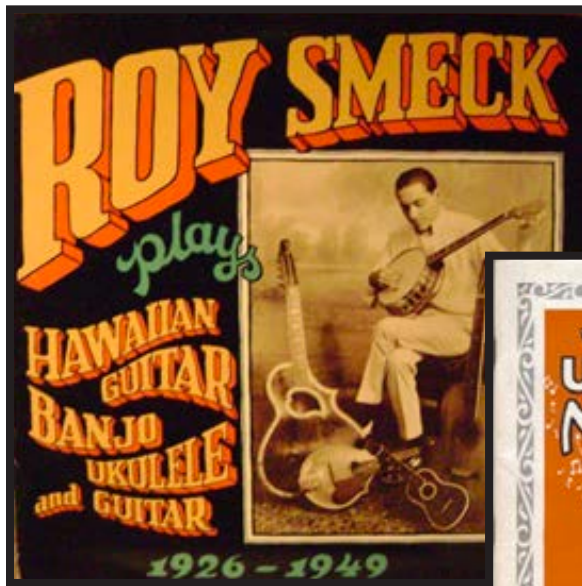


# Ukulele Celebrities: Their Instruments and Their Songs

with SANDOR NAGYSZALANCZY



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

11:00, UPPER JENSEN

# **Early Ukulele Celebrities; Their Instruments and Songs**

*by Sandor Nagyszalanczy, Burning Uke 2019*

## **Wendell Hall, AKA "The Red Headed Music Maker" (1896-1969)**

**Sheet music & song:** It Ain't Gonna Rain No Mo', 1923

**Hollywood connection:** This song, created by Hall using some traditional folk lyrics, was featured in many early film cartoons, including 1930's "Noah Knew His Arc" and 1933's "The Plumber." A recording of Hall performing the song was recently featured in the 2014 survival film drama "Against the Sun."

## **Al Jolson (1886-1950)**

**Sheet music & song:** California Here I come, 1924

**Hollywood connection:** Best known for his role in the 1927 musical drama "The Jazz Singer," Jolson was part of a writing team that created this song for the 1921 Broadway musical *Bombo*, starring Al Jolson (he recorded the song in '24). Jolson also sang the song in the 1939 musical film "Rose of Washington Square." It was later featured as the title theme to the 1945 war film "Back to Bataan" starring John Wayne and Anthony Quinn.

## **Cliff Edwards, AKA "Ukulele Ike" (1895-1971)**

**Sheet music & song:** Paddlin' Madelin' Home, 1925

**Hollywood connection:** One-time vaudevillian Cliff Edwards acted in more than 100 movies between 1929 and 1965, mostly playing bit parts. He also sang and played the ukulele in dozens of films, including 1929's "Paddlin' Madelin' Home," a short that features this song. Edwards is also known for having provided the voice of Jiminy Cricket for Disney's TV shows and films.

## **Johnny Marvin, AKA "The Ukulele Ace" (1897-1944)**

**Sheet music & song:** Oh How She Could Play a Ukulele, 1926

**Hollywood connection:** Although mostly known for his prodigious output of recorded songs, Marvin, sometimes credited as "Honey Duke and His Uke," did perform onscreen in two short Movietone films in 1929 and 30. In the early 30s, Marvin reinvented himself as a songwriter, penning more than 50 songs for the western and cowboy movies of the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

## **Roy Smeck AKA "The Wizard of the Strings" (1900-1994)**

**Hollywood connection:** Known for his mastery of half a dozen instruments, including the guitar, banjo and ukulele, Smeck performed mostly for radio and recordings, only appearing in six short feature films made between 1933 and 1939. Although his flamboyant solo performances and musical virtuosity are unmatched, the fact that he couldn't sing probably limited his silver-screen appeal.

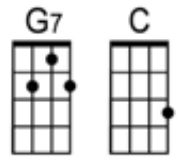
## **Arthur Godfrey (1903-1983)**

**Sheet music & song:** Makin' Love Ukulele Style, 1949

**Hollywood connection:** Mostly known as a TV and radio personality, Godfrey is notable as the host of a popular 1950 television show: "Arthur Godfrey and His Ukulele." He did perform in a few movies, including the 1966 comedy "Glass Bottom Boat," where he played the movie's theme song as a duet with Doris Day.

# It Ain't Gonna Rain No Mo' by Wendell Hall, 1923

G7 C G7  
Oh the night was dark and dreary, the air was full of sleet,  
An old man stood out in the storm, his shoes were full of feet.



G7 C G7  
It, ain't gonna rain no more, no more, it ain't gonna rain no more,  
How in the world can the old folks tell, that it ain't gonna rain no more.

