

Session #5_ Ukulele fun, Denise Gagne

Chat Transcript from Jul 21, 2020

(Please note: Personal identifiers have been removed from the chat to protect the identity of the participants.)

Chat Transcript

21 Jul, 2020 02:18:50 PM - - "Great sessions today! Thank you so much! All the sessions have given me great ideas to use this year."

21 Jul, 2020 02:19:15 PM - - "Yes this whole day has been really fun!"

21 Jul, 2020 02:24:24 PM - - "gotta go get my ukulele ready! :0)"

21 Jul, 2020 02:24:37 PM - - "Thank you so much for all these ideas and resources before we transition to this odd, socially distant teaching situation."

21 Jul, 2020 02:27:08 PM - - "Ready to get my uke on!"

21 Jul, 2020 02:28:27 PM - - "Ukulele is tuned. Has anyone figured out how to pop out the chat next to the session video? I can have small video with chat or big video but no chat."

21 Jul, 2020 02:28:47 PM - - "I'm still trying to get Session #1 and Session #2 to acknowledge that I completed it. The button is not responding. Everything else is working, though. "

21 Jul, 2020 02:28:55 PM - - "What is this amazingly groovy piano music playing right now? I love it!"

21 Jul, 2020 02:34:08 PM - - "Have you been able to purchase viDar ukes anywhere lately? I almost have a full class set, and would like to have all of the same."

21 Jul, 2020 02:35:42 PM - Denise - - we had enough difficulties like the sharp frets that we decided not to import any more ukuleles."

21 Jul, 2020 02:35:49 PM - - "I am planning to purchase the Kala Waterman ukes that are plastic but still sound pretty good. I may do a rotation to avoid having to clean them though."

21 Jul, 2020 02:35:59 PM - - "Lanakai provides a lifetime warranty on their ukuleles, even in schools."

21 Jul, 2020 02:36:11 PM - Denise - "The virtual choir video is completed - can't accept more submissions now."

21 Jul, 2020 02:36:14 PM - - "For students, I'm a big fan of Emus available here in a variety of bright colors: https://empiremusic.net/index.php?route=product/category&path=26_114 If you

get the kit, it comes with a matching nylon carry bag and a tuner. Battery installation is a delicate operation."

21 Jul, 2020 02:38:53 PM - - "BTW Emus can be ordered with a low G string which I really like for teaching and the fuller sound."

21 Jul, 2020 02:38:57 PM - - "I LOVE those posters!!"

21 Jul, 2020 02:39:35 PM - - "You can relate the string numbers to the staff numbers- line 1 is on the bottom, string 1 is on the bottom."

21 Jul, 2020 02:39:42 PM - Denise - - "I'll put those posters in the handouts. (making a note now)"

21 Jul, 2020 02:40:00 PM - - "Is this string song accompaniment in Musicplay?"

21 Jul, 2020 02:41:14 PM - - "I put ukes on hold because I thought they might not handle disinfectant spray. Hmmm."

21 Jul, 2020 02:41:16 PM - - "Kala makes a Waterman ukulele that is all plastic so waterproof! :)"

21 Jul, 2020 02:41:39 PM - - "I just ordered a classroom set of Waterman Ukuleles. "

21 Jul, 2020 02:44:33 PM - - "I had a lefty who got his own and brought it in, didn't tell me that his family switched the strings so as I was tuning it I snapped a string. Oops! we both learned after that."

21 Jul, 2020 02:44:55 PM - - "I am a lefty and i encourage other leftys to play right handed."

21 Jul, 2020 02:45:04 PM - - "Left-handed folks out there- If they have never held a uke or guitar will they feel the awkwardness? Just curious."

21 Jul, 2020 02:45:22 PM - - "I've encouraged the lefties to keep trying by telling them they will have the easier job once our music gets harder. They usually stop worrying about it at that point!"

21 Jul, 2020 02:46:09 PM - - "I purchased a JOWOOM automatic tuner for those who are interested. I was able to teach a few kids how to use it last year so they could tune."

21 Jul, 2020 02:46:43 PM - - "I tell them "no cheating" when they put the thumb over the top to finger!! The thumb is the "watcher" that's his job - sits on top and watches the fingers do the work."

