

Workshop Descriptions – MDMF 2013

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. Mountain Dulcimer 101 *Steve Miklos*

Starting from “string-side-up” and which direction on the fretboard makes lower notes, this will move through basic strumming and noter play (noters provided); a few songs in pick-and-noter style, repeated with chord-and note versions. Very basic chords and strums. DAD New Player/Beginner/ Fri. 3:00

2. The Music-Makers' Guide to the Dulcimer - Accelerated Beginner *Carol Walker*

If you already know how to play other instruments, such as guitar, violin, or piano, and if you already have some musical background, BUT you know nothing about how to play the dulcimer, this class is for you. We'll "fast-track" you through the basics and start making music right away. DAD. Beginner Fri. 3:00

3. Basic Chords for Beginners *Lori Keddell*

Learn simple chords for accompanying tunes in either DAD or DAA tuning, and strum along with some old favorites. DAD New Player/Beginner Fri. 4:15

4. Meet the Mountain Dulcimer (Beginner I) *CarolLynn Langley*

You're ready to begin an exciting journey with your mountain dulcimer! In this workshop you'll learn some basics such as what to call the parts of your dulcimer, how to hold your instrument and tune it, how to hold the pick as you strum, a bit about rhythm, and to begin to really hear your dulcimer's voice. We'll do this through playing some familiar and easy tunes from dulcimer tablature and you'll take home some handouts as well DAD New Player/Beginner Sat. 9:30

5. MD – Continuing on the Path (Beginner II) *Norm Williams*

Continuing with the basics – continue the focus on rhythm (in traditional and old time it is central to the tune); continue to work with melody adding basic chords; exploring and understanding the keyboard. Using tunes like “Old Joe Clark,” Holy Manna” and “Sadie at the Back Door.” (All tunes subject to change at leader’s discretion) DAD New Player/Beginner Sat. 11:00

6. Becoming Comfortable With Tab *Nina Zanetti*

Now that we know that the string side goes up, let’s take a closer look at one way of learning tunes on dulcimer: through the use of tablature. We’ll see how tab provides many types of information, including rhythms, keys, and tunings; and we’ll survey some of the different styles of tab. To see how it all works, we’ll practice learning pretty tunes- some familiar and some unfamiliar tunes- from tab. DAD Beginner Sat. 1:15

7. It’s A-Maze-ing *CarolLynn Langley*

When we begin to play this amazing instrument it’s easy to become overwhelmed and lost in a maze of information. Come with questions, leave with answers - along with more new tunes - and you and your dulcimer will be ready to make beautiful music together. DAD Beginner Sat. 2:45

ADVANCED BEGINNER and UP

8. Songs in DNA *CarolWalker*

DNA isn't some weird tuning. Rather, this is about songs that are so familiar that they're practically etched on your DNA. Children's songs, holiday songs, silly songs, folk songs, and much more. You'll be amazed at how much you can already do on the dulcimer! DAD Beginner/Advanced Beginner Sat. 9:30

9. Minor Modes, Major Fun *Sue Carpenter*

Kick back and have some major fun with the minor modes of D and A by learning 2 tunes that will bring a smile to your face, a tap to your toes, and some “swing” to your strumming. You’ll also learn some easy barre and 2 finger chords while playing “Tum Balalaika” and “Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho.” DAC Advanced Beginner and up Sat. 2:45

10. Easy Scottish Tunes *Sue Carpenter*

Hone your strumming and chording skills while learning 4 lovely Scottish tunes: “The Blue Bells of Scotland”; “Baloo Baleerie”; “Flow Gently, Sweet Afton”; and “Will Ye No' Come Back Again.” Bring a capo. DAD Advanced Beginner Sun. 10:15

11. Mountain Songs for the Mountain Dulcimer *CarolLynn Langley*

The mountain dulcimer has its roots in the southern Appalachian Mountains so what could be more fit-ting than to learn some songs that would have been played on front porches in those hills years and years ago? We'll learn one familiar, and a couple of more obscure, traditional Appalachian songs for you to enjoy and add to your repertoire. DAD Beginner/ Novice Sun. 11:30

22. Nimble Fingers: The Basics of Fingerpicking *Ellen Pratt*

This class will introduce several **easy** fingerpicking styles that will work with a variety of songs. The emphasis will be on applying fingerpicking patterns to familiar songs (songs you learned as beginning players) so you can focus on right hand fingering techniques rather than new repertoire. DAD Adv Beginner / Novice Sat. 11:00

NOVICE

12. Playing with a Partner for the First Time *Nina Zanetti*

Making music with another players is a special joy. This workshop is for players who are just developing their own skills and who have never played duets before. We'll use a variety of fun, simple arrangements to cover the basics of how to enjoy playing music together. We’ll begin with some rounds, for practice in listening and staying together, and then will progress to some familiar tunes arranged in ways that will make duet-playing easy, fun, and immensely rewarding. DAD Novice Fri. 3:00

