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BEGINNING UKULELE eBook © PLAY MUSIC COMPANY
To accompany the BEGINNING UKULELE WORKSHOP

BEGINNING UKULELE eBook © PLAY MUSIC COMPANY

Ukulele (noun) ōōk uh lay lay:

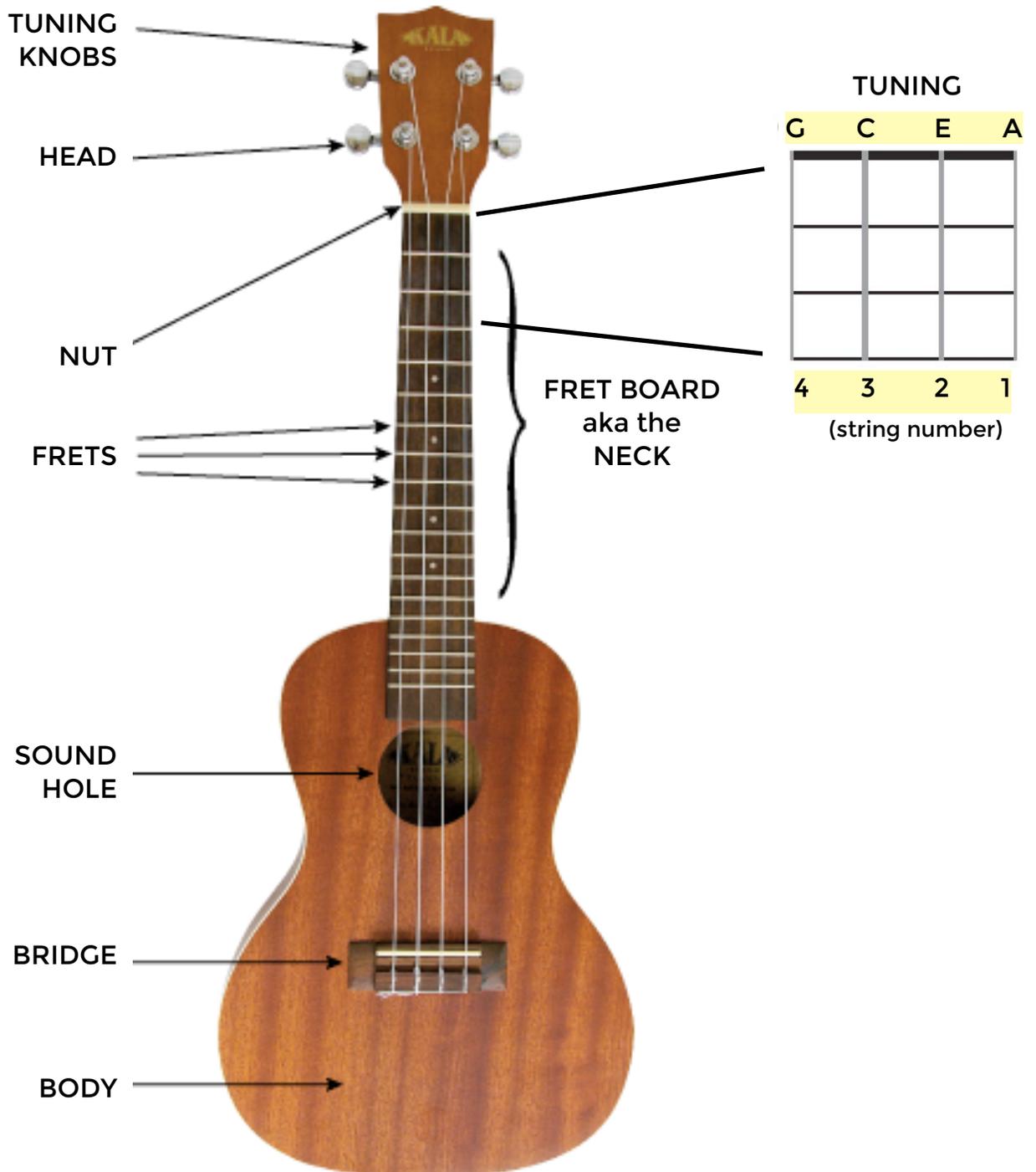
A small four-stringed guitar of Hawaiian origin from late 19th century, literally meaning "jumping flea."

