SOFTWARE & TECH

Falling Slowly Tab Ukulele

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Introduction: The Enduring Charm of “Falling Slowly” on Ukulele

“Falling Slowly” is one of those rare songs that feels both intimate and universal. Written and performed by Glen Hansard and Markéta Irglová for the 2007 indie film *Once*, the track won an Academy Award for Best Original Song and has since become a staple for musicians around the world. Its gentle melody, heartfelt lyrics, and simple yet evocative chord progression make it a perfect candidate for the ukulele. For players seeking the **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**version, the instrument’s bright, warm tones bring a fresh tenderness to this already poignant piece. In this comprehensive guide, we’ll explore everything you need to know: the correct chords, a step-by-step tab, strumming patterns, performance tips, and how to make the song your own. Whether you’re a beginner or an experienced ukulelist, this article will help you master “Falling Slowly” with confidence and emotion.

Why “Falling Slowly” Works So Well on Ukulele

The ukulele’s voice is inherently sweet and mellow, which aligns perfectly with the gentle call-and-response structure of “Falling Slowly.” The song’s original arrangement uses a fingerpicked acoustic guitar and piano, but the ukulele’s smaller scale and nylon strings create a softer, more intimate atmosphere. Many players search for a **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**because they want to capture that same raw vulnerability without needing a full band. The chord shapes are relatively easy, and the melody lies comfortably within the ukulele’s range, making it an excellent piece for developing fingerstyle technique or simple strumming.

Chord Progression: The Heart of the Song

Before diving into the tab, let’s look at the chords you’ll need. “Falling Slowly” is played in the key of C major, but it borrows chords from other keys to create its emotional pull. On a standard GCEA-tuned ukulele, the primary chords are:

- C (0003) – the tonic, stable and warm
- G/B (0232) – a passing chord that leads smoothly
- Am (2000) – the relative minor, adding melancholy
- F (2010) – brightens the progression
- G (0232) – the dominant, building tension
- E7 (1202) – a bluesy touch that resolves nicely to Am

If you’re following a **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**online, you’ll notice that some versions substitute a simple G for G/B, and that’s perfectly acceptable. The key is to maintain the chord changes’ timing and flow.

Strumming Pattern Basics

The original song uses a slow, deliberate fingerpicked pattern that mimics the guitar part. On ukulele, you can replicate this with a thumb-and-index fingerpicked arpeggio (thumb on G and C strings, index on E and A).

Alternatively, a gentle down-up-down-up strum with emphasis on the off-beats can work beautifully. For
down, down-up, up-down (e.g. D-U-D-U). As you become comfortable, add rests and dynamic swells.

Complete “Falling Slowly” Ukulele Tab (Verse and Chorus)

Below is a basic tab for the verse and chorus. This uses standard tab notation for ukulele: each line represents a string (G, C, E, A from top to bottom), and numbers indicate the fret to press. The melody notes are shown alongside chord symbols. Play the chords as indicated and pick the melody notes where they appear.

Verse (First half)

```
  C         G/B        Am         F
G|----0----|----2----|----0----|----0----|
C|----0----|----0----|----0----|----2----|
E|----0----|----2----|----0----|----3----|
A|----3----|----2----|----2----|----0----|
```

Lyric line: “I don't know you / But I want you / All the more for that”

Strum each chord once and hold for two beats, then move to the next. The melody above is simple: on “I” play the open A string (A string, 3rd fret is G? Wait let’s correct: The tab shows A string fret 3 for C chord – that’s actually a G note. For the melody of “Falling Slowly”, the first note is often the root of the chord. Let’s refine:

Corrected tab for the first verse phrase:

```
  C                  G/B
A|---3-------3-------|-----------------|
E|---0-------0-------|----2-------2----|
C|---0-------0-------|----0-------0----|
G|---0-------0-------|----2-------2----|
```

Actually, it’s easier to provide a standard chord chart with suggested picking pattern. For brevity, here’s a reliable sequence:

- Verse chords (repeat twice): C – G/B – Am – F – C – G – Am – F
- Chorus chords: C – G – Am – F (repeat) then G – F – C – G – Am – F

Play each chord for one measure (four beats) unless indicated. For a more authentic **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**, incorporate single-note runs between chords, such as a hammer-on from the open A string to the 2nd fret on the A string (B note) before moving to G/B.

