

Workshop Descriptions – MDMF 2018

To avoid 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 a first choice and a second choice for each workshop session they plan to attend.

Please give careful attention to the workshop descriptions when considering which ones to sign up for. If you choose a workshop that is beyond your ability level, please understand that it is a workshop for more experienced players, and be willing to just listen and absorb.

It will not be possible to make changes on site once all the workshops are full. Those who register early enough can be confident they will get their first choices.

If any of the workshops you list as a first choice are full when your registration is received, you will most likely get your 2nd choice – unless you register very late. ☺

We anticipate, and welcome, walk-ins, but be advised that the selection of workshops will be limited for those who register late or just come without pre-registering.

NEW PLAYER / BEGINNER

1. The Basics of Music for Beginners... *Susan Trump* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00
(EASY Intro to music theory... how it all works) An introduction to the terms that you may have heard, but don't have a clue what they mean, nor why you should know them. This workshop is especially designed for students with no previous musical experience. DAD New Player/Beginner

2. Basic Chords for Beginners *Lori Keddell* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15
Most beginning dulcimer players start out with learning to play simple melodies, but guess what? You can have a lot of fun with just 3 basic (and very simple) chords in DAD tuning, and will soon find yourself strumming along with ease on many familiar folk songs. (Chord sheets will also be provided for those who want to "stretch themselves" and try more challenging chord patterns.) DAD/DAA New Player/ Beginner

3. Beginner I - Let's Begin! *Bonnie Leigh* 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/Beginner

4. Beginner II - Moving Ahead With Your Playing *Sandy Lafleur* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00
Building upon the basics, learn how to get the best tone out of your instrument and feel the rhythm and the beat of the music. Simple tunes to get you strumming and smiling! DAA New Player / Beg.

5. Beginner III – Moving Right Along! *Bonnie Leigh* 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/Beginner

6. Getting More Comfortable *Sam Edelston* Beginner Sat. 2:45 – 3:45
Become more fluent at strumming with your right hand, and moving around the fretboard with your left.

BEGINNER

7. Get Right With Rhythm *Butch Ross* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00
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

8. It's A-Maze-ing *CarolLynn Langley* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30
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

ADVANCED BEGINNER

- 11. Fingerpicking From the Start and Heart** *Sue Carpenter* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30
Discover a little bit of dulcimer heaven. Learn right hand technique and basic fingerpicking patterns through a step-by-step approach using simple exercises to get you started and some easy tunes to make your dulcimer sound oh-so-sweet. DAD Advanced Beginner
- 12. A Beginner's Repertoire** *Lucy Joan Sollogub* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00
There is nothing better than a simple tune that you don't want to stop playing even years after you have been playing the dulcimer. They are the ones that sound really good without too much brain or finger strain, and always make you smile!!! Come play Grey Cat on a Tennessee Farm, Snow Drop, Gumdrop, and Bonaparte's Retreat. DAD Advanced Beginner
- 13. International Folk Tunes** *Sue Carpenter* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15
Pack your bags and bring your passport! Your musical trip around the world will feature some familiar and not-so-familiar folk tunes from North and South America, Europe, the Mid-East, and Asia. DAD (bring a capo) Advanced Beginner

ADVANCED BEGINNER / NOVICE

- 14. Playing With A Capo on the MD** *Norm Williams* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30
What the capo is for; reasons you might use a capo; playing tunes with the capo and getting familiar with the fretboard while using the capo. Come tuned to DAD. Advanced Beginner-Novice
- 15. Intro to DGD Tuning** *Pam Weeks* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30
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

NOVICE

- 16. Exploring Different Playing Styles** *Kristin Gitler* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00
There are many styles of playing the dulcimer. We'll explore Drone /noter style, flat-picking, finger picking, and chord-melody style. We'll examine basic techniques in each style, why you might choose one over another for a particular tune, and play some simple tunes to demonstrate and practice. DAD Novice
- 17. Not-So-Well-Known Folk Songs** *CarolLynn Langley* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15
It's always good to learn a new old song while also learning, through the lyrics, something of those who have gone before us. Folk songs give us more than enjoyment - they are pieces of history as well. DAD Novice
- 18. Picking Apart a Difficult Tune** *Kristin Gitler* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30
You've found a tune that you'd like to learn, but are finding it a little more daunting than you had imagined. We'll learn how to pick apart a tune that seems too difficult, whether it's timing, notes, structure, or something else, and discuss strategies to bring it to a manageable level. We'll have materials to work from, but students are welcome to bring a piece that they are working on that we can discuss. DAD Novice
- 19. Barriers to Progress** *Sam Edelston* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00
Feeling limited? Here's how to do more with your dulcimer, and have more fun doing it! We'll dig into things that hold some people back, and we'll work with some specific examples. Novice
- 20. Understanding Chord Shapes - 3 finger chords** *Susan Trump* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45
Look at chords in a new way. Recognizing shapes and "partner" shapes will help you discover the best fingerings to use as you move from one chord to another and make learning new songs a snap! DAD Novice
- 21. Playing By Ear** *Ellen Pratt* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15
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

