

# Workshops Listed by Level – MDMF 2023

## DULCIMER BASICS – NEW PLAYER / BEGINNER

- 1. Let's Get Acquainted (with our dulcimer)** *Nina Zanetti* Fri. 3:00-4:00  
For new players: even before your first “how to” class, this workshop will help you become familiar with your dulcimer (and how you interact with it!), in a way that will set the stage for playing with ease and enjoyment. Through some fun and easy “explore- and -experiment” activities, you’ll quickly discover how to hold and adjust your instrument; how to create a nice sound: the relationship between strings; the fun of “noodling”; and awareness of ergonomics and ease. Becoming familiar and comfortable with your dulcimer will start you off on the right foot in your journey as a musician. New Player/Beginner
- 2. Care and Feeding of Your Dulcimer** *David Fox* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
A course in simple basic care techniques for keeping your instrument happy and smiling.  
New Player/Beginner
- 13. Beginner 1 - Let's Begin!** *Bonnie Leigh* Sat. 9:45 -10:30  
While being introduced to your dulcimer, learn the basics of how to hold it, hold the pick, understand dulcimer tab and begin playing. DAA New Player/Beginner
- 14. Beginner 2 – The Next Step!** *Kim Jennings* Sat. 10:45-11:45  
We’ll practice 3 different strumming patterns and use them to play different tunes. We will focus on listening to each other while playing, in order to stay together. We will also add a second finger to create some simple harmonies. DAA New Player/Beginner
- 15. Beginner 3 – Moving Right Along!** *Lori Keddell* Sat. 1:15-2:30  
Expand your repertoire with several new tunes that are fun and easy to play, while becoming familiar with a few basic chords and simple harmonies. New Player/Beginner
- 16. Beginner 4 – DAD? DAA? What's the Difference?** *Norm Williams* Sat. 2:45-3:45  
This workshop will discuss why & when you might use these alternate “D” tunings along with some very basic discussion of “modes”: We’ll learn to retune with and without a tuner. Using several simple tunes – E.g.; “Bile them Cabbage,” “Aunt Rhody” & “Old Joe Clark” – we’ll demonstrate the advantages of each tuning. (All tunes subject to change at leader’s discretion.) Come tuned in DAA. Beginner/Novice

## BEGINNER

- 37. Learning from Bugle Calls!** *Sam Edelston* Sun. 10:15-11:15  
Bugles only play five notes, so their familiar tunes can teach your ears one of the most bewildering skills: How to find the important notes in a melody. At the same time, this workshop will help your picking technique and help you become more familiar with some chords. DAD Beginner
- 38. The Basics of Music for Beginners...** *Susan Trump* Sun. 11:30-12:30  
(EASY Intro to music theory... how it all works) An introduction to the terms that you may have heard, but don’t have a clue what they mean, nor why you should know them. This workshop is especially designed for students with no previous musical experience. DAD Beginner

## BEGINNER / ADVANCED BEGINNER / NOVICE

- 4. Getting Picky** *Mack Johnston* Fri. 4:15-5:15  
Flatpicking with correct rhythm and technique is a key dulcimer skill. Embracing our best friend the metronome, we will develop our picking skills (quarter notes, then eighth notes, then playing along and across the fretboard) using well-known music. DAD Beginner-Novice
- 18. The Minimalist Approach** *David Fox* Sat. 10:45-11:45  
A look at my approach to playing the dulcimer, keeping it mostly simple, by keeping the focus on the essence of a tune, rather than playing “too many notes”. DAD Beginner to Novice

**20. Timing is Everything!** Pam Weeks

Sat. 2:45-3:45

A class to exercise our “rhythm muscles”. We’ll be clapping, tapping, stomping, strumming, drumming, creating polyrhythm with the whole class, learning how to entrain our bodies with the beat of the music. We will talk about how to read rhythmic notation, how to count accurately using subdivision, and how to translate that to our dulcimers. All levels, probably most valuable for Beginning through Intermediate

**39. Rhythm and Roots** Ellen Pratt

Sun. 10:15-11:15

Rhythm is one of the most important aspects of sight-reading new music. You need to be able to clap out rhythms so that you play the right notes at the right time, especially when you are unfamiliar with a piece of music. This class will teach basic rhythm notation through lots of hands-on activities! No dulcimer required. Beginner and above.

**ADVANCED BEGINNER and Up**

**3. Cowboy Songs** Susan Trump

Fri. 3:00-4:00

Using simple strums, a few chords and easy left hand fingerings we’ll learn two or three songs that were sung around the campfires, or used to serenade the cattle on the long nights on the range. DAD Advanced Beginner.

