

# Workshop Topics & Descriptions – MDMF 2019

## NEW PLAYER

- 1. Welcome to the Wonderful World of Dulcimer** *Nina Zanetti* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
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. DAA or DAD New Player
- 2. Dulcimer 101 - Let's Begin!** *George Haggerty* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
While being introduced to your dulcimer, learn the basics of how to hold it, hold the pick, understand dulcimer tab and begin playing. DAA New Player
- 3. Dulcimer 102 – The Next Step!** *CarolLynn Langley* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00  
First-time players will expand their repertoire with a few new tunes, while becoming familiar with simple strumming techniques and perhaps a few basic chords. DAA New Player
- 4. Dulcimer 103 – Moving Right Along!** *Lori Keddell* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30  
Learn how to switch from DAA to DAD and back to DAA, and play some DAD tunes with a few easy chords. This workshop will discuss why & when you might use these alternate “D” tunings. Come tuned to DAA New Player

## NEW PLAYER / BEGINNER

- 5. Chording, Strumming and Singing** *Elwood Donnelly* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
Participants will learn basic chords for the D-A-dd Mixolydian tuning and how to strum accompanying rhythms while singing and playing at the same time! Elwood will choose from some of his favorite traditional ballads. DAD New Player / Beginner
- 6. It's A-Maze-ing** *CarolLynn Langley* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
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 New Player / Beg

## BEGINNER / ADVANCED BEGINNER

- 7. Chord Boot Camp** *Sam Edelston* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
We'll drill these fingerings into you until you develop a genuine esprit de chord. DAD Beginner
- 8. Get Right With Rhythm** *Butch Ross* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
The secret to great playing is great rhythm. Period. Learn how to get a solid rhythms and consistent tempos in fun and interesting ways. DAD Beginner
- 9. Mountain Songs on the Mountain Dulcimer** *CarolLynn Langley* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
What could be more appropriate to play on these hauntingly beautiful instruments than the songs they were made to play? Learn songs and tunes that come straight from the heart of the Appalachians. DAD Beginner – Advanced Beginner
- 10. Let's Play Some Tunes!** *Nina Zanetti* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
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. DAD Beginner

## BEGINNER / NOVICE

**11. Play Without Tab?!?! Norm Williams** Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
Learn how to break down a tune/song in its component parts in order to play it without the aid of tab or sheet music. We'll take some common "jam" tunes and learn to play them by ear and then, well... we'll jam!  
Come tuned in DAD. Beginner - Novice

**12. Right Hand Techniques for Smoother Playing Brian Geldziler** Sat. 1:15 – 2:30  
We'll cover in-strumming vs. out-strumming, choosing and holding a pick properly, picking vs. strumming, changing the timbre by changing picking placement, the importance of metronome practice, right hand palm muting/dampening and more. DAD Beginner to Novice.

**13. Music Reading for Dulcimer Melanie Johnston** Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
While you do not need to know how to read music in the classical sense to play the dulcimer, if you want to be able to learn new tunes and interesting arrangements from tablature, you do need to understand a few basics beyond what fret to use. Come learn about note values, roadmaps, time signatures and how and why to "read" a piece of dulcimer tablature before attempting to play it. DAD Beginner to Novice

**14. Songs and Tunes in DAD – A Dulcimer Sampler Lori Keddell** Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
Expand your repertoire with several new tunes that are fun and easy to play. Each tune will have a basic melody-only version, and a version with chords for players beyond beginner level. DAD Beginner/Novice

**51. Beatles for Beginners Butch Ross** Sat. 1:15 – 2:30  
The Beatles made songs that were both quirky and complex ...but not always. Come learn a couple of fun tunes from the Fab Four while learning solid fundamental techniques at the same time. DAD Beginner-Novice

## ADVANCED BEGINNER and UP

**15. It's all Cabbage, Really Butch Ross** Sat. 10:45 – 12:00  
The first song most people learn (and get sick of) is actually a Rosetta Stone of information. Learn how much harmonic information is contained in this simple song and how you can use it to learn new songs quickly.  
DAD Advanced Beginner and up

**16. Dulci-robics Ellen Pratt** Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
Proper playing posture and stretches will be combined with exercises on the fretboard to smooth out your playing. Come tuned in DAD Advanced Beginner and up

## NOVICE

**17. Common Jam Tunes for Novice Players Carolyn Brodgerski** Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
Learn some jam tunes to play with a group of people. Carolyn will give you tab and chords so you can play with others. Great prep for the Friday night jam! Come tuned to DAD. Novice

