

Workshop Descriptions – MDMF 2015

To avoid overcrowding in workshops and so that we can tell workshop leaders the approximate number of hand-outs they'll need, we're asking participants to indicate on their registration forms a first choice and a second choice for each workshop session they plan to attend.

Please give careful attention to the workshop descriptions when considering which ones to sign up for, as it will not be possible to make changes once all the workshops are full. Those who register early enough can be confident they will get their first choices. If any of the workshops you list as a first choice are full when your registration is received, you will most likely get your 2nd choice – unless you register very late. ☺

We anticipate, and welcome, walk-ins, but be advised that the selection of workshops will be limited for those who register late or just come without pre-registering.

What's Your Playing Level?

New Player – no previous dulcimer experience.

Beginner – has a little experience with the dulcimer, but needs more help with the basics.

Advanced Beginner – familiar with basic strumming and fingering, can play simple melodies and a few basic chords in DAA and/or DAD tuning. (*Between Beginner and Novice*)

Novice – starting to make 3-finger chords, ready to try a different tuning and a few left-hand techniques.

Novice Plus – can play 3-finger chords, learning to use a variety of strumming patterns, flat and/or finger picking, and tuning variations. (*Between Novice and Intermediate*)

Intermediate – has experience playing in several different tunings, familiar with chords and different right and left-hand techniques. Exploring various tunings and embellishments.

Advanced – is comfortable playing in a variety of styles and tunings; the accomplished musician, ready for more challenging techniques and repertoire.

The levels above give a very basic description of what players at that level should know and be able to do. Workshops for each level will teach techniques, skills, and repertoire that will help you progress to the next level, building on the skills you already have.

BEGINNER

1. Welcome to the Wonderful World of the Mountain Dulcimer *Nina Zanetti*

For the brand new player or first-time attender of dulcimer festivals. An introduction to dulcimers, the history of the instrument, types of dulcimers, strings, tunings, festivals, tab, what to expect in your beginners' classes, and much more. We'll give you a beginner's guide to what the festival has to offer, and will help you feel comfortable in this wonderful new world of dulcimer. DAD Beginner/New Player Friday 3:00

3. Beginner I - Let's Begin! *Bonnie Leigh*

While being introduced to your dulcimer, learn the basics of how to hold it, hold the pick, understand dulcimer tab and begin playing. DAA Beginner/New Player Saturday 9:30

4. Beginner II – Moving On! *Lori Keddell*

Building on what was covered in Beginner I, first time players will learn how to play in the key of D in two different tunings, and explore the advantages of each. DAA & DAD Beginner/New Player Saturday 11:00

5. Easy Repertoire! *Sandy Lafleur* Easy tunes for beginning players. DAA Beginner Saturday 1:15

6. Songs You Know *Sam Edelston*

Mountain dulcimer is one of the easiest instruments to figure out -- and it makes even more sense if you're playing songs you've known forever and can figure out by ear. The objective of this workshop is for you to be able to say, "Yes! I can do this!" DAD Beginner Saturday 2:45

7. It's A-Maze-ing *CarolLynn Langley*

It can feel as confusing as walking through a maze to attend your first festival and begin to learn to play this "simple" and amazing instrument. This workshop is designed to allow you to have any puzzling questions that might have arisen during the course of the festival answered so that you can go home and successfully continue exploring your mountain dulcimer. You'll also have a few more tabs to take with you. DAD Beginner Sunday 11:30

BEGINNER / NOVICE

8. The Zen of the MD, Rhythm *Norm Williams*

This workshop re-enforces strumming and rhythm techniques to increase your skills and to provide a platform for all of your future playing. We'll learn the fundamentals of rhythm, strumming, angle and hand placement, speed, and tone. The goal of this session is to have the learner comfortable with strum-hand technique so s/he can concentrate on the music. DAD Beginner/Novice Friday 3:00

9. Lullabies and Night Songs *Lori Keddell*

Lullabies are not just for children. Learn a few beautiful and relaxing melodies such as "Golden Slumbers", "Abide With Me" and more. DAA & DAD Beginner/Novice Friday 4:15

10. "Back-up" Playing *John Cerrigione*

Together we'll practice playing back-up chords while singing with the dulcimer. We'll discuss a bit of chord theory and ear training techniques to make our chord selections easier. DAD Beginner/Novice Saturday 1:15

