

# *Introduction*

*It isn't necessary to be a professor of music to play good music. However, understanding the basics - Scales, Intervals, Chords - can serve to make any musician a better musician through the development of skills in Transposing Songs, understanding Chord Construction and how to change and/or substitute chords; improved creativity in improvising breaks/solos; and more adaptability in navigating the various keys/scales that one encounters in jam/pickin' sessions, or even in playing for your own pleasure at home.*

*The first movement deals with Music Theory. It is not a full in-depth treatment of the subject - other treatises are far more worthy. Rather it is intended to provide enough of the basics to assist the reader in improving his/her musical skills, and hopefully provide a little motivation to study further - the more knowledge one has the better a musician one will be.*

*Although I believe very strongly that all musicians can benefit from a sound understanding of Scale and Chord construction and other theory topics, I will be amongst the first to acknowledge that many "amateur" musicians feel intimidated by what is admittedly a complex subject. Others may be "time-challenged" and prefer to put their limited time into the fun of playing. Recognizing those constraints, and not wishing to dissuade those musicians from continuing to enjoy their playing, in the Appendix I have included a series of "Nutshell" topics covering Scale, Chord and Interval Numbering. If you choose to skip over the Theory Section in this book, I encourage you to read the "Nutshells" before studying the "Playing" topics - hopefully these "Nutshells" will provide you with a better understanding of those topics.*

*The second movement consists of a collection of thoughts, notes, tips & techniques, etc which I hope will help you with your playing. The topics are driven by questions and requests asked of me by fellow musicians.*

*Much of the information in this "book", especially the Theory sections, applies to all instruments. However, the main focus is towards the "amateur" Ukulele player who has taken advantage of a low-cost entry to join the many world-wide musicians who are participating in the magical world of music, but who typically has no formal training or guidance to explore the incredible complexities of this wonderful instrument.*

*So, enjoy and "Happy Ukeing".*