

Folk School

`Ukulele 101 – Which End Is The Handle?

Instructor: Kate “Keke” Ferris

“Rank Beginner” up to “I Know Three Chords”

Six Saturdays, Feb. 4 to Mar. 10, 2012, 1:30 to 3:30 PM

The Folk Exchange (103 – 211 Bannatyne Ave., come in through the music store)

EARLY BIRD price \$120 by Jan. 4, 2011; \$150 after Jan. 4 (+GST)



The `ukulele is an often-ridiculed but amazingly versatile instrument that is once again taking the world by storm. Thanks to the internet and to virtuoso players such as Jake Shimabukuro and Canada’s own James Hill folks are discovering that this little ‘jumping flea’ can hold its own in any crowd.

This class is intended for those who have never played a `ukulele (or perhaps any stringed instrument) before and would love to learn how to hold, tune, and play the `ukulele for sing-alongs or just noodling. You don’t even have to know how to read music! By the end of six weeks you’ll be able to play several different strumming/picking styles, read and understand `ukulele chord charts and play along to a large selection of songs, including Hawaiian, traditional folk and ‘golden oldies’. In fact, by the end of the first class, you’ll be playing at least one song all the way through! We’ll also cover the great “High G – Low G” debate, get a chance to see and hear the differences between Soprano-, Concert-, and Tenor-sized `ukuleles and learn more about the fascinating history of “The Mighty `Uke”!



Kate Ferris Bio

Manitoba-born Kate Ferris has been performing since, at the age of 5, the bus she and her Ma were travelling in got stuck in a storm, and Kate entertained the passengers in the back of the bus (including 3 very nice Nuns) with her own songs and stories.*

After teaching Elementary Music in Thompson, MB for 11 years, Kate quit to pursue her dream of performing and has been chasing that dream across Canada ever since, as a solo artist and in groups such as The Blarney Band, Canadian Content Theatre Co., and Small Rooms – A Folk Trio. She has

appeared on TV, Radio and assorted recordings, and performed at many Children’s and Folk Festivals, including of course, the Winnipeg Folk Festival.

But it wasn’t until Kate and her husband – luthier Fred Casey – attended the Aloha Music Camp in Kona, Hawai`i in 2009 that Kate found and fell in love with the `ukulele. Since then she has attended two AMCs in Hawai`i, taken instruction from Mark Nelson, James Hill and Raiatea Helm, is a regular member of the Winnipeg `Ukulele Circle, and has written songs for `ukulele. In fact, she’s been known to sit in her car playing her `uke as it goes through the carwash!

This is her first time instructing a course for The Folk Exchange, and is looking forward to sharing her love of the `ukulele with you.

(Warning: learning the `ukulele may very well lead to UAS: `Ukulele Acquisition Syndrome. As with potato chips, it’s hard to stop after having just one!)

Contact eo@winnipegfolkfestival.ca for more information or to register for this or any other class.

** She would like to think that her material has improved greatly since then – but she DID get a chocolate bar from one of the Nuns, so who knows . . .*