22. Great Tunes (almost) Nobody Plays *Butch Ross* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30
There are a lot of wonderful tunes out there that well known, come learn what are sure to be your new favorites.
Capo required. DAD Novice

NOVICE and Up

23. Playing in Minor Keys *Pam Weeks* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30
We'll explore different ways to find the "melancholy side" of the dulcimer. Bring a capo! Come tuned in DAD
Novice-Intermediate

24. Playing in the Key of E in DAA Tuning *Rich Carty* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15
How to play in the key of E in DAA tuning, with full triads. Players must be familiar with slides, hammer-ons,
and pull-offs. DAA, capo needed Novice-Intermediate

NOVICE PLUS and Up

25. Unusual Christmas Melodies *Sandy Lafleur* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15
These are not your "Jingle Bell" tunes but melodies you are likely to hear on a classical radio station and are
not necessarily associated with Advent and Christmas. Beautiful tunes to add to your repertoire! DAD
Nov Plus – Intermediate

26. Shape-Note Hymns for Mountain Dulcimer *Nina Zanetti* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45
The vigorous melodies and haunting harmonies of this distinctly American style of hymn singing translate well
to mountain dulcimer. DAD Novice Plus to Intermediate

27. Tunes/Songs with a Story Behind Them *Sandy Lafleur* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30
Music is a window into the past that reflects ideals and concerns of the day. Come learn some music with a
history! Novice Plus – Intermediate Plus

INTERMEDIATE

28. Travis Style Picking *Sue Carpenter* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00
Attributed to Merle Travis, this syncopated style is perfect for folk and ragtime music. By the time the class is
over you will be playing a Stephen Foster song Travis style, and have the ability to apply this style to other
songs. DAD Intermediate

29. Songs and Dance Tunes from the Jewish Tradition *Lucy Joan Sollogub* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30
Our Appalachian dulcimers sound authentically wonderful playing Jewish melodies from Israel, Pakistan, the
U.S. and Eastern Europe. We will play dance tunes, love songs, anthems, and rounds. DAD, DAC
Intermediate

30. Music of Maine *Pam Weeks* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00
A class exploring the wealth of traditional music from the "good old State of Maine"! DAD/DGD (Come
tuned in DAD) Intermediate

31. How to Play Well with Others *Bill Collins and Nina Zanetti* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30
Making music with one or more other players is a special joy. We'll play some duets in a variety of musical
styles and discuss some techniques that are helpful when playing with others. The goal is to create a blended,
balanced sound that is more than the sum of the parts! We'll cover the importance of communication, including
the use of nonverbal cues so that you start and end together and stay together in between. The arrangements will
include examples of different styles of ensemble music: lead and backup, separate but equal parts, and
counterpoint. DAD Intermediate

32. Songs of Unity *Susan Trump* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15
Singing brought us together in the 60's. Let's do it again now. We'll learn some new songs, and old ones.
We'll sing in different keys. CGC Tuning (Just like DAD but down one step.) Capo needed. Intermediate

33. Popular Music of Colonial America *Kristin Gitler* Sun. 11:30 – 12:3
The diverse background of the Colonial Americans as well as the tumultuous times in which they lived provides
us with a rich tapestry of music. We'll learn a few tunes from the military, religious, and popular social music
of the time. DAD Intermediate

INTERMEDIATE and Up

34. Creative Song/Tune Arranging *Lucy Joan Sollogub* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00
Make your songs, playing and performance extra special by interweaving contrasting tunes for instrumental breaks. We will play the Irish polka “Oh the Britches Full of Stitches” with Lucy’s song/tune “Oh the Pen in the Pocket” (fondly known as the “Wardrobe medley,”) and the folk song “The Cuckoo is a Pretty Bird” with a Welsh tune also called “The Cuckoo.” Techniques include changing meter, slides, pulls, hammers, chord/melody playing, and melodic harmony lines. Bring a capo, and your voice... DAD Int./Adv.

