

Foreword

Many years have passed since any major attempt has been made to produce a modern instruction method for the ‘ukulele which emphasizes its capability even as a solo instrument. This book represents a contemporary Hawaiian approach to make the path easier for those who wish to learn ‘ukulele fingerpicking and Hawaiian music.

This method provides a foundation for understanding music and for basic ‘ukulele fingerpicking and chord soloing techniques, and is systematic in approach to the understanding of the left hand fingering and right hand fingerpicking techniques.

This series of instructional volumes is written for ‘ukulele enthusiasts everywhere and is especially dedicated to *nā keiki o Hawai‘i* – to the children of Hawai‘i. It is suitable for those who may have no formal training in music or playing the ‘ukulele. The material is suited for pre-teens from about 11 years old and up, although younger children who are highly motivated will find this method useful to begin learning music. This can also be used especially for the younger children who wish to start learning a stringed instrument, when their hands are not yet large enough for the larger sized guitar. Young adults who start on this method will find the transition to fingerpicking on the guitar much easier as many of the conventional guitar TAB notation is introduced and used.

Level 1 presents many traditional and contemporary Hawaiian instrumental arrangements and exercises in graded form. Pieces are arranged to introduce a simple melody with basic techniques. Many pieces are developed later in the book to include more involved fingering and fingerpicking techniques.

This volume is the first in a series of volumes designed to provide progressively graded instruction in the fundamentals of music and techniques of ‘ukulele fingerpicking. Subsequent volumes will continue to progress with more music concepts, techniques and rhythms.

All pieces in this method are ‘ukulele renditions of Hawaiian songs. Although some of these Hawaiian songs have either never been published or have been published but have been out of print for a long time, all pieces have been arranged for the purposes of Hawaiian music and ‘ukulele instruction. Short insights are provided into lives of the composers of songs used to add to the appreciation of some of the significant artists who have contributed to Hawaiian music.

The exercises and pieces has an accompanying CD Track in which to listen and play along with. Most of the arrangements and exercises have two versions - a very slow speed version and a version that is closer to regular speed. Proficiency in playing at the faster speeds begins with proficiency at playing the *slower* speeds. Throughout this method, *clean techniques* and *smooth playing* are emphasized.

It is my sincere hope that this method will introduce the beauty of playing this wonderful Hawaiian instrument and will also introduce you to some beautiful Hawaiian music and songs.

I also hope that this will function not only as a systematic method and approach for the aspiring ‘ukulele player but will aid in the preservation and growth of one of Hawai‘i’s unique art forms of music on the ‘ukulele.