**18. Songs for Children Ellen Pratt** Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
Learn some simple songs to play and sing with children using chords. Waltzing with Bears, This Land is Your Land, Rattlin' Bog, Froggy Went a Courtin' are some of the songs we will work on. DAD Novice

**19. Songs of the Carter Family in D-A-D Elwood Donnelly** Sat. 10:45 – 12:00  
Discover the wonders of this early pioneering American country music group whose songs have bewitched music fans and players for decades. Using songs from Elwood's songbook, *Such Singing You Will Hear*, participants will use the noting stick, chords and finger-picking styles to build a repertoire of these glorious songs DAD Novice

## NOVICE and Up

**20. Beatles on Dulcimer Butch Ross** Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
If you haven't heard of the Beatles, you should really check 'em out. They're a great young band with a lot of potential! DAD (capo required) Novice and up

**21. Discover DGD** *Kristin Gitler* Sat 1:15 – 2:30

Get out of the "D" rut, and see how you can use DGD tuning to play in different keys. We'll go over some scales and chords for several different keys in this tuning, and learn some new tunes. Come tuned to DAD. Novice – Intermediate

**22. Left Hand Exercises** *Aaron O'Rourke* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

We'll review effective technique for executing hammer-ons and pull-offs in addition to some practice ideas for developing a relaxed left hand. DAD Novice and up

**23. Duets and Canons and Rounds, Oh My!** *Carol Walker* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00

In this workshop we'll actually create a Dulcimer Orchestra in which you'll learn surprising new ways to play those old familiar rounds, along with other arrangements of your favorite tunes. Ensemble playing increases confidence and allows all players to contribute something to the total sound, regardless of level of experience. And it's just plain fun!! DAD Novice & up

**24. Hymns for Mountain Dulcimer** *Carol Walker* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15

We'll start out by looking at several familiar hymns already arranged and tabbed out for performance, suitable for church services or personal enjoyment. Historical background of the hymns is also included. As time allows, you'll learn an easy way to arrange your own favorites using a method that does not require any knowledge of music theory! DAD Novice - Intermediate

**25. Enjoy DAA and traditional 3 string playing** *Jeremy Seeger* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

The beauty of this tuning is its simplicity. We'll explore where tunes start, a few tunes and the use of other tunings. I'll talk about accompaniment and use of chording as well. This is traditional playing with some minor embellishments. DAA Novice and Intermediate

**26. Playing Songs & Tunes With Syncopation** *Rich Carty* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

Put pizzazz in your playing with syncopation rhythms. DAD/DGD Novice-Intermediate

## NOVICE PLUS and Up

**27. Dulcimer Ensemble** *Mack Johnston* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

Come play music arranged in 3 or 4 parts. All dulcimer family instruments welcome (standard, bass, baritone, dulcimette). DAD bring a capo Novice Plus and above

## INTERMEDIATE

**28. Building Up Speed** *Kristin Gitler* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00

Are you having trouble keeping up when playing with others in a jam or group setting? We'll learn some techniques to build up speed in your playing without compromising the rhythm or sacrificing the melody. DAD Intermediate

**29. Renaissance and Baroque Music for Dulcimer** *Brian Geldziler* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

Early music often sounds great on fretted dulcimers. Here we'll learn a few beautiful 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century tunes that fit well on the instrument. DAD (but we may change tuning depending on the tunes). Intermediate

**30. Appalachian Fiddle Tunes for the Mountain Dulcimer** *Norm Williams* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

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. Capo required. DAD & DGD, use of capo Intermediate

**31. Some Sweet Celtic Airs** *Nina Zanetti* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

Learn some gentle Celtic tunes that bring out the "softer side" of dulcimer. We will discuss ways of playing smoothly and expressively, we'll consider the use of ornamentation, and we'll explore how to use variations to enhance our playing and arranging of these lovely tunes. DAD Intermediate

**32. Ancient Scottish Music** *Aaron O'Rourke* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

While there will definitely be a bagpipe tune or two in this class, we'll also take a look at lute music that came from Scotland in the early 1600s and just happens to work great on the mountain dulcimer. DAD Intermediate

## INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED

- 33. Songs of Jean Ritchie and the Ritchie Family** *Aubrey Atwater* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
This is a good repertoire workshop where Aubrey will teach a variety of songs she has learned over the years through her contact with Jean Ritchie and other Ritchie family members. Workshop focuses on the traditional style of playing with the noter and playing in different tunings. For the advanced player, other subjects can be incorporated in addition to noter technique and modes and tunings, including using the dulcimer as a harmony voice, arrangement, and crooked rhythm. Various tunings, start in DAD Intermediate - Advanced
- 34. Jam Skills for Experienced Players** *Melanie Johnston* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
As an accomplished player in a novice or intermediate jam what can you do to keep yourself engaged, hone some skills and add other “colors” to the music? In a mixed instrument jam when the group plays in G or A and your music is in D what can you do? DAD Intermediate Plus and above
- 35. Christmas Variations: Plain and Fancy** *Nina Zanetti* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
Challenging, but rewarding arrangements of Christmas tunes, for the experienced player. Each arrangement will include a simple (intermediate) version, along with at least one technically challenging variation, to aid in creating performance possibilities. DAD Intermediate/Adv
- 36. Rock & Roll Dulcimer** *Sam Edelston* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00  
The dulcimer isn't just for folk songs and fiddle tunes. It's a natural rock & roll instrument, too! Power chords, classic rock riffs, and other things that sound like they came off a record. Impress your friends! Astonish your kids (or grandkids)! DAD Intermediate-Advanced
- 37. Rapid-Fire Notes** *Aaron O'Rourke* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30  
There's more to playing fast bursts of notes than just moving your hands quickly. This class will send you home with three different techniques to play fast triplet runs for a little variety in your arrangements. DAD Adv.
- 38. Making a Song Your Own** *Carol Walker* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
We'll start from scratch and build the basic tune, gradually adding layers of primary and secondary chords and other harmonic structures; next, we'll try different right-hand strums and pickings, we'll move the melody to other strings or higher frets, and add countermelodies and fillers; and finally, we'll polish it up with turnarounds and codas, and perhaps a key change midway, resulting in a bona fide professional arrangement suitable for performance and publication. DAD Intermediate/Advanced
- 39. Songs of the Sea** *Aubrey Atwater* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
Aubrey, an Ocean State native, will present traditional seafaring songs each in its own way beautiful, playful, tragic, or joyous. You will need a capo for one of the songs. Various tunings, start in DAD Int - Advanced
- 40. French Canadian Fiddle** *Kristin Gitler* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
French Canadian fiddle tunes have a rich musical heritage growing from their roots in northern France and later influences by the Irish & Scottish immigration to Canada. We'll learn a few examples of the driving, distinctly accented tunes from the region. DAD Intermediate - Advanced

## GENERAL

- 41. Strings and Things for the Dulcimer** *George Haggerty* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
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
- 42. Consider This When Buying A Dulcimer** *Mary Evans* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
Learn from a player's viewpoint and observations the important features that should be inspected and considered when purchasing a dulcimer. A checklist will be handed out, and several instruments will be on hand for inspection. Beginner/Novice (More experienced players are welcome to attend)
- 43. Percussion for Fun and Enhancement** *Elwood Donnelly* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
Using bones, limberjacks, spoons, bodhran and feet, Elwood will lead this popular workshop where rhythms rule. Participants will learn to incorporate percussion into their solo or band performances. Some instruments supplied, but feel free to bring your own. General

**44. Appalachian and Celtic Ballads** *Aubrey Atwater* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00  
Aubrey will present ballads collected in Ireland and Appalachia. She will discuss her sources and personal impressions of these beautiful song-stories that often deal with murder, betrayal, the challenges of true love, or the occasional happy ending! Participants are invited to share ballads they know. All Levels

**45. History of the Mountain Dulcimer** *Bernd Krause* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
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. Also on hand original J. Edward Thomas, Jethro Amburgy and Homer Ledford dulcimers. Graphics include maps and photos of historic museum instruments. All levels, plus non-players.

**46. Appalachian Crankies** *Ellen Pratt* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
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 also have copies of several ballads with me). Everything you will need to create a miniature crankie will be provided. No dulcimer required for this class! All levels

**47. Music & Healing** *Carolyn Brodgerski* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
Understand the power of music and how to use it for different situations in a person’s health. This will be a discussion class, feel free to bring and ask questions. All Levels – Everyone

## JAMS

**48. Turtle Jam** *Gene Langley* Sat. 9:30 PM (after the concert)  
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 unthreatening, so that everyone will be able to enjoy it. Come tuned to D. All

**49. Open Jam (Experienced Jammers)** *Norm Williams* Sat. 9:30 PM (after concert)  
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. Novice Plus and Up

**50. Folk Revival Jam** *Sam Edelston* Sun. 9:00 – 10:00  
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!’ Come tuned to D. All