

Workshop Leaders – MDMF 2012

Kristin Gitler has been playing the mountain dulcimer for over 10 years. She performs with an acoustic duo as well as with an Irish session group. She enjoys playing fiddle tunes from all traditions, especially French Canadian and Shetland.

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. 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-first year. www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com

Lori Keddell has been playing the dulcimer for more than 26 years, 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 Gathering in Binghamton, NY since 1987, and has been an instructor at numerous festivals in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. With George Haggerty, she has taught a week long Dulcimer Elderhostel class in Vermont for the past 9 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.

Sandy Lafleur of Amherst, NH has been playing Appalachian dulcimer since 1994. She teaches privately at her home and at festivals throughout NE. Her involvement in fife & drum corps, contra dance and Scottish & English Country Dance, Sacred Harp singing and playing with the Strathspey & Reel Society of NH Scottish orchestra has provided her with a boundless supply of tunes and musical styles. Sandy's newest book (summer of 2010) *Heart's Content* contains an eclectic mix of 40 tunes arranged for dulcimer and includes a CD with TabEdit software and all the tunes in .tef format for Windows or Macintosh.

CarolLynn & Gene Langley have been performing on mountain dulcimer and autoharp for about twelve years and also enjoy teaching both children and adults at festivals, schools, community events, and camps from VT to NC. The Langleys are officers in the Dulcimer Association of Albany, and coordinators of the Cranberry Dulcimer & Autoharp Gathering. Look for their CD, *Speak a Little Louder, Please*. The title becomes more appropriate as the years go by! CarolLynn has recently released her instructional book on creating mountain dulcimer accompaniment arrangements, *Singing In Harmony, My Dulcimer & Me*. www.quietcreekmusic.com

Beth Lassi has led workshops at festivals throughout the northeast and has performed in a variety of settings. She has written two duet books with Nina Zanetti, *Tunes for Two or More - Volumes 1 and 2*, and she and Nina are featured on the CD, *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer Play Music For Christmas*. Beth is mountain dulcimer coordinator for the Cranberry Gathering held each year in July.

Bonnie Leigh, CMP - a Certified Music Practitioner and performer/teacher, actively performs and teaches her gentle style of playing with the 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 or doing house concerts. 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 books of poems and *From My Heart to Yours - Thoughts and experiences of a Music Practitioner Intern*, a booklet. www.bonnieleigh.com.

Stephen Miklos can't stop singing, strumming, and playing all types of instruments and all types of music. In addition to conducting workshops on playing the mountain dulcimer at festivals, he teaches classes on building dulcimers, ukuleles, guitars and scroll-saw woodworking in Norwalk, CT, where he also leads and performs sing-alongs at regional nursing homes. Stephen's Carrot Creek Music web site is a resource for music and

accessories. He is also a card-carrying member of the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival you-gotta-go committee. www.carrotcreek.com

Ellen Pratt has been playing dulcimer for eleven 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 recently started an after school dulcimer group with third and fourth graders at her school Thompson, CT.

Carol Walker's formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice. For 32 years Carol was a high school choral teacher with an active and successful program -- in 2003 she was honored to receive the Governor's Award for Teacher of the Year. She is now happily retired! She branched out from her formal classical training when she bought her first mountain dulcimer in 1999, followed by a Celtic harp the next year. This newly found avenue led her to connect with Wayfarers & Company, an eclectic old-time folk group based in Stroudsburg, PA. Carol has been an active member of this group since 2002, adding vocal harmonies, and playing dulcimer, upright bass, piano, harp, and melodica. The Wayfarers have produced two CD's. (www.wayfarersandco.net)

Carol has traveled twice to the Isle of Man (a small island in the Irish Sea) where she has done extensive research into traditional Manx music, producing a book of arrangements for mountain dulcimer (*Tailless Tunes*) and a CD (*Alas! The Horse Is Gone*), both exclusively devoted to this delightful Celtic-flavored music. Both items are for sale on her website. (www.musicladycarol.com) Never losing touch with her classical background, Carol remains active with school and community choruses and theaters. In 2007 she was appointed as the regular accompanist for Masterwork Chorus, a large choral group based in Morristown, NJ. This group prepares several major works each year with performances at Drew University and Carnegie Hall. www.masterwork.org Carol is married to world-class acoustic guitarist, Toby Walker, and enjoys touring with him as his upright bass player. www.musicladycarol.com

Pam Weeks is an outstanding fiddler, Appalachian dulcimer player, singer, and tunesmith. Pam is fiddler and singer in the Maine-based Cajun dance band, Jimmyjo & the Jumbol'Ayuh, sings and plays several instruments in the folk trio, T-Acadie, is fiddler for the Maine contradance band, Scrod Pudding, and performs solo or with guitar player and caller Bill Olson. (Look under "Links" for more info about the bands.) She is an accomplished tunesmith and has composed scores of tunes, from lively jigs and reels, to entrancing airs and beautiful waltzes. Many of these tunes have been picked up by other musicians and are played throughout the U.S. and abroad. Pam teaches mountain dulcimer, fiddle, viola, cello, guitar, sax, flute, piano, celtic harp, and voice in her studio at her home in Bowdoin, ME, which she shares with a Border Collie named "Sadie", a cat, and several chickens (out by the garden!). She also teaches in Turner, ME, at the Nezinscot Farm Store, a wonderful organic farm store and restaurant. <http://www.pamweeks.com>

Norm Williams is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club, co-coordinator of their Winter DulcimerFest held every January in Stroudsburg, PA and co-founder of the Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival. Norm began teaching out of necessity in 2002 and has been faculty at festivals throughout the Northeast (including the Pocono Winter DulcimerFest; DAA Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, August Dulcimer Days, Music by the Bay, the Cranberry Dulcimer and Autoharp Gathering, Maiden Creek Old Time Festival & at Augusta Heritage Center, WV). In addition to dulcimer he plays guitar, and banjo. Norm is a lover of Old Time music and plays with the band Wayfarers & Company and on occasion sits it with his friends The Druckenmillers. Norm lives with his wife, Erin, in Breinigsville, PA. www.wayfarersandco.net or <http://www.poconodulcimerclub.org/>

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 numerous dulcimer festivals throughout the country. Nina is especially fond of the "softer side of dulcimer" and has produced two books of gentle, finger-style solo arrangements for mountain dulcimer (*The Softer Side of Dulcime*" and *Celtic Variations*). She has also produced two books of duets with Beth Lassi and appears with Beth in the compilation album *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer play Music for Christmas*, produced by Susan Trump. Nina has also produced a CD of solos and duets, *The Sum of the Parts*, with Bill Collins; and in June, 2011, she released her first solo CD, *Beside Still Waters*. www.ninazanetti.com