13. Efficient Chords and Inversions *Gary Gallier*

We will study technique that allows you to move quickly and smoothly from chord to chord, as well as how to change the voice of that chord by playing its inversion. Chord shapes will also be talked about along with melodic content. Great to know for any chordal style of play. DAD Novice Fri. 4:15

14. Bring your Strumming up to Speed Bonnie Leigh

Do you feel you can play songs but just can't seem to keep up with the speed of others? Using fun familiar tunes, starting out at medium speed, we will work up the strum speed of the songs. Start slow.....then gooooooooooooo! DAD Novice Sat. 11:00

15. Tunes That Teach (pull-offs, slides, hammers, crosspicking) Lucy Joan Sollogub

Using traditional tunes, we will learn and develop some left and right hand playing techniques that facilitate both speed and texture in our playing while learning some tunes that will become part of your "favorites." DAD and DAC Novice Sat. 1:15

16. Songs Even Kids Will Sing Sam Edelston

When I was a kid, I found most "children's songs very uninspiring. Nowadays, there's a lot of great children's music available ... plus, I have a few tricks of my own. Let's regress and play together. DAD Novice Sat. 2:45

17. Traditional Hymns Bonnie Leigh

In two different tunings we will learn traditional hymns and how to play them in the beautiful 'Pick Strum' style. DAA & DAD Novice Sun. 10:15

NOVICE PLUS

18. Adding embellishments Michael Shull

Introduction to hammer ons and pull offs. We also work with slides, sliding into chords for that distinctive Mountain dulcimer style. Michael will share his secret for his smooth style. DAD Novice Plus Sat. 9:30

19. Fiddle Tune Rhythms I – Tunes in “Three-time” Kristin Gitler

Jigs, slides, slip jigs – we'll learn the difference between each of these tune types, and play some examples of each. Come tuned to DAD. Novice Plus Sat. 11:00

NOVICE / INTERMEDIATE

20. Dulcimer Blues in E Gary Gallier

The Blues is a truly American tradition, and this is always a favorite for many skill levels. We'll learn the picking hand technique that produces the blues shuffle rhythm and riffs, learn practice chord progressions in 12 bar blues, and show how expressive improvisation really is quite easy. Lots of playing and feeling the groove. Fun! DAD Novice Plus /Intermediate Fri. 3:00

21. Introduction to Flatpicking Gary Gallier

In flatpicking the dulcimer, all strings are created equal for melody, improving speed, clarity, and opening new arranging possibilities. This workshop will focus on the study of cross string scales, using them to learn a couple of catchy fiddle tunes. DAD Novice+/Intermediate Sat. 9:30

23. I've Got Rhythm -- and so will YOU! Carol Walker

You've just found a new piece of music that is nicely tabbed out, but you have no idea how it sounds, and there's no one around who can play it for you. Now what?!?! We'll learn how to figure out the most difficult aspect of this dilemma: how to read and play the rhythms accurately. DAD Novice and up Sat. 1:15

24. Tearless Tuning Ellen Pratt

We will begin in DAD and learn how to move from what has become "the standard" in the dulcimer world to several other tunings quickly and efficiently. We will explore DAC, DAA, DGD, and if time allows, DF#A. Please bring a tuner to this class. Novice to Intermediate Sat. 1:15

25. Play Without Tab?!?! Norm Williams

Learn how to break down a tune/song in its component parts in order to play it without the aid of tab or sheet music. We'll take some common "jam" tunes and learn to play them by ear and then, well... we'll jam! Come tuned in DAD. Novice-Intermediate Sun. 10:15

26. Chord Progressions Ellen Pratt

Knowing different positions for chords can add flavor to your musical arrangements. We will learn and practice several chord shapes up and down the fretboard in this class. Come in DAD- but we may change tunings! Novice or Novice/Intermediate Sun. 11:30

47. Slide Dulcimer *Steve Miklos*

The blues and country music long for the high-lonesome sound of the metal or glass slide along the strings. The mountain dulcimer is well-positioned (string side up) to play with a slide; it's easy and fun! DAD Nov & up (familiarity with TAB needed) Sun. 11:30

INTERMEDIATE

27. Polish Up Your Picking *Sue Carpenter*

Whether you fingerpick or flatpick, improve your technique and musicality by learning how to bring the melody to the front and keep the filler notes in the background. We'll start with some exercises and then work on dynamics in an arrangement of "The Dawning of the Day" with melody notes played across the strings and embedded in chord arpeggios. DAD Intermediate Fri. 4:15

28. Shetland Fiddle Tunes *Kristin Gitler*

The Shetland Islands have a musical tradition with a strong Scandinavian influence, setting it apart from the Scottish tradition. We'll learn some fiddle tunes with that distinct Shetland "flavor". Come tuned to DAD. Intermediate Sat. 2:45

29. EAE Tuning for the Key of A *Kristin Gitler*

I came across this tuning by accident while trying to arrange a tune and get all the notes, and I fell in love with it! Come see why we might use this tuning for playing tunes in the key of A - we'll learn some chords, and a few tunes. Come tuned to DAD, and we'll learn how to tune up to EAE without breaking your strings! Sun. 10:15

