

## **“ISLAND UKULELES B”**

September 2011

Dear parents and students,

Welcome back to Island Ukuleles for 2011/2012! The Island Ukulele “B” ensembles consists of 3 smaller groups each working towards gold, silver or bronze pins. The B instructors for this year are Jill Benton and Grant Diamond (B-gold pin), Lorelee Bergeron, Noah Fagen and Meri Kieksi (B-silver pin), and Elaine Kao, Melanie Leask and Matthew Martin (B-bronze pin).

The primary focus of this ensemble is to promote enjoyment and musical learning through fun and skills programs. Many of the skills acquired through the program can be transferred to any instrument later on. Each student will be working towards earning a bronze pin, silver pin, and gold pin through completion of various skills. An outline of each pin level is enclosed.

### **If you are new to the program and did not participate in the spring sessions:**

There is <u>NO AUDITION</u> necessary. If you have a desire to learn, and are willing to do some practicing at home, you are more than welcome to come and be a part of our program. We will teach you the skills that you need!
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Rehearsals will be every Monday night from 6:15-8:00 p.m. at Oak Bay High School in Studio A (2101 Cadboro Bay Road).

### **You will need:**

1. Ukulele
2. Pencil – very important! Please put one with your binder!
3. Binder for your music
4. Blue Book (Marven Shields Music Reading Book) – available for purchase at Larsen Music.

### **Registration and Commitment:**

You will be asked to fill out a registration form and submit registration fees for the program by the second rehearsal attended in September (Sept. 19th). No student will be denied the opportunity to participate because of an inability to pay. Please contact Tina Horwood (Musical Director) if finances are a concern (250-592-2800). Your confidentiality will be respected. Students are asked to attend rehearsals on a regular

basis. If possible, please include your email address on the registration form as we frequently send out information updates. Your email address will not be shared.

### **Performances:**

There will be several performances throughout the course of the year. The first concert will likely be our Community Christmas Concert on Saturday December 3rd. The Annual Poinsettia Christmas Concert will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup> at Oak Bay High School in the theatre. We will be performing these concerts with the Island Ukuleles A Ensemble and the Little Ukers.

### **Performances for the year include:**

1. December 3rd – Community Lunchtime Christmas Concert (location and time yet to be determined)
2. December 5<sup>th</sup> - Poinsettia Concert – this is our annual Island Ukuleles concert held at Oak Bay High School in the Theatre.
3. March 6th – Ukulele’s Unlimited-A Victoria School District event held UVic
4. April 11th – School Tours Tentative Date-Students visit 3 local schools for performances
5. April 16th-B Group Mini-Performance and Celebration
6. June 4th – Ukulele Graduation Concert – this concert features our grade 12 students as they prepare to graduate.

### **The concert uniform will be:**

1. Black pants
2. Black socks
3. Black shirt (preferably collared and ¾ or full length sleeves) NO LOGOS or PICTURES
4. Vest or Tie (**provided by Island Ukulele** on the night of the concert)
5. Dark shoes (preferably black)

### **C.D.’s**

Last year, the Island Ukulele groups released their third professional C.D., “We Got Uke”. CD’s will be for sale in the fall. Please let your director know if you would like one. They are \$15 each. Our previous CD’s, “Songs of the Island” and “The River,” which were professionally recorded a few years ago, are also available for \$15.

## **Island Ukulele B's Teambuilding and Trips**

The Island Ukulele B program provides students the opportunity to build music related skills, but is also an excellent opportunity to make new friends, and participate in group activities. In the fall students are invited to attend a teambuilding/skill building day. This will take place on Saturday October 15th, at Oak Bay High School in our regular rehearsal location. Activities will include cooperative games, theatre games, instruction on drums, bass, ukulele and introduction of new repertoire. In previous years, our Spring teambuilding outings have taken us to Campbell River, Strathcona Park Lodge, Camp Thunderbird, and Vancouver. This is typically a one or two day excursion that includes ukulele concerts, work towards pins, outdoor activities and time to have fun with friends. Students are encouraged to fundraise to help offset personal costs for these opportunities. No student would be denied the opportunity to participate due to financial restrictions.

## **Fundraising**

There are generally two or three fundraising events each year. In the past students have sold chocolate bars in the fall and parents are encouraged to sell poinsettias for our December concert. The Poinsettia Concert has also traditionally included a silent auction and bake sale that we ask families to participate in. Island Ukuleles also participates in the Thrifty's Smile Cards program and Fairway Gift Certificates. Although there is a temptation to just pay for trips when the time comes, all students are encouraged to participate in some fundraising, since part of the proceeds go to Island Ukuleles to pay for important items such as uniforms, instrument replacement and maintenance, etc. However, we do understand if some parents prefer to give a charitable donation instead of fundraising. Each child will have an account, and whatever he/she earns will go into their individual account to cover travel expenses at a later date.

## **Island Ukuleles Executive:**

Thank you to the Island Ukulele Parents Executive: Lorelee Bergeron (President), Mike Thompson (Treasurer), Linda Ryall (Secretary), Deborah Antonsen (Uniforms), Barry Russell (Equipment & Poinsettias), and Karen Bogle (Fairways Gift Certificates). Non-executive positions include Melinda Budgell Firetto (Chocolate Sales), Veronica Foster (Student Accounts), and Barb Marquardt (Thrifty's Smile Cards).

## **Little Ukers**

We are excited to be able to continue offering this primary program as part of our 2011-2012 season. If you have a child between the ages 5-8 who may be interested in the Little Ukers program, names are currently being taken for a waiting list. Rehearsals run Monday nights (6:15-7:15p.m.) at Oak Bay. The sessions are from October 3rd through December 5th and January 9th through March 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Melissa McKnight for more information ([melmck@valleyis.com](mailto:melmck@valleyis.com)).

**For more information on Island Ukuleles**, please visit our website at [www.islandukulele.org](http://www.islandukulele.org). The site will be updated with information as the year progresses. If you have a digital camera and would like to become involved in taking photos for our web page, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mindy Myttenar  
[mindyvtoc@gmail.com](mailto:mindyvtoc@gmail.com)  
250 370 7438

## **Island Ukuleles Contact Information:**

### ***Musical Directors:***

Jill Benton~B Ensembles	250-590-8175	<a href="mailto:jillbenton2@gmail.com">jillbenton2@gmail.com</a>
Mindy Myttenar-B Administration	250-370-7438	<a href="mailto:mindyvtoc@gmail.com">mindyvtoc@gmail.com</a>
Melissa McKnight~Little Ukers	250-592-2378	<a href="mailto:melmck@valleyis.com">melmck@valleyis.com</a>
Tina Horwood~Program Director/A	250-592-2800	<a href="mailto:tinahorwood@yahoo.ca">tinahorwood@yahoo.ca</a>

### ***Executive:***

President	Lorelee Bergeron	920-7899 <a href="mailto:ken.bergeron@shaw.ca">ken.bergeron@shaw.ca</a>
Treasurer	Mike Thompson	598-6854 <a href="mailto:mthomp@shaw.ca">mthomp@shaw.ca</a>
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