STRUM FOR FUN
THREE CHORD SONGBOOK

**Dcdi `Uf˙Gcb[ g:˙C`X˙UbX˙BYk -ish
with 3 chords (mostly!)**

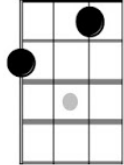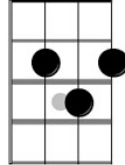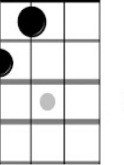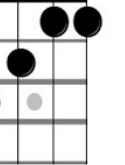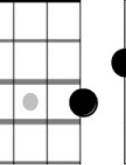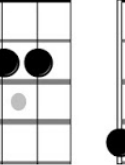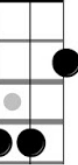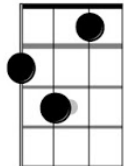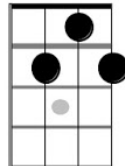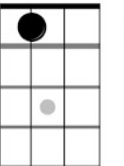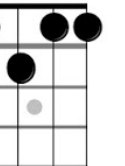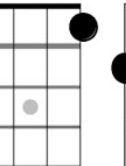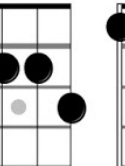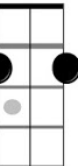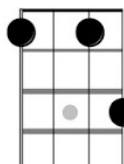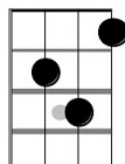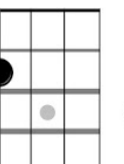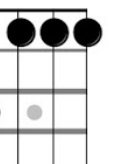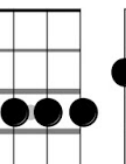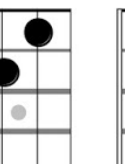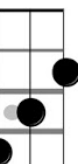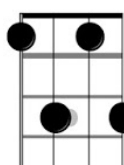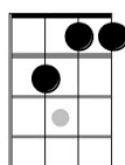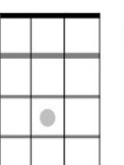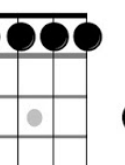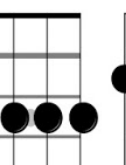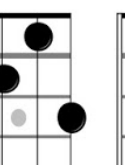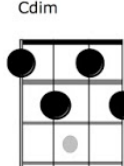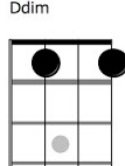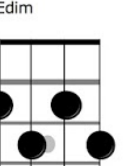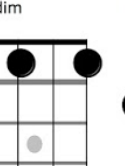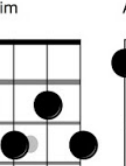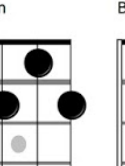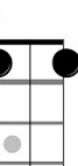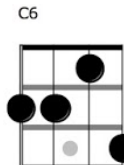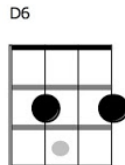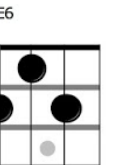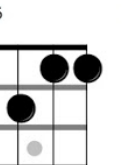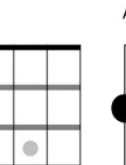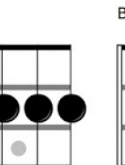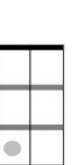# The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain
GCEA tuning

BARITONE DGBE TUNING

GOT A UKULELE.COM

The Lion Sleeps Tonight

C (single strum)   F (ditto)   C (ditto)   G7 (ditto)

(All)   Deee – de - de – de / de – de - de – de – de / de, – de – de - de – de – de   x2

C   F   C   G7

(All) A**wim**aweh awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh, awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh   x2

C   F   C   G7

In the jungle, the mighty jungle the lion sleeps tonight

C   F   C   G7

In the jungle, the mighty jungle the lion sleeps tonight (hu hu)

C   F   C   G7

{ (girls) Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee e - e – e – e – e – e – wee – um –um a-weh

(boys) A**wim**aweh awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh, awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh } x2

C   F   C   G7

ab from   Near the village, the peaceful village the lion sleeps tonight

C   F   C   G7

Near the village, the quiet village the lion sleeps tonight (hu hu)

