

Workshop Descriptions – MDMF 2017

To avoid overcrowding in workshops and so that we can tell workshop leaders the approximate number of hand-outs they'll need, we're asking participants to indicate on their registration forms a first choice and a second choice for each workshop session they plan to attend.

Please give careful attention to the workshop descriptions when considering which ones to sign up for. If you choose a workshop that is beyond your ability level, please understand that it is a workshop for more experienced players, and be willing to just listen and absorb.

It will not be possible to make changes once all the workshops are full.

Those who register early enough can be confident they will get their first choices.

If any of the workshops you list as a first choice are full when your registration is received, you will most likely get your 2nd choice – unless you register very late. ☺

We anticipate, and welcome, walk-ins, but be advised that the selection of workshops will be limited for those who register late or just come without pre-registering.

NEW PLAYER / BEGINNER

1. Welcome to the Wonderful World of Dulcimer *CarolLynn Langley*

For the brand new player or first-time attender of dulcimer festivals. An introduction to dulcimers, the history of the instrument, types of dulcimers, strings, tunings, festivals, tab, and much more. We'll give you a beginner's guide to what the festival has to offer, and will help you feel comfortable in this wonderful new world of dulcimer. DAD New Player/Beginner Fri. 3:00-4:00

2. Basic Chords for Beginners *Lori Keddell*

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 tuning, and will soon find yourself strumming along with ease on many familiar folk songs. (Chord sheets will also be provided for those who want to "stretch themselves" and try more challenging chord patterns.) DAA or DAD New Player/Beginner Fri. 4:15-5:15

3. Dulcimer 101 - Let's Get Started! *Sandy Lafleur*

A fun and easy introduction to the dulcimer. How to strum, fret and make some music! DAA New Player/Beginner Sat. 9:15-10:30

4. Dulcimer 102 – The Next Step! *Bonnie Leigh*

Take the next step with strumming. We will work on 3 different strumming patterns with 3 different songs. Improve your basic skills while playing together as a group. DAA New Player/Beginner Sat. 10:45-12:00

5. Dulcimer 103 – Moving Right Along! *Bonnie Leigh*

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 along with some very basic discussion of "modes". Come tuned to DAA. DAA & DAD New Player/Beginner Sat. 1:15-2:30

BEGINNER

6. How to Read Dulcimer Tab *Lori Keddell*

Does dulcimer tablature have you just slightly confused? We'll look at different ways that music is written for dulcimer, and de-mystify all those numbers, letters, strum markings, etc., and then use what we learn to play a few simple tunes in DAA (or DAD) tuning. Beginner Sun. 10:15-11:15

7. It's A-Maze-ing *CarolLynn Langley*

It can feel as confusing as walking through a maze to attend your first festival and begin to learn to play this "simple" and amazing instrument. This workshop is designed to allow you to have any puzzling questions that might have arisen during the course of the festival answered so that you can go home and successfully continue exploring your mountain dulcimer. You'll also have a few more tabs to take with you. DAD Beg Sun. 11:30-12:30

ADVANCED BEGINNER

8. Playing With Chords in Jams *Ellen Pratt*

Learn simple chords for popular dulcimer jam tunes and practice by playing along in a slow jam with recorded jam tunes. We will explore songs such as Angelina Baker, Liza Jane, Johnson Boys, Arkansas Traveler, etc.
DAD Advanced Beginner Fri. 3:00-4:00

9. Dulcimer in the Round *Nina Zanetti*

Rounds are the easiest introduction to multi-part dulcimer playing. They are also great fun to play. A round is a composition in which two or more people perform the exact same melody starting at different times. If you ever sang “Frere Jacques” or “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” as a child, you already understand rounds! In this workshop, we’ll learn some simple but pretty melodies that blossom into richly harmonic music when played as multi-part rounds. DAD Advanced Beginner Sat. 9:15-10:30

52. Tune and Tune Again *Melanie Johnston*

Many dulcimer players find tuning difficult. Which way do I turn those tuners? How do I know when I am in tune? If I need to tune to different tunings, do I go higher or lower in pitch? Why do I break strings when I tune? At the end of this workshop you will be tuning and re-tuning just like the pros! Bring a small electronic tuner for example, a Snark or a Korg. Beginner/Advanced Beginner Sat. 2:45-3:45

BEGINNER / NOVICE

10. Quill and Noter *George Haggerty*

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 Beginner/Novice Fri. 4:15-5:15