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 / Anatomy Of An Uke	Page 3
2 / Tuning	Page 4
3 / Posture	Page 5
4 / Strumming	Page 6
5 / Chords	Page 7
Chord Diagrams	Page 8
6 / Song Index	Page 9

1

ANATOMY



2

TUNING

"Sometimes, it is in the slightly out of tune toy piano or ukulele where we find charm"
-Anonymous

That is only sometimes true.

If your ukulele is not in tune, no amount of effort or hard work will help you sound better. In turn, there is a good chance your confidence will deflate.

So tune up, buttercup!

STRINGS

- 1 - A (highest pitch)
- 2 - E
- 3 - C
- 4 - G (lowest pitch)

USING YOUR TUNER

GOAL: ACTIVATE THE MIDDLE LIGHT
(usually green, sometimes red)

If the string is off pitch, it will activate the light either to the left or right.
LEFT - the string is flat, or slightly under pitch. **Slowly TIGHTEN** the string.
RIGHT - the string is sharp, or slightly above pitch. **Slowly LOOSEN** the string.

**** MAKE SURE TO MATCH THE CORRECT KNOB TO THE CORRECT STRING BEFORE YOU BEGIN TURNING IT**



An electronic or battery operated tuner runs appx. \$10-20 at your local music store or online (Craigstlist, Amazon, etc.)

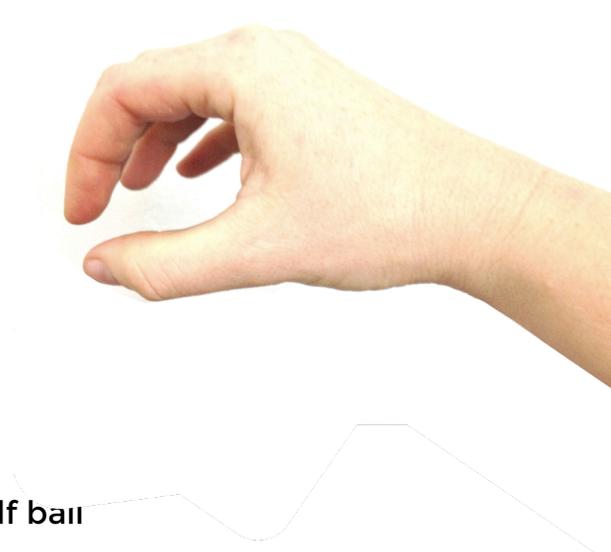


POSTURE

LEFT HAND (LH)



RIGHT HAND (RH)



C URVE your hand - like you are holding a golf ball
L OOSE GRIP - Shoulders, arms, and hands
E YE TO EYE - with top of the guitar neck
F LAT angle - between wrist and forearm

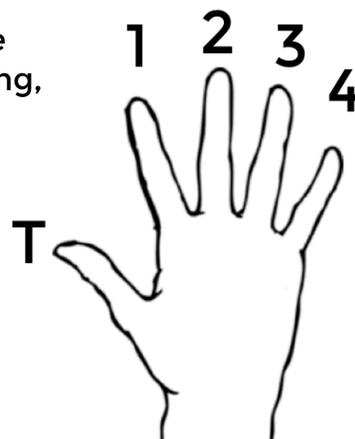
If you are slouching while you practice or play your ukulele, or anything else for that matter, **YOUR BACK WILL BE SORE**. So stretch out and sit on up.

NOTE:

Chord and strumming charts do not always indicate which fingers to place where. For the sake of learning, the following key will be used in this e-book and corresponding workshop:

LT - Left Hand Thumb
L1 - Left Hand Index Finger
R2 - Right Hand Middle Finger
R3 - Right Hand Ring Finger

etc...





STRUMMING

Traditionally, strumming on the ukulele is a fluid rotation of two motions:

- **A down and outward pluck with the pad of your right thumb**
(generally on the G or C string)
- **A downward motion using your right hand fingernails over the high strings**
(generally on the C, E, and A strings)

*What differentiates the rhythm and feel of one song from the next
Depends on which motions (or beats) are silent.*

Start with the simple strum below and repeat it using only one chord. Once that has been mastered, repeat the same strum pattern, switching between two- and three-chord patterns, playing one full measure of each chord

SIMPLE UKULELE STRUM PATTERN (with one measure of corresponding beats)



