

## Workshop Leaders - MDMF 2015

**Bill Collins** has been playing teaching, and learning about the Appalachian dulcimer for over 20 years. In his performing and teaching, he focuses on bringing out the dulcet qualities inherent in the dulcimer and expanding the repertoire of music played on it. Bill has conducted 80+ dulcimer workshops at festivals in nine states. He also offers private lessons. He has been featured concert artist at several festivals and performs at weddings, receptions, church services, museums, and private functions. He has written five books of dulcimer arrangements: O'Carolan tunes, Irish jigs, advanced arrangements, and two collections of Shaker tunes (one co-written with Nina Zanetti). He appears on the *The Sum of the Parts* CD, which features dulcimer solos and duets performed by Bill and Nina Zanetti.

**Sam Edelston** believes that dulcimers are among the world's coolest musical instruments, and is on a mission to make dulcimers as well-known to the general public as harps and ukuleles. While he loves traditional music, he is much more often heard playing various forms of popular music from the rock & roll era or earlier. He plays songs much more than tunes. Sam draws his musical inspiration from rock bands, symphony orchestras, modern a cappella, and anything else that crosses his path. He has taught or performed at numerous festivals and other venues around the Northeast and, thanks to the Internet, his music has been heard in more than 180 countries. Sam is chair of the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, in Connecticut. [www.NutmegDulcimer.com](http://www.NutmegDulcimer.com)

**Kristin Gitler** has been playing the mountain dulcimer for over 15 years. She performs with an acoustic duo as well as with an Irish session group, and enjoys playing fiddle tunes and songs from all traditions. She has two CDs and accompanying tab books, *Old Tunes - Baked Fresh*, featuring American, Celtic and French Canadian fiddle tunes on mountain dulcimer and acoustic guitar, and *Tunes Twice Stitched*, a collection of French Canadian tunes.

**George Haggerty** is an accomplished dulcimer builder, player, and teacher. His enthusiasm for this versatile instrument is apparent in his workshops which build a solid foundation for even the most inexperienced player. He has taught students from first grade to senior citizens - in school programs, and at festivals in the northeast and as far south as Florida. George is currently teaching dulcimer playing and dulcimer building (two separate classes) at "The Putney School" in Putney, Vermont. 2014 is his fourth year at Putney. His CDs, "*Just Friends ...One More Time*" and "*The Best of Just Friends*" are dulcimer instrumentals. He is director of his annual festival in Vermont, August Dulcimer Daze, now in its twenty-fourth year. [www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com](http://www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com)

**Melanie Johnston** has been playing mountain dulcimer in Connecticut since 2001. She is the founder of the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra (NDO) and co-founder of the Connecticut Mountain Dulcimer Gathering <http://ctmtdulcimer.com/>. In addition to playing with the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra, she and her husband Mack perform as a duo in venues around Connecticut. Melanie has her collection of over 1,800 tunes on her iPad and uses forScore daily. She uses Tabledit to create dulcimer tablature arrangements for the NDO and personal performance. She enjoys spreading the word about these helpful technologies.

**Lori Keddel** has been playing the dulcimer since 1985, and has taught classes and workshops for both children and adults in building and playing cardboard dulcimers. She has been coordinator of the MDMF since our first festival in 1989, has been on the staff of the Cranberry Dulcimer and Autoharp Gathering since 1987, and has been an instructor at numerous festivals in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. With George Haggerty, she taught a week long Dulcimer Elderhostel class in Vermont for many years. She has published 4 books of arrangements for the mountain dulcimer, each with an accompanying CD: *A Mountain Dulcimer Potpourri – 33 Songs in DAA for Beginning and Novice Players*", "*A Treasury of Christmas Music For the Mountain Dulcimer*", "*Night Songs and Lullabies*", and "*Dulcimaniac's Delight – A Multitude of Minor Melodies in DAC Tuning*". She has also contributed many pieces of music to the monthly newsletter of the Dulcimer Association of Albany.

**Bernd Kraus** has a Bachelor's degree in Woodworking and Design and has been building mountain dulcimers, guitars, mandolins, ukuleles, etc., for over 36 years. He has taught dulcimer building at high school shop classes where over 100 students built their own instruments from design to completion, and has given several building and dulcimer history workshops for dulcimer festivals, schools, historical societies, business groups and woodworker groups. For the past 10 years he has demonstrated dulcimer building at the Agricultural Museum at the Great New York State Fair.

**Sandy Lafleur** lives in southern NH and has been playing the dulcimer for over 20 years. Known for her fun and relaxed teaching style, she delights in playing an eclectic mix of tunes from all over. When she is not teaching at festivals or out of her home she can be found playing, calling or dancing at local contra dances. Sandy likes to support live music and local agriculture by playing at Farmer's Markets wearing her shirt "Will Play Dulcimer for Food". She is the main instigator in the formation of the "National Hornpipe Preservation Society", Sandy has 2 book/CD titles available, *Heart's Delight* and *Heart's Content*.  
[www.wanderingdulcimer.com](http://www.wanderingdulcimer.com)

**CarolLynn & Gene Langley** have been performing on mountain dulcimer and autoharp for about fifteen years and also enjoy teaching people of all ages at festivals, schools, community events, and camps from VT to NC. They frequently include a visual art experience as students paint their original designs on their dulcimer bodies. The Langleys are especially committed to bringing music into the lives of developmentally and physically disabled individuals, as well as those living in nursing and rehabilitation facilities.

