

# Blue Moon

(page 25 of *Ukulele Basics*)

## Introduction

*Blue Moon* (Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, 1934) is a classic ballad using I, vi, IV, V chord progression.

## Did you know?

- This pop classic has become a standard ballad and has been covered by many notable people including Elvis Presley. It has also been adopted by Manchester City Football Club as their anthem, and is the name of the unofficial forum for their fans.

## Starting out on the carpet

- Sing each line of the song with the children, call-and response style. Then do this with two lines at a time, and finally sing through the whole song.
- Perform the song to the children. To encourage Active Listening, pose questions before they start: How many chords are in the song? How many strums are on each chord?
- Write the chords out on the board, with slashes to show how many times to play each chord.
- Before you get playing, ask them which fingers play which chord and practise this.

## Getting going with the ukuleles

- Now, go through and do 'finger aerobics' on the ukuleles, strumming the first beat of every 4. Practise the chord changes between C, Am, F and G, strumming on beat 1 and then moving their fingers into the new position over the following three beats.
- When all 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?', etc. 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 using the music provided in the main book.
- When the class can play all of the chords, add in the lyrics and play the whole song.

## What next?

- There are many other songs which use this chord sequence, including 'What a wonderful world' by Sam Cooke. You could try some of these with your class, or even make a medley of several songs using this chord sequence.