

Workshop Leaders – MDMF 2017

Stephanie Barrett is a senior librarian at the New York State Library. Intrigued by a sign for the "mountain dulcimer music fest" she attended her first dulcimer festival sixteen years ago. Always interested in dulcimer history, she has found the arrival of the Jean Ritchie collection at the library to provide new avenues of research.

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 plays rock, pop, blues, country, classical, a bit of jazz, assorted other styles, and even some original songs on acoustic and electric dulcimer. Oh, yes, and folk music, too. He aims not just to expand the horizons of dulcimer players, but to expand the common repertoire of the instrument and to bring dulcimers to the attention of the general public. Sam draws his musical inspiration from rock bands, symphony orchestras, modern a cappella, and anything else that crosses his path. His online videos have gotten 400,000 views, in over 190 countries. Sam is chair of the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, held every October in Milford, CT. He has performed or taught at various dulcimer festivals, folk festivals, other venues in the Northeast, and even festivals as far away as Kentucky and Minnesota. www.SamTheMusicMan.com

Kristin Gitler has been playing the mountain dulcimer for nearly 20 years, and performs as a duo with her partner and guitar player, David Goldman. She leads the CNY Mountain Dulcimer League, a bimonthly workshop in Syracuse, NY, and earned a certificate from Western Carolina University for Teaching Mountain Dulcimer in 2015. 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. 2017 is his seventh 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-sixth year. www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com

Marsha Harris, from Morehead City, NC, is a multi-instrumentalist playing the Appalachian mountain dulcimer, bowed dulcimer, Galax dulcimer, fiddle and Native American style flute. Her album, *A Nice Combination*, sets the tone for her music. It's an easy listening, not too rushed album, which reflects her varied interests in different genres of music. Marsha enjoys teaching and performing and travels extensively in NC, GA, VA, WV, OH, IA, VT, LA, AL, KY, AZ, TX and FL. Marsha has received numerous awards and in October 2014, she received the Annette Pulley award from the North Carolina Folk Festival. This award is given to an individual or group for outstanding talent, sportsmanship, audience appeal and continuing support of the Folk Festival. Marsha is the director of the Crooked Road Dulcimer Festival, crookedroaddulcimerfestival.org, in Ferrum, VA, which is sponsored by the Blue Ridge Institute and Museum. www.marshaharrismusic.com

Melanie Johnston has been playing Mountain Dulcimer since 2001 and loves playing music from a variety of music styles and time periods. She is the co-founder of the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra and The Connecticut Mountain Dulcimer Gathering. Melanie has been doing her best to increase the Connecticut dulcimer player rate and in 2016 she earned her mountain dulcimer teaching certificate from Western Carolina University. Melanie uses Tabledit to create arrangements for her students and the orchestra and enjoys teaching others to use this dulcimer-friendly tool. In addition to teaching Melanie and her husband, Mack perform in the Connecticut area as a duo with dulcimer, guitar and mandolin family instruments.

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 has been on the staff of the Cranberry Dulcimer and Autoharp Gathering since 1987, 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 *Dulcimanias 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 38 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/

Sandy Lafleur lives in southern NH and has been playing the dulcimer for over 20 years. Known for her fun and relaxed teaching style, she delights in playing an eclectic mix of tunes from all over. When she is not teaching at festivals or out of her home she can be found playing, calling or dancing at local contra dances. Sandy likes to support live music and local agriculture by playing at Farmer's Markets wearing her shirt "Will Play Dulcimer for Food". She is the main instigator in the formation of the "National Hornpipe Preservation Society". www.wanderingdulcimer.com

CarolLynn Langley has been teaching mountain dulcimer since 1998 at festivals, schools and camps, and privately. She and her husband, Gene, have been performing together for the same number of years and especially enjoy bringing the sweet sound of caring to both adults and children in a variety of facilities. CarolLynn has written *Singing in Harmony, My Dulcimer & Me*, an instructional book on 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 for over twelve years, and has taught jamming in adult education classes, and to children in schools and camps. He and his wife, CarolLynn, have been performing together for eighteen years and have produced a CD titled *Speak a Little Louder, Please*.