21 Jul, 2020 02:46:57 PM - - "I am a lefty and I play it the same like anyone else. I don't believe in changing it. "

21 Jul, 2020 02:47:24 PM - - "Mine is the Kala Ukulele tuning app."

21 Jul, 2020 02:47:49 PM - - "I use the velcro dots to mark the thumb spot."

21 Jul, 2020 02:47:58 PM - - "I'm a lefty. I spent a summer teaching myself to play "rightly". It was more work, but I figured it out and practiced. The strumming was hardest with my right hand. Now I've got it."

21 Jul, 2020 02:48:16 PM - - "I love the Guitar Tuna app. "

21 Jul, 2020 02:48:26 PM - - "I use paint markers and color code the first three chords. C F and G or G7"

21 Jul, 2020 02:48:28 PM - - "Kristy, I agree. With other instruments, they are taught they cannot change."

21 Jul, 2020 02:48:44 PM - - "I only moved strings to accommodate a student's hand ability. I placed another left handed student with them and they worked together. I plan to put the strings back."

21 Jul, 2020 02:48:52 PM - - "I just love playing ukulele! I'm not very good at it, but I enjoy it!"

21 Jul, 2020 02:49:05 PM - - "I love ukeoke app - play along is awesome. Kids love it and its color coded and goes with my paint marker colors. "

21 Jul, 2020 02:49:37 PM - - "I call it the "fret space""

21 Jul, 2020 02:49:57 PM - - "Is there such a thing as bar chords on Ukulele?"

21 Jul, 2020 02:50:39 PM - - "I call it fret box 1, fret box 2, etc... this transfers over to guitar as well. "Put your finger in the middle of fret box 2.""

21 Jul, 2020 02:51:29 PM - Denise - "I'm going to add these posters to the handouts."

21 Jul, 2020 02:51:42 PM - - "Thank you!"

21 Jul, 2020 02:51:56 PM - - "I'd love an electronic version of those. 😊"

21 Jul, 2020 02:53:34 PM - - "Back to colour-coding chords: I use small self-adhesive coloured dots from Dollar Store, stick under the strings where fingers go AND I have coloured background paper on Chord Chart on my Ukulele bulletin board "

21 Jul, 2020 02:53:44 PM - - "Great resource for ukulele teachers is uketropolis.com created by James Hill. He's such an amazing player -- and teacher."

21 Jul, 2020 02:55:19 PM - Artie Almeida - "Velcro dots for thumb. Love that!"

21 Jul, 2020 02:55:50 PM - - "I found that enthusiastic beginners strumming with the flesh of their thumb, they developed a blister! Also, beginners grab the body when using their thumb. I usually encourage the first finger and if they want I make felt picks available."

21 Jul, 2020 02:56:37 PM - Denise - "You can buy felt picks in bulk on Amazon."

21 Jul, 2020 02:56:49 PM - - "Yes, I have made my own felt picks from thin guitar picks, felt on both sides. Works great! However, this year because of the cloth of the felt, each student would need to have their own pick. "

21 Jul, 2020 02:57:00 PM - - "Yes there are bar chords"

21 Jul, 2020 02:57:10 PM - - "I stayed away from the colored dots on the fret board. I did replace my really good strings with the multi colored strings so I can say "finger #3, on the red string on the 3rd fret", it was a game changer."

21 Jul, 2020 03:02:09 PM - Denise - - I always start with C chord, and will review it every class after that."

21 Jul, 2020 03:02:21 PM - - "Which ukes do you all recommend me buying?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:02:38 PM - Denise - - I haven't taught the strum symbols, but that might be something we add to the site."

21 Jul, 2020 03:02:56 PM - - "I wonder if it would be possible to transpose all of the resources to accommodate baritone ukulele?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:03:16 PM - - "i like my Oscar Schmidt Tenor"

21 Jul, 2020 03:03:21 PM - Denise - "Typically with the kids, we do a lot of down strumming to the beat and very few other patterns - at least in the first 2-3 months."

21 Jul, 2020 03:04:02 PM - Denise - - We have a great guitar section at Musicplayonline and it would be better to use the guitar section with baritone ukuleles than to transpose the ukulele section."

