

Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest 2023 Workshop Leaders



Carolyn Brodgerski 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 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. She also used all that free time to master another stringed instrument, the Celtic harp. An award-winning singer/songwriter, four of her original songs have been featured in the music sampler of Dulcimer Players News, including her latest song, "Sherry's Diamonds", a harp/dulcimer duet, which was in the August 2022 edition. www.carolynbrodgerski.com

David Fox earned his Master of Music Education degree from Shenandoah Conservatory at Shenandoah University (5-String Banjo and Appalachian Dulcimer), and his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Nyack College (Low Brass). He has been teaching since 1988, and has been in the Herkimer Central School District Music Department for the past 21 years, where he just retired after 31 years of teaching music in NY. David is member of Rags to Riches, and a member of the Mohawk Valley Chamber Brass sextet for several years. He is also an Adjunct Music Instructor at Morrisville State College –SUNY Morrisville, directing the Music Ensemble and the Pit Orchestra. This year marks his 19th year as the New York State American Legion Boys' State Program Band Director. You can also find him every summer as "the vendor out in the campground" with parts and repair service at the Pickin' in the Pasture bluegrass music festival in Lodi, NY.



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 taught dulcimer playing and dulcimer building (two separate classes) at "The Putney School" in Putney, Vermont, but has had to take the past few 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-second year. 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, including the "Wild About Dulcimers" shirt. She also designed the ocean scene for the top of her Timbre Hill dulcimer made by Paul Conrad, as well as the logo for this year's Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest. She has taught workshops at the Pocono Dulcimer Festival, the DAA 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. 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, the Asheville Dulcimer Orchestra and co-lead the National Dulcimer Orchestra along with Kirk and Judy House. 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 and virtual. In addition to playing and teaching dulcimer, Melanie has written *TablEdit for Mountain Dulcimer Arrangers*, available through Folkcraft Instruments.

Mack Johnston has 20+ years experience playing in mandolin ensembles and orchestras including the Providence Mandolin and the Blue Ridge Orchestras. Mack was Music Director for the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra and currently directs the Asheville Dulcimer Orchestra and, along with Kirk and Judy House, co-leads the National Dulcimer Orchestra. Mack is a graduate of the Dulcimer University/Western Carolina University certification program for teaching 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 *Dulcimer Jam Training Wheels*. The book contains quarter note versions of many popular jam tunes.



Lori Keddel 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.

Bernd Krause has a Bachelor’s degree in Woodworking and Design and has been building mountain dulcimers, guitars, mandolins, ukuleles, etc., for over 44 years. He has taught dulcimer building at high school shop classes where over 100 students built their own instruments from design to completion, and has conducted building and dulcimer history workshops for dulcimer festivals, schools, historical societies, business groups and woodworker groups. For over 10 years he has demonstrated dulcimer building at the Agricultural Museum at the Great New York State Fair.

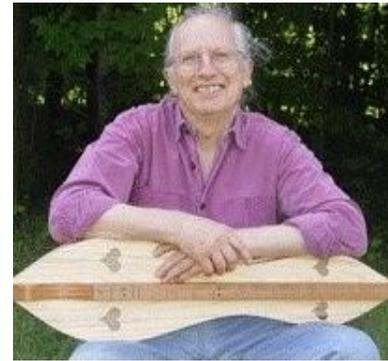
www.facebook.com/KrauseInstruments





Ellen S. Pratt has been playing dulcimer for twenty-two years. She began writing her own music in 2004. She has performed at numerous open mics and taught at festivals throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. She has been an instructor for online festivals with national and international audiences. 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. Over the last few years, she has been arranging and composing multipart pieces for ensembles. Several of her ensemble pieces have debuted with the First National Dulcimer Orchestra at festivals around the country. Ellen played with the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra in Connecticut for several years. She is a member of the First National Dulcimer Orchestra. She co-coordinates Vermont's August Dulcimer Daze festival with George and Mary Haggerty. www.ellenprattdulcimer.com

Jeremy Seeger has been building and playing mountain dulcimer for 54 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



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 nine dulcimer tab books, which have established her as a favorite arranger among players of all levels. Carol's latest book and CD, *Melodies of St Kilda*, were released in 2022, and feature the "lost" songs from these remote Scottish islands. www.MusicLadyCarol.com

Pam Weeks is a mountain dulcimer player, fiddler in Cajun, Quebecois, New England, and old-timey styles, multi-instrumentalist, singer, and educator. Solo or with her bands, Pam is dedicated to sharing the "joie de vivre" of traditional American music and dance! Since moving to Maine in 1985, Pam has been performing, teaching, and recording traditional music. She plays a variety of instruments and sings with her Acadian folk trio, T-Acadie, and plays lead fiddle and sings with Jimmyjo & the Jumbol'ayuhs, Maine's premier Cajun band. Pam also teaches private lessons for bowed and fretted strings, woodwinds, piano, and voice on-line and at her studios in Turner, Bath, and Bowdoin, ME, and has taught at multiple music camps and festivals around the country. <https://pamweeks.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



Margie Litwin worked as an Occupational Therapist for 40 years, having a degree earned at U. of Pennsylvania. Her work has focused on assessing capability and limitations in relation to an individual's chosen activity to prevent and treat injury and maximize use and enjoyment. She began Mountain Dulcimer lessons in 2014.

Maggie Brown has worked as a COTA for 22 years in a rehabilitation hospital. Her work focused on helping people regain the ability to perform daily activities after a stroke or other neurological issue. Maggie also enjoys gardening, crafts, and history. She has been playing the mountain dulcimer since 2014.

Maggie & Margie worked together at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center in Schenectady.