G7 C G7  
Oh, mosquito he fly high, mosquito he fly low,  
If old man 'skeeta lights on me, he ain't gonna fly no mo'. **CHORUS**

G7 C G7  
Oh, a peanut sat on a railroad track, its heart was all a-flutter  
A train came roarin' down the track, Toot! Toot! peanut butter. **CHORUS**

G7 C G7  
Oh, my uncle built a chimney, he built it up so high,  
He had to tear it down again, to let the moon go by! **CHORUS**

G7 C G7  
A man laid down by the sewer, and by the sewer he died,  
And at the coroner's inquest, they called it "sewer-cide" **CHORUS**

G7 C G7  
When boating never quarrel, for you'll find without a doubt,  
A boat is not the proper place, to have a falling out. **CHORUS**

G7 C G7  
It, ain't gonna rain no more, no more, it ain't gonna rain no more,  
How the dickens can I count my chickens if it ain't gonna rain no more.  
G7 C  
How the heck can I wash my neck, if it ain't gonna rain no more.

# California Here I Come

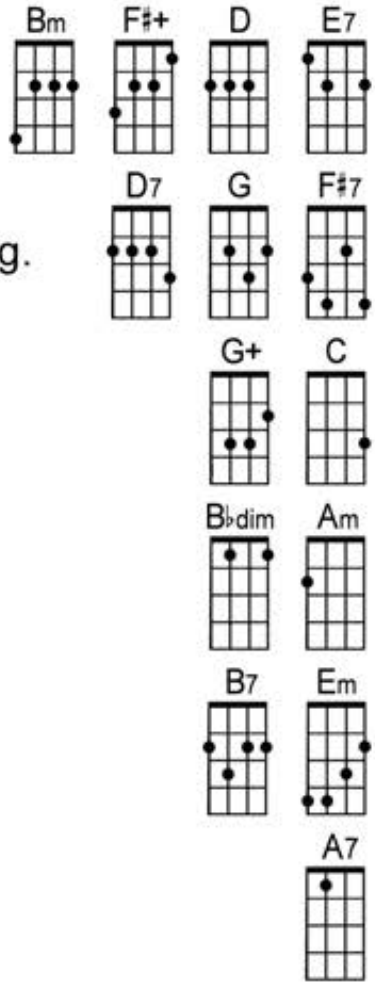
By Al Jolson, Bud de Sylva and Joseph Meyer, 1924

Bm F#+ D E7  
 When the wintry, winds are blowing,  
 Bm F#7 Bm F#+  
 And the snow, is starting in to fall,  
 Bm F#+ D E7  
 Then my eyes, turn westward knowing,  
 Bm F#7 Bm  
 That's the place, that I love best of all.  
 D7 G  
 California, I've been blue,  
 D7 G F#7  
 Since I've been away from you,  
 Bm F#+ D E7  
 I can't wait, 'til I get going,  
 Bm F#7 Bm D7  
 Even now, I'm starting in to call, Oh,



## CHORUS:

G G+ C  
 Cali - fornia, here I come,  
 D D7 G  
 Right back where I started from.  
 G Bbdim D  
 Where bowers, of flowers, bloom in the spring.  
 G Bbdim  
 Each morning, at dawning,  
 D D7  
 Birdies sing an' everything.  
 G G+ C  
 A sunkist miss said "Don't be late,"  
 D E7  
 That's why I can hardly wait.  
 Am E7 Am B7 Em  
 Op - en up that Golden Gate,  
 A7 D7 G D7  
 California here I come.



## REPEAT CHORUS, 2nd TIME END:

A7 D7 G  
 California here I come!

C G7 C  
 I love a girl named Madeline, I know she loves me, too.  
 Em C Em D7 G7  
 For ev'ry night the moon is bright, she rides in my canoe.  
 C G7 Am  
 At midnight on the river, I heard her father call,  
 G Cm G Cm D7 G  
 But she don't care and I don't care, if we get back at all.

G7 C Am C  
 'Cause when I'm paddlin' Madelin' home,  
 D7  
 Gee! When I'm paddlin' Madelin' home.  
 G7 C Am  
 First we drift with the tide, then pull for the shore.  
 D7 G7  
 I hug her, and kiss her, and paddle some more.  
 C Am C  
 I just keep paddlin' Madelin' home,  
 D7  
 Until I find a spot where we're alone.

C Em Am D7  
 Oh! She never says "no," so I kiss her and go.  
 C G7 C A7 D7 G7 C G7  
 Paddlin' Madelin', sweet, sweet Madelin', paddlin' Madeline home.

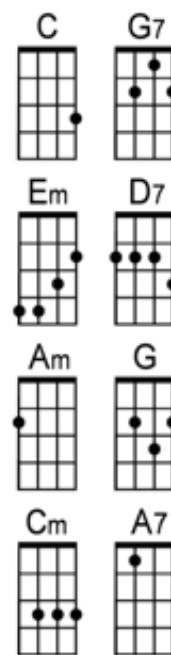
C G7 C  
 The moon comes up at six o'clock, and I come up at eight.  
 Em C Em D7 G7  
 She's always waitin' for my call and meets me at the gate.  
 C G7 Am  
 I've petted in the parlor, and hugged her in the hall,  
 G Cm G Cm D7 G  
 But when she's out in my canoe, I love her best of all.