21 Jul, 2020 03:05:01 PM - - "Thanks Denise!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:07:35 PM - Irene - "This is great! Thank you!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:07:38 PM - I've gone through the ukulele teacher certification program and it is great. All online now!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:07:51 PM - - "what do you use to file the sharp edges of the frets?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:08:07 PM - - "my kids loved this one this year. We got to start it pre-Covid!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:08:54 PM - Denise - - to file the sharp edges we bought a file at the hardware store. I'll run and get it to show in the Q&A"

21 Jul, 2020 03:08:56 PM - - "This makes me want to actually teach uke even though I struggle at playing it myself. Time to get it out and practice!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:09:46 PM - - "How can you get money to buy a set of Ukeleles? I don't get enough money to buy that many!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:10:38 PM - - "The string touch the fret wires when you push down a string in the fret. This shortens the string to produce a different pitch."

21 Jul, 2020 03:11:14 PM - Heidi Thurmond - "Love that song for 18th dotted quarter."

21 Jul, 2020 03:11:26 PM - Heidi Thurmond - "sorry, 8th"

21 Jul, 2020 03:11:49 PM - Polly Murray - "Look for grants in your community."

21 Jul, 2020 03:12:19 PM - - "What age (grade) do you recommend starting"

21 Jul, 2020 03:12:28 PM - - "Ukulele playing?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:12:30 PM - - "Just checked out the guitar section. Looks great! Thanks!!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:14:03 PM - Denise - - In the Row Row segment did you see the tiny blond girl? She was 3 and played along with our C chord songs. In school, I would save ukulele for the older grades - grade 4-5 - gives them something to look forward to."

21 Jul, 2020 03:14:55 PM - Erin C. - "I taught ukes last year to 4-6 grade it worked better for my 5th and 6th graders but was fine for 4th"

21 Jul, 2020 03:15:22 PM - - "I'm going to use them with 5th grade, but I'm going to wait until things clear up because my kids have to share an ukulele (1uke:2kids)"

21 Jul, 2020 03:15:34 PM - - "in the land of oz has smoking"

21 Jul, 2020 03:16:39 PM - - "Mark: it does. It also carries the really clear message that smoking is dangerous (every puff they take is enough to kill a snake)"

21 Jul, 2020 03:17:10 PM - - "For concerts, I would group them with the ones that could play all in the middle and those that were comfortable with only one of the chords on either side. "

21 Jul, 2020 03:17:58 PM - - "you can just use 1 finger if you do an F9 to a C7, but the standard F is where I start. "

21 Jul, 2020 03:18:32 PM - - "my fingers hurt! lol"

21 Jul, 2020 03:21:49 PM - Denise - - did you see me shaking my hands out during the video? My hands cramp up too!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:22:03 PM - - "lol yes!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:22:39 PM - - "it's not my hands it's that my fingers aren't used to it"

21 Jul, 2020 03:23:47 PM - - "You can also try some clear nail polish on the tips of your fingers while you're building up callouses (got me through a guitar class!)"

21 Jul, 2020 03:23:50 PM - - I do a ukulele unit with my grade 4/5s and I only see them once a week too. I offer additional recess/lunch times for students without their own ukuleles for them to practice on the school ones (pre-covid)"

21 Jul, 2020 03:24:18 PM - - "thanks Jan I will!!!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:24:34 PM - Denise - "Aquila Strings are the ones that are recommended"

21 Jul, 2020 03:25:23 PM - - "Denise, are the strings on a soprano concert spaced apart more to accomodate larger hands, like a teacher?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:25:51 PM - - "I use the colored dots on the chords (vinyl stickers - they never come off!). It makes it so easy for the kids. "

21 Jul, 2020 03:26:24 PM - - "The bigger the uke, the more space for fingers. Try out soprano, concert and tenor at a store and pick the one that fits your hand the best."

21 Jul, 2020 03:28:45 PM - - "Be careful buying the bulk of cheap picks. The felt is so thin that they are useless, it folds in half, paper thin. Some picks are so thick they are like strumming with a piece of cement! The the around 60 mm medium works well and they always grab those first!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:28:54 PM - - "I have a few Baritones for my fifth grade boys that have big hands. They really appreciate the space for their fingers."

