

Friday, October 2, 2026

Ukulele News • Fri, 02 Oct 2026 18:22:46 GMT • 3:10

Maya: Aloha, and welcome to the very first episode of Ukulele News! I'm Maya.

Devon: And I'm Devon. It's Friday, October second, and this is your weekly trip through the wonderful, tiny, four-stringed world of the ukulele.

Maya: We've got brand-new gear, festivals on three continents, and a strumming tip to carry you into the weekend. So tune up, and let's dive in.

Devon: First up, the ukulele has gone full Hollywood. MG Music, a new venture from London-based composer Mike Georgiades—he's the Ivor Novello-nominated musician behind the music of the Assassin's Creed games—has just released its debut product, and it's a ukulele you play with a keyboard.

Maya: It's called MG Ukuleles, and it's a deeply sampled virtual instrument for the free Kontakt Player. It packs two ukes in one: a bright, strummy soprano for that classic ukulele sparkle, and a richer baritone with a nylon-string-guitar warmth for folk and pop.

Devon: And it's not just plucked notes. You get slides, hammer-ons, palm mutes, an auto chord and strum system, even a built-in sequencer with ready-made ukulele patterns you can drag straight into your song. Launch price is fifty-five British pounds, going up to seventy-five later.

Maya: So if your neighbors have ever asked you to keep it down, now you can strum at midnight with headphones on. Progress!

Devon: Next, mark your calendar, because festival season is in full swing. The inaugural Oceanside Ukulele Festival hits Oceanside, California, next Saturday, October tenth, from eleven in the morning to five in the afternoon.

Maya: And what a lineup for a first-year festival. Headlining is Grammy award-winning musician Daniel Ho, joined by acclaimed performer Bernadette Plazola. Daniel even composed an original song just for the event.

Devon: Plus world-renowned luthier Pepe Romero, whose workshop is based right there in Oceanside. Workshops, an open mic stage, master ukulele makers and vendors—and the concerts on the plaza stage are free. If you're in Southern California next weekend, this one's a no-brainer.

hosting its seventeenth annual Fall Ukulele Festival in Largo, Florida, on November sixth and seventh. Friday night brings live outdoor music, and Saturday is a full day of performances, free beginner lessons, strum-alongs, and a swap meet for used instruments. Best part: it's free and open to the public.

Maya: Before we wrap, your ukulele tip of the week. If you're just starting out, learn the island strum. It's the heartbeat of ukulele music: down, down-up, up-down-up. Say it with me down, down-up, up-down-up.

Devon: Practice it slow on a C chord, then a G chord, then an F chord, and congratulations you can now play about half the songs ever written.

Maya: That's our show! Thanks for joining the very first Ukulele News. We'll be back next Friday with more four-stringed fun.

Devon: Until then, keep strumming. Aloha!