

Margaret Wright - Mountain Dulcimer & Sacred Harp

BEGINNER:

Boldness as a Beginner, Building Confidence in DAD.

This class will focus on simple, fun tunes that you will enjoy playing after the class is over. Through these tunes we will be building on your strumming with rhythm and energy, fretting the notes with clarity and improving on your overall sound.

Fretboard Familiarity (subtitle: Familiarity Breeds Attempt.)

In this class, we will pull out patterns that are found in so many tunes and learn to see those in certain places on the fretboard of the dulcimer. By doing this, you will become more free from reliance upon tablature and more apt to play smoothly and even be creative.

INTERMEDIATE:

Chords in the Tunes; Taking Clues from the Tune in DAD and DGD.

The chordal-melodic playing style, while not a necessity, does come in handy from time to time. By learning the key notes of certain chords, you will be able to spot by sight and hear by ear the places where a touch of chordal playing would be a nice addition.

Patterns in the Tunes that take you Forward.

There are certain patterns that seem to repeat in many fiddle tunes. By singling these out and training muscle memory to carry them out, your playing will be more fluid. Noticing these patterns will also take the mystery out of the tablature.

ADVANCED:

Tunes High and Low, Moving into the Upper or Lower Octave.

Some tunes which are often played in the higher regions of the dulcimer can become very beautiful and actually less strenuous in the lower octave, using notes across the strings. Conversely, some tunes which are often played lower and somewhat harder to hear in the jam, may be transposed to the upper fretboard.

From D to G to A and Back Again, Ways to get out of "D."

There are good tunes which are traditionally played in D, G and A. Also, there are some tunes, that are often played in the Key of D in the dulcimer world, which are considered "proper" in other keys, and there are good reasons for all. This class is designed to get you very comfortable with all three keys.