

Workshop Descriptions – MDMF 2016

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.

BEGINNER / NEW PLAYER

1. Welcome to the Wonderful World of 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, 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 New Player Fri. 3:00-4:00

2. Chording 1, 2, 3 *Linda Collins*

Do you think chords are "hard?" They're not, as you'll see! Learn three basic chords and use them to accompany simple songs and tunes. DAD Beginner/New Player Fri. 4:15-5:15

3. Beginners 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 Sat. 9:30-10:45

4. Beginner II *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. Beginner/New Player DAA & DAD Sat. 11:00-12:00

5. Getting Your Hands and Brain in Sync! (Beginner III) *Carol Walker*

Picking up from where you left off in the previous beginner sessions, the focus of this session will be to help you feel more comfortable with all the new concepts you've been learning. Soon you'll be confidently coordinating left and right hand techniques and starting to build your repertoire. DAD Beg/New Player Sat. 1:15-2:30

6. 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 Sat. 2:45-3:45

BEGINNER / NOVICE

7. Let's Play and Have Fun with the Dulcimer *Bonnie Leigh*

Let's take some familiar tunes and just play. This is the chance to take what you've learned so far, practice playing in a group and have fun with it. DAA-DAD Advanced Beginner - Novice Sun. 10:15-11:15

8. Easy FiddleTunes in G *Phyllis Gaskins*

You may use either a noter or your fingers to play these G major tunes on your dulcimer. Use your “ears” to hear rhythm and repeated phrases, sing lyrics to catch the melody, and receive the TAB to reinforce/help you remember what we did. Tunes: “Pig in the Pen”, “Good-Bye Liza Jane”, and “Cripple Creek”. DGD, GDD, or Galax all Ds with no wound string, or bagpipe tuning - all ds with a wound bass string) Advanced Beginner - Novice Fri. 4:15-5:15

9. Frets 5-8 *Sam Edelston*

Let’s get you comfortable playing high up on the fretboard. DAD Ad. Beg - Novice Sat. 11:00-12:00

10. Strumming through Strumming *Bonnie Leigh*

Learn fun songs and three strum patterns. Also little tips on how to keep your strumming smooth. DAA Beg - Nov Sat. 2:45-3:45

11. Using the Noter *Rich Carty*

Learn the 3 basics of the noter, then some cool tricks with it. This is the workshop I wished I had as a beginner! Start in DAA Beginner-Novice Sun. 11:30-12:30

12. Music Notation and Dulcimer Tablature - What does it all mean? *Sandy Lafleur*

Understanding what is on the page; timing, note values, pick up notes, repeats, etc. DAD Adv Beg - Novice Sun. 11:30-12:30

NOVICE

13. Dancing Fingers *Kristin Gitler*

Let’s get those fingers dancing! We’ll learn how to do hammer-ons, pull-offs and slides, and where and when to add them to a tune. DAD Nov Fri. 3:00-4:00

14. Flat-picking Basics *Kristin Gitler*

Flat-picking is one alternative to strumming and droning, particularly when playing the melody across the strings. We’ll go over basic right hand technique, discuss and try out different picks, then practice what we’ve learned on a few fun fiddle tunes. DAD Nov Sat. 9:30-10:45

15. Playing Expressively . . . *Sandy Lafleur*

Learn to approach each tune with a greater musical sensibility. We’ll cover techniques that make the tunes you play come alive. DAD Novice Plus Sat. 11:00-12:00

NOVICE and Up

16. The Sweet Sound of Caring *CarolLynn Langley*

The gentle sound of the mountain dulcimer makes it the perfect instrument to provide music from a baby’s lullaby, to a tune which brings back memories to the elderly, or the sound of comfort during an illness. This workshop encompasses each of these areas with special emphasis on taking your dulcimer, alone or in the company of another musician or two, to various types of facilities for the purpose of bringing solace and a bit of sunshine into the lives of those who need it most. Tab for appropriate songs included, as well as suggestions for others. DAD Novice and up Fri. 3:00-4:00

17. Tearless Tuning *Ellen Pratt*

We will begin in DAD and learn how to move from what has become “the standard” in the dulcimer world to several other tunings quickly and efficiently. We will explore DAC, DAA, DGD, and if time allows, DF#A. Please **bring a tuner** to this class. Novice to Intermediate Fri. 4:15-5:15

18. Different Ways to Play in the Key of A! *Sandy Lafleur*

Not every tune is in the key of D! Using a capo or a tiny dowel we will explore the possibilities in a very popular fiddle key - A. Tunes would include Old Joe Clark and others. DAD Nov - Nov Plus Sun. 10:15-11:15