C   F   C   G7

{ (g) Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee e - e – e – e – e – wee – um –um-a-weh

(b) A**wim**aweh awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh, awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh } x2

Quietly: Single strum	C F C G7

Hush my darling, don't fear my darling the lion sleeps tonight

C   F   C   G7

Hush my darling, don't fear my darling the lion sleeps tonight (hu hu)

C   F   C   G7

{ (g) Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee e - e – e – e – e – wee – um –um-a-weh (with ad libbing)

(b) A**wim**aweh awimaweh awimaweh awimoweh, awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh awimaweh } x2

Everyone Getting quieter	C (single strum) F (ditto) C (ditto) G7 (ditto)

Deee – de - de – de – de – de - de – de – de –   wee-um-um-a-weh   x2

Worried Man Blues - Traditional

Chorus:
[G] It takes a worried man to sing a worried song
It [C] takes a worried man to sing a worried [G] song
[G] It takes a worried man to sing a worried song I'm
worried [D7] now but I won't be worried [G] long

[G] I went across the river I laid down to sleep
I [C] went across the river I laid down to [G] sleep
[G] I went across the river I laid down to sleep
When I woke [D7] up there were shackles on my [G] feet

Chorus

[G] I asked the judge what might be my fine
[C] I asked the judge what might be my [G] fine
[G] I asked the judge what might be my fine
Twenty-one [D7] years on the Rocky Mountain [G] Line

Chorus

[G] This train that I ride is sixteen coaches long
The [C] train that I ride is sixteen coaches [G] long
[G] The train that I ride is sixteen coaches long
The girl I [D7] love is on that train and [G] gone

Chorus

Big Rock Candy Mountain

Intro: **[F]** **[C]** **[F] [C] [G7] [C]**

[C] One evening as the sun went down and the jungle **[G7]** fire was **[C]** burning
Down the track came a hobo hikin' and he said boys **[G7]** I'm not **[C]** turning
I'm **[F]** headed for a **[C]** land that's **[F]** far a**[C]**way be**[F]**side the crystal **[G7]** fountains
So **[C]** come with me we'll go and see the big rock **[G7]** candy **[C]** mountains

[C] In the big rock candy **[C7]** mountains there's a **[F]** land that's fair and **[C]** bright
Where the **[F]** handouts grow on **[C]** bushes and you **[F]** sleep out every **[G7]** night
Where the **[C]** boxcars all are **[C7]** empty and the **[F]** sun shines every **[C]** day
On the **[F]** birds and the **[C]** bees and the **[F]** cigarette **[C]** trees
The **[F]** lemonade **[C]** springs where the **[F]** bluebird **[C]** sings
In the **[G7]** big rock candy **[C]** mountains

[C] In the big rock candy **[C7]** mountains all the **[F]** cops have wooden **[C]** legs
And the **[F]** bulldogs all have **[C]** rubber teeth and the **[F]** hens lay soft boiled **[G7]** eggs
The **[C]** farmers' trees are **[C7]** full of fruit and the **[F]** barns are full of **[C]** hay
Oh I'm **[F]** bound to **[C]** go where there **[F]** ain't no **[C]** snow
Where the **[F]** rain don't **[C]** fall and the **[F]** wind don't **[C]** blow
In the **[G7]** big rock candy **[C]** mountains

[C] In the big rock candy **[C7]** mountains you **[F]** never change your **[C]** socks
And the **[F]** little streams of **[C]** alcohol come a-**[F]**tricklin' down the **[G7]** rocks
The **[C]** brakemen have to **[C7]** tip their hats and the **[F]** railroad bulls are **[C]** blind
There's a **[F]** lake of **[C]** stew and of **[F]** whiskey **[C]** too
You can **[F]** paddle all a**[C]**round 'em in a **[F]** big ca**[C]**noe
In the **[G7]** big rock candy **[C]** mountains

[C] In the big rock candy **[C7]** mountains the **[F]** jails are made of **[C]** tin
And **[F]** you can walk right **[C]** out again as **[F]** soon as you are **[G7]** in
There **[C]** ain't no short-handled **[C7]** shovels no **[F]** axes saws or **[C]** picks
I'm a-**[F]**going to **[C]** stay where you **[F]** sleep all **[C]** day
Where they **[F]** hung the **[C]** jerk who in**[F]**vented **[C]** work
In the **[G7]** big rock candy **[C]** mountains

Whistle line 1 and line 4 of verse: **[C] [C7] [F] [C] [F] [C] [F] [C]**

I'll **[F]** see you **[C]** all this **[F]** coming **[C]** fall in the **[G7]** big rock candy **[C]** mountains

Ukulele Train   **by Steve Moss**

Intro: [C] Come and join us on the [G] Ukulele [C] Train 2 3 4 / 1 2 3

Chorus:

Four [C] strings (four strings), three [G]chords (three chords)

Are all you [C] need so climb on [F] board.

