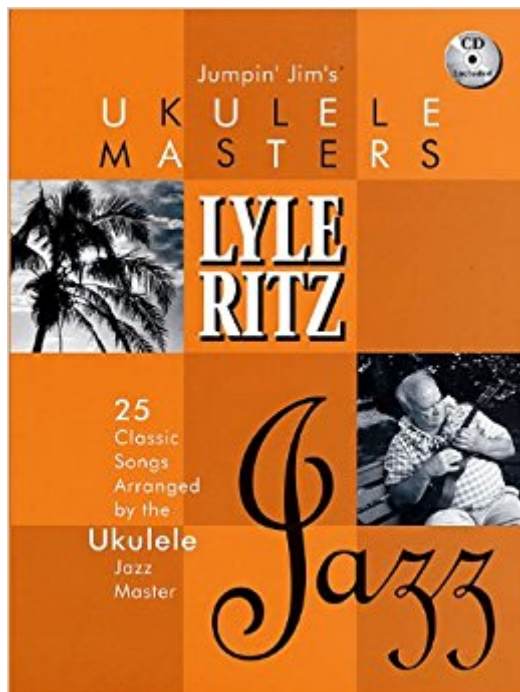


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Jumpin Jim's Ukulele Masters



Synopsis

(Fretted). 25 hand-picked standards lushly arranged by jazz ukulele great Lyle Ritz. Each song is arranged for both GCEA (standard tuning) and DGBE (tenor/baritone) tuned ukuleles. Also includes a CD of 12 of the songs performed by Ritz himself. While this songbook is ideal for the experienced player, with practice, these magnificent arrangements can be enjoyed and appreciated by all ukulele enthusiasts. Includes: All the Things You Are * As Time Goes By * Autumn Leaves * Body and Soul * Laura * My Funny Valentine * Spring Is Here * and more, plus a chord solo of "Fly Me to the Moon," and an introduction by and biography of Ritz.

Book Information

Staple Bound: 56 pages

Publisher: Flea Market Music; 1st edition (December 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0634027646

ISBN-13: 978-0634027642

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #600,124 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #126 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Songbooks > Guitars & Fretted Instruments > Ukuleles #210 in Books >

Arts & Photography > Music > Instruments > Strings > Ukuleles #671 in Books > Arts &

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Customer Reviews

Recently, a good friend from Hawaii reminded me that he was the one who had told me about Lyle Ritz. After hearing that Lyle had recorded two jazz ukulele LP's for Verve in the late '50's, I became obsessed with finding both recordings. I'll never forget hearing How About Uke for the first time and feeling that suddenly anything was possible on this instrument. The sophistication of Lyle's chord voicings, his solos and the choice of the material completely erased for me any notion that the ukulele was one of the most misunderstood and under-appreciated musical instruments of all time. It also gave me the desire to try to change that perception. This songbook is certainly a step in that direction. As more and more people are getting acquainted or reacquainted with the ukulele these days, there is a growing demand for more sophisticated arrangements. I can think of no better response than this extraordinary collection.

The songs in the book have a melody line on a treble clef with tabs for "standard" uke with gCEA tuning above and tabs for "tenor/baritone" uke with DGBE tuning. Half of the songs have melody notes that go below middle C, which doesn't work with gCEA instruments with the high G which includes how many tenor ukes are tuned these days. On the accompanying CD, each song has the melody, a bass line which is not notated in the book, and both the "standard" tab chord in the left speaker and the "tenor" tab chords in the right. This is a very square performance, if not clinical. It does not swing, have any rhythmic interest, nor is there any embellishment in the melodic line: it ain't jazz except for the chords. It's hard to believe Ritz is playing, though that's what the book says. I found a number of the tabs to be extremely difficult to finger at all on a gCEA tenor uke, let alone in the context of playing a song, so using this book as a guide to jazz chords on the uke doesn't work well for me. Too bad, since the choice of American songbook standards is excellent. Lyle Ritz is a great player and his albums are highly recommended, but this book was a disappointment and needlessly so.

The ONLY DRAWBACK buying music books from is that you can't thumb through the book enough to see if it is really what you want. The sampling wasn't very helpful as the book is much harder for a low level intermediate player....harder than anticipated. Perhaps another year of noodling and I'll be there but right now it's assigned to shelf.

I thought it was going to be more chord solos like Lyle's other books, but these are only the chord progressions. It's okay, but I was hoping for more.

This book was not what I was hoping for. I was looking for something that would give chords and melody tabs in a way that would yield more of a solo playing type of arrangement rather than just the chords with the melody entirely separate. What this book provides would be fine if you have someone to play with, but for solo playing it is not much good.

I purchased this book about a month ago and have been enjoying it just about every day since. The arrangements & many complex chords are definitely not for beginners. I consider myself an intermediate player and the songs are very challenging but within reach with consistent practice. With this book I have started to learn how to approach chords in a number of ways. I'm glad I made the purchase, especially at its price. A few things worth noting:-These are all "standard romantic

ballads". I kind of wish it included a few upbeat songs.-25 songs in the book, but only 12 are on the CD. It would have been nice to include all of them on the CD.-Chords are included for both standard GCEA and tenor/baritone DGBE tuning. However, I think the melodies are for DGBE tuning. I've only tried the melody for one song, "All The Things You Are" and there is one note too low for standard tuning.-A chord solo arrangement for "Fly Me to the Moon" is included. It's a great arrangement and probably my favorite in the book.

I wasn't sure that this book would deliver what I wanted but I ordered it anyway. Delivery was quicker than I imagined and when I received it I was more than pleased with the content and with the included CD. This is not a book for the beginner and I would put it in the intermediate to advanced level so if you are not of that standard you may find some of the jazz chords a bit daunting. Having said that it is definitely worth buying if you are keen to play (and learn) some jazz standards. In that respect this book is a must for your collection.

Well written; beautiful arrangements.

you gotta be on your Uke-game with these arrangements, i play these slow w/clean notes.

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