

Focus on Expression

A Matthew Quilliam ukulele workshop

Go beyond playing every song the same way by adding colour, variation and interest to your playing through dynamics, articulation and tonal control.

Digits

The PIMA system

Strumming with different digits or different combinations creates different tones and colours

P flesh –**soft, mellow**

I nail –**crisp, strong**

I flesh –**delicate, gentle**

Rake (all but P) -
energetic, powerful

Pulgar–P

Indice–I

Media–M

Anular–A



Position

Strumming/picking where string tension differs affects the tone

Sul pont –**metallic, harsh**

Sul tasto –**bright, vibrant**

Dynamics

mf – mezzo forte
(moderately loud)

f – forte (loud)

p – piano (quiet)

mp – mezzo piano
(moderately quiet)

Crescendo

Getting louder



Diminuendo

Getting quieter



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www.matthewquilliam.co.uk

Pauses

Pausing at important points
can highlight/spotlight
significant emotional beats.

Between sections/phrases

**Breath, calm,
contemplative**

Before finishing a phrase

Suspense, anticipation



Tempo

Adagio

Slow, sensitive

Allegro

Fast, brisk

Accelerando

Getting faster

Relenting, driving

Decelerando

Getting slower

Dying, lingering

Rubato

Speeding up before slowing
down again.

Dramatic, soulful

It Must Be Love

Madness

INTRO—piano, pulgar, sul tasto, adagio

[Am] [Amadd9] [Am] [Amadd9]

VERSE 1—piano, pulgar, sul tasto, adagio

[Am] I never [Amadd9] thought I'd miss you
 [Am] half as [Amadd9] much as I [G] do [Gsus4] [G] [Gsus4]/// [D]/
 [Am] And I never [Amadd9] thought I'd feel this [Am] way,
 the way I [Amadd9] feel about [G] you [Gsus4] [G] [Gsus4]/// [D]/

PRE-CHORUS 1—forte, rake, sul pont, allegro

[Em] As soon as I [A7] wake up
 [Dm] every night [E7] every day
 [Am] I know that it's [C] you I need
 to [D] take the blues away [D7]

CHORUS—mezzo forte, indice, sul tasto, allegro

[G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C] love [D]
 [G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C] love [D]
 [Am]* nothing more, [Bm7]* nothing less, [C]* love is the best

VERSE 2—piano, pulgar, sul pont, adagio

[Am] How can it [Amadd9] be that we can [Am] say so [Amadd9] much
 Without [G] words [Gsus4] [G]
 [Am] Bless you and [Amadd9] bless me [Am] Bless the [Amadd9] bees
 And the [G] birds [Gsus4] [G]

PRE-CHORUS 2—forte, rake, sul pont, allegro

[Em] I've got to be [A7] near you [Dm] every night [E7] every day
 [Am] I couldn't be [C] happy [D] Any other way [D7]

CHORUS—mezzo forte, indice, sul tasto, allegro

[G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C] love [D]
 [G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C] love [D]
 [Am]* nothing more, [Bm7]* nothing less, [C]* love is the best

INTERLUDE—rubato, indice

[Am] [Amadd9] [Am] [Amadd9] [G] [Gsus4] [G] [Gsus4]

[Am] [Amadd9] [Am] [Amadd9] [G] [Gsus4] [G] [Gsus4]/// [D]/

PRE-CHORUS 3—forte, rake, sul pont, allegro

[Em] As soon as I [A7] wake up [Dm] every night [E7] every day
 [Am] I know that it's [C] you I need to [D] take the blues away [D7]

CHORUS—mezzo forte, indice, sul tasto, allegro

[G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C] love [D]
 [G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C]* love
 [C] [D] [Em]

OUTRO—decelerando, diminuendo

[G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C] love [D]
 [G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C] love [D]
 [G] It must be [Bm7] love, love, [C] love [D]
 [G] end

