



# UKE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Ukes for Schools, Inc.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ...

It's a great start to our school year - in 2023 we **donated 168 ukuleles to nine different music programs**. With a successful **Placer Uke Fest** last September, we look forward to continuing our ukulele donation program and to get young people involved with music.

Music feeds our souls, nourishes our families and community with happiness, and helps make the world a little bit better place to live.

Support your local businesses and non-profits. Include space for happiness and joy. Get your strum on everyday!



## UKES FOR SCHOOLS TEACHERS



If you're reading this, thank a teacher. If you're reading this AND strumming your uke, check out our monthly feature about the Ukes for Schools teaching community.

Teachers make the world go around, whether in a classroom, on a hike, or just sitting around the campfire playing fun songs with the happiest instrument in the world.

**Steve Kritzer** is an internationally recognized singer-songwriter who has achieved an outstanding career as an entertainer, recording artist, producer, studio musician, band member, teacher, worship leader, jam leader, and proud Dad.

With roots in the San Francisco Bay Area, Steve has performed at festivals, concerts, wineries and coffee houses throughout the United States and Europe. A virtuoso on both the guitar, mandolin, and banjo, his instrument of choice in recent years has been the humble ukulele.

### UFS: What initially attracted you to the ukulele?

Steve: Its bright and "cheerful" sound, and it's versatility for only having four strings. Also the surprising international community of ukulele players. As a teacher, it's...

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# 2024 PLACER UKE FEST SEPTEMBER 28, 2024



Save the Date - **September 28, 2024.**  
The Placer Uke festival is held in charming downtown Roseville, CA. The festival is packed with teaching talent, with lessons for all levels of player. We're working on the details. More to come!

*Click a pic to see pics from last year.*



## SPECIAL TEACHER OFFER

Ever been to a Uke Festival? If you're a Uke for Schools teacher then come on down and be our guest. We'll even buy you lunch. Its a great time to learn tips and techniques as well as to network with others, and make friends.



Stay tuned for ways to register for the festival. We thank YOU for being a teacher!!

## UKE RESOURCES FOR UKE TEACHERS

Are you a new Uke teacher? You have a classroom of new ukes and NOW what do you do?

Check out the [Teacher Resources](#) page on our Ukes for Schools web site. Let us know if you have a favorite "Go To" song or set list you use with your class. We can share that in the Resource area.

Click the Strum Shop link to view class schedules. Ukes for Schools will sponsor any teacher into a beginning group class at The Strum Shop.



[Read More](#)

916-78-STRUM

[info@ukesforschools.org](mailto:info@ukesforschools.org)

209 Vernon Street, Roseville, CA



## UKES FOR SCHOOLS TEACHERS - STEVE KRITZER

### **UFS: What initially attracted you to the ukulele?**

**Steve Kritzer:** It's bright and "cheerful" sound, and it's versatility for only having four strings. Also the surprising international community of ukulele players. As a teacher, it's ease of playing, especially for seniors, children, and others who may have challenges with the guitar.

### **UFS: Teaching has been a prominent part of your career, primarily with the guitar. Now, you almost exclusively teach ukulele. Why?**

**Steve:** Due to it's relative ease of playing, it's very gratifying for the students and for me to have them be able to make music in the first lesson. As a jam leader, it's especially fun and rewarding to have an instrument that can bring people together so easily, and give them the experience of playing together with other musicians in a fun and non-threatening way.

### **UFS: You have recently joined as a board member of Ukes For Schools, a Sacramento-based charitable organization that provides ukuleles for schools and teachers. What influenced your decision to take an active role in Ukes For Schools?**

**Steve:** The opportunity to be able to help kids experience the joy of music who may not otherwise be able to.

### **UFS: What does the future hold for you and the ukulele?**

**Kritzer:** Introducing more people to being able to make music both individually and with a group, songwriting on the ukulele, and finding new ways to connect with people around the world through the ukulele.



### **Volunteers Wanted**

We're always looking for help - Help with annual festival, help with fund raising, marketing and social media, community outreach. Complete our Ukulele Ambassador application and let us help you help others.