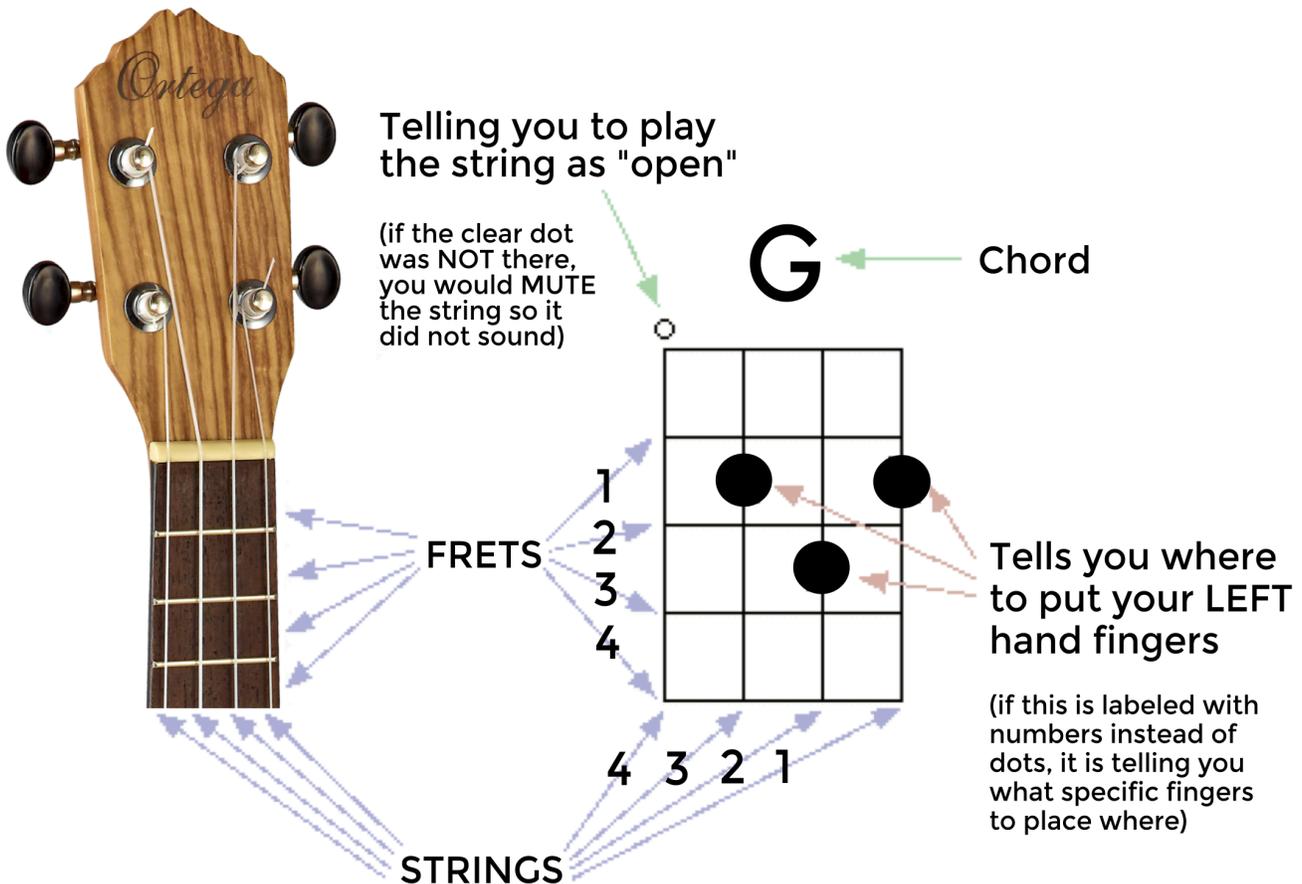
VARIATIONS ON CHORD PATTERNS

- Am
- Am F
- C F
- C F G
- C F G Am
- G C D (D7)

