

Workshops Listed by Instructor – MDMF 2022

Carolyn Brodgerski

9. Singing With The Dulcimer

Fri. 4:15 – 5:15

Why is it that so many people don't sing when they play the dulcimer? Maybe because it has its own beautiful voice? Maybe because the key of D is not in your vocal range? This workshop will focus on using the dulcimer as a rhythm instrument while you do the singing, playing chords rather than melody, and for those who don't like singing in the key of D, we'll learn how to transpose some of your favorite roots tunes to a key that suits your vocal range. Bring a capo. DAD Novice and up

40. Songwriting Primer

Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

What comes first? The lyrics or the music? What are the components of a song? What style of music? Blues? Folk? Instrumental? Acapella? What do you write about, and where do you find inspiration? No matter what others may say, there is no one way to approach writing a song. Carolyn will discuss these topics and share what has worked for her (which is not guaranteed to work for everyone else). The goal of this workshop is to provide tools and ideas to help you find your way. All levels Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

48. Music – The Real Medicine

Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

Since the beginning of time, music has been used to communicate, motivate, educate, soothe, incite, excite, entertain...and heal. Learn about the different ways music is used in clinical settings to heal, and what it means to heal. A therapeutic musician since 2016, Carolyn will share her knowledge of music and healing, discuss details of her certification, and share her experiences playing at the bedside at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford, CT. All levels

Sam Edelston

5. Classic Rock Phrasing

Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

Melodies, rhythms, and phrasing in rock music tend to be very different from the steady beat of the jigs and reels you may be more accustomed to on dulcimer. We'll shine a light on these differences, help you understand them, and capture the spirit of rock music on your dulcimer. DAD Intermediate

14. Rock Dulcimer Basics

Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

"The Folk" have always played popular music – but before cars and radio, "popular" was largely what your kin and your neighbors played. Rock music is amazingly easy and fun to play on the dulcimer. We. Will. Rock. Out. DAD Beginner

37. Chord Boot Camp – 1½ Fret

Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

We'll drill these fingerings – mostly in the keys of G and C – into you until you develop a genuine esprit de chord. Not comfortable playing chords yet? You will be by the end of the hour. Nov-Int DAD

55. Folk Revival Jam

Sun. 9:00 – 10:00

How many songs must a group sing out, before you call it a jam? 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. We did this last year, and everybody had a hoot. Bring your dulcimers, other instruments, and voices! Come tuned to D. All

52. Two-Hand Tapping

Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

This two-handed playing technique is most associated with rock music, but actually dates back much farther and is great for many styles of music. We'll demystify it and get you comfortable enough to try it on some interesting tunes. DAD Advanced Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

Jeff Furman

8. Improving Your Strum and Rhythm

Fri. 4:15 – 5:15

This workshop will cover basic techniques, offer exercises to practice the techniques, and play with each other and also recorded music to get practice and experience. Be prepared for a lot of strumming! DAD Beg/Nov

17. Adding Notes/Variation to Your Playing

Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

Explore how to add notes, rhythm changes, and other variations to any type of music you play while still being true to the melody. Create interest, freedom, and fun! (Bring a CAPO!) DAD Intermediate

23. Improving Your Left hand Fingering

Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

This workshop will explore the how, why, where, and when of left hand fingering. The focus will be on accuracy, getting good clean notes, and sustain for smooth transitions. DAD Novice & Up Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

46. The Beauty and Power of Stephen Foster's Music

Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

This workshop will explore some wonderful compositions not commonly heard or played, but no less beautiful and enchanting. Learn some more timeless melodies and enchanting lyrics. (Bring a CAPO!) DAD Intermediate / Advanced

George Haggerty

7. Strings and Things for the Dulcimer

Fri. 4:15 – 5:1

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

19. Build A Cardboard Dulcimer – for Yourself or for a Grandchild

Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

During this class you will attach the tuners to the pre-finished fretboard and glue the fretboard to the sound box. If time permits, George will help you begin stringing the dulcimer. You can come back to George's booth any time during the rest of the festival to finish attaching and tuning the strings so that your dulcimer will be ready to play! (You will need to order a dulcimer kit when you register for the festival.)

