

## The Twin Cities Ukulele Club MISSION STATEMENT

The Twin Cities Ukulele Club (TCUC) provides an accessible and spirited environment for players of all levels to practice the ukulele. Our goal is to create a community where people can share a love of music, develop skills, have fun, and learn from each other in a respectful and supportive way.

We abide by a set of general principles (affectionately referred to as the 10 Jammandments) to guide our practice together.

We believe that music is a powerful force that can bring people together and make the world a better place.

Twin Cities Ukulele Club



## JAM ETIQUETTE - Twin Cities Ukulele Club 10 Jammandments

1. **THOU SHALL TUNE THY INSTRUMENT** - Good cheap tuners make this a must.
2. **THOU SHALL BE A CONSIDERATE JAMMER & LEADER — JAMMERS —**  
**During the song introduction** — If noodling or talking before a song are helpful for you, **NOODLE** or **TALK VERY QUIETLY!** One of the hardest things about playing the ukulele is not playing the ukulele! Refrain from talking, plucking and strumming while a jam or song leader is giving instruction or leading a song. **During the song** — If you can't hear the jam leader, song leader, lead instrument or vocalist, then consider yourself too loud. — **LEADERS** — If you are the leader, announce, sing and play with enough volume that the jammers can hear you. If we can't hear you, we can't follow you.
3. **THOU SHALL STICK TO THE MUSIC TYPE** - The type of music for each Twin Cities Ukulele Club event is well defined on our website - [www.tcuclub.com](http://www.tcuclub.com). Follow the guidelines.
4. **THOU SHALL TRY NEW SONGS** - Participants may suggest original material or a song that is out of character with the jam. New songs are good!
5. **THOU SHALL SHARE IN THE SELECTION** - Pass the song pick clockwise around the circle.
6. **THOU SHALL K.I.S.S.** - Twin Cities Ukulele Club jams are likely to have both more and less experienced players. Keep the chords in a song simple and the song tempo doable for the jammers. **For the first 30 to 45 minutes at all jams**, try to stick to song versions with three or four major or 7th chords, like C, F, G or G7, or G, C, D or D7. For jams during the day, stick with songs that have chord letters (not Nashville Numbering System) for the first 30 to 45 minutes.

7. **THOU SHALL USE SIMPLE SONGS** - Keep the songs/tunes simple for beginners to experts. Basic/simple songs & chords enable less experienced jammers to participate, and they provide a good base more experienced jammers to try more advanced or colorful chords, strumming patterns, pattern or melody picking, and new ideas. So, do learn new techniques. **Then, try (practice) your more advanced techniques during the jams. Simple songs provide great cover for practicing new stuff.**
8. **THOU SHALL LEARN NNS** - The Nashville Numbering System is a universal chord language. Learn and use the NNS when reasonable, like with three or four major or 7th chord songs. The NNS enables leaders to call a song in a key that is comfortable for them. The concept of 1, 4, 5 - calling chords by number - works extremely well with all but the most complex songs. If NNS chords are not practical, by all means use chord letters.
9. **THOU SHALL KEEP THY RHYTHM STEADY and NOT SPEED** - The song leader introduces the beat. Jammers listen to and follow the beat! Don't speed up unless the song leader tells the group that there will be a tempo change. Play quietly if you've missed a beat and listen to the group to get your rhythm back.
10. **THOU SHALL CELEBRATE OTHER JAMMER'S EFFORTS** — Celebrate trying new things and the enthusiasm of other jammers. Even when a jammer is a bit out of time, tune or whatever, accept and celebrate their efforts. We are not a professional performing group. We are a bunch of ukulele players who get together to sing, play and enjoy each other's company. We are there to enjoy the music, whatever our skills.

**BTW — K.I.S.S. = Keep It Simple Smarty!**