

Ukulele Yes!

The Ukulele Teacher's eZine

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SYMPHONY NO. 7, 2ND MOV'T THEME (ALLEGRETTO)

Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. James Hill

Teaching Notes

C6 Tuning (g, c, e, a)

Focus On:

- Ensemble skills
- Note reading
- Tone and dynamics

Key Points:

- Note that the original key of this piece is A minor. The theme has been transposed to a key that fits comfortably on the ukulele fretboard (that's why it doesn't sound right when you play along with the videos above!).
- The marking "Allegretto" means "moderately fast."
- Use the fleshy side of the thumb to create a warm, rich tone on every note and/or chord. Pick and strum at the "sweet spot" of the ukulele: where the neck and the body meet.
- Use the first line of this arrangement (m. 1-8) as a sight-reading exercise. First, clap the rhythm of Uke I, then play as written at a moderate tempo. Do the same for Uke II.
- This is not an arrangement for a beginner-level class. It is a rhythmically challenging theme with many accidentals. Moreover, the piece requires a certain musical and emotional maturity. Use your judgement when deciding if this is an appropriate piece for your class.

Additional Suggestions and Comments:

- Once you've taught your class to play the two-part arrangement as written, challenge your most advanced students to arrange the theme for solo ukulele.
- The beautiful melodic line in Uke II m. 17-33 includes both the longest (half note) and the shortest (32nd note) rhythmic values in this arrangement. In order to make the 32nd-note figures sound smooth, use the left-hand third finger to "hammer-on" the second note in each 32nd-note pair:

