

## Workshop Leaders – MDMF 2019

**Carolyn Brodgerski, CMP** - Carolyn discovered the dulcimer in 1980 when she heard Sally Rogers perform at a folk venue in Connecticut. An accomplished guitarist at the time, she just couldn't figure out what to do with this beautiful, sweet sounding instrument with so few strings. More than 30 years later, she found The Ct. Mountain Dulcimer Gathering, and has been playing ever since. She loves the many voices of the dulcimer, playing roots, blues, classical, ethnic music, lullabies, as well as the music of contemporary musicians. As a performer, songwriter, teacher, and Certified Music Practitioner, she is passionate about "spreading the dulcimer Gospel", taking great joy in introducing this beautiful original American instrument to others. Her essay on her work as a CMP, and two of her original pieces have appeared in Dulcimer Players News.

**Rich Carty** has been playing mountain dulcimer since 1979, and has also been teaching hammered dulcimer since 1992. He is one of the founding members of the Greater Pinelands Dulcimer Society, and is also co-owner of Pinelands Folk Music Center, located in Mount Holly, New Jersey. He has traveled to many of the festivals in the USA and has also taught at a weekend festival at the Cork University in Ireland. <http://www.pinelandsfolkmusic.com/>

**Sam Edelston** is on a quest to bring dulcimers into widespread public awareness. "A dulcimer weighs half as much as a guitar, is at least twice as easy to learn, and is easier to play. We should have millions of people wanting to play it." So, he plays a lot of much-loved folk songs, many kinds of rock and pop music, and other things ranging from opera to Opry and beyond. He's one of the most watched mountain dulcimer players on the Internet, with over 500,000 views, and has performed and taught at festivals as far away as Kentucky, Minnesota, and Louisiana. He also plays guitar, banjo, and hammered dulcimer. Sam is also chair of the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, in Connecticut every fall. [www.SamTheMusicMan.com](http://www.SamTheMusicMan.com)

**Mary Evans** had previously played piano, cello, and recorder, but she knew she was destined to own and play a dulcimer when she first saw one in WV, her native state, in 1976. Other life activities relegated her first dulcimer to the closet for extended periods until 2004 when Mary attended her first DAA festival and her interest was rekindled. Mary attends other festivals in our area and has traveled to NC three summers for Dulcimer University. She currently plays her dulcimer in a multi-instrument quartet in Kingston, NY, which performs at local open mics. Having recently retired from her position as a medical librarian in a Kingston, NY, hospital, she plans to devote more time to her music.

**Brian Geldziler** first came to the fretted dulcimer in the 1990s by way of the hammered dulcimer, when he went to a folk music store in south NJ to buy new hammers and saw a beautiful all-walnut fretted dulcimer hanging on the wall. He was instantly hooked, and has made the fretted dulcimer part of his life ever since.

**Kristin Gitler** has been playing the mountain dulcimer for over 20 years, and performs with her partner and guitar player, David Goldman. She leads the CNY Mountain Dulcimer League, a bimonthly workshop in Syracuse, NY. She has two CDs and accompanying tab books featuring American, Celtic and Québécois fiddle tunes on mountain dulcimer and acoustic guitar. <http://www.kristindulcimer.com>

**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. 2019 is his ninth 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-eighth year. [www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com](http://www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com)

**Melanie Johnston** has been playing Mountain Dulcimer since 2001. Currently living in Asheville, NC she and her husband Mack founded the Black Bear Dulcimer Gathering and the Asheville Dulcimer Ensemble. They teach and perform extensively in the Asheville area. Melanie is a graduate of the Dulcimer University/Western Carolina University certification program for teaching the Mountain Dulcimer and loves teaching others this beautiful instrument.

**Mack Johnston** has 20+ years experience playing in mandolin ensembles and orchestras including the Providence Mandolin Orchestra. Mack was Music Director of the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra 2013 – 2016 and is the current Director of the Asheville Dulcimer Ensemble.

**Lori Keddell** 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 was instrumental in organizing our first MDMF in 1989, and has been the coordinator since 1991. She was on the staff of the Cranberry Dulcimer and Autoharp Gathering from 1987 to 2016, 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 Krause** has a Bachelor’s degree in Woodworking and Design and has been building mountain dulcimers, guitars, mandolins, ukuleles, etc., for over 40 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 over 10 years he has demonstrated dulcimer building at the Agricultural Museum at the Great New York State Fair. [www.facebook.com/KrauseInstruments/](http://www.facebook.com/KrauseInstruments/)

**CarollLynn Langley** has been teaching mountain dulcimer at festivals, schools, camps, and privately since 1998. She and her husband, Gene, began performing together at about that same time and especially enjoy bringing their music to both adults and children in a variety of facilities. CarollLynn has written *Singing in Harmony, My Dulcimer & Me*, an instructional book for creating mountain dulcimer accompaniment arrangements, and she and Gene have produced a CD, *Speak a Little Louder, Please*. The Langleys are both officers in the Dulcimer Association of Albany and were coordinators of the Cranberry Dulcimer & Autoharp Gathering from 2008 to 2016.

