

Class Titles and Descriptions

Here you will find the class titles for each of the instructors we are having this year and a short description of each. Please be aware that some of these may change as we get closer to our fete. Therefore check back on our site as we approach the date and check your schedules and any updates when you arrive. We are looking forward to seeing each of you and sharing in this wonderful gift of music.

Rob Angus

Hammered Dulcimer

Exploring the Mixolydian Mode - Many beautiful Irish, traditional and popular tunes are in the Mixolydian Mode. We'll discuss it and then learn a Mixolydian tune or two.

The Mountains of Pomeroy - The mountains of Pomeroy are in County Tyrone Northern Ireland. If they are half as beautiful as this tune named after them they must be a sight to behold.

Mountain Dulcimer

Exploring the Mixolydian Mode (DAD) - Many beautiful Irish, traditional and popular tunes are in the Mixolydian Mode. We'll discuss it and then learn a Mixolydian tune or two.

Leaving Lismore (DAD) – A beautiful Scottish waltz.

Donna Bing - Guitar

Beginning Guitar

This workshop will include both Old-Time and Cajun guitar styles. We will cover chord shapes in the keys of C, G, D and A. We will learn basic strumming patterns for hoedowns/two-steps and waltzes. Participants will play along to lively and familiar Old-Time and Cajun tunes to get plenty of practice with these techniques.

Intermediate Guitar

This workshop will include both Old-Time and Cajun guitar styles. We will work with “open” and “clamp” chord shapes in the keys of C, G, D and A, and explore bass runs in those keys. We will work on strumming patterns for hoedowns/two-steps, waltzes, and “swingy” and “bluesy” rhythms. We will play along to tunes ranging from simple to challenging. Participants will also have fun playing in a jam-type setting and picking up chords to unfamiliar tunes.

Steve Bing - Fiddle

Fiddle from Scratch (open to everyone)

This fiddle workshop is for anyone who would like to play the fiddle for the first time or again. Participants will acquire a good understanding of what fiddling is all about. This class will begin from “scratch” to teach the fundamentals including tuning, holding the fiddle and bow, finding the notes on the fingerboard, and moving the bow. Participants will learn to “scratch” some recognizable tunes by ear. Bring your own fiddle, borrow one from a friend, or a limited number of fiddles will be available from the instructor.

Old Time Fiddle

This fiddle workshop will focus primarily on how to help your fiddling sound better, smoother, and more driving. It will be geared toward learning how to effectively use bow pulses and bowing phrases to give fiddle tunes a shape. In learning these things, participants will also explore ways to be more consistent players. Participants will work hard on a few tunes that utilize these helpful techniques that can be applied to other tunes in their repertoire.

Cajun Fiddle

This fiddle workshop explores Cajun rhythms and what makes Cajun music so unique. We'll cover techniques to get that very recognizable "Cajun" sound in your fiddling. We will explore the all important concept of "seconding" using double-stops and bowing techniques. We'll play some great Cajun fiddle tunes by "ear".

Old Time Fiddle

This is a continuation of Friday's class to help your fiddling sound better, smoother, and more driving. We will review Friday's class and further explore fiddling techniques focusing on bowing. Participants will work on ways to make their fiddling more consistent.

Cajun Fiddle

We will start with a review of Friday's class. We'll work on getting your fiddling to sound "Cajun". We'll have some fun playing Cajun tunes with half the class playing the melody and the other half seconding, and then swapping roles. We'll unlock the secrets of playing with Cajun accordions, and the joys of playing without them.

Steve and Donna Bing

Cajun Tunes On Any Instrument That You Play! (open to everyone)

All levels of players and all instruments are welcome. Whatever you play we want you to bring it: dulcimers, fiddles, accordions, guitars, mandolins, basses, banjos, ukes, all are invited and all are welcome. We will explore why Cajun music evokes a pot of simmering gumbo, dancers twirling around the floor, and everybody "passing a good time." Participants will learn all about Cajun rhythms and how each instrument supports that "Cajun" sound. The classroom will be transformed into a big Cajun "jam" session. We will play some popular Cajun songs by "ear" and we will sing these songs in Cajun French.

