



# KUBAS

Kent Ukulele & Banjulele Appreciation Society

## **! STRUMMING !**



What is strumming?

It is a technique that helps to add rhythm and expression into a song.

The first step to strumming is to understand the “Time Signature” of the song.

The song is written as a musical score that has 5 parallel lines called a “Stave”.

This will have either a Treble or Bass clef at the start and then the time signature.

Typical time signatures are: 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 and 6/8.

The first upper number denotes the number of beats in a bar.

The second lower number denotes the type of beat/length of note.

The lower number is defined as follows:

4 = Crotchet :: 2 = Minim :: 8 = Quaver

The length of note is defined as follows:

Quaver = ½ beat :: Crotchet = 1 beat :: Minim = 2 beats :: Semibreve = 4 beats

Typical types of music that conform to these time signatures are:

2/4 = March :: 3/4 = Waltz :: 4/4 = Standard or Common time

Listen to the rhythm or how the song is sung and try to emulate this in strumming.

You can use any fingers or a combination of a finger and thumb depending upon your preference.

Generally most players strum between where the neck joins the body of the ukulele and the start of the sound hole. Varying the position varies the sound.

Strumming consists of up and down strokes in a variety of orders and timings.

Down-Up-Down-Up :: Down-Up-Up-Down :: Down-Down-Up-Down-Down-Up etc.

Up strokes help to emphasise words and don't forget pauses in the strum too!

Examples of KUBAS songs with their time signature are:

- Da Do Ron Ron = **4/4**
- Sloop John B = **4/4**
- I'm Going Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter = **4/4**
- I Will Survive = **4/4**
- House of the Rising Sun = **6/8**

Try strumming to the above songs to see if you can add rhythm and expression to them.