5

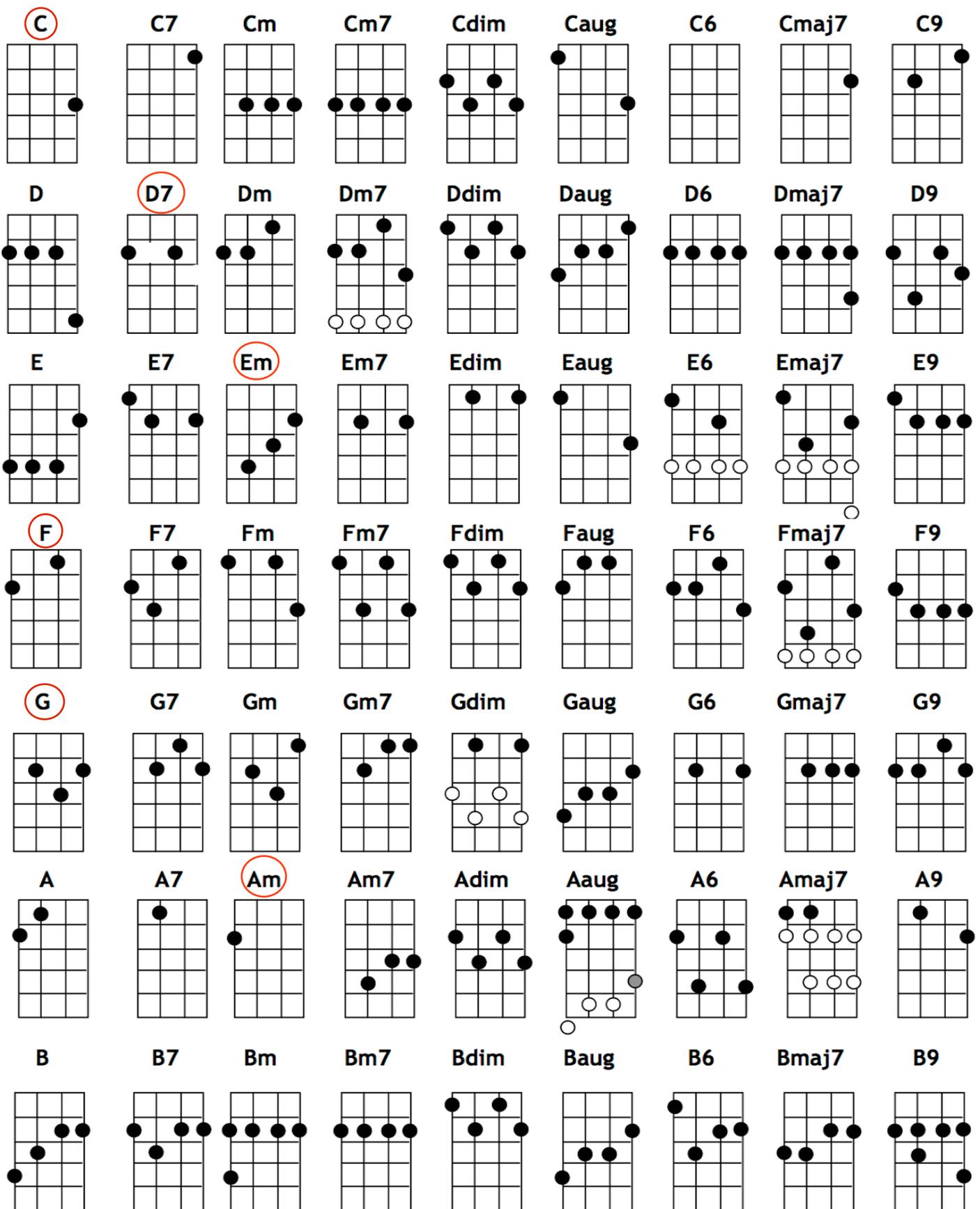
CHORDS

"Reading a chord chart is like a musical version of Battleship, where the number/letter pinpoint is fret/string."



Sample: G Chord (from left to right, place)

- Open 4th String
- String 3, Fret 2 (S3, F2)
- String 2, Fret 3 (S2, F3)
- String 1, Fret 2 (S1, F2)



The **RED CIRCLES** indicate the chords used in the song index included in part six.



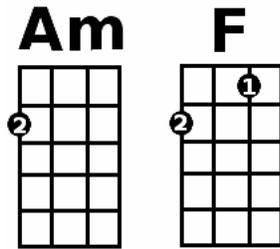
SONG INDEX

	CHORDS USED
Appendix 1 Eleanor Rigby (Beatles)	F, Am
Appendix 2 You Are My Sunshine	C, F, G
Appendix 4 Ring of Fire (Johnny Cash)	G, C, D7
Appendix 3 Somewhere Over the Rainbow	C, F, G, Am, Em

Additional 3-Chord Songs:

All Shook Up
Amazing Grace
Blowin' In the Wind
I Saw Her Standing There
I Walk the Line
Old McDonald Had a Farm
Silent Night
Stand By Me
Three Little Birds
Turn, Turn, Turn
When the Saints Go Marching In
You Are My Sunshine

ELEANOR RIGBY



F Am
Ah, look at all the lonely people (2x)

Am
Eleanor Rigby, picks up the rice in the church
F
where a wedding has been, lives in a dream.

