
Ukulele-Chanson

Arranging

ACCOMPANIST

- Find the essence of the song - a rhythm, a melodie, a feeling
- Less is more: be simple in your approach, you can add virtuoso elements later
- make it work on a uke, don't try to sound like a piano or an orchestra

VOCALIST

- pick a key
- determine the dominant emotion you want to transport in the song

Practicing

ACCOMPANIST

- aim at memorizing your part from the start
- know the harmonic structure
- know the words and which lyrics go with the chord change
- rhythmically speak the lyrics with your accompaniment
- locate difficult parts and work with them, don't avoid them
- imagine performing the song - look at the singer - add all comedy elements

VOCALIST

- listen to the accompanist(s)
- let accompanist know what you are doing so they don't get thrown off
- locate difficult parts and work with them, don't avoid them
- develop a character for the song
- play with extremes before settling into the final version

Performing

ACCOMPANIST

- listen to the singer and look at the singer's lips
- have your part memorized
- follow the singer
- be loud enough, but not too loud
- adjust your playing to suit the musical situation in the moment
- be flexible

VOCALIST

- Know your part! Crucial to make everybody feel safe on stage
 - Decide on body posture, facial expressions, annunciation
 - Decide on how you can present the song to the audience and how to make them feel involved
 - make active eye contact, make them feel like you are singing to them directly
 - Listen to the accompanist
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