

Doug Pratt - Autoharp & Bird Listening

Diminished Expectations: Level: Intermediate. Chromatic only.

Introduction to diminished seventh chords and their use to expand the autoharp's horizons. We'll use them to play songs from many genre including Let Me Call You Sweetheart, Over the Rainbow, Für Elise, The Old Rugged Cross, and Miss the Mississippi.

Navigating the Circle of Fifths: Level: Intermediate. Chromatic only.

Learning to recognize the circle of fifths, as opposed to I-IV-V, in chord progressions using several familiar tunes such as Five Foot Two, Sweet Georgia Brown, Alabama Jubilee, and Up a Lazy River.

Thumbing Your Way: Level: All. Chromatic or diatonic.

Introduction to the use of the thumb in autoharp picking, including church lick, Carter lick, thumb/finger combo picking, and thumb lead.

Playing the Carter Family: . Level: All. Chromatic or diatonic.

One of the greatest sources of material for autoharpers is the iconic Carter Family. Maybelle Carter was the group's guitarist, while her cousin Sara chorded the autoharp. Later, Maybelle adapted her picking style to the autoharp and began playing leads on it. We will discuss this history as demonstrated by some of the Carters' classic tunes such as Worried Man Blues, Keep on the Sunny Side, Gold Watch and Chain, Carter's Blues, Storms on the Ocean, Lulu Walls, and others as time permits

"You Can't Play That on the Autoharp": Level: Intermediate. Chromatic only.

An exploration of sources of autoharp music that many would consider "outside the box", including classical orchestral music, marches, ragtime, jazz, show tunes, and rock'n'roll. Musical examples may include Minuet in G, The Entertainer, Waitin' for the Robert E. Lee, Under the Double Eagle, Twilight Time, Last Date, Here Comes the Sun, When I'm 64, Wild Horses, and/or others.

And All That Jazz: . Level: Advanced. Chromatic only.

A workshop to show how jazz and popular music can be played on the autoharp. We'll try out such things as Muskrat Ramble, Farewell Blues, Ain't Misbehavin', Limehouse Blues, Misty, 'Til There Was You, and others

Nature's Music: Level: All

An early morning walk to listen to bird songs and other natural sounds and learn about them. If you have binoculars, bring them, but not required for the workshop. Thjs will be "bird listening" instead of "birdwatching". Spouses and guests welcome.