Linda Brockinton - Mountain Dulcimer

Fingerpicking - Intermediate to Advanced

For those who love the soft side of the dulcimer this might be for you. We will talk about all things pertaining to fingerpicking/flatpicking. Left and right hand work, positioning of the dulcimer, how to read the tabs with all the numbers, and how to get more volume.... The material used will be level appropriate. The only thing different in picking and strumming is how you count your time. The melody notes are still in the same place. Hope to see you there.

Beginner Chords - Beginner to Novice

It would seem, to the untrained musician, and also to trained ones that chords are hard. But they are not. They are your friend. Every measure of music is made up of a chord.. If you already play Boil that Cabbage you are already playing chords. There are easy ways to tell the names of the chords so try getting out of your comfort zone for an hour and come see what it's all about. Chords changed my playing for the better and probably would yours too.

Who Was Fanny Crosby? - Beginner

She was a hymn writer who wrote over 9000 hymns, some have become favorites through the years. I read her biography and found her to be a very interesting character so I wrote a dulcimer book of some of her tunes. Blessed Assurance, Pass Me Not Oh Gentle Savior, To God Be the Glory and many more. Hope you will come and learn something about this amazing woman.

Dressing Up an Irish Tune - Intermediate

The Irish play nothing like its written. The add trills and dolollys (that's not a music term, lol) make their tunes so pretty. I will bring some Irish Aires and we will go into depth on how to add things that aren't necessarily in print on the paper to make things sound prettier. Learning to add to and change tunes for the better is part of the things you need to learn when you hit intermediate level.

Who Was O'Carolan? - Intermediate / Advanced

O'Carolan was an Irish harpist that lived in the mid 1600. His story is amazing and his tunes are as well. Some beautiful and some zipping right along. I would rather play O'Carolan than just about anything and I hope some of you will give him a try. He was blind and traveled for about 50 yrs ... He was the traveling news man and historian who wrote many beautiful tunes.

Tools You Need to do Your Own Thing - Advanced

We will be discussing arranging, chord substitution, playing in different places, changing keys and many other things you need to know about to make some of the arrangements you have better or to be able to arrange your own tunes. I have several arrangements that we can learn from that play the tune in many places, change the key, write and A part for a short tune. There is so much more to playing a dulcimer than just the melody string. If you take a few new tools home from every festival pretty soon you can just sit down and play. Be brave, lol, no one has died in my class yet.

Waltzing Around the World - Intermediate

There are so many pretty waltzes written in so many country s. I love to find new waltzes. This class will have some old time waltzes as well as some from other countries. There are lots of different ways to play 3/4 timing. If you have trouble with that this will help you. Counting can be a bear sometimes.

Karen Daniels - Autoharp

Guidelines for Accompaniment - Beginner / Intermediate

Guidelines for accompanying vocals, instrumentalists and/or playing with others.

Filling in the Gaps - Beginner / Intermediate

Should know a couple of tunes at least. Learning a variety of strums to add as "fillers" in between those notes with spaces

Knowing Where the Notes are on the Autoharp - Adv Beg / Inter / Adv

A workshop on how to know almost exactly where the notes are on an autoharp whether it be a chromatic or diatonic one. For those who do or do not read music but would like to be able to follow the notes on music and apply these notes in relation to where they are on the autoharp.

Building Up Tunes - Adv Beg / Adv

We will take a tune and “build it up” from simple to more advanced playing, slowly and step by step, along with some solid practice techniques that will make learning easier. **Need to be able to play some melody.**

Techniques Beyond Melody Playing - Inter / Adv

After learning to pinch the melody most everyone feels that more can be done on the autoharp other than just melody playing. Learn several techniques that help to enhance and embellish your melody playing.

Building Speed Playing on the Autoharp - Inter / Adv

How to build up speed in your playing on the autoharp especially for fiddle tunes.

Let Me Call You Sweetheart - Inter / Adv -- Public Domain – 1910

From learning the song with basic chords, learn how substituting other chords can change the “flavor” of the tune and grow into an arrangement.

Practice – Making the Most of It – All Levels

The difference between good players and fine players are the little things. Discover how to have quality practice time and achieve those “little things” in your playing.