G7 C Am C  
 'Cause when I'm paddlin' Madelin' home,  
 D7  
 Gee! When I'm paddlin' Madelin' home.  
 G7 C Am  
 First I kiss her a while, and when I get through,  
 D7 G7  
 I paddle for one mile, and drift back for two.  
 C Am C  
 Then I keep paddlin' Madelin' home,  
 D7  
 Until I find a spot where we're alone.

C Em Am D7  
 Oh! If she'd only say, "Throw your paddles away"  
 C G7 C A7 D7 G7 C G7-C  
 Paddlin' Madelin', sweet, sweet Madelin', paddlin' Madeline home.

# P M H A A O D D M D L E L I I N N

By Harry Woods  
 1925



# Oh How She Could Play a Ukulele

Benny Davis & Harry Akst, 1926

**INTRO 2x:** C // Gdim // G7 ////

C G7 C G7  
Gather round you ukulele players, gather round you hey-hey-heyers,

C D7 G7 C G7  
When I get though you'll throw your ukes away.

C G7 Dm G  
There's a gal, a ukulele player, finest in the land.

D7 G E7 A7 D7 G G7  
When she was born, she was born, with a ukulele in her hand.

C G7 C G7  
She couldn't dance, and she couldn't sing, she couldn't do another thing,

C G7 C G7 C A7  
But oh how she could play a u - ku - le - le.

Dm A7 Dm A7  
Though she had a funny face, she was welcome any place,

D7 F6 G7  
For oh how she could play a u - ku - le - le.

F C F C G7  
She'd play aloha, that meant goodbye, and make you go a way with a sigh.

C G7 C G7  
Any place where she was found, all the boys would hang around,

C A7 D7 G7 C  
For oh how she could play a u - ku - le - e - le.

**Play 2x:** C // Gdim // G7 ////

C G7 C G7  
Never cared about a ukulele, now I'm taking lessons daily,

C D7 G7 C G7  
I love it so, I play it all the time,

C G7 Dm G  
She taught me, the cutest way of strummin', you should hear me now,

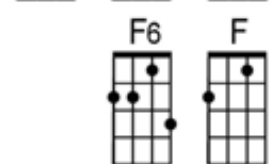
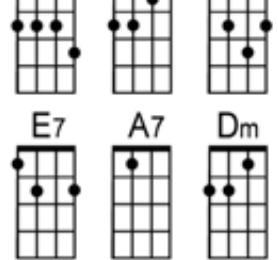
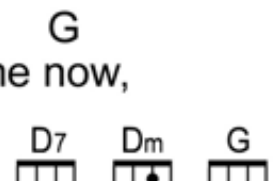
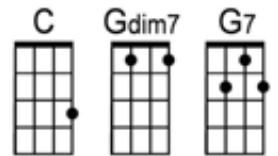
D7 G E7 D7 G7  
I strum away, all the day, she's a little teachin' fool and how.

C G7 C G7  
She couldn't play a violin, never heard of Gunga Din,

C G7 C G7 C A7  
But oh how she could play a u - ku - le - le

Dm A7 Dm A7  
Never been to Honolu, where the wicky wacky woo.

D7 F6 G7  
But oh how she could play a u - ku - le - le.



**REPEAT MARKED SECTION ONLY**

**A7 // D7 // G // E7 // A7 // D7 // G ///**

**G C**  
**Making love, ukulele style,**

**D7 G**  
**No need to be, in Waikiki.**

**C**  
**Making love, ukulele style,**  
**D7 G**  
**To a lovely ukulele serenade.**

**G C**  
**When you love, ukulele style,**  
**D7 G**  
**With every note, your heart will float.**

**C**  
**Far away, to a tropic isle,**  
**D7 G**  
**Where a ukulele tune is softly played.**

**♥ C G**  
**Strolling along, beneath, the starlight,**

**C G**  
**Dreaming a lover's dream for two.**

**B7 Em**  
**Soon you will see her eyes are star bright,**

**A7 D7**  
**As the ukulele magic comes through.**

**G C**  
**Now if you, want to satisfy,**  
**D7 G**  
**The one you love, all else above.**

**C**  
**Take a tip, and be sure to try,**  
**D7 G**  
**The ukulele way of making love.**

**(REPEAT FROM ♥ )**

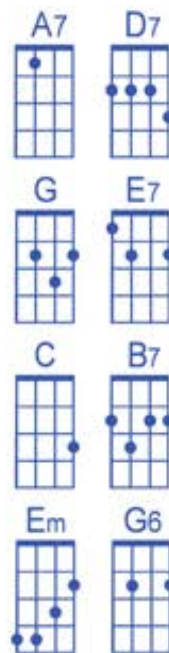
**END: A7 // D7 // G // E7 // A7 // D7 // G / G6 /**

# Making Love Ukulele Style

Arthur Godfrey



Written by  
Charlie Hayes  
& Paul Weirick,  
in 1949



**END: A7 // D7 // G // E7 // A7 // D7 // G / G6 /**