

## Workshop Descriptions – MDMF 2014

In the hope of avoiding 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 those classes they plan to attend. Please give careful attention to the workshop descriptions when considering which ones to sign up for to keep changes at the festival to a minimum. We anticipate, and welcome, walk-ins, but if it's at all possible for you to pre-register and sign up for workshops ahead of time, it would be greatly appreciated.

### 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.

**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.

**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. Dulcimer Basics** *Ellen Pratt*

This class is geared towards **complete beginners**. We will cover the basics such as how to hold the dulcimer, how to fret it to change the pitch, how to play a basic strum. We'll learn a few beginner songs. DAD  
Fri. 3:00

#### **13. String Side Up! Let's Get Started!** *Sandy Lafleur*

We'll cover what every beginner needs to know to make music and have fun with the dulcimer. We'll cover tuning, right and left hand "jobs" and a simple way to get that tune inside of you before you try to play it on your dulcimer. We'll play some simple tunes (one in Harmony! - yes, you can!) and have some FUN!  
DAD Beginner Sat. 9:30

#### **19. Beginners II - The Next Step - STRUMMING!** *Bonnie Leigh*

Take the next step with strumming, we will work on 3 different strumming patterns with 3 different songs. Improve your basic skills while playing together as a group. DAD Beginner Sat. 11:00

#### **25. Beginner III - All About Chords** *Carol Walker*

During this session we'll continue to reinforce material taught in the earlier beginner sessions, plus you'll learn all about how to play chords (including various positions for the basic chords, power chords, and L-shaped chords,) along with techniques for making smooth transitions among them, AND you'll learn how to use these chords to play by ear. We'll also play through the tab of several familiar tunes, adding these to your repertoire in the process! DAD Beginner Sat. 1:15

### **38. I'm Beginning to Play!** *Bonnie Leigh*

Let's take some familiar tunes and just play. This is the chance to take what you've learned so far and have fun with it. DAD Advanced Beg/Nov Sunday 10:15

### **43 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 and Up**

### **2. Moving Between DAD & DAA** (ending the "controversy") *Norm Williams*

This workshop will discuss why & when you might use these alternate "D" tunings along with some very basic discussion of "modes": We'll learn to retune with and without a tuner. Using several simple tunes – E.g.; "Bile them Cabbage," "Aunt Rhody" & "Old Joe Clark" – we'll demonstrate the advantages of each tuning. (All tunes subject to change at leader's discretion) Come tuned in DAD. Beginner/Novice Fri. 3:00

### **6. Galax Dulcimer** *Phyllis Gaskins*

What is a Galax dulcimer and how is its style of playing and tuning different? Come explore the tuning and noter style with tunes like Liza Jane, Walking in the Parlor, Old Molly Hare, and Peek-a-Boo Waltz. Preview of Phyllis's new book: "The Galax Dulcimer". Eight Galax dulcimers will be available for student use. Other style dulcimers need to be tuned DAD. Beginner and up Fri. 4:15

### **20. Singing and Strumming (aka Sing, Strum, and Play)** *Stephen Miklos*

We'll learn three or four related tunes (Topic TBD) that you can play (and sing, if you want) by either strumming the chords, playing the TAB, or just beat rhythm on the back of your dulcimer! Relaxing way to wrap up and use whatever skills you have developed, from "string side up" (we might turn that over!) to Intermediate TAB sight-reading. DAD Beg/Nov Sat. 11:00

### **26. Noter Style Workshop** *Phyllis Gaskins*

Learn to play the tunes. All tunes will be in the key of D: Liza Jane, Walkin' in the Parlour (1<sup>st</sup> version I learned) Hand Me Down My Walkin' Cane All Ds, or DAD Beg and Novice Sat. 1:15

### **31. Round and Round With Rounds** *Lori Keddell*

Looking for tunes to play with a friend? Rounds are great fun, and an easy way to create harmonies. We'll try some familiar rounds, and learn a few new ones to add to your repertoire. DAD Beginner & up Sat. 2:45

## **ADVANCED BEGINNER and Up**

### **7. Play a Famous Breton Song** *Cristian Huet*

Cristian will teach "Tri Martelod, a very well-known Celtic song which is very easy to learn as it can be played all on one string. He will show how to use the left thumb as a noter and play the song first on the top string, then on the bottom string (one octave lower). He will also teach finger substitution. DAD Advanced Beginner/Novice Fri. 4:15

### **14. Enhanced DNA\*** *Carol Walker*

(\*songs so familiar they're practically etched on your DNA)

Using familiar tunes that everyone knows, you'll be guided sequentially through an overview of dulcimer skills that will help you become a more confident player. You'll learn about hammer-ons, pull-offs, anchoring and sliding, and using a capo, all while adding many new tunes to your repertoire. DAD Advanced Beginner / Novice Sat. 9:30

