

# Gospel Medley

(page 23 of *Ukulele Basics*)

## Introduction

This is to show how the same chord progression can be used in many different songs.

## Did you know?

*Swing low*, known as a rugby anthem and sung at Twickenham, has been covered by lots of notable artists and used in dozens of films. It is a traditional American spiritual song.

*Oh when the saints* is an American gospel song which was traditionally used as a funeral march. It has been used by many notable jazz, rock and pop artists, both with and without vocals. Written in 1896, it has also been used in many films, and is included in the children's show *Barney & Friends*.

*I'm gonna sing* is a traditional gospel song, introduced into this medley and used in countless UK schools as part of the Sing Up programme.

## Starting out on the carpet

- Sing each song with the children, first one line at a time as a call and response, and then all together.
- Active listening - how many chords in the song? How many strums on each chord? Write these out on the board, with slashes to show how many of each, e.g. C///, for each time they count (make sure they are counting right, and stop at regular intervals to write on the board).

## Getting going with the ukuleles

- Go through and do 'finger aerobics' on the ukuleles, strumming the first beat of every four. Practise the chord changes between C, G and F, strumming on beat 1 and then moving your fingers into the new position over the following three beats.
- When all the children are okay with this, strum every other beat, leaving one beat to change, and then move chords on every beat. Finally add two quaver strums on each chord.
- Practise the full chord progression several times, and if there are timing issues, ask the children questions like: 'What happens at this bit?', 'How many strums here?'. Rather than singling out children who may need assistance, make it a class puzzle for everyone to solve together.
- Start by strumming just crotchets on each beat, and then add in the quavers on the second, third and fourth beats of each bar, as shown in the music provided in the main book.
- When the class can play all of the chords, add the lyrics and play all three songs, one after the other.

## What next?

- You can also make this into a 'partner song', where the class is separated into 3 groups and each song is started by 1 of the groups, so that all songs are sung at the same time! It is best to have a strong singer, either an adult or a talented child, to lead each group. It may be worth watching one of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain's medleys on screen.

<http://youtu.be/2P1-UvqdD7o>

<http://youtu.be/79D8SRqX5U>