11. The Zen of the MD, Rhythm *Norm Williams*

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 Sat. 1:15-2:30

12. You CAN Jam! *Gene Langley*

Even as a beginning player you can learn some tips that will allow you to first listen, then apply some basic principles, and then start jamming! Learn to break down a tune into the individual chords it’s composed of, and the order in which the chord changes are likely to occur. Jamming is a great way to train your ear to recognize these chord changes and have fun playing with others! DAD Beginners and up Sat. 2:45-3:45

13. Exploring DAC *Marsha Harris*

This minor tuning, Aeolian in D, is fun yet haunting to explore on the dulcimer. Wayfaring Stranger is such a tune as well as others that will be taught. Tune your mountain dulcimer to DAC, C on the melody string. DAC Beginner & above Sun. 10:15-11:15

14. Playing in DAD *Norm Williams*

Tuning in DAD - Work through several simple tunes – E.g.; “Bile them Cabbage,” “Aunt Rhody” & “Liza Jane.” Continue to work with melody adding basic DAD chords; exploring and understanding the keyboard. Using tunes like “Old Joe Clark,” Holy Manna” and “Sadie out the Back Door.” (All tunes subject to change at leader’s discretion) Beginner/Novice Come tuned in DAD. Sun. 11:30-12:30

15. Introduction to Fingerpicking *Linda Brockinton*

The basics of playing simple tunes in the finger picking style. We’ll focus on how to use right-hand picking patterns for playing chords and bringing a new, pretty sound to tunes that you already know. DAD Adv. Beginner/Novice and any players who are unfamiliar with fingerpicking. Sat. 10:45-12:00

NOVICE and NOVICE PLUS

16. Songs of the Civil War *Ellen Pratt*

This workshop features traditional songs that soldiers would have played between marches and battles. This workshop focuses on singing with the dulcimer as an accompaniment. Some possibilities are Tenting on the Old Camp Ground, Marching Through Georgia, Hard Crackers Come Again No More, and The Bonnie Blue Flag. Come tuned to DAD Novice Sat. 2:45-3:45

17. Left Hand Techniques *Kristin Gitler*

An effective left hand fingering technique will help smooth out your playing, whether playing slow airs or fast fiddle tunes. While everyone has different physical limitations, we'll work on exercises to help you improve your fingering and make your playing flow, and then put them to use with a few tunes. DAD Nov Plus Sat. 9:15-10:30

18. Color Chordinating *Sandy Lafleur*

Once you've mastered the melody, hear how chord substitutions, particularly minor chords, can bring a tune to life. DAD Novice/Novice Plus Fri. 4:15-5:15

NOVICE and Up

19. Introduction to Bagpipe Tuning *Dan Evans*

A couple of familiar tunes from England and Scotland will help you find rich tones and get started in bagpipe tuning. AAA Nov and above Fri. 3:00-4:00

20. Positive Practice *Carol Walker*

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 practicing various instruments as we explore tried and true methods that you can apply to any song you want to learn. In the process, you'll develop skills that can be applied to many other songs, you'll build your repertoire, and you'll be more confident when you perform for others. DAD Nov. & up Sat.9:15-10:30

21. How We Can Dress Up Our Celtic Tunes *Linda Brockinton*

The music of Ireland, Scotland and the British Isles is some of the prettiest in the world. These tunes will be for pickers and strummers who have been playing a while. The focus will be on hammer-ons, pull-offs, slides, triplets, and other ornaments that make Celtic music different. DAD Novice and up Sat. 1:15-2:30

22. Shaker Tunes *Bonnie Leigh*

Learn some history of the Shakers Religion and their music, while learning some beautiful Shaker songs. DAD Nov-Int Sun. 10:15-11:15

23. Fiddle Tunes That Work Better in DAA *Rich Carty*

While the majority of fiddle tunes work better in DAD, some including those with Am sections, work better in DAA. Lots of handouts! DAA Nov-Int Sun. 11:30-12:30

NOVICE PLUS and Up

24. Simplifying Notey Fiddle Tunes *Sandy Lafleur*

Ever wonder how to play those notey fiddle tunes up to speed? Learn to identify the "BIG" notes and blend in with the jam! DAD Novice Plus/Intermediate Sat. 10:45-12:00