Kim Jennings

1. Basic Chords for Beginners

Fri. 3:00 – 4:00

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 DAA tuning, and will soon find yourself strumming along with ease on many familiar folk songs. (Chord sheets will also be provided in DAA and DAD for those who want to "stretch themselves" and try more challenging chord patterns.) DAA New Player/ Beg

15. Getting Around on the Fretboard

Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

Learn how to play a melody in several different areas of your instrument to add a little variety to a tune. We will use this technique with a familiar tune, then we'll try it with a few fiddle tunes. DAD Novice

44. John Who?

Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

This is a repertoire class where we will learn a few tunes that all contain the name "John" in their titles: John Stinson's #2, John Ryan's Polka, John Brown's March, and Lazy John. Come enjoy these catchy tunes! DAD & DGD Novice Plus

Melanie Johnston

10. Play it Again Sam.....Just not the same way

Fri. 4:15 – 5:15

When we play a tune, we usually play it 2 or 3 times the same way. In this workshop we will play tunes 3 times making each time a little different. DAD Novice – Intermediate

47. New Player Repertoire

Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

If you are just getting started with the mountain dulcimer and want a few easy tunes to add to your collection, this class is for you. We will just relax, have fun and play some music. DAD Beginner – Advanced Beginner

33. Put that Tab in your Tablet

Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

If you have binders full of music and cart them with you when you go out to play, you may want to consider an electronic music database program. There are apps for all tablet types. In this class we will specifically work with a popular program – *forScore - specific to iPad*. If you have an iPad with forScore installed, bring it to class. Alternatively and if you don't have forScore or a tablet, you can come to just listen and see what these programs can do. Class will cover getting your music into your tablet, annotating, creating setlists and using some of the other tools forScore offers. It will change your musical life! No dulcimers required for class. *Optional* - Bring your iPad with forScore installed. All

39. Five Easy Notes

Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

Why use 7 notes when you can get away with just 5? The pentatonic scale is a secret known by the best musicians. Use it to play along with others instead of or in addition to back-up chords. Use it for improvisation. Use it to make a cool “lick” within a song. Come learn how. DAD Intermediate - Advanced

Mack Johnston

3. Multipart Music for Small and Large Ensembles

Fri. 3:00 – 4:00

In this session we will play 2 or 3 multipart pieces and cover skills and tips for ensemble playing. All dulcimer family instruments are welcome. DAD or Baritone in ADA Novice & up

41. Strumming 101: Getting It Down

Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

A rhythmic, effective strum is the most crucial and critical first step for new dulcimer students. For many new players it is also the most difficult. This workshop is designed for new to novice players and will cover Basic strumming technique and applying strumming to common fiddle/jam tunes. DAD New Player - Adv Beg

Lori Keddell

27. Moving Right Along! (Beginner III)

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

36. Lullabies and Night Songs

Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

Lullabies are not just for children. Learn several beautiful and relaxing melodies from all around the world. DAA & DAD Novice Plus

Sandy Lafleur

4. Everybody Polka!

Fri. 3:00 – 4:00

Not all Polkas are Polish; some are Irish but they are all wonderful and spritely dance tunes. DAD w/ capo Novice Plus – Intermediate Fri. 3:00 – 4:00

13. String Side Up! (Beginner I)

Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

From the very beginning, what you need to know about noting, strumming and having fun with the dulcimer. DAA New Player

22. Internal Chords - moving beyond the Melody Drone of it

Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

The dulcimer, like the bagpipe has drones which sometimes harmonize with the melody and other times clash horribly. We'll discover how to sweeten our playing by adding internal chords. DAD Advanced Beg – Novice

45. Jigs & Reels - What's the difference?

Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

Not only do they look different on the page, they sound and feel very different, too! Try your hand at learning some fun dance tunes. DAD & DGD. Novice Plus to Intermediate

Ellen Pratt

24. Chord Progressions

Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

In this class, you will learn some exercises to move from one chord to another, discuss fingerings for various chords. You will learn how to make the same chord in different ways and places on the fretboard, which changes the feeling of the chord. You will also learn how to choose the most pleasing chord to bring out the melody of a piece. DAD Novice Plus – Intermediate

29. Songs for Children

Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

We will learn childrens' songs such as The Cuckoo and the Donkey, Froggie Went a Courtin', and several other fun songs that children love. DAD (possibly CGC) Novice