11. Strumming *Bonnie Leigh*

Learn how strumming adds a new dimension to your songs. We will go over several different strumming patterns, figure out how to fit the patterns into songs and hear tips on how to make your strumming smooth. All while learning some new songs. DAA Beginner/Novice Saturday 2:45

12. A Few Good Songs *Lori Keddell*

In this workshop for relatively new players we'll explore a few good songs (mostly traditional American folk songs). As we play together, we'll try a few of the dulcimer tricks that help you to play along even if you don't know the song. DAD Beginner/Novice Sunday 10:15

ADVANCED BEGINNER and Up

13. Basic Dulcimer Chords in DAD *Bill Collins*

This workshop provides a *very* brief explanation of chord theory, then shows the three basic DAD chord shapes that can be moved all over the fretboard in repeating patterns. The workshop also covers partial chords and the versatile "power chord" concept, along with an introduction to when to change chords (and to what) when accompanying a melody. DAD Advanced Beginner Saturday 9:30

14. The Pick, the Stick, the Noter, the Feather *Lucy Joan Sollogub*

In the interest of fun and experimentation, let's play dulcimer with a variety of ways to sound the string. We will use simple tunes and improvisation to explore unfamiliar ways to play and play with our dulcimers. DAD Advanced Beginner and up Saturday 11:00

15. Nimble Fingers: The Basics of Fingerpicking *Ellen Pratt*

This class will introduce several **easy** fingerpicking styles that will work with a variety of songs. The emphasis will be on applying fingerpicking patterns to familiar songs (songs you learned as beginning players) so you can focus on right hand fingering techniques rather than new repertoire. DAD Advanced Beginner /Novice Saturday 1:15

16. Compose Yourself: be part of a Group Tune Composition! *Sandy Lafleur*

A fun, easy introduction to tune writing. DAD Advanced Beginner Sunday 10:15

17 & 17A. Playing for open mic's and performing *Jeremy Seeger*

Explore what it takes to choose your repertoire, perform, be successful and feel good about yourself. You will get to try it out. Come having read the hand out and a song prepared to perform. Advanced Beginner and up Saturday 2:45; Sunday 11:30

NOVICE

18. Wonderful DGD Tuning! *Sandy Lafleur*

How to get into this tuning from DAD and some fab tunes to play! DGD Novice Saturday 11:00

19. Easy Duets *John Cerrigione*

Playing with a partner is enjoyable when you have individual parts. Tab will be provided for some arrangements you can share with a duet partner. DAD Novice Saturday 2:45

20. Stephen Foster Songs *Bonnie Leigh*

Have fun learning well known songs of the 1800's written by Stephen Foster. DAD Novice Sunday 10:15

NOVICE and Up

21. Singing in Harmony, My Dulcimer & Me *CarolLynn Langley*

There's not much that's more satisfying than to have your dulcimer sing along with you as a harmony voice. Learn to create a harmony tab for a familiar song, and learn to play that harmony while you sing the melody. DAD Novice and up Friday 3:00

22. Noodling (And A Way To Remember It) *Norm Williams*

Have you ever played something and thought, "I wish I could remember that!" Take a few minutes and let yourself go with your MD. If you hear something you like (and you will) learn how to write it down to remember and develop it into a theme. Knowledge of TAB not needed - we'll learn it. DAD Novice/Intermediate Friday 4:15

23. Music of the Shakers *Nina Zanetti*

The Shakers produced a huge body of sacred music (possibly as many as 10,000 hymns), including lively dance tunes and ethereal meditations. "Simple Gifts" is the most well-known example, but there are many more tunes, all well-suited to playing on the dulcimer. After a brief introduction to the Shakers – who they were, what they believed, how they lived, what they left us- we'll focus on their music, learning tunes from the various periods of Shaker music, which spanned from colonial days until the early 20th century. DAD (possibly some DGD or DAC) Novice/Intermediate Sunday 11:30

24. Thinking about a 4 equip-distant string dulcimer? *Lucy Joan Sollogub*

Compare, play, discover and enjoy the 4 equi-distantly strung dulcimer. Lucy will bring the same music arranged for both 3 and 4 string instruments for players to compare and play and also a few 4 string instruments to share. We will experience the beauty, and the challenges that the 4 string dulcimer has to offer. DAD Novice Plus and up Saturday 9:30