25. Song Accompaniment in DAA *Dan Evans*

We will play chords and their inversions in DAA to create highly effective accompaniments to two beautiful Scottish folk songs DAA Nov Plus and above Sat. 2:45-3:45

INTERMEDIATE

26. Repertoire For Experienced Fingerpickers *Nina Zanetti*

For dulcimer players who are already comfortable with fingerpicking technique. We'll learn some lovely tunes, arranged for this style of playing. This workshop will *not* focus on "how to" fingerpick, but we'll review (as needed) how to make this style of playing sound beautiful and expressive. DAD Intermediate: for experienced fingerpickers only Fri. 3:00-4:00

27. Learning Songs From Recordings and Videos *Sam Edelston*

Want to learn a song or tune, but you can't find tab for it? No problem! Your stereo, MP3 player, and computer are more tireless teachers than the old-timers, and we'll discuss practical, dulcimer-oriented ways to learn from them. DAD Intermediate Sat. 10:45-12:00

28. Slant Chord Gymnastics *Melanie Johnston*

Slant chord shapes can be difficult to master. In this class we will work with slant chord shapes up and down the fretboard with the goals of finding some different chords to add to your toolbox, help your sight-reading and enhance your arpeggiated fills and embellishments. DAD Intermediate Sat. 1:15-2:30

29. Hymns of Fanny Crosby *Linda Brockinton*

Fanny was a blind poet/song writer. Up until she was in her 40s she wrote secular music and poetry but then became the most prolific hymn writer ever. She lived to her late 90s and wrote over 9000 hymns. Blessed Assurance, To God Be The Glory, Pass Me Not Oh Gentle Savior and many more. DAD Intermediate Sun. 10:15-11:15

INTERMEDIATE and Up

30. Tailless Tunes *Carol Walker*

Build your Celtic repertoire with this class, during which we'll work on several tunes from the Isle of Man (Manx music), and also explore some of the historical background of each song. DAD/DGD, capo required Int. & up Fri. 4:15-5:15

31. Beautiful Airs in DAA *Dan Evans*

Using best practice finger-picking, we will play a beautiful instrumental arrangement in DAA of a popular Scottish folk song using melodies, harmonies and drones as well as rhythmic variation DAA Int and above Sat. 9:15-10:30

32. Explore World Music *Marsha Harris*

In Sweden you would hear the nyckelharpa, a keyed fiddle, in France the hurdy-gurdy. Even the American Southwest has Gu-Achi fiddlers. Discover some great music to be played on the mountain dulcimer. DAD, Capo Int. & above Sat. 10:45-12:00

33. Early Music For Mountain Dulcimer *Nina Zanetti*

Learn music from Medieval, Renaissance, and possibly Baroque periods. Slow or jolly, this music sounds great on mountain dulcimer. We'll talk briefly about the instruments, sources, and styles of these different periods, then will enjoy a wide variety of sacred and secular music of the times, in arrangements for mountain dulcimer. DAD Intermediate / Advanced Sat. 2:45-3:45

34. Cape Breton Fiddle Tunes *Kristin Gitler*

Cape Breton Island's fiddle music has its roots in Scotland from the large influx of Scots during the 19th century. But with its powerful rhythms and strong connection to dance, the music has remained closer to 19th century roots. We'll learn a few tunes that exemplify these traditions. We'll start in DAD. Int-Adv Sun. 10:15-11:15

35. Even Dulcimists Get the Blues *Sam Edelston*

Playing good, spirited blues on dulcimer requires some different techniques than normal American and British Isles folk music. We'll go through the 12-bar blues chord progression, but we'll also hit some bluesy licks and bends, edgier chords, and generally playing with feeling. If you have a dulcimer with a 1+ fret, bring it, and we can spend some time talking about that, too (though you'll be fine if you don't have one). DAD Intermediate/Advanced Sun. 11:30-12:30

ADVANCED

36. Crooked Quebecois Tunes *Kristin Gitler*

The Quebecois fiddle tradition is full of “crooked” tunes, tunes which don't quite fit into the 4/4 or 6/8 mold, but add a beat or a measure here and there. They can be challenging to learn but great fun to play. We'll learn at least one popular and one more obscure tune, and more as time permits. DAD & DGD tunings. Advanced
Fri. 3:00-4:00

37. How To Get Some Beautiful Chords Without Extra Frets *Linda Brockinton*

We will learn some light jazz tunes with chords you don't use much if ever. DAD Advanced
Fri. 4:15-5:15

