the spout a - gain.

Strum

G7 C

## 15. It's Raining, It's Pouring

Melody

It's rain - ing, it's pour - ing, the old man is snor - ing. He

Strum

C

Melody

fell out of bed and bumped his head and could-n't get up in the morn - ing.

Strum

G7 C

## 16. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Melody

Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;

Strum

C G7 C G7

Melody

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Op'n-ing to the sun a - bove.

Strum

C G7 C G7 C

## 17. My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Melody

2

My count - ry, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty, of thee I

C G7 C G7

Strum

Melody

Land where my fath - ers died, land of the pil - grim's pride,

C G7

Strum

Melody

from e - v'ry moun - tain side, let free - dom ring!

C G7 C

Strum

## 18. God Is So Good!

Melody

3

God is so good! God is so good!

C G7 C

Strum

Melody

God is so good, He's so good to me!

F C G7 C

Strum

## 19. Jesus loves Me

Melody

3

Je - sus loves me this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.

C F C

Strum

Melody

Lit - tle ones to Him be - long, they are weak, but He is strong.

F C G7 C

Strum

Melody

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

F C G7

Strum

Melody

Yes, Je - sus loves me; the Bi - ble tells me so!

C F C G7 C

Strum

## 20. If You're Happy and You Know It

Melody

3

If you're hap - py and you know it, clap your hands. (clap) (clap) If you're

C G7

Strum

Melody

hap - py and you know it clap your hands. (clap) (clap) If you're

Strum

C

Melody

hap - py and you know it then your face will sure - ly show it. If you're

Strum

F C

Melody

hap - py and you know it clap your hands. (clap) (clap)

Strum

G7 C

## 21. Twinkle, Twinkle, little Star

Melody

3 Twin - kle, twin - kle, lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are,

Strum

C F C F C G7 C

Melody

Up a - bove the world so high, like a dia - mond in the sky.

Strum

C F C G7 C F C G7

Melody

Twin - kle, twin - kle, lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are.

C F C F C G7 C

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the first song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature. The notes are: C4 (red), D4 (red), E4 (blue), F4 (blue), G4 (purple), A4 (purple), Bb4 (blue), C5 (blue), D5 (green), E5 (green), F5 (yellow), G5 (yellow), A5 (orange), Bb5 (orange), C6 (red). The strumming pattern is on a bass clef staff with a common time signature. The notes are: C4 (red), D4 (red), E4 (blue), F4 (blue), G4 (purple), A4 (purple), Bb4 (blue), C5 (blue), D5 (green), E5 (green), F5 (yellow), G5 (yellow), A5 (orange), Bb5 (orange), C6 (red). The lyrics are: 'Twin - kle, twin - kle, lit - tle star, how I won - der what you are.' The chords are: C, F, C, F, C, G7, C.

## 22. This little light of Mine

Melody

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine.

C

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the second song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (blue), D4 (blue), E4 (blue), F4 (blue), G4 (yellow), A4 (red), Bb4 (red), C5 (red), D5 (blue), E5 (blue), F5 (blue), G5 (yellow), A5 (red), Bb5 (red), C6 (red). The strumming pattern is on a bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (red), D4 (red), E4 (blue), F4 (blue), G4 (purple), A4 (purple), Bb4 (blue), C5 (blue), D5 (green), E5 (green), F5 (yellow), G5 (yellow), A5 (orange), Bb5 (orange), C6 (red). The lyrics are: 'This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine.' The chord is: C.

Melody

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine, let it

F C

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the second song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (red), D4 (red), E4 (red), F4 (purple), G4 (green), A4 (green), Bb4 (red), C5 (red), D5 (blue), E5 (blue), F5 (blue), G5 (yellow), A5 (red), Bb5 (red), C6 (red). The strumming pattern is on a bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (red), D4 (red), E4 (blue), F4 (blue), G4 (purple), A4 (purple), Bb4 (blue), C5 (blue), D5 (green), E5 (green), F5 (yellow), G5 (yellow), A5 (orange), Bb5 (orange), C6 (red). The lyrics are: 'This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine, let it'. The chords are: F, C.

Melody

shine, let it shine, let it shine.

C G7 C

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the second song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (blue), D4 (blue), E4 (green), F4 (yellow), G4 (yellow), A4 (orange), Bb4 (red), C5 (red), D5 (blue), E5 (blue), F5 (blue), G5 (yellow), A5 (red), Bb5 (red), C6 (red). The strumming pattern is on a bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (red), D4 (red), E4 (blue), F4 (blue), G4 (purple), A4 (purple), Bb4 (blue), C5 (blue), D5 (green), E5 (green), F5 (yellow), G5 (yellow), A5 (orange), Bb5 (orange), C6 (red). The lyrics are: 'shine, let it shine, let it shine.' The chords are: C, G7, C.

## 23. Amazing Grace

Melody

A - maz - ing — grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a —

C F C

Strum

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for the third song. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 3/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (blue), D4 (red), E4 (yellow), F4 (yellow), G4 (orange), A4 (red), Bb4 (purple), C5 (blue), D5 (blue), E5 (red), F5 (yellow), G5 (red), A5 (yellow), Bb5 (red), C6 (red). The strumming pattern is on a bass clef staff with a 3/4 time signature. The notes are: C4 (red), D4 (red), E4 (blue), F4 (blue), G4 (purple), A4 (purple), Bb4 (blue), C5 (blue), D5 (green), E5 (green), F5 (yellow), G5 (yellow), A5 (orange), Bb5 (orange), C6 (red). The lyrics are: 'A - maz - ing — grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a —'. The chords are: C, F, C.

Melody

wretch like me. I once was lost but

Strum

G7 C

Melody

now am found, was blind, but now I see.

Strum

F C G7 C

## 24. Deep and Wide

Melody

Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flow-ing deep and

Strum

C F C

Melody

wide. Deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a

Strum

G7 C F

Melody

foun - tain flow - ing deep and wide.

Strum

C G7 C