[C] Come and join us on the [G] Ukulele [C] Train ([C7] optional)

[F] You can say "Bye Bye" to love, or [C] "Hello" to Johnny B Goode

[F] Rock Around The Clock whilst you're Singin' The Blues

[G] And play that ukulele like a good boy should

CHORUS

[F] Precious Time is slipping away, you won't [C] always be King of the Road

[F] So Dance the Night Away and Act Naturally when your

[G] Picture's on the Cover of the Rolling Stone

CHORUS

If you [F] eat too many Uncle Joe's Mintballs on the [C] Big Rock Candy Mountain

[F] You can buy a remedy from Lily The Pink

Playing [G] **STOP** C, F and G, --- and I'm countin', that's

FINAL CHORUS

Four [C] strings (four strings), three [G]chords (three chords)

That's all you [C] need so climb on [F] board.

[C] Come and join us on the [F] Uku[G]lele

[C] Come and join us on the [F] Uku[G]lele

[C] Come and join us on the [F] Uku[G]lele [C] Train [G] [C]

Bad Moon Rising

Intro: G D7 C G x2

[G]I see the [D7] bad [C] moon a [G] rising

[G] I see [D7] trouble [C] on the [G] way

[G] I see [D7] earth [C] quakes and [G] lightin'

[G] I see [D7 bad [C] times to [G] day

Chorus: _[C] Don't go around tonight_

Well, it's [G] bound to take your life

[D7] There's a [C] bad moon on the [G] rise

[G] I hear [D7] hurri [C] canes a [G] blowing

[G] I know the [D7] end is [C] coming [G] soon

[G] I fear [D7] rivers [C] over [G] flowing

[G] I hear the [D7] voice of [C] rage and [G] ruin

Instrumental Chorus, then:

Chorus   [sing and play]

[G] Hope you [D7] got your [C] things to [G] gether

[G] Hope you are [D7] quite pre [C] pared to [G] die

[G] Looks like we're [D7] in for [C] nasty [G] weather

[G] One eye is [D7] taken [C] for an [G] eye

Chorus [acapella - quietly]

Chorus [sing and play - louder]

Finale [sing and play - loud]:

[C] Don't go around tonight

Well, it's [G] bound to take your life

[D7] There's a [C] bad moon on the [G] rise

[D7] There's a [C] bad moon on the [G] rise//// [D7] [G]

DA DOO RON RON RON

INTRO: **G7**   **C**

I **[C]** MET HIM ON A MONDAY AND MY **[F]** HEART STOOD STILL

DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

SOMEBODY TOLD ME THAT HIS **[F]** NAME WAS BILL

DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

    [C Stop] YEAH MY **[F]** HEART STOOD STILL, **[C Stop]** YEAH HIS **[G7]** NAME WAS BILL

    [C Stop] AND WHEN HE **[F]** WALKED ME HOME,

    DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

[G7] [C]

 [C] I KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING WHEN HE **[F]** CAUGHT MY EYE

DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

HE LOOKED SO QUIET BUT OH MY **[F]** OH MY

DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

    [C Stop] YEAH MY **[F]** HEART STOOD STILL, **[C Stop]** YEAH HIS **[G7]** NAME WAS BILL

    [C Stop] AND WHEN HE **[F]** WALKED ME HOME,

    DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

[G7] [C]

