

Workshop Leaders – MDMF 2018

Bill Collins has been playing, teaching, and learning about the Appalachian dulcimer for 20+ years. In his performing and teaching, he focuses on the dulcet qualities inherent in the dulcimer and expanding the repertoire of music played on it. Bill has conducted 100+ dulcimer workshops at festivals in ten states, offers private lessons, has been featured concert artist at several festivals, and performs at weddings, receptions, church services, and private functions. He has written six books of dulcimer arrangements: Carolan tunes, Irish jigs, Icelandic tunes, advanced arrangements, and two collections of Shaker tunes (one co-written with Nina Zanetti). Bill appears on the *The Sum of the Parts* CD, which features dulcimer solos and duets performed by him and Nina Zanetti.

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 believes that dulcimers are among the world's coolest musical instruments, and they deserve to be widely known among the general public – not just for traditional music, but for whatever kinds of music you personally love. (His own repertoire includes everything from blues and bluegrass to country and opera, to a bit of jazz, and many flavors of rock – plus, of course, folk songs and tunes.) To promote the dulcimer to the broader world, he has posted a number of online videos, which have been viewed in over 190 countries. Sam has taught or performed at festivals around the Northeast, and as far away as Kentucky Music Week, Minnesota, and (upcoming) Louisiana. He's also chair of the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival. www.SamTheMusicMan.com

Kristin Gitler has been playing the mountain dulcimer for over 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. 2018 is his eighth 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-seventh year. www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com

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 *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 Wilton, NH has been teaching at festivals and out of her home in southern NH for almost 20 years. Her tune arrangements are accessible and her approach to playing is lighthearted. 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". She has a new CD out: "Amoskeag". www.wanderingdulcimer.com

CarolLynn Langley has been teaching mountain dulcimer at festivals, schools and camps, and privately since 1998. 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 for 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 of Poestenkill 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 nearly twenty 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 seventeen 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.

Butch Ross is a master of the mountain dulcimer, drawing out variable rhythmic landscapes that hum and vibrate with the wild electricity of his singular musical vision. And while this instrument is often viewed in its relative position to traditional (read: old-timey) sounds, Ross prefers to view it as a conduit for bridging the past and the present. His nimble fingerpicks and strums echo with a certain weighted history, the kind of turbulent lineage that acts as both inspiration and recalibration. Under his precise guidance, the dulcimer attains a mythic quality, resulting in a grand exposition in regard to its necessity in modern musical practice.

"For over ten years Butch Ross has been gleefully destroying the assumptions of what the mountain dulcimer is while demonstrating what it can be. From his home base in Chattanooga, TN, Ross possesses a keen awareness of the dulcimer's boundless prospects, and in his hands, it reacts in startling and often unexpected ways." --Joshua Picard, Chattanooga Pulse" www.butchross.com

Jeremy Seeger has been building and playing mountain dulcimer for 50 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

Lucy Joan Sollogub A lover of music making and music teaching, Lucy has been sharing her singing, dulcimer playing and teaching for over 4 decades. Lucy teaches dulcimer, folk harp, guitar, recorder and tin whistle at two Boston-area music schools, directs a performing arts program in 20 Boston Public schools and song leads at Central Reform Temple in Boston. Lucy performs with hammered dulcimer player Barb Levine and also with the New England Irish Harp Orchestra. She has published two music books; “Shiron L’Shalom and “A Dulcimer Portfolio.”

Carol Walker’s formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice. She retired after 32 years as an active high school choral teacher (and was the recipient of the 2003 NJ Governor’s Teacher of the Year Award), but soon found a way to combine her love of teaching with her new direction in folk music, and has become a popular workshop leader and featured performer at festivals all over the US. Carol has published six dulcimer tab books, which have established her as a favorite arranger among players of all levels. Her first two books (*Tailless Tunes 1 & 2*) are exclusively devoted to the Celtic-flavored Manx music -- traditional tunes from the Isle of Man. Her next project featured a unique method of learning to play the dulcimer in gradual and progressive increments, using familiar Americana songs from yesteryear. This trilogy, *DNA* Dulcimer Ditties (*songs so familiar they're part of your DNA)* takes dulcimer players from Basic Beginner to Nicely Novice to Adventurously Advanced. The long-awaited *Classical Dulcimer for Wascally Wabbits*, released in 2017, includes a unique collection of solo and ensemble “awwagements of cwassical favowites.” Along the way, Carol also produced several CDs and an instructional DVD, directed by Happy Traum of Homespun Tapes. Carol also plays upright bass and travels with her husband, guitarist Toby Walker, during his US, UK, Europe, and Canadian tours. www.musicladycarol.com

Pam Weeks is a multi-instrumentalist, singer, and contra dance caller from Bowdoin, Maine, who believes in sharing the "joie de vivre" of traditional music and dance with everyone! 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, plays fiddle and mountain dulcimer in the Maine contradance band, Scrod Pudding, and also performs solo or with guitar player and caller Bill Olson. She teaches private lessons in fiddle, viola, cello, guitar, mandolin, mountain dulcimer, piano, flute, sax, and voice and is a mainstay teacher at Maine Fiddle Camp, teaching mountain dulcimer, piano, cello, fiddle, and voice to all ages. Pam is an accomplished tunesmith and has composed scores of tunes, from lively jigs and reels, to entrancing airs and beautifully flowing waltzes. Many of these are recorded on her four albums, the most recent of which is “By the Sea” with her trio, T-Acadie. Pam is also a past president of the Downeast Friends of the Folk Arts (DEFFA), the Maine traditional music and dance advocacy organization. When not singing, dancing, or playing music, Pam is gardening organically, raising chickens, cutting wood, and living as sustainably as possible on her small homestead. <http://www.pamweeks.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 has been playing and teaching mountain dulcimer for the past 16 years. He 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. He has been faculty at festivals throughout the Northeast since (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, ukulele and banjo. Norm is a lover of Old Time music and plays with the bands Wayfarers & Company, Tom & Betty Druckenmiller, and most recently *the Dulcimer Boys* with Cliff Cole & Rob Yoder. He released his 1st solo recording this past year – “*a wayfarer... songs of hope and encouragement.*” Norm is semi-retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Breinigsville, PA. www.awayfarer-normw.com

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 several 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*. Her newest CD, “*Winter’s Light* ” is a gentle celebration of the quiet joys and consolations of the winter season.

www.ninazanetti.com