19. Making it Beautiful *Lucy Joan Sollogub*

Do you love the lyrical, emotional, magically sweet sound that some players create on the mountain dulcimer? Come experiment with a variety of left and right hand technique, harmonies and phrasing that will lead to more beautiful dulcimer playing. We will play with scales, a familiar melody and an Irish air in our journey to “making it beautiful. DAD and DGD and DDAD and DDGDD Nov - Int Sat. 1:15-2:30

20. Galax Dulcimer Uptempo *Phyllis Gaskins*

Explore “loaner” Galax dulcimers from Phyllis’s collection. Learn how this style of playing and tuning is different? Experience the old time traditional strumming style for playing fiddle tune melody and rhythm in four different keys: D, G, A, and Em. TUNES: “Trude Evans” in D (WVA tune); “Jaybird Died with the Whooping Cough” in G; “Red Rocking Chair” in Em; “Old Mother Flannagan” in A. 8 loaner Galax dulcimers available or bring your Galax dulcimer tuned to all D with no wound strings. Nov - Int Plus Sat. 1:15-2:30

21. Waltzing with the Dulcimer *Jeff Furman*

In this class you will learn the history and key elements of waltzes, explore techniques to enhance the feeling of these beautiful melodies, and learn several waltzes. Please bring a capo. DAD Nov Plus - Int Sat. 2:45-3:45

22. Playing by Feel *Kristin Gitler*

We all use sight, sound, and touch combined to play our instruments. In this workshop, we’ll explore a new approach to playing, using only your body and your ears. We’ll learn how to “feel” the dulcimer with our fingers and hands, get to know our instruments better, and use our bodies and our senses to help build expressiveness into our playing. DAD Nov & Up Sun. 10:15-11:15

23. Jean Ritchie Songs *Susan Trump*

Jean Ritchie was the mother of the dulcimer. She played traditional songs from her family, and was a very gifted songwriter as well. We’ll learn some of both. DAD Novice Plus and Up Sat. 9:30-10:45

24. Scottish Tunes and Ballads *Linda Collins*

Meet some well-known and some lesser-known Scottish ballads and dance tunes. These learner-friendly arrangements are mostly a variation of chord/melody style. Intermediate students will also learn flat-picked parts. DAD Nov-Int Sun. 11:30-12:30

INTERMEDIATE

25. Using Whiskey to Develop your Skills on the MD *Norm Williams*

Or “5 Keys & 5 Tunings +”: Using “*Whiskey Before Breakfast*” we’ll focus on the use of the capo and alternate tunings, playing across the fretboard and strengthening rhythm. Starting in DAD Int Fri. 3:00-4:00

26. Playing with a Partner at Christmas *Nina Zanetti*

Mix the joy of the holidays with the joy of playing with others! Learn some two or three-part arrangements of some lovely Christmas tunes: both sacred and secular, both familiar and not so familiar. We’ll discuss good ensemble techniques, such as creating a blended, balanced sound and how to start and end together and stay together in between. DAD Intermediate Plus Sat. 11:00-12:00

27. Appalachian Fiddle Tunes for the MD *Norm Williams*

Learn some “new” Old Time Appalachian fiddle tunes (*Shove the Pig’s Foot a Little Further in the Fire, Sugar Hill, Gray Squirrel Eating’ Up the New Ground Corn, etc.*) with attention to timing, rhythm & playing up to speed we’ll explore the keys of D & G and maybe A. DAD & DGD, capo required Int Sun. 11:30-12:30

INTERMEDIATE and Up

28. Songs of the 60's *Susan Trump*

Yes, we all know them, so come and learn to play a few... not just Kumbaya. Stewball, House of the Rising Sun, Four Strong Winds and more. DAD Int and up Fri. 3:00-4:00

29. Positive Practice *Carol Walker*

Until someone invents a magic pill that will automatically allow you to play every piece perfectly, you will need to do the work yourself! I’ll share my 65+ years of practicing various instruments as we explore tried and true methods that you can apply to any song you want to learn. In the process, you’ll develop skills that can be

applied to many other songs, you'll build your repertoire, and you'll be more confident when you perform for others. DAD Int. & up Fri. 4:15-5:15

30. Danish Fiddle Music Pam Weeks

I just got reintroduced to this wonderful repertoire of tunes, and am excited to share some. It starts from a base of Scandinavian polkas and waltzes, but in the 18th century received an overlay of Scottish and Irish influence. This high energy hybrid is enchanting! DAD, possibly also DGD Intermediate – Advanced Sat. 9:30-10:45

31. Improving Your Ear: Hearing and Listening Jeff Furman

This class will help you improve how you listen to music and how to understand what you are hearing. We will cover hearing chord changes, melodies, harmonies, and playing by ear. DAD Int-Adv Sat. 9:30-10:45

32. Variations on the Tune Carol Walker

Are you tired of playing the same old tune the same old way? In this workshop we'll get creative, adding a countermelody and passing tones, using different chords or positions, and using the entire fretboard. We'll take our tab from the basic bare bones to a fancy version suitable for performance. DAD Int - Adv Sat. 11:00-12:00