21 Jul, 2020 03:29:05 PM - - "Jambalaya is fun with off beats."

21 Jul, 2020 03:29:09 PM - - "I really appreciate the intersperse of student videos - thank you!!!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:29:29 PM - "Stefani -- we might be related!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:30:29 PM - - "I start a Ukulele Club in the spring after my fifth grade learn several chords. I invite the fourth grade to join and this allows the fifth to hone their skills and peer teach. Then in the fall the fourth graders that attended 6 weeks of Ukulele Club are my peer teachers"

21 Jul, 2020 03:31:16 PM - - "There are some cool ukulele places on You Tube , Imagine Dragons is one of their fav. groups"

21 Jul, 2020 03:31:45 PM - - "One year, I had a faculty ukulele club for beginners to learn! "

21 Jul, 2020 03:32:10 PM - - "I also love Ukulaliens! Great for changing chord practice."

21 Jul, 2020 03:32:41 PM - - "Ukulaliens is one of my favs as well."

21 Jul, 2020 03:33:07 PM - - "Same"

21 Jul, 2020 03:33:33 PM - do you have brand you use for felt picks didnt use them last year but might try them out "

21 Jul, 2020 03:33:43 PM - - "What a great idea for the faculty! I'm going to try that this year!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:34:34 PM - - "The faculty ukulele club might also work on ZOOM "

21 Jul, 2020 03:34:44 PM - - "I had several paras last year that came on their lunch break to be part of the 5th graders uke club"

21 Jul, 2020 03:34:50 PM - - "Love the teacher class -- and they should perform, too! The kids would love it."

21 Jul, 2020 03:34:50 PM - - "I actually bought a ukulele cart 2 years ago. Since I am visiting classrooms, it is REALLY going to come in handy!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:34:53 PM - - "dunlop makes a good felt pick. It holds up a little better and its a little cheaper"

21 Jul, 2020 03:35:06 PM - - I had a faculty choir once, too, and they sang to the kids on opening day "

21 Jul, 2020 03:35:57 PM - - "Ooh great idea Kathleen!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:36:04 PM - - "Someone to Lava there is a cute youtube video"

21 Jul, 2020 03:36:12 PM - - "I just played Uptown Funk strumming in half beats. Easier for chord changing."

21 Jul, 2020 03:36:52 PM - - "This was great!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:37:20 PM - - "Thank you so much everyone"

21 Jul, 2020 03:37:28 PM - - "Thank you so much great information"

21 Jul, 2020 03:37:59 PM - - "ukulalien is a great resource on youtube for songs"

21 Jul, 2020 03:38:00 PM - - "ukeplaysongs also has good youtube videos"

21 Jul, 2020 03:38:07 PM - - "along with spencer hale from little kids rock"

21 Jul, 2020 03:38:52 PM - - "That was very informative! Thanks! Are there brands of ukes do you recommend?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:39:03 PM - - "I use a SNARK tuner for my uke and my guitar "

21 Jul, 2020 03:39:16 PM - - "kala waterman--they are plastic and will be easy to clean"

21 Jul, 2020 03:39:25 PM - - "Guitar Tuna is a great app that you can use for both guitar and uke"

21 Jul, 2020 03:39:41 PM - - "second guitar tuna"

21 Jul, 2020 03:39:46 PM - - "its a free app"

21 Jul, 2020 03:39:53 PM - - "SNARK is worth the price"

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:01 PM - - "When I bought my classroom set from my local music store, they included a couple of tuners free."

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:03 PM - - "Snark here, too!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:05 PM - - "love the "finger fret string" plus the idea of lots of practise with just one chord"

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:09 PM - - "The Snark I use is only about \$8-9. <https://www.jwpepper.com/El-Vito/11196350.item#/submit>"

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:09 PM - - "The Kala tuners work great. I bought a few when I ordered the watermans. They do have an educator login for better pricing."

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:27 PM - - "I love my SNARKS!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:43 PM - - "Sorry about the random link with my Snark comment."

