

# Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest 2022 Workshop Leaders



**Carolyn Brodginski** was a quick study when she finally got her hands on a mountain dulcimer after four decades playing guitar. The sweet sound, and many voices of the dulcimer opened up a new musical world and opportunities. It wasn't long before the dulcimer was integrated into the sound of her band, and she began teaching privately, at festivals, and at St. Francis Hospital where she worked as a therapeutic musician from 2015 until Covid hit in March of 2020. But Covid didn't slow her down. Carolyn has been a regular song leader, and two time mystery guest in Pat Clark's weekly "Send In The Music" jam since March of 2020. An award winning singer/songwriter, three of her original songs have appeared in the sampler of DPN, including her latest, "Mountain Jane Doe", which was in the April 2021 edition. [www.carolynbrodginski.com](http://www.carolynbrodginski.com)

**Sam Edelston** comes to mountain dulcimers from the direction of chords, songs, and popular music (similar to how most people learn the guitar). He's on a mission to bring dulcimers to the general public through songs they already love in genres like rock, pop, folk, blues, country, and even jazz and classical music. (He's also written nearly 700 songs.) His online videos have been viewed over 1,000,000 times, in over 190 countries. Sam chairs the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, held every October in Milford, CT (or online 2020-2021). He's performed or taught at numerous folk festivals, dulcimer festivals (including MDMF many times), and other venues in the Northeast and across the country, as well as four QuarantUNE Dulcimer Festivals and many other online festivals. He is now a full-time musician, and also teaches dulcimer courses and gives private lessons on Zoom. [www.SamTheMusicMan.com](http://www.SamTheMusicMan.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. For 10 years George has been teaching dulcimer playing and dulcimer building (two separate classes) at "The Putney School" in Putney, Vermont, but has had to take the past 2 years "off" because of the pandemic. 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 thirty-first year. [www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com](http://www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com)

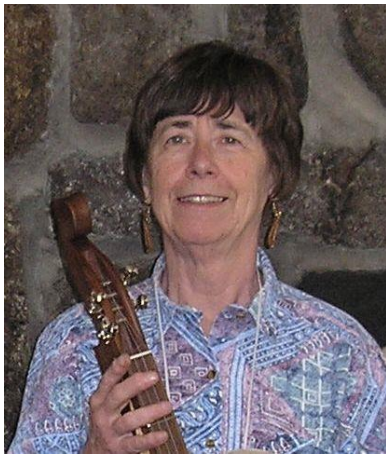
**Kim Jennings** is a former high school art teacher who loves playing the mountain dulcimer! Her grandmother gave her a dulcimer as a college graduation present in 1987, and she has been playing ever since! She lives in Bangor, Pennsylvania and is a member of the planning team for the Pocono Dulcimer Festival. She has designed the logos for a number of the Pocono Dulcimer Festival t-shirts. She also designed the ocean scene for the top of her Timbre Hill dulcimer made by Paul Conrad. She has taught workshops at the Pocono Dulcimer Festival and at Music by the Bay in Barnegat, NJ. She loves teaching beginners and introducing people to this wonderful instrument!





**Melanie Johnston** has been playing Mountain Dulcimer since 2001. While living in Connecticut, she and her husband Mack co-founded the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra and the Connecticut Mountain Dulcimer Gathering. Since moving to Asheville, NC in 2017, they have had extensive teaching and performing experience and have founded the Black Bear Dulcimer Gathering and the Asheville Dulcimer Orchestra. They perform as a duo with dulcimer, guitar and mandolin. Melanie is a graduate of the Dulcimer University/Western Carolina University certification program for teaching the Mountain Dulcimer. She teaches private students, classes and festival workshops in the New England, New York and North Carolina regions. In addition to playing and teaching dulcimer, Melanie has written *TableEdit for Mountain Dulcimer Arrangers*, available through Folkcraft Instruments .

**Mack Johnston** has 20+ years experience playing in mandolin ensembles and orchestras including the Providence Mandolin Orchestra. Mack was Music Director for the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra 2013 – 2016. Since his move to Asheville NC in 2017, Mack has organized and now directs the Asheville Dulcimer Orchestra. Mack is a graduate of the Dulcimer University/Western Carolina University certification program for teaching the Mountain Dulcimer. He teaches private students, classes and festival workshops in the New England and North Carolina regions. Mack and his wife Melanie perform in the Asheville area as a duo with dulcimer, guitar and mandolin. Together they have written a book entitled, *Dulcimer Jam Training Wheels*. The book contains quarter note versions of many popular jam tunes.



**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 was on the staff of the Cranberry Dulcimer and Autoharp Gathering from 1987 to 2016, and has been an instructor at numerous festivals in New York, VT, MA, PA and CT. With George Haggerty, she taught a week-long Dulcimer Elderhostel class in Vermont for many years. She has published 5 books of arrangements for the mountain dulcimer, each with an accompanying CD. Her newest book , “Lullabies and Night Songs for the Mountain Dulcimer” contains 78 lullabies from around the world. She has also contributed many pieces of music to the monthly newsletter of the Dulcimer Association of Albany.