**5. Capo Capers** Melanie Johnston

Fri. 3:00-4:00

What is this thing for?! What do I do with it? Let’s talk about this and play some tunes in different keys. DAD Advanced Beginner - Novice

**17. Strike A Chord** Carolyn Brodgerski

Sat. 9:30-10:45

000, 101, 310, and 111 aren’t the only way to play a D, A, G, and E chord. Learn how to play them barred, inverted, and up and down the fret board. Find out why the fingering for some major and minor chords are the same. Learn the value of just playing chords sometimes. Learn an easy way to transpose chords from one key to another. DAD Advanced Beginner and up

**NOVICE**

**6. Songs About Animals** Kim Jennings

Fri. 4:15-5:15

Come have fun playing and singing about animals! We will work on the following songs: Little Birdie; I Wish I Was a Mole in the Ground, Froggy Went A Courtin’. DAD Novice

**19. Multipart Music for All!** Mack Johnston

Sat. 1:15-2:30

The beauty and learning from ensemble playing offers important lessons to players of all levels. In this workshop we will play several multipart arrangements which favor the quarter note and slow tempos. DAD Novice

**22. Sing Along with Your Dulcimer** Sam Edelston

Sat. 10:45-11:45

How to sing as well as possible while you play. Make sure you’re singing in the right key. How to avoid competing against your own voice. How to avoid making mistakes in your playing. How to connect with your listeners. DAD Novice.

**40. Jiggidy-Jigs!** Pam Weeks

Sun. 11:30 -12:30

Jigs are a standard part of our New England repertoire. They are tunes written in 6/8 time and have a different swing to them than reels or hoedowns do. Let’s stretch your rhythmic chops! DAD Novice .... or anyone who never played jigs.

**NOVICE and Up**

**21. Songs of the Sea** Lori Keddell

Sat. 9:30-10:45

Come all ye bold adventurous folks who yearn for the open sea.

We’ve chanteys, ballads, and folk songs galore, and most in the key of D.

We’ll strum, pluck & sing in a nautical way, playing many a sea-faring song.

Whatever your skill on the dulcimer, you’re welcome to come along. Start in DAD Novice & up

**23. Hymns from the Sacred Harp** Norm Williams

Sat. 1:15-2:30

Sacred Harp or shape-note songs/tunes/hymns were typically written in the diatonic (do, re, mi...) scale lending themselves to play nicely on the mountain dulcimer. We’ll explore several tunes and tunings and also look at the power and poetry of these old songs. NO capo required but prepare to retune. Starting in DAD Nov - Int

**25. Harmonics** *Melanie Johnston* Sat. 9:30-10:45  
These bells or chimes added in strategic places in a tune are fun to play and sound great. Come learn how to play and use them! DAD Novice – Intermediate

**28. Easy-Peasy Chords** *Carol Walker* Sat. 2:45-3:45  
Using the time-honored "Power Chord" system, you'll learn how to play any chord you'll ever need in several different keys. Your new "BFCs" (Best Friend Chords) will open all kinds of doors for you, giving you confidence and flexibility in any setting. DAD Novice – Intermediate

### NOVICE PLUS and Up

**42. Having Fun with Work Songs** *Kim Jennings* Sun. 11:30-12:30  
I remember singing work songs in music class in elementary school and many of those songs are fun to play on the dulcimer! What Shall We Do With a Drunken Sailor?, She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain, and I've Been Workin' on the Railroad DAD Novice Plus

**24. Galax Galore!** *Ellen Pratt* Sat. 2:45-3:45  
Students in this class will learn about the history of early dulcimers and the Galax style of playing. You will try strumming with turkey quills and play using a noter on some traditional Galax tunes. DDD  
Novice Plus to Intermediate

### INTERMEDIATE

**7. Welsh Love Songs** *Carol Walker* Fri. 3:00-4:00  
With so much Welsh DNA in her background, it's about time Carol got around to arranging these gorgeous, lesser-known ballads for dulcimer. Similar in scope to her Manx collection, these unfamiliar songs will be welcome additions to your repertoire. DAD Intermediate

**8. Waltzes with Ensembles** *Ellen Pratt* Fri. 4:15-5:15  
If you love waltzes and playing in ensembles, this class is for you! DAD Intermediate

**26. Morris Dance Tunes** *Susan Trump* Sat. 10:45-11:45  
Morris Dancing is a form of English folk dancing dating back from the 1400's. It is usually done by six to eight Dancers with bells on their shins. They are accompanied by really catchy melodies. We'll learn several of these ancient and beautiful tunes. DAD and maybe a Capo. Intermediate

**27. Sweet Songs For The Dulcimer** *Carolyn Brodgerski* Sat. 1:15-2:30  
Carolyn will teach two of her original pieces that have been included in the music sampler of Dulcimer Player's News. "Sweet Song Of Mountain", the unofficial anthem of the mountain dulcimer, will focus on chords, and playing the dulcimer as an accompaniment to your voice. "Letting Go", an instrumental reflective piece will focus on finger or flat picking, hammer-ons, and slides. Capo needed DAD Intermediate

**41. Beautiful Farewells** *Nina Zanetti* Sun. 10:15-11:15  
Songs that bid farewell – whether to a loved one, a time, a place, or life itself – are often powerful musical expressions of some of the most poignant human emotions. In this workshop we'll learn a few musical farewells: some familiar, some new, but all beautiful. Selections will include "Farewell to Tarwathie" and "The Parting Glass." DAD Intermediate

### INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED

**9. Chuck Berry Style** *Sam Edelston* Fri. 3:00-4:00  
Have you ever wished you could play like the Father of Rock & Roll? You can do it on the dulcimer. (Step 1 is NOT to play it in D.) DAD Intermediate-Advanced

**10. Lullabies for Fingerstyle Dulcimer** *Nina Zanetti* Fri. 4:15-5:15  
Lullabies, the gentlest of tunes, are beautifully suited to the sweet, lilting sound of fingerstyle dulcimer. In this workshop you'll learn two or three lullabies arranged specifically for fingerpicking. The workshop will not cover how to fingerpick, but we will touch on ways of using the technique to enhance the gentle beauty of the tunes. Designed for experienced players who are comfortable with basic fingerpicking. DAD  
Intermediate Plus to Advanced

**30. Swedish Music** Pam Weeks Sat. 10:45-11:45

In this workshop we learn the difference between hambos, schottisches, polskas, and waltzes (and play some!) and discuss a little of the historical background of this enchanting and passionate music. Start in DAD, bring capo. Intermediate-Advanced

**43. Waltz with me and Jay** Melanie Johnston Sun. 10:15-11:15

This will be a repertoire workshop learning waltzes by Jay Ungar from "Catskill Mountain Waltzes and Airs" by Jay Ungar and Molly Mason DAD Intermediate & Intermediate Plus

**31. Melodies of St. Kilda - Playing Expressively** Carol Walker Sat. 1:15-2:30

Using excerpts from the haunting new arrangements in Carol's latest book, you'll learn how to apply these same subtle expressive nuances in all your dulcimer playing. DAD /capo required Intermediate and up

## ADVANCED

**29. Beethoven Piano Sonatina Number One for Dulcimer** Susan Trump Sat. 9:30-10:45

We will be playing the melody across the strings as we learn how to practice harder pieces and how to make this lovely classical piece sound impressive on our dulcimers! Listen to it on You Tube:

<https://youtu.be/xUbqCLCPbdQ> DAD Advanced

**32. Play Gershwin - Without Extra Frets** Sam Edelston Sat. 2:45-3:45

Open up a whole new repertoire: Learn to play these two classic songs by George and Ira Gershwin: "Oh, Lady Be Good!" and "Fascinating Rhythm." Who would have guessed that they'd work beautifully on a 3-string dulcimer in DAD, without a 1+ fret, with only two hands? Not only that, but these songs teach some great lessons on playing, chord-melody style, and arranging. DAD Advanced

## GENERAL

**11. History of the Mountain Dulcimer** Bernd Krause Fri. 3:00-4:00

Explore the progression of the dulcimer from its roots in Europe to what we have today. Actual instruments on hand for attendees to see **and** play include the sheitholt, Virginia teardrop, Kentucky hourglass, Tennessee music box, Galax, and bowed style dulcimers. Also on hand original J. Edward Thomas, Jethro Amburgy and Homer Ledford dulcimers. Graphics include maps and photos of historic museum instruments.

All levels, incl. non-players.

**12. Build A Cardboard Dulcimer** George Haggerty Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
– for Yourself or for a Grandchild

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.)** All

**33. Quill and Noter** George Haggerty Sat. 9:15-10:30

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 All

**34. Developing a Jam Repertoire** Norm Williams Sat. 10:45-11:45

Many dulcimer players want to Join the Jam but are not familiar with many of the traditional tunes often played in a dulcimer jam. Dulcimer groups around the country have a fairly large common repertoire they play from and this class will work toward helping the musician learn tunes and discuss resources to develop/expand their "jam base." ALL levels & instruments

**35. Healing Music and the Dulcimer** Bonnie Leigh Sat. 1:15-2:30

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. There will be questions and answer time All

**36. Stretch and Strengthen** *Maggie Brown & Margie Litwin* Sat. 2:45-3:45

Loosen your muscles before you tighten your strings, it may help you play some beautiful things. No matter what instrument you play or at what level, flexibility and improved range of motion will increase your comfort and enjoyment. Learn simple stretches for your neck, back, arms and hands and strengthening exercises for your hands. No instruments necessary, just bring yourself. All

**44. Performance Ready** *Carolyn Brodowski* Sun. 11:30-12:30

Whether you're performing in your living room for family and friends, at an open mic, or in Carnegie Hall, you need to be prepared. What songs will you do, and in what order? How will you arrange them? What will you say about them? How do I shake these nerves? Whatever the size of your audience, you want to make sure they are entertained, engaged, and hungry for more. All

## JAMS

**45. Slow Jam** *Norm Williams* 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 unimimidating, so that everyone will be able to enjoy it. Come tuned to D. All

**46. Open Jam (Experienced Jammers)** *Ellen Pratt* 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.

**47. Folk Revival Jam** *Sam Edelston* 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. All