Chuck Daniels - Thursday Workshop

Care and Feeding of the Autoharp (aka “Open Harp Surgery”) - All Levels

Basic maintenance including fearless disassembling (it will not blow up in your face), changing strings, learning to refelt the chord bars, things that will enhance the playability of the harp, what to look for in used harps to avoid a “lemon,” and anything else you would care to ask about.

Sam Edelston

Playing Dulcimer in a Room of Guitars - Advanced

Some chord basics ... how to hear chord changes ... visually recognizing guitarists' chords ... how to find the next chord in a song ... playing in “non-dulcimer” keys ... playing where the other instruments aren't, so you're adding something to the room ... playing fills ... approaches for playing solos.

Making the Most of your 1½ Fret - Advanced

New chords and voicings you didn't have before, and some things you can do with them. C, F, G7, D7, Gsus, Csus, Am, Dm, Gm7, D9, E+, A7+ ... stuff like that. Also, see how the 1½ fret can help you play together with other instruments and make you a better singer!

Chord Cadences - Intermediate

The most useful thing I got out of 5 years of piano lessons was the concept of chord progressions, or cadences. By the time I started playing guitar (and other instruments), this had taught me to understand the structure of songs. It's a powerful tool for understanding songs on the dulcimer.

Country Music - Intermediate

Mountain dulcimer is made for country music, and a number of well-known country performers play it. You'll learn how to make your dulcimer sound "country," pick up some classic licks, fills, and backup ideas, and learn how to apply all this to classic songs.

Songs That Will Impress Your Friends - Novice

A lot of landmark dulcimer tunes actually are fairly easy. You'll not only learn to play some classics (and earn bragging rights at home), but learn some dulcimer culture that you can share, too.

Barriers to Progress – Novice / Inter

Do you sometimes feel limited in your dulcimer abilities? When you listen to yourself, does it sound less beautiful or flowing than you would like? Do you wish you could be more comfortable playing within earshot of other people? Here's how to do more with your dulcimer, and have more fun doing it! We'll dig into things that hold some people back, and we'll work with some specific examples.

Dulcimer for the Next Generation – Beg / Inter

Though traditional music and folk songs are wonderful on the mountain dulcimer, you can just as easily play popular music of recent years, and it's just as wonderful.

Denise Guillory - Mountain Dulcimer

Learn a fun dulcimer version of Cajun Diggy Ly, + more – Intermediate / Advanced

Capo needed.

Learn my original arrangement duet of Da Slockit Light and fully decorate *Danny Boy* with beautiful fill.

Intermediate / Advanced

Steve Heiser

Mandolin

Beginner Mandolin - for the first-time player, covering tuning, how to hold the pick, up and down strums and learning some simple tunes.

Chording with the mandolin - learning how to chord (both open/closed chords) learn some tunes with chords and how to do “chop” chords.

Putting it all together on the mandolin - taking a tune and learning how to use embellishments: drones, hammer ons, pull offs, slides, and chords to make a tune sound cool.

Hammered Dulcimer

Beginner hammered dulcimer - how to tune, hold hammers, the layout of the instrument and learn a simple tune or two.

Chording with the hammered dulcimer - how to chord, finding the chords all over the instrument and using arpeggios, and block chords.

Putting it all together on the hammered dulcimer – how to use embellishments to make a tune sound more interesting. Embellishments include: drone, rhythm, 3 against 2, rolls and chords.

Pam Kaster - Pennywhistle

Whistle and Fret

Musicians will learn the basic techniques of making sound on the whistle and fingering the instrument to make music. We will also collaborate with a lap dulcimer musician to learn how to “read” the way the frets of the lap dulcimer correspond with the fingering of the whistle.

Erin Mae Lewis - Mountain Dulcimer

Craft an Engaging Performance - *intermediate/advanced*

There is nothing better than sharing your music with the world. This class will teach you all about the nitty-gritty technicalities of live performances. We'll talk about building your set-list, what to say between songs, and how to set up on stage. Whether you want to improve your live show or you're thinking about performing in public for the first time, this is the class for you.