Bonnie Leigh, CMP - a Certified Music Practitioner, performer/teacher and singer/songwriter, actively performs and teaches her gentle style of playing with the mountain 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, coffeehouses and nursing homes. 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 poem books and *"From My Heart to Yours - Thoughts and experiences of a Music Practitioner Intern"* a booklet. You can find more information at www.bonnieleigh.com or contact Bonnie at bonnie@bonnieleigh.com

Margie Litwin, OT/L and Maggie Brown COTA/L. We have worked in the field of Occupational Therapy for many years treating individuals with a variety of physical disabilities. Having each played the mountain dulcimer for the past few years and interacted with other dulcimer musicians, we analyze the overall body posture and specific hand, wrist, arm and shoulder strength and repetitive motion issues we encounter.

Ellen Pratt has been playing dulcimer for sixteen 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 plays with the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra in Connecticut. She co-coordinates Vermont's August Dulcimer Daze festival with George Haggerty.

Jeremy Seeger has been building and playing mountain dulcimer for 48 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

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 NJ Governor's Teacher of the Year Award. She is now happily retired! She branched out from her formal classical training after purchasing her first mountain dulcimer in 1999. It wasn't long before she found a way to combine her love of teaching with her new direction in folk music, and has been a popular workshop leader at festivals from Vermont to Oregon. Carol has made two trips to the Isle of Man where she has done extensive research into traditional Manx music, producing two books of arrangements for mountain dulcimer (*Tailless Tunes* and *Tailless Tunes 2*) and a CD (*Alas! The Horse is Gone*), all exclusively devoted to this delightful Celtic-flavored music. Carol has also written a trilogy of dulcimer instruction books designed to take dulcimer players from Basic Beginner to Adventurously Advanced. (*DNA* Dulcimer Ditties*, each with accompanying CDs.) Carol recently released her first instructional DVD, produced by Happy Traum of Homespun Tapes -- she is in good company with other Homespun dulcimer instructors, including David Schnauffer, Jean Ritchie, and Lorraine Hammond. Carol also plays upright bass and travels with her husband, guitarist Toby Walker, during his US, UK, Europe, and Canadian tours. www.MusicLadyCarol.com

Dwain Wilder makes his livelihood building Appalachian dulcimers, and his *Bear Meadow* mark is held in high regard, both here and abroad. Dwain also relishes teaching. He holds studio classes and conducts apprenticeships in his Bear Meadow Studio, and maintains the BearMeadow.com website, whose sections on building technique are used as a reference by many of his colleagues. A published poet, Dwain has published a collection, *Under the Only Moon*, co-editor of *Liberty's Vigil, the Occupy Anthology; 99 Poets for the 99%* and editor of *Vigil for the Marcellus Shale*. He is also a trained voice-over artist and actor recently starring in Jon Robbin Baitz's "The Paris Letter," to critical and audience acclaim. Dwain, a native of a small town outside Dallas, moved to Rochester, NY in 1970, and now lives with his wife, along with a large rowdy maccaw and a dog, in a quaint untidy 19th century farmhouse surrounded by quaint and untidy -- but beautiful -- parklands. www.BearMeadow.com

Norm Williams is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club, a 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 Gathering, Maiden Creek Old Time Festival, MadCap Music Camps & 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, The Druckenmillers (an Old Time family band), and most recently in a duo with Cliff Cole. Norm is currently retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Breinigsville, PA. <http://www.wayfarersandco.net/> or 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 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 four books of solo arrangements for mountain dulcimer and has co-authored four books of duet arrangements (the *Tunes for Two or More* series, including the new *Tunes for Two or More Christmas Edition* 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 new book of Shaker music (co-authored with Bill Collins), *The Humble Heart*. Here other musical love is early music, featured in her latest 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, as well as a solo CD, *Beside Still Waters*. www.ninazanetti.com