

Workshop Blurbs 2018:

Karen Alley HD -

Hand separation (Int and/or adv)

We've spent our whole lives training our hands to work together effectively, but a whole new world opens up on the dulcimer if you can make your hands work separately. We'll work on some mind-bending exercises and learn some simple tunes that utilize hand separation, and discuss tips for making the process easier and more successful.

Which Hammer, and Where? (Beg)

For beginning hammered dulcimer players, choosing which hand to use and where to play notes throughout an arrangement can seem like a daunting task. We'll break down the various common methods for choosing hammering patterns, and use example songs to understand the situations where different hammering techniques are appropriate.

“Captain O’Kane” by Turlough O’Carolan (Int)

We'll work on an arrangement of one of O'Carolan's most beautiful airs, “Captain O’Kane.” We'll discuss not only which notes to play, but also tricks of the chord structure and ornamentation choices made in the arrangement. Teaching will be done both by ear and using sheet music. This arrangement fits best on a 15/14 instrument or larger, but can also be modified to fit on a 12/11 instrument.

Using chords to add harmony (Beg)

If adding chords to melody lines seems daunting, this class is for you. We'll talk about what chords are and where to find them on your instrument. Then we'll move on to applying those chords to simple melodies, answering questions like: How do I know what chord to play? Where can I add a chord in my arrangement? What chords should I expect in a tune? The goal is to begin to teach you how to add chords to tunes on your own, rather than to learn somebody else's arrangement of a tune.

Sally Anderson, HD

Session 1: “Water’s Warm..Come On In” (Beg & Novi)Introducing basic hammering techniques, demystifying the myriad of strings, recognizing patterns enabling progress with confidence. Learning common tunes with demonstrations of choices to expand the tunes for those with a bit more experience. Having fun exploring your dulcimer's amazing capabilities thru a firm foundation of skills.

Session 2: Acquiring Skills to “Splash With Your Friends “ Even though You Aren't Ready for The DEEP End

Yes, you can join Jams even though you don't know how to play all the melodies. Jams are great fun, but many inexperienced players lack the confidence or skills to join with other musicians when they don't know how to play the melody of that tune.. We will

explore many choices to enable you to be part of the fun. Cool tricks and chord or arpeggio options. We will also review “Jam Etiquette.” This session is devoted to Novice – Inter. Hammered Dulcimer players but others are welcome, too.

Session 3: Riding the Waves – Techniques and Patterns for Learning New Tunes

(Beg-Int.)

We will explore a variety of strategies to break down tunes into manageable units to memorize since our instrument does not lend itself to reading music while playing. We will practice mapping out a tune for hand choice, exploring potential use of embellishment as it impacts hand choice, and find the most efficient way to reach the critical notes.

We encourage others attending the class to also offer suggestions of nifty tricks they have used to help them develop tunes. Mapping out tunes is more cerebral and focused but an essential step to learning to play the tune with ease rather than confusion and trial and error.

Session 4. Do I Hear Bells Calling Me?...Hammering into the Holidays

(Beginners –Int. All welcome)

With Christmas so close, we want to introduce some common Christmas tunes which can be beautiful or fun on the hammered dulcimer even with very simple arrangements. We will introduce techniques to enhance the beauty of these tunes. Focus will be on not simply “noting the tune,” but on lifting up the notes for the beautiful resonance with proper dynamics and embellishment.

Butch Ross MD

***Strumming*:** beginner and up

The secret to sounding good is good rhythm. Good, solid rhythm can make even Boil Dem Cabbage sound interesting. And here’s the best part: Everyone can do it. Come learn how.

***Songs of the 70s *intermediate and up.**

A lot of great songs from the 60’s and 70’s lay out really well on the mountain dulcimer come relearn the tunes you already love.

***Great Tunes Almost Nobody Plays* -- Novice and up**

There are a lot of wonderful tunes out there that well known, come learn what are sure to be your new favorites. Capo required.

***Show Off!* — Advanced**

Learn to make unusual, offbeat and fun sound on the dulcimer. In short stuff that sounds cool! Learn string bending, natural and artificial harmonics, Two-hand tapping, slapping, hammer-ons, pull-offs and using the dulcimer as a drum.