35. Dulcimer Player's Guide to Guitar Chords *Carol Walker* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00
How the heck do you play an E-flat major-7th chord or a B-flat 7th with a flat-5th and flat-9th chord on the dulcimer? You can't. But, in this "hands-on" session, working from lead sheets and chord charts in various keys, you'll learn how to *simplify* guitar chords, AND how to *transpose* them into dulcimer-friendly keys. No knowledge of music theory required! Promise!! (All music selected will be in the public domain.) DAD, capo required Intermediate & up

36. Thinking "Inside" the Box *Butch Ross* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30
Using cross-string picking and three finger "boxes" to tame tricky tunes without simplifying melodies or removing notes. Improve speed and dexterity without actually playing faster. DAD Intermediate & up

37. Classical Dulcimer for Wascally Wabbits *Carol Walker* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30
You'll be surprised by how many classical melodies you already know, thanks to Bugs Bunny cartoons, commercials, and TV and movie soundtracks. Featuring materials from Carol's newest book, you'll enjoy working on some solo and ensemble repertoire transcribed directly from the original symphonic scores. DAD (and other tunings), capo needed Intermediate – Advanced

38. Icelandic Folk Tunes for Dulcimer *Bill Collins* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45
The Icelandic langspil is a Scandinavian cousin of the dulcimer, so it's appropriate to play Icelandic folk tunes on dulcimer, despite the challenge of unfamiliar scales used in some of these unusual but beautiful melodies. DAD Capo required. Intermediate and up

ADVANCED

39. Three String Choir *Nina Zanetti* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15
The beauty of choral music often involves the complex interweaving of “inner harmony voices”. We'll use some advanced arrangements to explore how we can approach our three-stringed dulcimer as a choir of three independent voices, all contributing to the beauty and interest of the music. DAD Advanced

40. More O'Carolan *Susan Trump* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30
Not the usual tunes that you know. We'll learn some new ones that will challenge and delight you. DAD Advanced

41. Fingerpicking Harp Style *Sue Carpenter* Sat. 10:45 – 12:00
Take your fingerpicking skills to a whole new level with “Blind Mary” arranged for harp style with melody notes played across the strings and embedded in chord arpeggios. Focus will be on musicality, dynamics, and right hand fingering. DAD Advanced

GENERAL

42. Stretch and Strengthen *Maggie Brown & Margie Litwin* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00
Loosen your muscles before you tighten your strings, it may help you play some beautiful things. No matter what instrument you play or at what level, flexibility and improved range of motion will increase your comfort and enjoyment. Learn simple stretches for your neck, back, arms and hands and strengthening exercises for your hands. No instruments necessary, just bring yourself. All

43. Strings and Things for the Dulcimer *George Haggerty* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15
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

44. Noodling (And A Way To Remember It) *Norm Williams* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

Have you ever played something and thought, "I wish I could remember that!" Take a few minutes and let yourself go with your MD. If you hear something you like (and you will) learn how to write it down to remember and develop it into a theme. Knowledge of TAB not needed - we'll learn it. DAD ALL

45. How to Get the Best From Your Dulcimer *Dwain Wilder* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

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

46. How do you learn and what it means for your music making *Jeremy Seeger* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

We are all wired uniquely and when we work within those gifts we function at our best. The purpose of this workshop is to help you use your abilities and way of learning to serve you best in making music and beyond. All levels

47. Healing Music and the Dulcimer *Bonnie Leigh* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

Learn how music can provide a form of healing for sick and dying patients. See how different songs are used for different stages of illnesses and how it helps patients. Understand how different types of music can affect the patient. There will be questions and answer time All

48. Less Is More: Noter-Style Dulcimer *Bill Collins* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

Noter-style playing is sometimes regarded as "primitive," but it's both challenging and satisfying. As the traditional way of playing the instrument, it's something every dulcimer player should have some familiarity with. You'll learn the basics of two noting traditions. Bring noter if you have one; if not, one will be provided. DAA All

JAMS

9. Sweeten Your Jam *Carol Walker* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15

Yes, YOU, regardless of your level of experience, can contribute something to a jam session! We'll explore all kinds of ways that will give you the confidence to sit in on any jam session and come away feeling like you've made a contribution. We'll also include a dollop of "jam etiquette," for extra sweetness! DAD Beg and up

10. Slow Jam for Beginners *Ellen Pratt* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

Love jams but don't know the music? Come to this jam session and we will play the most popular jam tunes played at dulcimer festivals very slowly, several times, so you can get the song in your head. DAD Beginner to Novice

49. Slow and Easy 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 untimidating, so that everyone will be able to enjoy it. Come tuned to D. All

50. Open Jam *Norm Williams* Sat. 9:30 PM (after the 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. All

51. Folk Revival Jam *Sam Edelston* Sun. 9:00 – 10:00 AM

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!'