Embryonic Journey
Performance Notes

Song Specific Performance Notes
Embryonic Journey was recorded in 1967 by Jorma Kaukonen of the Jefferson Airplane and appeared on the album "Surrealistic Pillow." Performed in drop-D tuning on a six string guitar (DADGBE), the song remains one of the earliest and best known of all acoustic fingerstyle guitar pieces. In order to play this on the 4-string ukulele and achieve the essential ringing drone notes, a modified tuning is needed on a low G tuned instrument. So the following arrangement is performed in GCEG tuning (or ADF#A for James Hill's Canadian tuning), which means you just drop the first string a whole step. The accompanying MIDI approximates what the song should sound like, but you really will need to listen carefully to Jorma's driving, alternating thumb fingerpicking style on the original version. Listen in particular to how he accents certain parts of the song, and also how he slides into and out of certain chords. Most importantly, don't try to slavishly copy this tab. Develop your own interpretation of Jorma's famous song, changing the rhythm or picking patterns as needed. Give it a shot--if nothing else, just trying to play this song on an uke will present you with an interesting challenge.

General Performance Notes
Keep in mind that the tablature is just a guideline. I try to transcribe the parts as close as I can to the original recording, however, that doesn't mean that I play them exactly as written. It is hard to duplicate the exact strums that the player is using so I get something close and go from there. The main reason I transcribe is to learn the song and have a permanent reference to make it easier to learn the song again after I have forgotten it months later. I find it very helpful to follow along in the tab while listening to the recording several times before actually attempting to play the song. This gets you familiar with the tab as it relates to the recording.

Tablature can be intimidating to some people. Here is a tip I realized one day. Playing some of the individual fret numbers seemed awkward and uncomfortable until I noticed that they came from within the “shape of the chord”. So whenever possible fret the chord and then play the other notes from within the chord. This should eliminate some moving around and make things a bit easier.

Above all else, have fun and if you have any questions feel free to contact me at dominic@rcsis.com
http://www.ukeland.com/~dominator