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:52 PM - - "snarks are great...very accurate!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:40:55 PM - - "Once you get into ukuleles, be careful. You'll probably contract UAS (Ukulele Acquisition Syndrome). :)"

21 Jul, 2020 03:41:15 PM - - "LOL"

21 Jul, 2020 03:41:33 PM - - "What is the earliest grades you have tried this with?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:41:35 PM - - "My kids know that anything they use in the class, if they wreck it due to being silly, it's their responsibility (NOT their parents') to pay for it. They can do chores during lunch if they need to to pay. I've only had to do this once."

21 Jul, 2020 03:41:50 PM - - "And if something breaks because of normal use, they're not responsible for the cost."

21 Jul, 2020 03:42:13 PM - - "THANK YOU for the posters! Soooo grateful"

21 Jul, 2020 03:42:26 PM - - "I do 4/5, though I did have a group of motivated 3rd graders that did well."

21 Jul, 2020 03:43:16 PM - - "This is an adaptive ukulele device:
<https://www.ukechordchanger.com/>"

21 Jul, 2020 03:43:54 PM - - "I used the chord changer this year for one of my students who is missing fingers. It was a life saver"

21 Jul, 2020 03:44:33 PM - - "How much is the changer?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:44:50 PM - - "Thanks for clarifying ages!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:44:56 PM - - "Lower priced ukes often NEVER sound in tune - what should we spend for a decent ukulele?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:45:34 PM - - "It won't damage the wood?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:45:40 PM - - "end up with a bunch of warped ukuleles :("

21 Jul, 2020 03:46:07 PM - - "a decent ukulele I'd say 50 bucks"

21 Jul, 2020 03:46:13 PM - - "sanitizing is going to destroy most woods/skins"

21 Jul, 2020 03:46:15 PM - - "40 was the chord changer price. I got my kalas for 50"

21 Jul, 2020 03:46:37 PM - - "Kala are good brand"

21 Jul, 2020 03:46:50 PM - - "what size instrument are you playing?"

21 Jul, 2020 03:47:00 PM - - "Emus are my favorites. Good tone. Shiny, bright colors."

21 Jul, 2020 03:47:06 PM - - "Toni, mine only did after reloading the page"

21 Jul, 2020 03:47:38 PM - - "Uke is a good pairing instrument with the violin - then using the down up symbols from the violin. "

21 Jul, 2020 03:47:40 PM - - "She is playing a concert, I think"

21 Jul, 2020 03:49:18 PM - - "I love our Kala Waterman ukes at school."

21 Jul, 2020 03:49:22 PM - - "You local music stores can get ukes for lower prices if you buy a class set. My Makalas were \$39.95 each"

21 Jul, 2020 03:49:45 PM - "My Makalas stay in tune"

21 Jul, 2020 03:49:53 PM - - "For left hand fingers, one of my students bought silicon finger tip covers and she loved them."

21 Jul, 2020 03:50:16 PM - - "I have a Kala & it doesn't stay in tune for long"

21 Jul, 2020 03:51:01 PM - - "The kids loved ukulele play alongs from Musicplay!!!!!! "

21 Jul, 2020 03:51:10 PM - - "I don't see the big chord charts on the site... where are they. Thanks."

21 Jul, 2020 03:51:22 PM - - "My Kala Watermans stay in tune really well."

21 Jul, 2020 03:51:22 PM - - "My Kala Waterman stays in tune really well"

21 Jul, 2020 03:52:21 PM - - ""Ring Around the Rosie" is a great open string plucking song."

21 Jul, 2020 03:52:22 PM - - "Have you ever tried the method whereby you spell chords like this: A/3 = C chord , G/2= A minor and so on. I found it works well."

21 Jul, 2020 03:52:36 PM - - "I refreshed and it still didn't say I did the whole day. grr"

21 Jul, 2020 03:52:43 PM - - "recorders would actually be preferred...they're cheaper and easier to sanitize"

21 Jul, 2020 03:52:51 PM - - "I lead with a Tenor Uke because it is the same frets as the Soprano"

21 Jul, 2020 03:52:57 PM - - "yes, the colored ones are a little softer!"

21 Jul, 2020 03:53:27 PM - - "I have a baritone uke because it plays in G which is great as an accompanying instrument for kid voices, but I can throw a capo on fret 5 to match the sound of a soprano uke to play along with the kids. "