LYLE SMILES - Jim Beloff & Rick Cunha

D    Em7

A7    D    Bm7

A    G    F#m7    D    Em7    Em7

F    E7    Em7    Em7

C#    D    Em7    A
Song Specific Performance Notes
Lyle Smiles is Jim Beloff’s tribute to the great Ukulele Master Lyle Ritz. It features Jim on tenor ukulele tuned to DGBE with a high D and Rick Cunha on guitar. DGBE is Lyle’s preferred tuning and is very fitting for the song. However, it can be played just as well in any re-entrant tuning you desire.

I have wanted to learn this song ever since getting The Legends of Ukulele CD and had the opportunity at Hayward Uke Fest to discuss this with Jim. In Hayward, Jim squared me away on the chords he used during the chorus as well as reviewing the transcription and providing input on the ukulele parts. Thanks to Jim for his cooperation. This is my second attempt at transcribing a bass line to fill out the midi track. The first, being the bass line in Pineapple Mango by Daniel Ho. The guitar comes in at measure 34 and plays a nice jazzy solo incorporating double stop harmonies in measures 38, 39 and 40 and then again in measures 48 and 49. This is played out in front of the ukulele 8th note vamp. After the Breakdown in section G the ukulele and guitar play in unison at measure 71 until Rick starts to play harmonies around the ukulele melody. All of the parts are there if needed but this song can be fun to play with just two ukuleles. One playing the melody over the chord vamp sounds pretty cool and it indeed swings. I have never written any songs on ukulele yet but I can’t think of a better tribute to the Ukulele Master and I am sure it put a smile on his face.

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.rockslide.org/Ukulele_Tab.html