

Auld Lang Syne

A sentimental holiday favorite
By Alec "Cheef" Poletsky

This New Year's Eve, why not bust out your uke at the stroke of midnight and impress family and friends with this fun—and easy—arrangement of "Auld Lang Syne"?

For this solo ukulele arrangement you may choose from a few fingerpicking options.

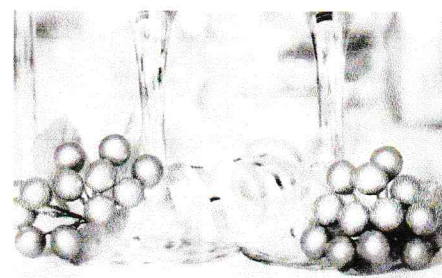
You can use your thumb to pluck all the melody notes and downstrum all the chords. This will work especially well for those who are new to fingerpicking.

Or you may choose to use the index finger to pluck the melody notes and strum the chords, this time downstrumming with the back side (or fingernail side) of your index finger. This technique will yield a bright and almost Flamenco-like character to the sound.

Those more experienced with fingerpicking can assign a finger to each string (for instance, thumb on the G string, index on the C, middle on the E, and ring finger on the A string). Pluck the chords with all assigned fingers simultaneously and emphasize each melody note with the appropriate finger.

Another option would be to assign the thumb to the G and C strings, the index to the E, and middle to the A while still using your thumb or index finger to strum the chords. You can even use a pick if you feel more comfortable with that.

The chords very similar to those in "Deck the Halls" with the exception of a few details. There are two different voicings of the F and B^b chords. The F that you use most often on ukulele is voiced (from G to



A string) A–C–F–A. To match the melody of "Auld Lang Syne", a different F chord shape has been used that I have notated as "F(v2)". It is voiced as A–C–F–C, which is still the same notes, just now with two Cs instead of two As.

The B^b chord has been revoiced to accompany the melody, too, and will be played like your standard G chord shape except now on the fifth fret and omitting the G string.

Note also that this song has an A7 chord, unlike the A-minor chord in "Deck the Halls," as well as a G-minor 7 chord instead of a dominant seventh.

Remember to start slowly in the beginning and keep breathing, one of the best things about solo playing is that you get to set the pace. ■

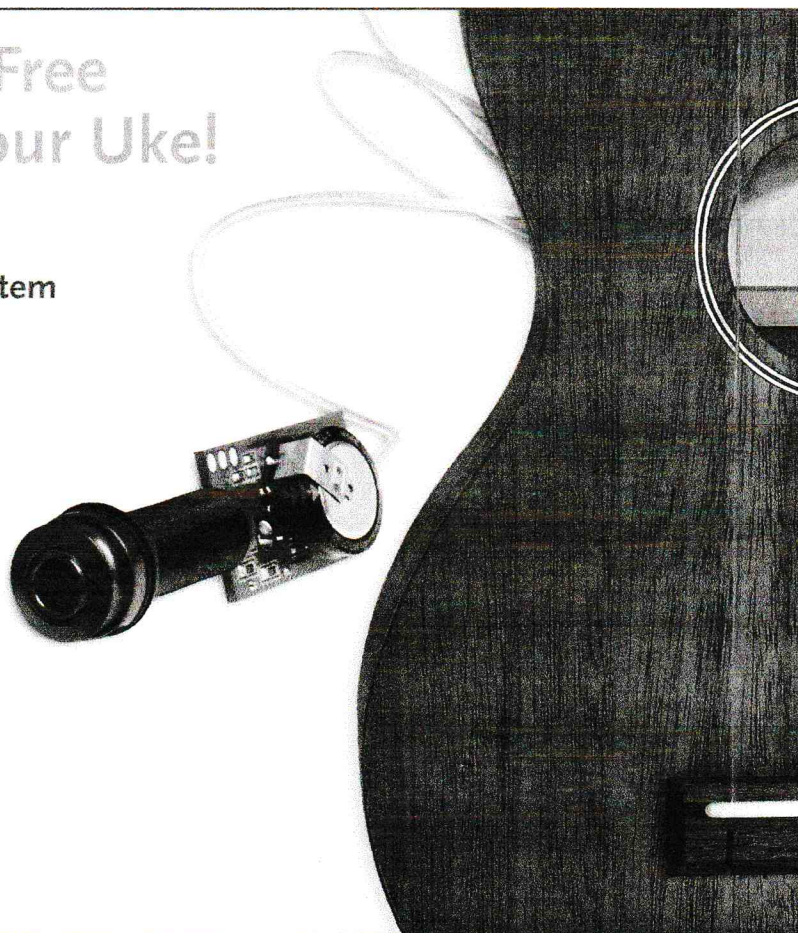
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Auld Lang Syne

Lyrics by Robert Burns, arranged by Alec "Cheef" Poletsky

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a vocal line, a guitar chord line, and a fretboard diagram. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4.

System 1:
 Chords: F, C7, F
 Lyrics: Should old ac-quain - tance be for-got a - nd ne - ver brought to

System 2:
 Chords: Bb (5fr.), F(v2), C7, A7, Dm, Gm7, C7
 Lyrics: mind should old ac-quain - tance be for-got a - nd days of auld lang

System 3:
 Chords: F(v2), C7, F(v2)
 Lyrics: syne for auld la - ng syne my dear for auld la - ng

System 4:
 Chords: Bb (5fr.), F(v2), C7, A7, Dm, Gm7, C7, F
 Lyrics: syne we'll take a cup of kind - ness yet f - or au - ld la ng syne