CarolLynn and Gene are president and treasurer, respectively, of the Dulcimer Association of Albany, and coordinators of the Cranberry Dulcimer & Autoharp Gathering held the fourth full weekend in July, now at the same location as the DAA Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest. Look for their CD, *Speak a Little Louder, Please*. They've noticed that the title becomes more appropriate as the years go by! Two years ago CarolLynn released a book, *Singing in Harmony, My Dulcimer & Me*, with step by step instructions for creating mountain dulcimer accompaniment arrangements by players of all levels. Gene taught an adult education class in jamming back in 1997 and then led a jam group, accompanied by CarolLynn, for the next 15 years. He enjoys doing repairs on autoharps and converting 12 and 15 bar 'harps to 21 bars. They also make lightweight, custom music stands. [www.quietcreekmusic.com](http://www.quietcreekmusic.com)

**Bonnie Leigh, CMP** - a Certified Music Practitioner, performer/teacher and singer/songwriter, actively performs and teaches her gentle style of playing with the mountain dulcimer across the northeast coast. Bonnie has taught at eleven dulcimer festivals in the east and has been giving lessons, teaching at festivals and performing since 1991. You'll find her at historical villages, libraries, clubs, meetings, coffeehouses and nursing homes. Her easy manner makes learning to play fun and relaxed. As a Music Practitioner Bonnie plays the dulcimer and small harp at the bedside of hospice patients. Bonnie's original songs of life and family can be found on her 3 recordings and 3 songbooks to accompany the recordings, all in dulcimer tab. Bonnie has also written 3 poem books and "*From My Heart to Yours - Thoughts and experiences of a Music Practitioner Intern*" a booklet. You can find more information at [www.bonnieleigh.com](http://www.bonnieleigh.com) or contact Bonnie at [bonnie@bonnieleigh.com](mailto:bonnie@bonnieleigh.com)

**Stephen Miklos** (He answers to both) is a retired computer scientist, woodworker, and instrument builder, but he still dabbles in all three. A little instrument repair, and automating the web site for the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival in Connecticut. Playing the dulcimer in many styles ever since he built his first in about 1992, he has passed through Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin and other phases, and is still in the ukulele and tin whistle phase, along with the dulcimer. With his jaunty pirate eyepatch, he occasionally says "Arrrh" when little children ask if he is a pirate. [www.carrotcreek.com](http://www.carrotcreek.com).

**Ellen Pratt** has been playing dulcimer for fourteen years. She began writing her own music in 2004 and has performed at numerous open mics and festivals. Ellen's style of playing is a mix of traditional and contemporary. She enjoys the hard, fast strumming old time music and jam tunes with both the dulcimer and banjo but also enjoys the quieter, more contemporary chord style with fingerpicking on dulcimer. Ellen plays with the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra in Connecticut. She co-coordinates Vermont's August Dulcimer Daze festival with George Haggerty.

**Jeremy Seeger** has been building and playing mountain dulcimer for 40 years and has been fascinated by how his playing has changed with the changes in his instruments over time. Music never came easy for him and in his workshop he shares his experience and love for the dulcimer and music. Visit his web site at:  
[www.jeremyseeger.com](http://www.jeremyseeger.com)

**Lucy Joan Sollogub** A lover of music making and music teaching, Lucy Joan Sollogub has been sharing her singing, dulcimer playing and teaching for nearly 4 decades. Lucy teaches dulcimer, folk harp, guitar, recorder and tin whistle at two Boston-area music schools, directs a performing arts program in 20 Boston Public schools, directs a creative arts summer program, and song leads at Central Reform Temple in Boston. Lucy performs with hammered dulcimer player Barb Levine and with the New England Irish Harp Orchestra. In August 2014, Lucy performed in Donegal, Killarney and Limerick Ireland celebrating the millennium of Brian Boru.

**Dwain Wilder** has a musical background, but has devoted himself to building Appalachian dulcimers. Traveling to dulcimer festivals with a small toolkit and workbench, Dwain has devised, over some 23 years, various easy strategies for dealing with instrument problems "at the curbside." [www.BearMeadow.com](http://www.BearMeadow.com)

**Norm Williams** began teaching out of necessity in 2002 and has been faculty/performer at many festivals and events including the MDMF, the Cranberry Dulcimer Gathering, Music by the Bay, French Creek Music Retreat, MadCap Music Camps and the Augusta Heritage Festival, WV. Norm is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club and a coordinator of their Winter DulcimerFest held every January in the Poconos of PA. He is also co-chair of the Maiden creek Old Time Music Festival, held in July in Blandon, PA, and a great promoter of the mountain dulcimer. In addition to dulcimer he plays guitar, and banjo. Norm is a lover of Old Time music and plays with the band Wayfarers & Company , The Druckenmillers (an Old Time family band), and most recently in a duo, the Dulcimer Boys, with Cliff Cole. He resides with his wife, Erin, in Breinigsville, PA.  
<http://www.wayfarersandco.net/> or [www.poconodulcimerclub.org](http://www.poconodulcimerclub.org)

### **Web Sites:**

Heidi and John Cerrigione: <http://doofusmusic.com/JHWEB.html>

Sam Edelston: [www.NutmegDulcimer.com](http://www.NutmegDulcimer.com)

George Haggerty: [www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com](http://www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com)

Sandy Lafleur: [www.wanderingdulcimer.com](http://www.wanderingdulcimer.com)

CarolLynn and Gene Langley: [www.quietcreekmusic.com](http://www.quietcreekmusic.com)

Bonnie Leigh: [www.bonnieleigh.com](http://www.bonnieleigh.com)

Stephen Miklos: [www.carrotcreek.com](http://www.carrotcreek.com)

Jeremy Seeger: [www.jeremyseeger.com](http://www.jeremyseeger.com)

Dwain Wilder: [www.BearMeadow.com](http://www.BearMeadow.com)

Norm Williams: [www.wayfarersandco.net](http://www.wayfarersandco.net)

Nina Zanetti: [www.NinaZanetti.com](http://www.NinaZanetti.com)