49. Nimble Fingers

Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

In this class, you will learn several basic fingerpicking styles that you will then apply to a few familiar pieces. The focus is on muscle memory for your fingers, not repertoire. Your fingers will become nimble! DAD
Advanced Beginner - Novice

Butch Ross

12. Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Fri. 4:15 – 5:15

Learn this great, but challenging hymn. In addition, we'll discuss how to create arrangements from standard sheet music, researching multiple versions to create your own and even how to play chords that don't seem like they should be available on the dulcimer. DAD Intermediate & up

21. O, Shenandoah, I long to play thee

Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

Learn to play this beautiful song in the simplest chord melody version possible. We'll explore alternate, but easy, chord voicings. Various fingering techniques, and using lyrics to aid in the counting of rhythms. This song is trickier than it looks, but using these techniques you master it in no time. DAD Beginner

38. Throw a Wrench in There

Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

Learn how to properly, and coolly, mess up a tune; extra notes, early beats, learn where and when to add embellishments and "fancy" notes. Play a fiddle tune like a fiddler would. DAD Intermediate

43. Skipping the Third Beat

Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

For whatever reason, skipping the third beat of a strumming pattern is a challenge for both beginners and advanced players alike. And yet it's essential for playing island music, show tunes and even rock-n-roll. We'll look at some ways to tame this elusive beast and make you a better strummer overall. DAD
Advanced Beginner & up

Jeremy Seeger

Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

28. The Joy of DAA and Traditional Playing

DAA and playing only on the melody string/strings lays a good foundation and enjoyment in playing your dulcimer. It will also serve you well as you branch out into other tunings and build a repertoire. Once you have that you can branch out into other styles of playing and chords. DAA Beginner – Novice

Carol Walker

11. The Lost Chord Is Found! (Which Chord Goes Where)

Fri. 4:15 – 5:15

In this workshop we'll arrange both new and familiar tunes, making choices as we go about which chords will sound best with your melody line, and why. A small dose of painless music theory will also be injected to aid in understanding the process. DAD Novice - Intermediate

18. (Almost) Everything You Wanted to Know About Music Theory

Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

What the heck is an appoggiatura??? How do I play an arpeggio? What does reverse Ionian mean? You have probably heard these terms and many others but never really knew what they meant. This workshop is designed to increase your musical vocabulary and knowledge of basic theory *as applied to your dulcimer* with actual examples and demonstrations of dozens of terms and concepts. DAD Intermediate - Adv

26. Practice with Purpose

Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

Until someone invents a magic pill that will automatically allow you to play every piece perfectly, you will need to do the work yourself! I'll share my 65+ years of experience as we apply tried and true practice methods to any song you want to learn. Your new practicing skills will build both your repertoire and your confidence! DAD
Novice – Advanced

31. Explore “Many Hands, Many Dulcimers”

Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

You can join Maestro Walker's dulcimer orchestra as she leads you through selections from her newest book, *Many Hands, Many Dulcimers*. You'll play along on your very own part while hearing all the other instruments around you. You'll also learn some useful techniques that will insure success when you have the opportunity to get together with a live ensemble, which can be any size from 5 to 105 players. DAD Novice - Advanced

Neal Walters

2. Slow Jam Workshop

Fri. 3:00 – 4:00

Getting along in a jam session is seemingly #1 on everybody's short list of "skills I would like to possess". Obviously a good ear is important but what's between your ears is even more important. A good slow jam is a fine place to learn the things you think everybody knows but you. Key of D Beginner to Novice

16. Exploring the 1-3-5 Tuning for Dulcimer

Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

This tuning is particularly good for ragtime, blues, and other guitar-like pieces. We'll start with some simple tunes like "Victory Rag", "Railroad Bill" and "John Henry" and progress to some harder material too. DF#A Novice to Intermediate

32. Introduction to Less Common Tunings

Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

Get familiar with several less common tunings which can be the perfect solution for playing or singing in keys other than D. You've probably used EAA and/or DGD but have you tried DGC, EAE, EAD, or EAC? Various Tunings Intermediate to Advanced

50. Tunes in DAC

Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

DAC is a popular tuning alternative to the widely played DAD and DAA tunings. It's great for those Appalachian modal songs but it can also be very handy in other settings as well. We'll try it on several tunes. DAC Novice to Intermediate