**Sandy Lafleur** from Wilton, NH has been playing and sharing her love of the dulcimer for over 25 years and has taught many workshops over the years at the DAA, Dulcimer Daze, and Nutmeg festivals, among others. A contra dancer, caller, and dance organizer her greatest joy comes from bringing people together around music. Her goal for her dulcimer students, whom she is now teaching on Zoom, is to help each player find their own unique musical voice. Sandy has a CD: "Amoskeag" which she recorded with her good friend Bill Perry on mandolin and guitar.

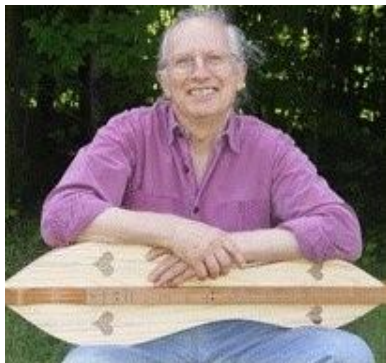
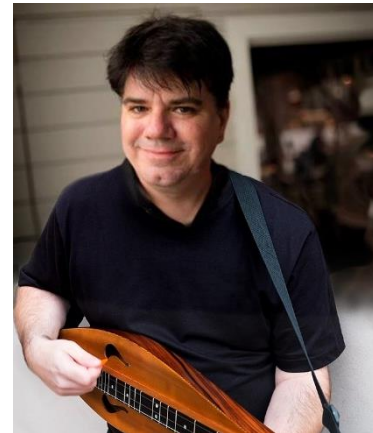
[www.wanderingdulcimer.com](http://www.wanderingdulcimer.com)





**Ellen S. Pratt** has been playing dulcimer for twenty-two years. She began writing her own music in 2004, and has taught at festivals throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Ellen's style of playing is a mix of traditional and contemporary. She enjoys the hard, fast strumming of old-time music and jam tunes with both the dulcimer and banjo but also enjoys the quieter, more contemporary chord melody style with fingerpicking on dulcimer. Recently, she has arranged and composed multipart pieces for ensembles, and currently has eight books of ensemble music. Ellen is a member of the First National Dulcimer Orchestra and has composed one of the books used by the orchestra. Three of her ensemble pieces made their debut at a concert at the Black Mountain Dulcimer Festival in North Carolina this past October. Ellen co-coordinates Vermont's August Dulcimer Daze festival with George and Mary Haggerty. [www.ellenprattdulcimer.com](http://www.ellenprattdulcimer.com)

**Butch Ross** has been gleefully smashing disparate genres of music together for over fifteen years. Using the mountain dulcimer as a prism, he has tackled everything from Bach to the Beatles to Radiohead (and everything in between). His restless musical curiosity and virtuosity, coupled with his innate ability to break complex concepts into simple ideas, have made him an in-demand teacher and performer at many folk and dulcimer festivals both in the States and abroad. He is the author of several instructional books of music for both dulcimer and ukulele including his most recent book "How to play the ukulele in ten easy lessons (and one really hard one)." He is also a regular contributor to Dulcimer Players News. [www.butcross.com](http://www.butcross.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. [www.jeremyseeger.com](http://www.jeremyseeger.com)

**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, plus the new QuarantUNE Virtual Festival. Carol has published eight dulcimer tab books, which have established her as a favorite arranger among players of all levels. Carol's latest book, *Many Hands, Many Dulcimers*, was released in 2021, and contains detailed orchestral arrangements suitable for ensembles of any size and every player. [www.MusicLadyCarol.com](http://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, and holds studio classes and conducts apprenticeships in his Bear Meadow Studio. He also builds fret templates for other music instrument makers, and maintains the BearMeadow.com website, whose sections on building technique are used as a reference by many of other dulcimer builders.

A published poet, Dwain has published a collection, *Under the Only Moon*, co-edited anthologies such as *Liberty's Vigil*, *The Occupy Anthology*, *Vigil for the Marcellus Shale* and most recently, *Civilization in Crisis: poetic responses to climate change*. Dwain lives with his wife, along with a large rowdy macaw, Acacia The Cat and Sedona The Dog, in a quaint 19th century farmhouse at the edge of a large dark forest. <https://www.bearmeadow.com/>



**Norm Williams** is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club, a coordinator of the Pocono DulcimerFest held each year in April in East Stroudsburg, PA; and co-founder of the Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival held each July. Norm began teaching in 2002 and has been faculty/performer at festivals throughout the Northeast since (including the Pocono DulcimerFest; Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, August Dulcimer Days, Nutmeg, Music by the Bay, French Creek Music Retreat, Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival, Ashokan Music & Dance Camps & the Augusta Heritage Center, WV). He also offers private, personal instruction in person or via ZOOM. In addition to mountain dulcimer he plays guitar, ukulele and banjo. Norm is a lover of Old Time music and performs solo and with several bands. Norm is currently semi-retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Emmaus, PA.

<https://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 at dulcimer festivals throughout the country and online. Nina is especially fond of the “softer side of dulcimer” and has a strong interest in American folk hymns, Early Music, and ensemble playing. She has produced several books of solo arrangements for mountain dulcimer and has co-authored four books of duet/ensemble arrangements (the *Tunes for Two or More* series, with Beth Lassi.) She is featured on *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer Play Music for Christmas* (CD) and has recorded a CD with Bill Collins, as well as two solo CDs, *Beside Still Waters* and *Winter's Light*. [www.ninazanetti.com](http://www.ninazanetti.com)