33. Flatpicking to Bluegrass Banjo Fingerpicking.... Susan Trump

We'll take a tune or two and by varying your right hand technique we'll go from a bum-diddy style to bluegrass style fingerpicking. Earl Scruggs....Here we come! (Good for banjammers if you have one.) DAD Int and up. Sat. 1:15-2:30

34. Advanced pieces in D-A-C Lucy Joan Sollogub

With the development of the capo, players don't often "visit" alternative tunings that are a deep part of our instrument's history. While the drone works so beautifully playing simple minor melodies, this tuning also offers notes that aren't available when capo-ing. We will play tunes that find the melody across all strings and up the fret board from the America, Ireland and a Lucy original. DAC Intermediate - Advanced Sat. 2:45-3:45

35. Cajun music: the repertoire of Dewey Balfa Pam Weeks

Dewey Balfa and his brothers were responsible for starting the huge renaissance of pride by Cajuns in their own culture and music, particularly after their ground-breaking performance at the Newport Folk Festival in 1964. He wrote many beautiful melodies and songs, and we will learn some in this workshop. DAD, DGD Int & up Sun. 10:15-11:15

ADVANCED

36. The Awesome Descending Bass Line Lucy Joan Sollogub

The dulcimer has a unique style of playing a counter melody against a simple folk song. In this workshop melodies will be accompanied by a descending scale, versus chords. The arrangements are pleasing and challenging as you play an intricate instrumental while harmonizing with a scale. We will play two tunes from Brittany and one tune from the US. DAD, bring capo Advanced Fri. 4:14-5:15

37. Alternating Bass”: an Advanced Fingerpicking technique Nina Zanetti

For experienced players who are already comfortable with basic fingerpicking. We'll explore a style of fingerpicking (familiar to guitarists) that creates a two-note bass pattern that keeps the rhythm going. This style lends itself well to jazzing up familiar tunes with syncopated patterns. As an example, we'll learn a “cool” version of “Go Tell Aunt Rhody” or “Boil Them Cabbage”. DAD Advanced, for players with experience with fingerpicking. Sat. 2:45-3:45

GENERAL

40. 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. Fri. 4:15-5:15

41. Appalachian Crankies (Appalachian Folk Art-the art of the moving picture) *Ellen Pratt*

This workshop is all about art and music combined. We will illustrate a favorite ballad on a hand held cardboard "crankie" and make the ballad come to life. Bring your favorite ballad - with the lyrics (I will have *some* copies with me). Everything you will need to create a miniature crankie will be provided. No dulcimer required for this class! Sat. 9:30-10:45

42. Phalanges Pilates *Pam Weeks*

An exploration of healthy habits to assist your dulcimer playing. We start with posture, stretching, general good body habits, and end up with hand and fingering exercises specific to progressing on the dulcimer. Brainstorming welcomed! All levels Sat. 11:00-12:00

43. 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. Experienced beginner and up Sat. 1:15-2:30

45. What is a Galax Dulcimer? *Phyllis Gaskins*

Phyllis will have a "show and tell" of the different Galax dulcimers in her collection. She has one from each of the major makers of these Southwest Virginia style dulcimers. She will demonstrate the playing style and answer your questions. Time will be set aside for you to explore these instruments for yourselves. All Sat. 2:45-3:45

46. Improving Your Strum and Rhythm *Jeff Furman*

This workshop will focus on improving the fluidity of your strumming and getting more rhythmic variation in your right hand. We will cover techniques, review exercises for practice, and play with recorded music. Be prepared to do a lot of strumming! DAD All levels Sun. 10:15-11:15

47. Slow Jam *Rich Carty*

Come and join the fun in an informal jam session as we share some easy and familiar tunes and songs with one another around a circle. All instruments welcome. Come tuned to D. Fri. 10:00-11:00 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 Fri. 10:00-11:00 PM

49. Folk Revival Jam *Sam Edelston*

Let's bring back some of those wonderful songs from the '50s and '60s that you, or your parents, or your grandparents grew up loving. Bring your dulcimers, other instruments, and voices! 'This jam is your jam, this jam is my jam. This jam is made for you and me. All aboard!' Sun. 9:00-10:00 AM

NEW WORKSHOPS - added in February

50. Playing By Ear (Or Using A Pick) *George Haggerty*

Want to play that tune but can't find the tab? This workshop will help you feel confident enough so that you will be able to pick out your favorite tunes. DAD Novice & up Sat. 1:15-2:30

51. Making Your Dulcimer Sing *Sam Edelston*

Beyond just using the dulcimer to play melodies, we'll explore several ways to make it "sing" and express a wide variety of moods. DAD Novice – Novice Plus. Sunday 11:30-12:30