

Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest 2025 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



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. His online videos have been viewed over 1,000,000 times, in over 190 countries. Sam chairs the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, held every fall in Milford, CT. 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 Quarantune and other online festivals. He is now a full-time musician and dulcimer teacher. In 2024, he released his first recording, *Making Waves*, consisting of mostly classic rock and pop songs on dulcimer.

www.SamTheMusicMan.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 was in the Herkimer Central School District Music Department for his last 21 years, where he 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 currently an Adjunct Music Instructor at Morrisville State College –SUNY Morrisville, directing the Music Ensemble and the Pit Orchestra. This year marks his 20th 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





Tom Irving is a dulcimer player and an innovator, always looking for better ways to do things. He is the creator of Possum Pads, as well as ergonomic noters and wrist rests for dulcimer players. Based in Massachusetts, where he founded the New England Dulcimaniacs, he loves music, art, and dulcimer folk for they are all great folk!

Email: tom468strings@yahoo.com

Mack Johnston is a graduate of the Dulcimer University/Western Carolina University certification program in teaching Mountain Dulcimer and teaches private students, classes and festival workshops in the New England and North Carolina regions. In addition to the dulcimer, Mack plays mandolin and guitar. He and his wife Melanie have 15 years' experience with founding and directing dulcimer orchestras: the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra (2009-2014), the Asheville Dulcimer Orchestra (2016 – present). They perform on dulcimer, guitar and mandolin in the Asheville area as Heartstrings, and with the Arbor Trio at the North Carolina Arboretum. Together they have written *Dulcimer Jam Training Wheels*. The book contains quarter note versions of many popular jam tunes



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 and the Asheville Dulcimer Orchestra. 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*, *Dulcimer Jam Training Wheels* and *Catskill Mountain Waltzes and Airs*, available through Folkcraft Instruments.



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.



Bonnie Leigh, CMP - a Certified Music Practitioner, performer/teacher and singer/songwriter, actively performs and teaches her gentle style of playing with the mountain dulcimer across the northeast coast. Bonnie has taught at eleven dulcimer festivals across the east and has been giving lessons, teaching at festivals and performing since 1991. You would find her at historical villages, libraries, clubs, meetings, coffeehouses and nursing homes. Her easy manner makes learning to play fun and relaxed. As a Music Practitioner Bonnie would play the dulcimer and small harp at the bedside of hospice patients. Bonnie and Ellen Pratt are the co-coordinators of the New England Dulcimer Days in West Dover, VT. As a songwriter, Bonnie's original songs can be found on her 3 recordings all with accompanying dulcimer tab songbooks. She has written 3 poem books and a booklet *"From My Heart to Yours - Thoughts and Experiences of a Music Practitioner Intern"*. bonnie@bonnieleigh.com

Ellen Pratt has been playing dulcimer for twenty-four 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 and at online festivals. Ellen's style of playing is a mix of traditional and contemporary. In the last few years, she has been arranging and composing multipart pieces for ensembles. She has written 12 books of ensemble arrangements. Ellen plays dulcimer and banjo in the elementary school where she teaches second grade. She has worked with students and their families to build cardboard dulcimers so that students could learn to play them and has taught several after-school dulcimer programs. Ellen played with the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra in Connecticut for several years. She is a member and conductor of the First National Dulcimer Orchestra. She co-coordinates Vermont's New England Dulcimer Days festival with Bonnie Leigh and co-coordinated August Dulcimer Daze for many years. www.ellenprattdulcimer.com





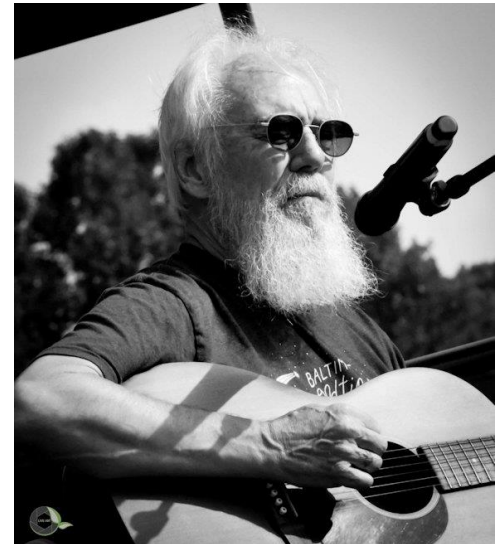
Carol Walker's formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice. She retired after 32 years as an active high school choral teacher (and was the recipient of the 2003 NJ Governor's Teacher of the Year Award), but soon found a way to combine her love of teaching with her new direction in folk music, and has become a popular workshop leader and featured performer at festivals all over the US, plus QuarantUNE Virtual Festival. Carol has published 12 dulcimer tab books, which have established her as a favorite arranger among players of all levels. She is an Endorsing Artist for Folkcraft Instruments of Woodburn, IN, and is the founder (2021) and director of the New York Dulcimer Orchestra based in Ulster County. 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/>



Dwain Wilder is heir to the famous Sunhearth mountain dulcimer design created by his friend Walter Martin. He has extended and improved the original Sunhearth, and now offers nine models in Standard and Concert Series. Each dulcimer is designed and voiced specifically for the musical needs of the client commissioning it. Dwain also relishes teaching, and holds individual classes and apprenticeships in his Bear Meadow Studio. A video documentary of his dulcimer building process and techniques is in progress. He is also a published poet, essayist and editor—and a long-time activist in the fields of racial justice and the climate crisis. He leads the library team for a small international group of climate scientists, sustainable economists, biodiversity experts, videographers and publishers, and conducts training for grass-roots activists in non-violent direct action. Dwain lives with his wife and their cat and dog, in a quaint cottage at the edge of a large dark forest. www.BearMeadow.com

Norm Williams is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club, and the Pocono DulcimerFest in East Stroudsburg, PA; a co-founder of the Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival, and current president of the non-profit, 501(C)3, Folk Arts Consortium, a non-profit supporting traditional folk arts in all its forms. Norm began teaching in 2002 and has been faculty/performer at festivals throughout the Northeast since (including the DAA Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, French Creek Music Retreat, Ashokan Music and Dance Camp & others. In addition to mountain dulcimer, he plays guitar, ukulele & banjo. He offers private, personal instruction in person or via ZOOM. Norm is a lover of Old-Time music and performs solo as well as with the bands' Wayfarers & Company, Tom & Betty Druckenmiller, and the Dulcimer Boys. He has several recordings and is a sometimes radio host at WDIY 88.1 FM in Bethlehem, PA. He is currently retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Emmaus, PA. <https://www.awayfarer-normw.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.