**Gene Langley** led a jam group in his hometown of Poestenkill, NY for over twelve years, and has taught jamming in adult education classes, and to children in schools and camps. He also repairs and refurbishes both mountain dulcimers and autoharps. Gene and his wife, CarollLynn, began performing together about twenty years ago, and have produced a CD titled *Speak a Little Louder, Please*. Gene has been treasurer of the DAA for many years and, with his wife, was a coordinator of the Cranberry Dulcimer & Autoharp Gathering from 2008 to 2016.

**Ellen Pratt** has been playing dulcimer for eighteen 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 melody 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.

**Butch Ross** is a master of the mountain dulcimer, drawing out variable rhythmic landscapes that hum and vibrate with the wild electricity of his singular musical vision. And while this instrument is often viewed in its relative position to traditional (read: old-timey) sounds, Ross prefers to view it as a conduit for bridging the past and the present. His nimble fingerpicks and strums echo with a certain weighted history, the kind of turbulent lineage that acts as both inspiration and recalibration. Under his precise guidance, the dulcimer attains a mythic quality, resulting in a grand exposition in regard to its necessity in modern musical practice.

“For over ten years Butch Ross has been gleefully destroying the assumptions of what the mountain dulcimer is while demonstrating what it can be. From his home base in Chattanooga, TN, Ross possesses a keen awareness of the dulcimer's boundless prospects, and in his hands, it reacts in startling and often unexpected ways.” --Joshua Picard, Chattanooga Pulse" [www.butchross.com](http://www.butchross.com)

**Jeremy Seeger** has been building and playing mountain dulcimer for 50 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 traditional folk music. The understanding of how he learns and how it has shaped his life have brought new understanding of what it takes to be able to enjoy making music. Visit his web site at: [www.jeremyseeger.com](http://www.jeremyseeger.com)

**Carol Walker's** formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice. She retired after 32 years as an active high school choral teacher (and was the recipient of the 2003 NJ Governor's Teacher of the Year Award), but soon found a way to combine her love of teaching with her new direction in folk music, and has become a popular workshop leader and featured performer at festivals all over the US. Carol has published six dulcimer tab books, which have established her as a favorite arranger among players of all levels. The first two books (*Tailless Tunes*) are devoted entirely to Celtic-flavored Manx folk music from the Isle of Man. The next three books make up the famous *DNA\* Dulcimer Ditties* trilogy which contain familiar Americana songs (*that are so familiar they're already a part of your DNA*). The long-awaited *Classical Dulcimer for Wascally Wabbits*, released in 2017, includes a unique collection of solo and ensemble "awwancements of cwassical favowites." Her newest project is the 2018 launch of "*DulciYarn -- Sweet Threads from Carol Walker*." This collection of her own unique hand-woven items will include scarves and other surprises. Carol also plays upright bass and travels with her husband, guitarist Toby Walker, during his US, UK, Europe, and Canadian tours. [www.MusicLadyCarol.com](http://www.MusicLadyCarol.com)

**Norm Williams** has been playing and teaching mountain dulcimer for over 20 years. He is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club, a coordinator of the Pocono DulcimerFest to be held April 26 & 27, 2019, in Stroudsburg, PA and co-founder of the Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival held annually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in July. He has been faculty at festivals throughout the Northeast since (including the Pocono DulcimerFest; DAA Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, August Dulcimer Days, Music by the Bay, the Cranberry Dulcimer Gathering, Maiden Creek Old Time Festival, MadCap Music Camps & Augusta Heritage Center, WV). In addition to dulcimer he plays guitar, ukulele and banjo. Norm is a lover of Old Time music and plays with the bands Wayfarers & Company, Tom & Betty Druckenmiller, and most recently *the Dulcimer Boys* with Cliff Cole & Rob Yoder. He released his 1<sup>st</sup> solo recording this past year – "*a wayfarer... songs of hope and encouragement*." Norm is semi-retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Breinigsville, PA. His website is [www.awayfarer-normw.com](http://www.awayfarer-normw.com)

**Nina Zanetti** is the 2008 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion. She comes to the mountain dulcimer from a diverse musical background, including choral music, violin, viola, piano, and shape note singing. She plays regularly at churches, historic sites, and community events and has taught workshops at dulcimer festivals throughout the country, including Western Carolina University, John C. Campbell Folk School, and Kentucky Music Week. Nina is especially fond of the "softer side of dulcimer". She has produced several books of solo arrangements for mountain dulcimer and has co-authored four books of duet arrangements (the *Tunes for Two or More* series, with Beth Lassi.) She has a strong interest in American folk hymns, many of which appear in her tablature book *Glories Immortal: A Collection of Hymns from America's Past* and in a book of Shaker music (co-authored with Bill Collins), *The Humble Heart*. Her other musical love is Early Music, featured in her tablature book, *Heart's Ease*. Nina is featured on *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer Play Music for Christmas* (CD) and has also recorded a CD of solos and duets with Bill Collins (*The Sum of the Parts*), as well as a solo CD, *Beside Still Waters*. Her newest CD, *Winter's Light and companion book Winter Variations* celebrate the quiet joys and consolations of the winter season. [www.NinaZanetti.com](http://www.NinaZanetti.com)