25. Easy and Fun Fiddle Tunes *George Haggerty*

Fiddle tunes are really fun to play. In this workshop, you will learn some basic techniques that make it easy for you to play fiddle tunes by ear. We will try *Pretty Betty Martin* and a few other fun tunes. DAD Novice & Up Saturday 11:00

26. Deciphering Songs By Ear *Ellen Pratt*

Have you heard a song and wanted to know how to play it? We will learn how to figure out which key a song is in, then decipher a song or two by listening and writing it down a bit at a time. Bring a capo and come tuned to DAD. Novice to Intermediate Saturday 2:45

51. Darn Good Ditties (otherwise known as Songs in DGD) *Ellen Pratt*

Playing in G is a nice alternative to DAD. In this class you will learn some Appalachian style original pieces in DGD- fun for jam sessions or playing with friends. We will start out slowly and pick up the speed as we get comfortable with the tunes. Come tuned to DGD. Novice to Intermediate Sunday 11:00

INTERMEDIATE

27. Old Time Repertoire *Heidi Cerrigione*

Come learn a few tunes that are fun to play and not so widely known, such as "Prairie Sunflower", "Coleman's March", "Grand River Whiskey", or "Duck's Eyeball". DAD Intermediate Friday 3:00

28. What do I do with the 1½ Fret? *Kristin Gitler*

The 1½ fret adds possibilities to our repertoire and arrangements. We'll go over the advantages of having this extra fret, and learn some chords and tunes that make use of it. DAD Intermediate Friday 4:15

29. Developing your Hand skills *Norm Williams*

(Or ways to make your fingers love you – in time) Picking patterns, Arpeggios & triplets – patterns and repetitions for your right and left hands that will make you a better player. DAD Intermediate Saturday 9:30

30. Chord Cadences *Sam Edelston*

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. DAD Intermediate Sunday 10:15

INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED

31. Icelandic Folk Tunes for Dulcimer *Bill Collins*

The Icelandic langspil is a Scandinavian cousin of the Appalachian dulcimer: both are diatonically fretted zithers featuring drone strings. So it seems appropriate to try to arrange Icelandic folk tunes for dulcimer, despite the challenges that some of these unusual melodies, scales, and harmonies present. (Note: The tunes in this workshop are different from any Bill has taught in his Icelandic music workshops at other festivals.) DAD – capo required Intermediate and up Friday 3:00

32. Harp Inspired Dulcimer *Lucy Joan Sollogub*

Bring the beauty of the harp to your dulcimer playing, while playing together as an ensemble sharing melody and a variety of harmonies. Use dulcimer techniques such as pull offs, slides and hammer-ons to imitate Celtic ornaments, and play a slip jig, an air and a reel. DAD, capo needed Intermediate-Advanced Friday 4:15-5:30

33. Lively O'Carolan Tunes *Kristin Gitler*

Turlough O'Carolan composed many beautiful tunes, and in this workshop we'll focus on a few of his livelier compositions. With their often slightly quirky melodies, they can be a bit challenging, but great fun to play once you've mastered them. We'll start in DGD. Intermediate – Advanced Saturday 11:00

34 & 34A. Refining Your Fingerpicking Skills *Nina Zanetti*

For experienced players who are already comfortable with basic fingerpicking. This workshop will briefly cover different approaches to fingerpicking, and then will focus on how to play fingerstyle arrangements with grace and expression. Topics will include how to emphasize the melody line, how to achieve a good tone and volume, and how to vary right hand fingerings for special effects. We'll also explore how to convert tab arranged for strumming into a fingerstyle arrangement, how to create a "syncopated" fingerstyle arrangement, and how to arrange fingerstyle backup for playing with a partner. DAD Int and up Saturday 9:30; Saturday 1:15

35. Three Themes from Tchaikovsky *CarolLynn Langley*

Learn to play three of the hauntingly beautiful melodies of Peter Ilitch Tchaikovsky on your mountain dulcimer with all the charm, color, and emotion of his original compositions. Includes background information and three tabbed melodies. DAD Intermediate/Advanced Saturday 2:45

50. Old Tunes in New Ways *Bill Collins*

Rethinking a familiar tune can be a great exercise in arranging and in stretching your artistic imagination. A new approach can also bring surprising freshness to and musical life to old warhorses in your repertoire. As examples, this workshop will include "Cripple Creek" as a slow air, "Whiskey Before Breakfast" in a minor mode, "Soldier's Joy" as a jig, and "Old Joe Clark" as a waltz. DAD – capo required Intermediate and up Saturday 1:15