 [C] HE PICKED ME UP AT SEVEN AND **[F]** HE LOOKED SO FINE

DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

SOMEDAY SOON I'M GONNA **[F]** MAKE HIM MINE

DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

    [C Stop] YEAH HE **[F]** LOOKED SO FINE,

    [C Stop] YEAH, I'LL **[G7]** MAKE HIM MINE,

    [C Stop] AND WHEN HE **[F]** WALKED ME HOME,

    DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON

    DA **[G7]** DOO RON RON RON, DA **[C]** DOO RON RON   **[Stop]**

Don't Worry; Be Happy

Dm - SC&T
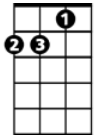
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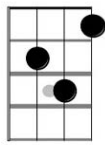
Whistle *2x* **[C], [F], [C]**
[C] Here's a little song I wrote, **[Dm]** and you can learn it note for note,
Don't **[F]** worry, be **[C]** happy

In every life we have some trouble, **[Dm]** when you worry you make it double,
Don't **[F]** worry, be **[C]** happy

Ooh's 2x [C], [F], [C]

[C] Aint got no place to lay your head, **[Dm]** somebody came and took your bed,
Don't **[F]** worry, be **[C]** happy

The Landlord say your rent is late, **[Dm]** he may have to litigate,
Don't **[F]** worry, be **[C]** happy

Whistle 2x [C], [F], [C]

[C] Aint got no cash, aint got no style, **[Dm]** aint got no goal to make you smile,
Don't **[F]** worry, be **[C]** happy

Cos when you worry, your face will frown, **[Dm]** and that will bring everybody down,
Don't **[F]** worry, be **[C]** happy

Ooh's 2x [C], [F], [C]

[C] Here's a little song I wrote, **[Dm]** and you can learn it note for note,
Don't **[F]** worry, be **[C]** happy

In your life expect some trouble, **[Dm]** but when you worry you make it double,
Don't **[F]** worry, be **[C]** happy

Whistle *fade over 3x* **[C], [F], [C]**

I'LL TELL ME MA

(Count 1,2,3,4 then 1,2,3,4, strums)

     G   **C**   **G**   **D7**   **G**
I'll tell me ma when I get home, the boys won't leave the girls alone

          G   **C**   **G**   **D7**   **G**
They pulled my hair, they stole my comb, but that's all right till I go home

G   **C**   **G**   **D7**
She is handsome, she is pretty, she is the belle of Belfast city

G   **C**   **(stop)** **G**   **D7**   **G**
She is a-courting one, two, three … please won't you tell me who is she? (1,2,3,4 …)

(At end of song, chorus sung twice - second time quickly)

G   **C**   **G**   **D7**   **G**
Albert Mooney says he loves her, all the boys are fighting for her

     G   **C**   **G** **D7**   **G**
They rap on her door and ring on the bell, will she come out, who can tell

G   **C**   **G**   **D7**
Out she comes as white as snow, rings on her fingers and bells on her toes

G   **C**
Old Jenny Murrray says she will die,

       G   **D7**   **G**
If she doesn't get the fellow with the roving eye. (1,2,3,4 …)   ***Chorus***

       G   **C**   **G**
Let the wind and the rain and the hail blow high

      D7   **G**
And the snow come travelling through the sky

G   **C** **G** **D7**   **G**
She's as nice as apple pie, she'll get her own lad by and by

G   **C**   **G**   **D7**
When she gets a lad of her own, she won't tell her Ma when she gets home

G   **C**   **G**   **D7**   **G**
Let them all come as they will, for it's Albert Mooney she loves still (1,2,3,4 …) ***Chorus***

SINGIN' THE BLUES

Introduction: [C] 2 3 4   [F] 2 3 4   [C] 2 3 4   [G7] 2 3 4

Intro verse: Whistle and play (no singing)

Well I [C] never felt more like [F] singin' the blues,
Cause [C] I never thought that [F] I'd ever [G7] lose
Your [F] love dear [G7] why'd you do me this [C] way [F] [C] [G7]

1st Verse Play and sing

Well I [C] never felt more like [F] singin' the blues,
Cause [C] I never thought that [F] I'd ever [G7] lose
Your [F] love dear [G7] Why'd you do me this [C] way [F] [C] [G7]

Well, I [C] never felt more like [F] cryin' all night,
Cause [C] everything's wrong, and [F] nothin' ain't [G7] right
Without [F] you [2 3 4][G7] you got me singin' the [C] blues [F] [C] [C7]

Chorus:
    Well, the [F] moon and stars no [C] longer shine
    The [F] dream is gone I [C] thought was mine
    There's [F] nothin' left for [C] me to do,
    [C] [stop] but cry-y-y-y over you [G] 2 3 4 [rattle G7] 2 3 4 [stop]