Am
Waits at the window, wearing the face
F
that she keeps in a jar by the door, who is it for?

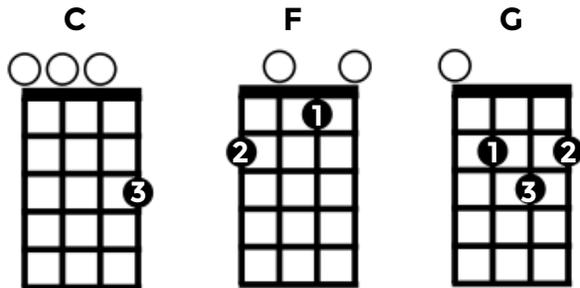
Am F Am
All the lonely people, where do they all come from?
Am F Am
All the lonely people, where do they all belong?

Am
Father McKenzie, writing the words
F
of a sermon that no one will hear, no-one comes near.
Am
Look at him working, darning his socks
F
in the night when there's nobody there, what does he care?

Repeat Chorus and Intro

Eleanor Rigby died in the church
and was buried along with her name, nobody came.
Father McKenzie, wiping the dirt
from his hands as he walks from the grave, no-one was saved.
All the lonely people...

YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE



CHORUS

C C
You are my sunshine, my only sunshine. You make me

F C
Happy when skies are grey. You'll never

F C (opt. Am)
Know, dear, how much I love you. Please don't

C G(7) C
Take my sunshine away.

(Repeat same chord progression for additional verses and choruses)

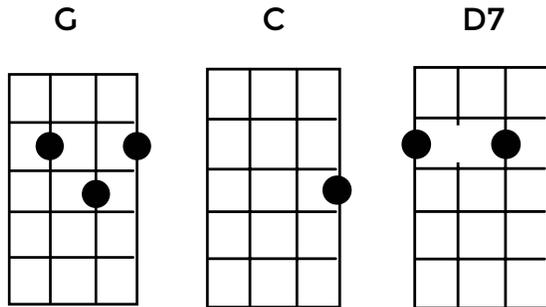
Verse 2

The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed I held you in my arms.
When I awoke, dear, I started praying
That this love would go on and on and on.

Repeat Chorus

You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
You make me happy when skies are grey.
You'll never know, dear, how much I love you.
Please don't take my sunshine away.

RING OF FIRE



G C G C G
 Love Is A Burning Thing, And It Makes A Firery Ring

G C G D G
 Bound By Wild Desire, I Fell Into A Ring Of Fire

D7 C G
I Fell Into A Burning Ring Of Fire

D7 C G
I Went Down Down Down, And The Flames Went Higher

G D7 G D7 G
And It Burns Burns Burns, The Ring Of Fire, The Ring Of Fire (2x)

G C G C G
 The Taste Of Love Is Sweet, When Hearts Like Ours Meet

G C G C G
 I Fell For You Like A Child. Oh, But The Fire Went Wild

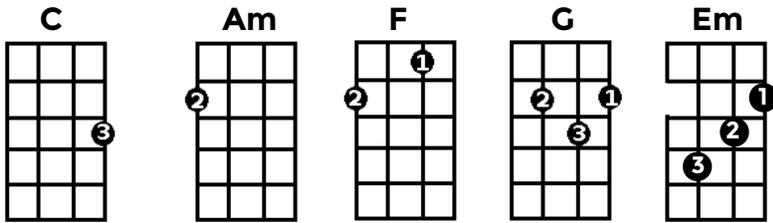
Repeat Chorus

Add Ending:

G D7 G
 And It Burns Burns Burns, The Ring Of Fire,

D7 G D7 G
 The Ring Of Fire, The Ring Of Fire

SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW



C Em F C
 Somewhere over the rainbow, way up high

F C G Am F
 And the dreams that you dream of once in a lullaby

C Em F C
 Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly

F C G Am F
 And the dreams that you dream of, dreams really do come true

C
 Someday I'll wish upon a star,

G Am F
 And wake up where the clouds are far behind - me

C
 Where troubles melt like lemon drops

G Am F
 High above the chimney tops, that's where you'll find me

C Em F C
 Somewhere over the rainbow, bluebirds fly

F C G Am F
 And the dreams that you dream of, dreams really do come true