Bluegrass Jam Skills - *intermediate*

Learn to competently play with other musicians and other instruments. You will learn to chord, play rhythm, improvise a solo, and play in multiple keys.

Arranging from the Ground Up - *advanced*

I will show you my approach to creating solo mountain dulcimer arrangements. We'll talk about adding chords, playing in different octaves, adding filler notes, and more.

Ear Training for the Tone Deaf - *beginner/intermediate*

This class is designed for people who don't think they can play by ear. I will present a step-by-step formula for picking out tunes by ear that anyone can follow. We will spend lots of time doing it in class, plus I will give you methods for training your ear at home.

Intro to Chromatic Mountain Dulcimer - *all levels*

We'll explore the chromatic world as you learn what it's like to have ALL the notes, including exercises for playing in every key, scales, chords, and some tunes that utilize the chromatic frets.

Fiddle Tunes - *novice*

This is a repertoire building class to help you learn more tunes. We'll also discuss how to memorize and internalize tunes so you don't forget them at the end of the week!

Bum Diddy: Right hand technique - *beginner*

We'll discuss the basics of how to choose a pick, how to hold it, where to strum, how to flatpick, and more. We'll also look at a variety of strum patterns and how to apply them to tunes.

Annette Lindsey

Jamming & Singing With the Dulcimer

I make up a song book with quite a few familiar songs and everyone that likes to sing and/or play an instrument come and have a great time!

Playing Backup Piano

Do you already play piano but would like to play backup for other instruments or singers? Well, this class is for you. You will need a basic skill with piano (i.e. Know where the notes are and a basic knowledge of scales). Annette will review basic chord theory and chord positions the first hour. The second hour we will practice changing chords behind an instrument as they play melody and experiment with bass runs to fill in. Lots of fun!

David Lindsey

Jamie Allen on the Hammered Dulcimer - Advanced beg & up

It's a great old time tune that can have some minor chords added to make it fun.

There is a Fountain on the Hammered Dulcimer - Advanced beginning and up

A great old hymn that lots of people sing at church.

Terry McCafferty - Dulcimer Doctor

How to Build a Dulcimer and Other Cool Stuff!

Steve Seifert

Exactly How to Add Cool Licks to Tunes You Already Play - Intermediate and Up

You know those riffs performers use to make their arrangements unique? I can teach you how to do the same. Don't believe me?

Songs of David Schnauffer - Intermediate

A Few of My Favorite David Schnauffer Arrangements - - David and I worked on these together.

Introduction to Fingerpicking - Intermediate

We'll start with the easy stuff and move up from there. I'm not just giving you arrangements, I'm going to show you how to play this kind of stuff with simple handouts.

Gentle Jam for Beginners - Beginner

Most Slow Jams Aren't Slow Enough -- I'm going to walk you through how the right kind of slow jam grows good players faster and happier.

Using a Capo - Intermediate

Use a Capo to play in E, Em, G, A, and Am - This is essential. We've got to stop playing everything in D. I'll show you how.

Two Approaches to Playing Chords and Melody at the Same Time - Intermediate and Up

One is simple and clean, the other is harder but worth the effort. Pick one or do both.

Beginner Bad Habits and How to Fix Them - Beginning and Up

We'll work through a number of examples and tunes. Get this stuff straightened out early.

Jak Stallings

Introduction to TablEdit - Computer Notation Software

TablEdit - Introduction to TablEdit

A “getting started” class using the TablEdit tablature program. This session will cover program startup and setup (program setup and setting up titles, keys, key signatures, etc.), basic note entry, entering text (both lyrics and chord names) and an overview of printing your work. If time permits, we will add additional topics of general interest to TablEdit users. This will be an interactive class, so bring a laptop computer if you have it, but it is not required (those who have computers usually share with those who do not). The FREE demo version of TablEdit is available at: <http://www.tabledit.com/download/index.shtml>

TablEdit Q&A

If you have questions about the use of the TabEdit tablature program or if you are having problems, bring them to this class. We will answer as many of these as time allows. If we have more time than questions, we will look at some ways you may not have thought of to do things like including chord names and fingerings in your tab or getting tab from one key to another. A very basic knowledge of the program is needed for participants of this class. This will be an interactive class, so bring a laptop computer if you have it, but it is not required (those who have computers usually share with those who do not). If you have a specific example of your problem or question feel free to bring a copy of the TablEdit file on a memory key or other portable media. The FREE demo version of TablEdit is available at: <http://www.tabledit.com/download/index.shtml>

Rick Thum

Blues on the Hammered Dulcimer – Beginner / Intermediate

Learn a standard blues progression and how to play ad-lib solos to them. A lighthearted fun class. We learn to just be creative and have some fun.

