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falling slowly tab ukulele

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Falling Slowly: A Complete Ukulele Guide for Beginners and Beyond

When you first hear the gentle, lilting melody of “Falling Slowly,” you might instantly feel a sense of calm and longing. Whether it’s the iconic duet from *Once*or a cover that has taken the internet by storm, this song has a universal appeal that transcends language and genre. For ukulele players, “Falling Slowly” offers a beautiful blend of simple chord progressions, expressive strumming, and a touch of lyrical nuance that makes it a must learn piece for any player looking to expand their repertoire.

In this guide, we’ll walk you through the entire process of mastering the **falling slowly tab ukulele**. From the basic chords to advanced voicings, from strumming patterns to emotional phrasing, we’ll cover everything you need to play this song confidently and with feeling. Whether you’re a beginner who just picked up a ukulele or an intermediate player looking to refine your technique, this article will give you a clear, step by step roadmap.

Why “Falling Slowly” Is Perfect for the Ukulele

“Falling Slowly” is structurally simple yet emotionally rich, making it an ideal choice for ukulele players of all levels. The song’s chord progression is based on common open chords, and the melody can be played with minimal finger movement. The ukulele’s bright tone complements the song’s wistful vibe, and the instrument’s portability allows you to practice anywhere.

Here are a few reasons why this track is a staple for ukulele enthusiasts:

- Simple Chord Changes – The song uses only four primary chords (C, G, Am, and F), which are staples in any beginner’s chord library.
- Expressive Dynamics – The ukulele can capture the gentle ebb and flow of the song, letting you explore dynamics from soft to slightly louder passages.
- Strumming Versatility – The rhythm can be adapted to a relaxed finger picking style or a more percussive strum, giving you creative freedom.
- Song Structure – The verse chorus format is straightforward, making it easier to memorize and practice.

Getting Started: What You’ll Need

Before diving into the tab, gather the following items to ensure a smooth learning experience:

1. Ukulele – A soprano, concert, or tenor ukulele will work perfectly. Make sure it’s tuned to G C E A.
2. Chord Chart – A visual reference for the chords used in the song.
3. Metronome – A simple metronome or a digital app to keep your timing steady.
4. Recording Device – Record yourself to track progress and catch any timing or rhythmic issues.
5. Notebook – Jot down any variations or personal tweaks you want to try.

Chord Overview: The Building Blocks of “Falling Slowly”

Below is a quick reference for the four core chords you’ll use throughout the song. All of these chords are in open position, which means you can play them without any barre or advanced techniques.

C Major (C)

Place your **index finger** on the **1st fret of the A string**(the top string when held in playing position). The other strings are open.

G Major (G)

Place your **index finger** on the **2nd fret of the C string**, **middle finger** on the **3rd fret of the E string**, and **ring finger** on the **2nd fret of the A string**.

A Minor (Am)

Place your **index finger** on the **1st fret of the C string**. The other strings are open.

F Major (F)

Place your **index finger** on the **1st fret of the E string**, and your **middle finger** on the **2nd fret of the G string**. The A and C strings are open.

With these chords, you can comfortably navigate the entire progression of “Falling Slowly.” If you’re new to the ukulele, practice switching between these chords until you can do so smoothly.

Breaking Down the Song Structure

Understanding the structure of the song will help you anticipate chord changes and plan your practice sessions. “Falling Slowly” follows a classic verse chorus arrangement:

1. Intro – A gentle introduction that sets the mood.
2. Verse 1 – The first lyrical section, establishing the narrative.
3. Chorus – The emotional highlight, repeated throughout the song.
4. Verse 2 – Builds upon the first verse, adding depth.
5. Bridge – A short instrumental or lyrical shift that offers contrast.
6. Final Chorus – The culmination, often with an emotional crescendo.

Each section repeats the same four chord progression (C–G–Am–F). This repetition makes it easier to focus on strumming and expression rather than memorizing complex chord changes.