### **32. One tune, many styles** *Nina Zanetti*

We'll take some simple, familiar tunes and learn to play each one in a variety of different ways, including single notes, various strumming patterns, with simple chords ("chord-melody style"), and maybe even some fingerpicking. You'll be amazed at how many ways there are to play a tune, even with basic technique! This workshop will also give the beginner a glimpse into the wide range of playing styles that are possible on the mountain dulcimer. DAD Adv. Beg Sat. 2:45

### **39. Intro to DGD tuning** *Pam Weeks*

An introduction to this easy way to play in the key of G (and related keys). DGD is more related to DAA than you might think! We'll learn a couple simple tunes with an easy way to add instant harmony. DGD Advanced beginner and up Sun. 10:15

## **NOVICE**

### **3. 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 Novice Fri. 3:00

### **21. Decoding Rhythm** *Sandy Lafleur*

What is a time signature and what does it mean? Learn what beats are emphasized and what the time value is of different kinds of notes. DAD or DAA Novice Sat. 11:00

### **27. Chord Boot Camp** *Sam Edelston*

We'll drill these fingerings into you until you develop a genuine esprit de chord. DAD Beg or Nov Sat. 1:15

### **40. Playing By Ear** *Ellen Pratt*

Who needs TAB? Not you! In this workshop, students will learn how to listen and play the traditional way. We will focus on learning easy jam tunes, section by section until we can play the whole song. Bring an audio recorder if you have one - this class does not have handouts! Come tuned to DAD. Novice Sun. 10:15

### **44. EAA Tunes** *George Haggerty*

Come try this haunting tuning. Learn how to tune into EAA from DAD and DAA, etc. Learn why this is called reverse mixolydian and learn some simple tunes. EAA Novice Sun. 11:30

## **NOVICE and Up**

### **4. Variations on a Star** *CarolLynn Langley*

This workshop explores how to take a simple, well known tune, Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, and make it more interesting by playing it several times in its most basic form, listening closely for possible variations, then playing them, and adding them to your tab. This is excellent practice for ear training and encourages the use of imagination which can foster the ability to enhance basic arrangements and the courage to try writing your own arrangements and original tunes. DAD Novice to Intermediate Fri. 3:00

### **16. Hearing Chord Changes and Playing Back-up** *Susan Trump*

This workshop will help you understand the role that chords play in the structure of music. We'll sing some simple songs and recognize patterns in how the chords change in each song or tune. We'll learn some tunes and practice playing chords and melodies. You can do this, and it's really fun! DAD Novice/Int Sat. 9:30

### **28. Dotted Rhythms** *Kristin Gitler*

Dotted notes in a tune can often be intimidating, and getting the rhythms right can be a challenge. We'll break it down and learn how to get the correct timing on those notes, and apply what we've learned to a few tunes. Come tuned to DAD. Novice+ and up Sat. 11:00

### **33. Using the Banjomer (New Kid on the Block!)** *Bonnie Leigh*

Learn fun tunes on the Banjomer, how to strum and get the best sound out of it. DAD Nov/Int Sat. 2:45

### **41. Robert Burns - the tunes he set his poetry to** *Sandy Lafleur*

Scotland's National Poet set many of his poems to Scottish folk tunes and in the process managed to insure the longevity of both. DAD Novice - Intermediate Sun. 10:15

### **45. The virtues of playing traditional style dulcimer** *Jeremy Seeger*

Come and explore the variety of options in the traditional strumming of the dulcimer. Learn to become comfortable in being content with strumming and only adding to it what you feel comfortable with. Resist the call to pick the melody off of all strings and play with 4 separated strings. Dare to be radical in loving what you can do on the dulcimer. Novice & up Sun. 11:30

### **15. Music Theory Seen Through the Mountain Dulcimer** *Stephen Miklos*

The traditional Mountain Dulcimer is a natural map to basic music theory, with its diatonic fretting and its ability to be both simple and complex, depending how it's used. We will cover the basics of scales, modes, and chords available on the traditional Mountain Dulcimer with and without a 6+ fret, how some different tunings allow different chords and scales, and how to figure out whether a chord is available, and how to finger it if it is. Dad Nov+ to Adv Sat. 9:30

## INTERMEDIATE

### **9. Intermediate Fingerpicking** *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 Intermediate, or any players with previous fingerpicking experience Fri. 4:15

### **22. Folk hymns from America's past** *Nina Zanetti*

Favorite hymns from early in American history often have simple harmonies and captivating tunes that sound great on mountain dulcimer. We'll learn hymns from a variety of historical traditions, including selections from the Sacred Harp (shape note) tradition, early American hymn writers, spirituals, and/or Shaker music. We'll also learn a bit about the musical traditions that the tunes come from, and we'll explore ways of playing the tunes that are expressive and that evoke the style of the tradition. DAD Intermediate Sat. 11:00