38. Advanced Chord/Melody Playing *Carol Walker*

Overcome the challenges of playing both the melody and accompaniment on a 3-string, diatonically-fretted dulcimer! We'll explore some unusual chord shapes, arduous chord progressions, capo placement, and string bending! (We'll also experiment with the use of “extra” frets -- the 0½ and 1½. You do *not* need to have these extra frets for this workshop.) DAD with capo Advanced Sat. 1:15-2:30

GENERAL

39. Troubleshooting TableEdit *Melanie Johnston*

If you have some experience with TableEdit and have questions, problems or want to make your printouts better looking, this is the class for you. We will talk about using color to highlight melody notes, fixing that one last measure that goes on to page 2, adjusting print size, creating and printing multiple parts, and more! Bring your questions and examples of printed music you want to improve. Computers are not necessary but you are welcome to bring yours if you want to do some hands on, real-time work in class. For class, instructor will use a PC based machine projected on to a screen. All levels – only requirement is that you have had some experience working with TableEdit. Fri. 3:00-4:00

40. Stretch and Strengthen *Maggie Brown & Margie Litwin*

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 Fri. 4:15-5:15

41. Intro to the Native American Flute *Marsha Harris*

The instrument allows the player to express their feelings through its voice. The instruction begins with learning fingerings for the pentatonic scale. Bring your own A minor Native American style flute. Flutes will be available for purchase. Contact Marsha if you have questions. A limited number of A minor rental flutes are available for a fee of \$5 or purchase for \$40. Beginner Sat. 9:15-10:30

42. Builder's Workshop: Is your Fretboard correct? *Bernd Krause*

After a brief discussion exploring basic dulcimer building, simple methods to bend the sides, commonly used woods, tools needed, etc., we will discuss one of the most important parts, the fingerboard. How are the fret locations determined? How you can tell if your dulcimer or one you plan on buying is correctly laid out? Extensive handouts will be provided, with proper and simple methods to place frets correctly, or just easily check if your dulcimer is correct. Great also if you want to add extra frets correctly. All Sat. 10:45-12:00.

43. Native American Flute Improvisation *Marsha Harris*

This class is designed for the person who has Native American flute playing experience. Additional scales will be covered. Improvising will be the focus of this workshop. A minor flutes will be available for purchase as well as Native American style flutes in other keys. Contact Marsha if you have questions. A limited number of rental flutes are available for a fee of \$5.00. Intermediate and above Sat. 1:15-2:30

44. How To Choose the Right Dulcimer For You *Dwain Wilder*

We often feel at a loss in making judgments between a collection of musical instruments. Which one will be able to satisfy my tastes over time? How do I judge the musical capabilities of an instrument? What are my actual needs? We will go over these questions and much more, with a little brochure print-out you can take with you. All Sat. 2:45-3:45

45. How To Enjoy Your Dulcimer If You're Not A Musical Genius *Jeremy Seeger*

We will look at where you are with your dulcimer playing and how to get to a place where you enjoy making music. This will be highly participatory and the more you risk the more you'll get out of it. DAA All levels
Sat. 2:45-3:45

46. A Librarian's View of Dulcimer History *Stephanie Barrett*

A brief look into the history of the dulcimer with a focus on the resources of the Jean Ritchie collection of the New York State Library. Different types of dulcimers in different tunings will be available to make the history come alive. All Sun. 10:15-11:15

47. Essential Vocal Techniques *Dan Evans*

Learn how to project you voice and so save it from being damaged, how to breath to sustain long notes and how to listen carefully to sing in tune. All – especially singers. No instruments. Sun. 11:30-12:30

JAMS

48. Slow Jam *Gene Langley*

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 Sat. 9:30-10:30 PM

49. Open Jam (Experienced Jammers) *Norm Williams*

Come and join the fun in an informal jam session playing tunes familiar and common to dulcimer and old time jams. All instruments welcome. Come tuned to D. Novice Plus & up Sat. 9:30-10:30 PM

50. Native American Flute Circle

Experience a flute circle with the Native American style flute. An Am flute is recommended, however other keys of Native American style flutes will be fine. String players (chord progressions will be given) are welcome as well as percussive/rhythmic instruments. Sat. 9:30-10:30 PM

51. Folk Revival Jam *Sam Edelston*

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! Sun. 9:00-10:00 AM