Chord Theory and Substitutions – Intermediate / Advanced Level

Learn why certain chords are used in a song. The simple formula to find them. Learn what chords can be replaced with other chords and how to find these replacement chords. I will show you a simple way to find these chords on your dulcimer. Students should know how to play chords.

Chording and Rhythm Playing on Hammered Dulcimer – Beginner / Intermediate Level

Learn how to form the chords on a dulcimer. Learn to know what chords to play and when to play them. How to find major and minor chords and how they relate to the key being played. We will learn a tune and how to back it up with chords. We will also explore the relationship of chords to embellishments.

Fiddle Tunes on Hammered Dulcimer - Adv Beginners / Intermediate Level

Learn as many fiddle tunes as we can. See how most tunes have a recognizable pattern that makes them easy to learn. Play backup and use embellishments. Also a look at how some tunes change over time.

Hammer Technique -Some Basic Rolls and Tips – Beginner / Intermediate Level

There are many styles of Hammers and many styles of holding them. Some have proven better than others. What works, and why. Some drills to better your hammer control. Some rolls to better your playing technique.

How to Survive a Jam Session - Intermediate Level

Best if student knows the basics of chording. Learn proper jam etiquette. How to start playing tunes you've never heard before, quickly. Learn the simple tricks of tune structures and how to recognize them. What chords to play when. How to solo or take the lead and when to do so. We will do some jamming on familiar and not so familiar tunes.

Tish Westman

Bowed Psaltery

Bowing Techniques - Beginner

Learn how to bow using vibrato, legato, glissando and staccato to add emotion to your music.

Challenge Yourself – Intermediate / Advanced.

Bow management to play more difficult phrases. Playing in more difficult keys.

Clawhammer Banjo

"Explore other tunings – Beginner / Intermediate

We'll try out some other tunings. We'll start in "G" move to "A". Go to double "C" and move to "D". Bring a banjo capo and a set of extra strings just in case...

Old Time Tunes - Intermediate / Advanced

We'll work on some tunes from West Virginia and Appalachia in the key of "G" and "C".

Ukulele

Learn to play the Uke - Beginner

Introduction to how to tune and play your Uke. Strumming patterns and a few chords. Tunes to help you practice both...

More Ukulele 1 and 2 – Beginner / Intermediate

More difficult strumming patterns and fingerpicking the Uke.

Sing Along - All instruments, all levels welcome

I will share a couple Appalachian songs and ballads for a good old fashioned sing along.

Margaret Wright - Mountain Dulcimer & Sacred Harp

Great starts and confidence builders – Beginner / New Player

Easy and fun tunes in DAD tuning.

Don't be afraid of the Jam – Beginner / New Player .

Hints and Chords to get you IN!

Genuinely Great Gospels - In "G" - Novice - Advanced

You will love to retune to DGD for these old familiar songs!!

Christmas in March - Novice - Advanced

It is never too early to get started on Christmas Music. Some in DAD, some DGD and some with Capos.

Singing Sacred Harp with Margaret - Bring your voice

There will be 2 Sacred Harp Classes, one on each day.

No experience required. Participants will be taught how to read and sing songs from the “a cappella” Sacred Harp “fa-sol-la” folk hymn tradition. These songs were the styles of singing in early New England, later in the deep south and later on the western frontier as American settlers moved westward. Singers will be taught how to sing the shapes of some of these shape note folk hymns.

Jamming with Margaret

There will be at least one jam per day with Margaret. She is also doing ‘Gentle Jams’ for those who like a slower pace or those who are just starting out in the world of the ‘jam’. Check your schedules for times and locations.