### **34. Play a Waltz Composed by Cristian Huet** *Cristian Huet*

Cristian will teach the song "Saint Chartier", and will train you right from the start to play without looking at the TAB. He will introduce a few of his own techniques. Depending on how fast the class picks it up, he may or may not teach the bridge. DAD Intermediate Sat. 2:45

### **42. Wayfaring Waltzes** *Norm Williams*

In this workshop we'll learn some of my favorite waltzes that my band, Wayfarer's & Company play including Maiden Creek Waltz, My Own House, and Shepherd's Wife's Waltz. Come tuned to DAD and bring a Capo (re-tuning to DGD may also occur) Intermediate Sun. 10:15

### **46. Unexpected Songs That Don't Need Extra Frets** *Sam Edelston*

There's the traditional dulcimer repertoire ... and then there's everything else – music that sounds great on the dulcimer, but generally doesn't get played. We'll focus on "everything else." (Note for people who have attended a similar workshop with Sam: This will be all new songs.) DAD Intermediate Sun. 11:30

## INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED

### **10. Improvisation and Arranging** *Carol Walker*

Most dulcimer players get "stuck" reading the same old tab and playing the same old thing over and over again. This workshop will get you off the tab and into the world of playing it "your way." Learn how to take a simple 8-measure tune and fancy it up into a viable performance piece. DAD Int / Adv Fri. 4:15

### **17. Old Time Tunes: A-Modal – noter style** *Phyllis Gaskins*

Learn to play the tunes & using a capo. Tunes will include: Cluck Ol' Hen, June Apple, Breakin' Up Christmas, Sheep Shell Corn by the Rattlin' of His Horn All Ds, or DAD, bring a capo Intermediate & up Sat. 9:30

### **29. Playing Melodies Across the Strings** *Susan Trump*

Sometimes it's easier and smoother to play melodies across the strings instead of up and down. It's not as hard as it sounds. Learn different ways to use this useful technique in an O'Carolan tune and more. DAD Int/Adv. Sat. 1:15

### **47. French Canadian Fiddle Tunes** *Kristin Gitler*

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. Come tuned to DAD. Intermediate/Advanced Sun. 11:30

## ADVANCED

### **18. Crooked Quebecois tunes** Pam Weeks

A "crooked tune" is a tune that deviates from the standard 8-measure sections. Sometimes there's is an extra measure, sometimes just an extra beat. They are a fun challenge to play! DAD Advanced Sat. 9:30

### **23. Creating your own music** Cristian Huet

There will be no prepared tune (i.e. no TAB) for this workshop - instead a new piece will be created together during the class. Cristian will be teaching his philosophy on how to create your own music as well as all his own specific techniques related to the way he plays. DAD Advanced Sat. 11:00

### **35. Advanced Techniques** Sam Edelston

We'll do some interesting damping, right-hand fretting, bluegrass, and see what else time permits. DAD Advanced Sat. 2:45

## GENERAL

### **5. Songs of Appalachia** Susan Trump

The people who developed this instrument used it to play and accompany the rich style of music they brought with them from their Scottish homeland, which was handed down for generations. We'll hear versions of the songs from the British Isles, and learn the American versions, comparing and discovering the changes that took place. DAD All Levels Fri. 3:00

### **8. Sweet Jam** Gene Langley

Jamming can be sweet and profitable. No, you're not likely to receive cash for it, but you'll profit greatly from the experience. Even beginners can participate once they've acquired a few basic skills. Come learn what a jam is all about and how you can enjoy this sweet experience. Be ready to suggest a favorite tune, if you like. For anyone who wants to learn how to jam. DAD Fri. 4:15

### **11. Turtle Jam (Slow Jam)** Norm Williams

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

### **12. Fast Jam** Pam Weeks

What better way end the first day of the festival than by playing songs and tunes together! Bring your favorites to share, and expect everything to be played at a "normal" tempo for the music. All instruments welcome! Fri. 10:00 PM

### **24. Brief History of the Mountain dulcimer** Bernd Krause

Where did the dulcimer originate? Was it brought over from Europe? How old of an instrument is it? I will be presenting what information is available to these questions and more with samples of old and new instruments including a historic Thomas dulcimer, photos, etc. General Sat. 11:00

### **30. How to Get the Very Best From Your Dulcimer** Dwain Wilder

Over time, any musical instrument can acquire problems, just like we do. Bring your dulcimer to this class and we'll go over what could be done to help get it back to top playing order. We'll look at fret wear, string problems, intonation, and search for other conditions that might be holding your instrument back from delivering its best. Who knows, you might never have heard its best! All Sat. 1:15

### **36. 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 Sat. 2:45

### **37. Rock & Roll Jam** Sam Edelston

After a long day of mostly jigs, reels, and waltzes, let's have fun with a different kind of dance music! All instruments are welcome. We're gonna have some fun tonight! Sat. 10:00 PM