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

Beginning 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.