

Sing and Play

In 4 Steps

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Key: Works for all keys, but we will play in G today

Tempo: Slow swing 3/4

Chords needed: G, C, D

Video Tutorial: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMLf5x6K-DU&feature=youtu.be>

Strum Pattern: You can use these ideas for all songs and all strum patterns, but this is the one we are doing for today

1 & 2 & 3 & |
D D U D U |

Step 1: Learning the Melody (Singing along with the song)

Time to learn the melody, to do this you should put the song a radio, headphones, in your car or at home and just sing along. Try and find one with a vocal range that is similar to yours, you can achieve this by starting with a song that is sung by the same gender and singing if it is too high for you or too low. Get to know the lyrics, where the verses are, the choruses, pre-chorus, etc. It might feel funny but really turn up the radio, even if you have to do it when you are alone and try and match the dynamics of the singer, the funny little hums, get loud when they get loud, quite when they get quite, all these things will not only help you commit this one melody to a deeper level of memory, but improve your overall level of singing as well.

Step 2: Learn the chords.

To do this you can google the chords or use one of our ukulele tutorials and simply strum the chords on the down strum and not worry so much about a strum pattern. The chords for the song we are doing today are simply G, C, and D. If you are just learning to play and sing at the same time it is a better idea to learn to play and sing some more basic and easier songs. The less chords overall, the easier it will be, also make sure you are doing this with chords you are already comfortable and familiar with.

Step 3: Add the melody

At this point we are even worrying about a strum pattern we are just doing down strums on the chords and we start by humming the melody to the chord changes to get a feel for the dynamics. Once you feel good with that you should start to add the lyrics, again at this point we aren't using any strum pattern. This first step is to just aim for the chord changes with the lyrics.

G C G
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.
D
That saved a wretch like me

After you get this before you move on it is a good idea to find any chords that play for more than one measure and strum those on the downbeat as well, still to this point we aren't using a strum pattern.

G G C G
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound.
G G D
That saved a wretch like me

Step 4: Add The Strum Pattern

The last step is to add the strum pattern, you can keep this as simple or as complicated as you want. Just really take it slow, you have all the pieces at this point to put everything together. If it is too tricky for example to do D DUDU try D D D, the strum should be the last thing that you really add. Having said that it is good to practice the chord progression with the full strum pattern as well without singing, so you can just tie the two versions together.