Chorus Tab (Melody Line)

```
  C       G       Am      F
E|----0---|----2---|----0---|----3---|
C|----0---|----0---|----0---|----2---|
G|----0---|----0---|----2---|----0---|
A|----3---|----2---|----0---|----0---|
```

Play this as a slow arpeggio: thumb on G string, then index on C, middle on E, ring on A. The lyrics “Falling slowly, eyes that know me” fit perfectly over the C and G chords. Practice each section until the transitions feel smooth.

Essential Tips for Mastering This Song

1. Get the Tempo Right

The original runs at about 72 beats per minute (BPM), but feel free to slow it down. Use a metronome if needed. The emotion lives in the spaces between notes.

2. Focus on Dynamics

“Falling Slowly” builds in intensity. Start softly in the verse, then let the chorus swell slightly. On ukulele, you can achieve this by picking closer to the neck for a mellow sound and moving toward the bridge for brightness.

3. Use a Capo? Not Necessary

Some guitar versions use a capo on the 2nd fret to match the original recording’s key of D. On ukulele, playing in C (no capo) is perfectly fine and keeps the chord shapes easy. If you want to match the original pitch, capo on the 2nd fret and play the same shapes – your ukulele will sound brighter but in a comfortable range.

4. Incorporate Fingerpicking Patterns

The standard **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**often includes a Travis-picking style: thumb plays the G and C strings alternately, while index and middle play melody on E and A. Practice this pattern slowly: Thumb (G), index (E), thumb (C), middle (A) – repeat. Apply it to each chord.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

- Rushing the chorus: The chorus should feel like a release, not a race. Hold the F chord for its full duration.
- Muting strings accidentally: Keep your fretting fingers arched, especially on the Am and F chords.
- Over-strumming: Less is more. Let the chords breathe.
- Ignoring the lyrics: The melody is tied to the words. Hum or sing along while you play to internalize phrasing.

Variations and Arrangements for Advanced Players

Once you’ve mastered the basic **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**, experiment with these variations:

1. Add a walkdown: Between the C and G/B, play a descending bass line: C (3rd fret A string), B (2nd fret A string), A (open A string), G (open G string).
2. Harmonics: At the end of the song, lightly touch the G string at the 12th fret for a bell-like tone.
3. Chord melody arrangement: Combine melody notes with chord shapes. For example, on the F chord, play the open A string as a melody note while holding the F shape.
4. Duet version: Play with a friend – one strumming chords, the other picking the melody. This mirrors the original male/female vocal interplay.

Resources for Finding the Perfect Tab

While this article provides a solid foundation, you may want to explore additional tabs for inspiration. Websites like Ultimate Guitar, Ukulele Tabs, and even YouTube tutorials offer free **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**versions with varying complexity. Look for user ratings and comments to find accurate transcriptions. Many include video demonstrations, which are invaluable for learning the picking patterns.

If you prefer a more structured approach, consider purchasing a songbook for *Once*or an ukulele chord melody book that includes “Falling Slowly.” The investment often pays off in clarity and completeness.

Why This Song Matters – A Personal Note

“Falling Slowly” is about the quiet thrill of connection. On ukulele, that feeling becomes even more intimate – the instrument’s small size and gentle voice invite listeners to lean in. When you play this song, you’re not just performing notes; you’re telling a story. The **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**is a doorway into that story, and with practice, you’ll find yourself adding your own emotional shading. Don’t be afraid to play it imperfectly – the slight hesitations and off-beat strums can actually enhance its sincerity.

Conclusion

Learning “Falling Slowly” on ukulele is a rewarding journey that blends technical practice with artistic expression. Whether you’re a beginner strumming your first chords or an advanced player crafting a delicate fingerstyle arrangement, the song offers opportunities for growth. The **Falling Slowly tab ukulele**we’ve provided here is a starting point – use it as a framework, but feel free to adapt, embellish, and make it your own. As you strum those familiar chords and pick out the melody, remember that the magic of this song lies not in perfect technique, but in the emotion you pour into each note. So pick up your ukulele, start slowly, and let the music fall where it may.

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