INTERMEDIATE / ADVANCED

30. Exploring and Playing Music with the 1½ fret (and 8½ fret) *Lucy Joan Sollogub*

For players with and without it these frets! In this workshop we will play some songs and tunes that can be realized with or without the 1½ fret. We will discuss and sample the many advantages (and some disadvantages) that this little piece of wire has to offer. (Lucy will bring an extra dulcimer with the 1½ fret) DAD and DADD Intermediate and Advanced Fri. 3:00

31. Pickers Duet Better *Sue Carpenter*

While learning a Celtic duet, "Ned of the Hill," discover some basic principles of harmony and ways to weave and blend melody and harmony using a capo and tunings. Music is arranged for fingerpicking or flatpicking. Bring a capo. DAD (with capo) & DGD Intermediate to Advanced Sat. 9:30

32. Great Performance Hymns *Michael Shull*

Michael is best known for his folk hymn arrangements. This class will increase your hymn repertoire. DAD Novice Plus - Advanced Sat. 11:00

33. Fickle Fingerings & Strange Voices *Sam Edelston*

Everybody knows the four basic shapes for major, minor, and seventh chords. We'll work with some other chord shapes -- plus uncommon ways to finger your "usual" chords -- and situations where you might want to use them. DAD Intermediate / Advanced Sat. 11:00

34. Patterned Chord Arpeggios for Melody *Gary Gallier*

Cross picking through chords is like fingerpicking with a flat pick. Each chord can be a strum of course, but it should also be considered 3 potential melody notes. We will learn how to access those melody notes, pulling them out of the chords, while adding scale runs and embellishments to fill out a melody. A great compositional tool as well. We will learn the much requested Farewell Fair One to put the technique into practice. DAD Beyond Intermediate Sat. 1:15

35. Hot Licks for the Dulcimer *Michael Shull*

Michael has a lot of hot licks that you can spice up your performance songs. We will be using hammer on and pull off combinations that will have everybody saying "How did you do that?" DAD Intermediate / Advanced Sat. 2:45 pm

ADVANCED

36. Advanced Right-Hand Techniques *Sam Edelston*

Making great music is 50% your left hand, 50% your right hand, and 50% your brain and imagination. We'll focus on getting varied tones from your instrument by attacking the strings in different ways, some muting techniques, and dealing with pick noise, and more if time permits. DAD Advanced Fri. 4:15

37. Some Favorite Classics *Nina Zanetti*

Some of those "classics" that we learned in piano lessons or high school orchestra sound great on mountain dulcimer. We'll learn some lovely tunes from the Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods of music, with some famous composers represented, and with just enough music history to make the tunes come alive. DAD Advanced Sun. 11:30

GENERAL

38. Quill and Noter *George Haggerty*

Return to the roots of the Mountain Dulcimer as you learn this traditional playing style. George will demonstrate the quill (feather) for a unique Appalachian sound. You will be playing several tunes in the pick and noter style. Learn how to slide the noter up and down the fretboard which gives you the haunting sound that only the noter stick can produce. DAA Fri. 4:15

39. Q & A About Dulcimer Building *Paul Conrad and Jeremy Seeger*

Want to know more about the mysteries of building a dulcimer? This is an opportunity to peek inside a dulcimer and ask us about the design and material choices we make." General Fri. 4:15

40. Turtle Jam (Slow Jam) *Gene Langley*

If you have a favorite song or tune, bring it with you. Most of all learn to play with other and enjoy a good time. You may also learn a new tune or song, or hear a song that has escaped your memory. General Fri. 10:00 pm

41. Open Jam *Norm Williams*

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. Intermediate & up Fri. 10:00 pm

42. Introducing The Folk (lever, Celtic, non-steel string) Harp *Lucy Joan Sollogub*

Many dulcimists play harp tunes on dulcimer. Have you ever thought about also playing the harp? Come ask your FAQs about the folk harp and learn about where to get a harp, different size harps, how to learn, how to tune, what is easy, and what is challenging etc. We will also have some hands-on experience with intervals, scales, and playing a simple tune. A few harps will be available to share, and participants are encouraged to bring their own (if they have one!) All levels Sat. 9:30

43. Healing Music and the Dulcimer *Bonnie Leigh*

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. Novice/Intermediate (but all levels are welcome) Sat. 1:15

44. Ukulele *Steve Miklos*

Surf the growing wave of enthusiasm for the Hawaiian four-string chromatic dulcimer! Bring your own uke (soprano, concert or tenor) or borrow one (I am bringing ten of them). We'll learn some chords, and a few tunes, and even some fingerpicking! A dynamic and fun workshop. GCEA Beginner Sat. 2:45

45. 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 Sun. 10:15

46. Song Swap *Lori Keddell*

Bring a song to share, or just come to learn some new songs as we sit in a circle and sing together. Bring printed songs sheets if you like, or just teach the chorus so we can all sing along. No instruments required, but it's OK to bring instruments as accompaniment. All Sun. 11:30