Norm Williams

20. Continuing on the Path(Beginner II)

Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

Continuing with the basics – continue the focus on rhythm (in traditional and old time it is central to the tune); exploring and understanding the fretboard. Using tunes like "Old Joe Clark," "Holy Manna" and "Sadie at the Back Door." (All tunes subject to change at leader's discretion) DAA New Player / Beginner

35. The Zen of the Mountain Dulcimer, Rythym

Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

This workshop re-enforces strumming and rhythm techniques to increase your skills and to provide a platform for all of your future playing. We'll learn the fundamentals of rhythm, strumming, angle and hand placement, speed, and tone. The goal of this session is to have the learner comfortable with strum-hand technique so s/he can concentrate on the music. DAD Beginner – Novice

42. Learning by Ear, "Knee to Knee"

Sun. 10:15 – 11:15

For many, playing by ear is a daunting task. We'll demystify this idea and discuss and practice ways to play tunes you don't have music for "by ear" using the time-honored tradition of repetition, repetition, repetition (Arlo Guthrie calls it "the Bor-In Method"). We'll start with a few simple & familiar tunes and then try a couple that you probably have not heard before. Bring a recording device/phone. Come tuned to DAD. Beginner - Novice

51. Fun Tunes from the Southern Appalachians

Sun. 11:30 – 12:30

Learn several fun tunes that come from the western Carolina's, eastern Tennessee Appalachian region (source: Don Pedi) with attention to different tunings (DAA, DGD, DAC, DGC, CGC, etc. and other alternatives for more comfortable singing. We'll also discuss timing and tempo. Starting in DAD Intermediate

Nina Zanetti

6. Some Favorite Classics

Fri. 3:00 – 4:00

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 Intermediate-Advanced

25. Fingerstyle Seminar

Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

For experienced players who are already comfortable with basic fingerpicking. If you enjoy fingerstyle dulcimer but wish you could play this style more effectively, this workshop is for you! Come with your questions or challenges, and we'll troubleshoot whatever may be confusing you. Topics may cover common problems, such as how to achieve a good tone and how to avoid "machine gun" playing; but the emphasis will be on whatever you find challenging about this technique. You will also leave with several lovely tunes to add to your repertoire. DAD Intermediate – Advanced

30. Finger-Picking Training Wheels

Sat. 1:15 – 2:30

Mystified by the fingerstyle approach to playing mountain dulcimer? We'll break it down into three basic skills: right hand technique (how to produce a good tone, how to use different fingers to create patterns, how to bring out the melody notes); left hand technique (smooth chord transitions); and how to decipher fingerstyle tablature. This brief introduction to the "basics" will prepare you to approach simple fingerstyle arrangements with confidence.

DAD Novice & up

34. Let's Get Acquainted (with Your Dulcimer)

Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

In this workshop, we'll take an exploration -and- experimentation approach to becoming more familiar with your instrument. Topics may include: finding the "sweet spot" for strumming and picking; becoming familiar with the layout of the fretboard and strings; learning to pick out a tune by "noodling"; finding simple harmonies; awareness of ergonomics and ease. Becoming more familiar with your instrument will help you become a better player and musician. DAD New Player / Beginner

49. Turtle Jam

Fri. 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 unthreatening, so that everyone will be able to enjoy it. Come tuned to D. All

50. Open Jam (Experienced Jammers)

Fri. 9:30 PM (after the concert)

What better way end the first day of the festival than by playing songs and tunes together! Bring your favorites to share, and expect everything to be played at a "normal" tempo for the music. All instruments welcome! Come tuned to D.

51. Folk Revival Jam *Sam Edleston*

Sun. 9:00 – 10:00

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!' Come tuned to D.

Coleen Walters

Now for Something Completely Different

Looking for something to do while your spouse, partner or SO is in class? Need a break from concentrating in workshops? Coleen Walters will be available in the vendor area to teach you some knitting basics: learn what cast on, knit, purl, stockinette, garter and cast off mean ... and how to do it! We'll work on something everyone can use, a dishcloth. Men are welcome – if Rob Brereton can knit and Rosie Greer can do needlepoint, you can knit too! Kit fee of \$6.00 covers needles, yarn and instruction booklet. You will find Coleen hanging out and knitting in the vendor area: stop by to learn some basics or have her help solve a knitting problem. If you know you would like to join her let her know so she can have enough supplies on hand. coleenwalters@gmail.com