Strumming Patterns: The Pulse of the Song

“Falling Slowly” can be played with a simple down up strum or a more intricate pattern. Here are two variations that work well on the ukulele:

Pattern 1: Basic Down Up (4/4 Time)

Count in a steady 4/4 rhythm. Strum down on beats 1 and 3, and up on beats 2 and 4.

- Beat 1 – Down
- Beat 2 – Up
- Beat 3 – Down
- Beat 4 – Up

Pattern 2: Palm Muted and Accent (4/4 Time)

For a more nuanced feel, add palm muting on the downstrokes and accent the third beat.

- Beat 1 – Palm muted Down
- Beat 2 – Up

- Beat 3 – Down (accented)
- Beat 4 – Up (soft)

Feel free to experiment with these patterns or create your own. The key is to maintain a consistent rhythm that supports the song’s emotional arc.

Full Tab: Step by Step Guide

Below is the complete ukulele tab for “Falling Slowly.” We’ve broken it into sections for clarity. Each line represents a chord, and the vertical bars indicate measures. The numbers denote finger placement on the fretboard.

Intro (4 measures)

| C | G | Am | F |

Verse 1 (8 measures)

| C | G | Am | F | (x2)

Chorus (8 measures)

| C | G | Am | F |
| C | G | Am | F | (x2)

Verse 2 (8 measures)

| C | G | Am | F | (x2)

Bridge (4 measures)

| Am | F | C | G |

Final Chorus (12 measures)

| C | G | Am | F |
| C | G | Am | F | (x2)

With the chord progression in place, focus on timing and expression. Use the strumming patterns above to keep the

rhythm steady. If you're comfortable, add gentle arpeggios or finger picking during the verses to give the song a softer texture.

Playing with Dynamics: Adding Emotion

"Falling Slowly" is a ballad that thrives on subtlety. Here are some dynamic techniques you can apply to elevate your performance:

- Soft Intro – Begin with a gentle, almost whispered strum to set an intimate mood.
- Gradual Build – Increase volume slightly during the chorus to convey emotional intensity.
- Muted Bridge – Use palm muting to create a contemplative feel during the bridge.
- Final Crescendo – End the final chorus with a slightly louder, more resonant strum to leave a lasting impression.

Remember, dynamics are not about playing loudly; they're about using volume to support the story you're telling.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even seasoned players can fall into pitfalls when learning a new song. Here are some common issues and tips to overcome them:

1. Skipping Chord Transitions

It's easy to rush through chord changes, especially when the song feels repetitive. Practice slow, deliberate transitions until they become muscle memory.

2. Over Strumming

Playing too forcefully can drown out the ukulele's delicate sound. Aim for a balanced strum that feels natural and controlled.

3. Ignoring Timing

Even if you play the chords correctly, a shaky rhythm can make the song feel off. Use a metronome and count aloud to keep time.

4. Neglecting Dynamics

Playing the same volume throughout can make the song feel flat. Incorporate dynamic changes to reflect the emotional journey.

Practice Routine: From Beginner to Master

Here's a structured practice routine that will help you master "Falling Slowly" within a few weeks:

1. Day 1–3: Chord Familiarization – Practice each chord individually until you can switch between them smoothly.
2. Day 4–6: Strumming Patterns – Play along with the song's rhythm, focusing on the down up pattern.
3. Day 7–10: Verse Practice – Play the verse section, paying attention to timing and chord changes.
4. Day 11–13: Chorus & Bridge – Add the chorus and bridge, experimenting with dynamics.
5. Day 14–16: Full Song Run Through – Play the entire song from intro to final chorus, recording yourself.
6. Day 17–20: Polishing – Identify any weak spots from recordings and focus on those areas.
7. Day 21: Performance – Play the song for a friend or record a video to share online.

Consistency is key. Even 15 minutes a day can yield noticeable progress.

Advanced Variations: Making It Your Own

Once you're comfortable with the basic version, consider adding these advanced touches:

1. Finger Picking Arpeggios

Instead of strumming, try picking the strings in a gentle arpeggio pattern during the verses. This adds a layer of intimacy.

2. Chord Substitutions

Swap the Am chord with

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