

How much is that doggie in the window?

(page 28 of *Ukulele Basics*)

Introduction

This is a great waltz song to sing and play with children. Many singers have done versions of this song, but one of the most well-known ones is by Patti Page.

Did you know?

- The writer of this song also wrote 'If I'd've known you were coming, I'd've baked a cake'.
- This song has featured in lots of advertisements for various products, including XXX

Starting out on the carpet

- First, explain that a waltz is a popular dance from the 19th century that has a distinctive 'oom-pah-pah' lilt.
- Ask everyone to *clap – tap – tap, clap – tap – tap* to a steady pulse, clapping on beat 1 and tapping gently on the palm of their hands on beats 2 and 3. This will emphasise the first beat of every three, and demonstrates the difference between 4/4 and 3/4 time.
- Sing the song call-and-response style, first singing one line at a time, then 2, then the full verses.
- Now play the song to your group and ask them if they can tell how many chords are used and which ones. Write the chords on the board.

Getting going with the ukuleles

- To warm-up fingers, get everyone to do finger aerobics between chords C and G. Set up a slow crotchet pulse and ask everyone to change hand position on the first of every three beats. Next try changing position on each beat as everyone becomes more confident. Lastly, add crotchet strums and increase the pulse to fit with the speed of the song.
- Without losing the pulse, ask everyone to strum the C chord to the crotchet beat, and then start singing the song. When you reach 'window', signal to everyone to change to G. Continue in this way throughout the song – the children will be strumming the song before they know it!
- Finally, encourage everyone to join in singing the tune while playing.

What next?

- Try making up different rhythms in 3/4 using a mix of quavers, crotchets and minims. Ask children to clap a rhythm while everyone else taps the beat, then write their rhythms on the board. (An example of a 3/4 rhythm is provided in the 'Challenge' bubble on page 28.) Select a simple rhythm and encourage gifted and talented players to try strumming this song to the rhythm.
- There are more verses of this song than are provided in the main book; try adding some of these for a longer performance. (The lyrics are readily available on the internet.)
- To put the song in context, you could show everyone a video of different versions of the song on YouTube.