Aaron O'Rourke MD

Early European Lute Music - Come learn a few tunes from the repertoire of an instrument slightly more obscure than our own. (Intermediate and up)

Music Memorization - Memorizing music takes some work...BUT there are a few simple tricks that give you the best chance of success. We'll cover those and more (Beg-Int and up)

Fundamentals of Fingerpicking - This will focus on very basic fingerpicking technique and a quick method for making your own fingerpicked arrangements from slow tunes you already know(Beg-Int and up)

Advanced Flatpicking - In this class, we'll cover arranging ideas that will help make your flatpicked arrangements sound full, smooth, and overall more awesome. (Advanced)

Susan Boyer Haley

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN-(Novice-Intermediate) Songs of the season for an upcoming winter holiday. There is such a treasure of music than we can enjoy in the coming months!

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?-(Novice-Intermediate) Singing with the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer is so much fun and such a natural. The combination of voice and strings is irresistible!

WALTZ TIME $\frac{3}{4}$ -(Novice-Intermediate) The lilt of waltzes ($\frac{3}{4}$ time) on the mountain dulcimer is beauty set to music!

I'M IN A GOOD MODE!-(Novice-Intermediate) One of the unique characteristics of the beautiful mountain dulcimer is the use of the modal system. Learn how to re-tune your mountain dulcimer and enjoy the new voice of your instrument.

Jessica Comeau MD

Lullabies (Suantrai) (C-G-C and perhaps some retuning) (Advanced Beginner to Intermediate)

- Among the ancient Celtic categories of music (An Uaithne), *Suantraí* referred to lullabies, the precious, soothing songs of slumber. This class will illuminate several lullabies of Celtic tradition. Along the way, we will look at techniques for producing smooth, clean, and gentle sounds on the mountain dulcimer. We will be playing our

songs in CGC, but don't worry! The fingering will be the same as it would be for DAD. Proposed songs include *Ho Abha-Inn (O Little One)* , *Gartan Mother's Lullaby* , *Baidin Fheidhlimidh (Philip's Little Boat)* , *Connemara Cradle Song* .

Nautical Songs (Intermediate) (CGC, sister tuning of DAD; bring capo.)

- A musical voyage in search of songs of the sea, including sea shanties and songs about ships and sea journeys. These songs range from lively tunes meant to motivate men who worked aboard ships to lulling melodies that mimic the rocking of a ship upon the waves. Sustain, smooth transitions between chords, and playing the melody on several strings are skills that we address along the way. Songs may include *Foggy, Foggy Banks* ; *Farewell to Tarwathie* ; *Shenandoah* ; *Cape Cod Girls* ; *Henry Martin* ; *Go Down, Ye Blood Red Roses*.

Rebel Heart—Inter to Adv (D-A-D, but may involve retuning to D-A-C; bring a capo, too!)

- This class will be a tribute to folk songs inspired by wartime and revolution. Several of these songs relate stories of tragic but faithful love in time of war. Proposed songs include *Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier* , *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* , *Down by the Glenside*.

Eat, Drink, and Be Merry (Intermediate) (DAD; bring capo.)

- Songs about shared experiences and memories around food, drink, and merriment. A strong emphasis on chords and efficient fingering will characterize this class, and one of our songs will be played as a round. Our selections may include *New Potatoes* ; *Hey Ho, Nobody at Home* ; *Colcannon*.

Laurie Alsobrook MD

Friday classes:

Dulcimer 101 and 102

Everything you ever wanted to know about getting started on the mountain dulcimer is in this class. In addition to learning a few tunes, we'll also touch on jam survival.

Saturday classes:

ROUNDS...FUN...TOGETHER...NOW!

Attending this workshop can be contagious – the title says it all!

WAY DOWN UPON THE...

We'll be rolling on a few rivers in this workshop set for the advancing beginner.

David Beede MD

Ask a Builder Care and feeding of the mountain dulcimer!

We'll cover strings and stringing, care of finish. Cases and traveling.
Extra frets, chromatics, amplification and more.

Rest your fingers! [Are they sore yet?]

Aaron will join me in an informal opportunity for you to pick our brains on anything and everything dulcimer, or maybe share something you've learned.