ADVANCED

36. Ensemble/Orchestra *Heidi Cerrigione*

We will sight-read through a piece with multiple parts. The participants will choose and concentrate on one part. If scheduling permits, the class will perform the piece for everyone at lunch/dinner time. DAD Advanced Saturday 9:30

37. Hot Hammers & Pulls *Sam Edelston*

I've got a piece (from the guitar playing of John Renbourn) that'll add an extra dose of "snap" to your left hand. DAD Advanced Saturday 1:15

38. Crooked Tunes *Heidi Cerrigione*

It can be a challenge to learn irregular tunes - one where a beat or measure is dropped or added. Come learn "Texas", "Elk River Blues", and/or "Roscoe's Waltz". DAD Advanced Sunday 10:15

39. International Harvest *Kristin Gitler*

We'll explore a few dance tunes from outside the familiar American and Celtic traditions. As time permits, we'll learn a few tunes and some background from Eastern and Northern Europe, Latin America, and Asia. We'll start in DAD. Advanced Sunday 11:30

GENERAL

40. Strings and Things for the Dulcimer *George Haggerty*

George will show you the proper way to replace & tune strings, touch up scratches & nicks, how to choose the best polish & wax, and how to replace or repair a tuning peg. Bring your questions. General Friday 3:00

41. Jam Mechanics *Gene Langley*

Everything you need to know to feel confident about jamming. For those who are new to the concept and want to become comfortable, and have fun, while playing with others. For all levels of players who have had little or no experience with jamming. Friday 4:15

42. Beginning TableEdit *Melanie Johnston*

TableEdit is for creating, editing, printing and listening to tablature and sheet music. If you have music in standard notation and would like to create tablature for it or do a little arranging, this software is economical and fits the bill. In this class we you will learn enough to get started. You are welcome to bring your computer if you have *TableEdit* already downloaded on it but it is not required or needed for this class. Saturday 9:30

43. Clearing Up Modal Mysteries *Bill Collins*

Everybody who plays a dulcimer hears the term "mode" tossed around quite frequently. The truth is, though, that many players of this very modal instrument will admit (in a hushed, furtive voice) that their understanding of modes is shaky at best. Mine was, even after years of dulcimer obsession. But at the end of this workshop, you'll never be intimidated by modal monsters again! All Levels Saturday 11:00

44. Using forScore to put Dulcimer Tab on Your iPad *Melanie Johnston*

Do you have more notebooks of music than you can carry? Come learn how to get your music into a tablet, sort it, create set lists, annotate and more. We will also talk about foot pedals and Dropbox technology. You are welcome to bring your iPad if you have *forScore* already downloaded on it but it is not required or needed for this class. Saturday 1:15

45 & 45A. Troubleshooting the Troublesome Dulcimer *Dwain Wilder*

A workshop on how to spot why your dulcimer isn't at its best, and how to fix it yourself (and when not to try!) Bring your troubles! Level: All dulcimer owners Saturday 11:00; Saturday 2:45

46. History of the Mountain Dulcimer *Bernd Krause*

Explore the progression of the dulcimer from its roots in Europe to what we have today. Actual instruments on hand for attendees to see **and** play include the sheitholt, Virginia teardrop, Kentucky hourglass, Tennessee music box, Galax, and bowed style dulcimers. Graphics include maps and photos of historic museum instruments. All levels, incl. non-players. Sunday 11:30

47. Turtle Jam (Slow Jam) *Gene Langley*

Come, join in, and add the voice of your dulcimer (and add your own, too, if you like) as we play some easy and familiar tunes and songs. We'll keep it slow and simple, and unintimidating, so that everyone will be able to enjoy it. Come tuned to D. All Friday 10:00 PM

48. Open Jam (Experienced Jammers) *Norm Williams*

Come and join the fun in an informal jam session playing tunes familiar and common to dulcimer and old time jams. All instruments welcome. Come tuned to D. All instruments Friday 10:00 PM

49. Rock & Roll Jam *Sam Edelston*

After a long day of mostly folk songs, planxtys, and fiddle tunes, let's have fun with a different kind of dance music! All instruments are welcome. We're gonna have some fun tonight! Saturday 10:00 PM