Well, I [C] never felt more like [F] runnin' away,
but [C] why should I go cause [F] I couldn't [G7] stay
Without [F] you .. [G7] you got me singin' the [C] blues [F] [C] [C7]

Chorus:
    Well, the [F] moon and stars no [C] longer shine
    The [F] dream is gone I [C] thought was mine
    There's [F] nothin' left for [C] me to do,
    [C] [stop] but cry-y-y-y over you [G] 2 3 4 [rattle G7] 2 3 4 [stop]

Well, I [C] never felt more like [F] runnin' away,
but [C] why should I go cause [F] I couldn't [G7] stay
Without [F] you . . [G7] you got me singin' the [C] blues **[F] [C]** [G7] [C]

St James Infirmary Blues

Chords for Soprano, Concert & Tenor

Em **B7** **C6**

It was **[Em]**down in **[B7]**Old Joe's **[Em]**barroom
At the corner **[C6]**by the **[B7]**square
The **[Em]**drinks were **[B7]**served as **[Em]**usual
And the **[C6]**usual **[B7]**crowd was **[Em]**there

Now on my **[Em]**left stood **[B7]**Big Joe Mc**[Em]**Kinney
His eyes were **[C6]**bloodshot **[B7]**red
And as he **[Em]**looked at the **[B7]**gang a**[Em]**round him
These **[C6]**were the very **[B7]**words he **[Em]**said:

Chords for Baritone

Em **B7** **C6**

"I went **[Em]**down to the St. **[B7]**James In**[Em]**firmary
I saw my **[C6]**baby **[B7]**there
Stretched **[Em]**out on a **[B7]**long white **[Em]**table
So **[C6]**young, so **[B7]**cold, so**[Em]** fair"

[Em]Seventeen **[B7]**coal black **[Em]**horses
Hitched to a **[C6]**rubber-tired **[B7]**hack
[Em]Seven girls **[B7]**goin' to the **[Em]**graveyard
Only **[C6]**six of them are **[B7]**coming **[Em]**back

Well let her **[Em]**go, let her **[B7]**go God **[Em]**bless her,
Wher**[C6]**ever she may **[B7]**be
She may **[Em]**search this **[B7]**wide world **[Em]**over
And never **[C6]**find another **[B7]**man like **[Em]**me

Oh, **[Em]**when I **[B7]**die, just **[Em]**bury me
In my high top **[C6]**Stetson **[B7]**hat
Place a **[Em]**twenty-dollar **[B7]**gold piece on my **[Em]**watch chain
To let the **[C6]**Lord know I **[B7]**died standin' **[Em]**pat

Get six **[Em]**gamblers to **[B7]**carry my **[Em]**coffin
Six chorus girls to **[C6]**sing me a **[B7]**song
Put a **[Em]**twenty-piece **[B7]**jazz band on my **[Em]**tail-gate
To raise **[C6]**Hell as we **[B7]**go a**[Em]**long

Now **[Em]**that's the **[B7]**end of my **[Em]**story
Let's have another **[C6]**round of **[B7]**booze
And if **[Em]**anyone should **[B7]**ask you just **[Em]**tell them
I've got the **[C6]**St. James In**[B7]**firmary **[Em]**blues **[B7] [Em]**

Twelve-Bar Blues

This is a very common pattern of song that uses just three chords. It is also the basis for almost every rock 'n' roll song from "Hound Dog" and "Tutti Futti" onwards.

The pattern is very straighforward it uses chords based around the 1st, 4th and 5th notes of a scale. So, for a blues in C, the chords are C, F and G (usually G7). For a blues in G, the chords are G, C and D7.

The pattern is 12 bars long and is repeated for each verse. The timing is almost always 4 beats in the bar or 4/4 time and the most common strum is the Nashville strum - **D DUDUDU 1 2&3&4&**

Here is the pattern for a blues in C.

[C] ///   [C]///   [C]///   [C]///   [F]///   [F]///

[C]///   [C]///   [G7]///   [F]/// [C]///   [C]///

and here is the same pattern in G

[G] ///   [G]///   [G]///   [G]///   [C]///   [C]///

[G]///   [G]///   [D7]///   [C]/// [G]///   [G]///