

MD FACULTY

ROB BRERETON



Rob Brereton is considered one of the pioneers in contemporary mountain dulcimer playing. His years of studying classical guitar have polished his playing style while his degree in music theory and composition has given him a fresh approach to arranging. Rob was one of the first dulcimer players to arrange extensively in chromatic and other alternate tunings. Although he specializes in the standards and early jazz tunes of Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, and the like, Rob is equally adept at playing the more traditional celtic, Appalachian, old time, and other dulcimer repertoire. Rob has taught all levels of dulcimer at most major music festivals and folk schools across the country as well as internationally. He has won several awards for his playing including a coveted Winfield National flatpicking award. Rob was one of the organizers of the Housatonic Dulcimer Celebration and continues to organize the occasional Dulcimer Cruise. He has been playing dulcimer for over 30 years and has been an internationally recognized performer and instructor since his first CD was released in 1992. David Schnauffer called Rob's playing "...strong and innovative." Rob's music is featured on his recording, *"Someone to Watch Over Me,"* available for download on iTunes, CD Baby, and most other music download sites. In addition, Rob teaches K-6 music and has many private students. He also composes, arranges, and he directs several choirs near his home in CT. If you're interested in Rob teaching privately or at a venue, feel free to contact him. Much to his friends' dismay, he also yodels. Please don't hold this against him.

<https://robertbrereton.com/>

SAM EDELSTON



Sam 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. (He's also written nearly 700 songs.) His online videos have been viewed over 1,000,000 times, in over 190 countries. Sam chairs the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, held every October 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 also teaches dulcimer courses and gives private lessons on Zoom. And check out his new CD, *Making Waves!* www.SamTheMusicMan.com



DAVID FOX

David 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. <mailto:hogfiddles@hotmail.com>

KIM JENNINGS



Kim 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 and also the Wild About Dulcimers shirts.

<mailto:kjenningslovesdulcimers@gmail.com>

LORI KEDDELL



Lori 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 the first [Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest](#) in upstate NY 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



Bernd is from the Binghamton, NY area, has a BA in Woodworking and Design, and has been building mountain dulcimers for over 45 years. He has received recognition as an artist and builder for his work. He has been involved with researching the history of the dulcimer for over 35 years and is honored to have conducted a number of presentations with Ralph Lee Smith, noted mountain dulcimer historian. Bernd also builds guitars, ukuleles, mandolins, and banjos. Additionally, he is an avid knitter and creates beautiful, and functional, knitted scarves and ponchos.

BONNIE LEIGH



Bonnie Leigh, CMP - a Certified Music Practitioner, performer/teacher and singer/songwriter, actively performed and teaches her gentle style of playing with the mountain dulcimer across the northeast coast. Bonnie has taught at eleven dulcimer festivals in the east and has been giving lessons, teaching at festivals and performing since 1991. You'll 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 plays the dulcimer and small harp at the bedside of hospice patients. Bonnie's original songs of life and family can be found on her 3 recordings and 3 songbooks to accompany the recordings, all in dulcimer tab. Bonnie has also written 3 poem books. You can reach her at bonnie@bonnieleigh.com

ELLEN PRATT

Ellen has been playing dulcimer for twenty-three 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 session leader of the First National Dulcimer Orchestra. She co-coordinates Vermont's August Dulcimer Daze festival with Bonnie Leigh.

www.ellenprattdulcimer.com

JOE ROSOLEN



Joe has been playing the dulcimer for a while now, attending festivals over the past 15 years, Pocono being his first one back in 2009. This will be his third time as an instructor here at Pocono. Joe is a founding member and bass dulcimer player with the New York Dulcimer Orchestra aka NYDO, electric bass, dulcimer, slide guitar with *Linda & The LoveTones* (CD's available), dulcimer & percussion with *KIRTAN w/ Angela Cays*. He plays standard and bass dulcimer, electric bass guitar, acoustic guitar, percussion. <mailto:joer71r@gmail.com>

JONAH TALBOTT



Jonah is a player of the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer. He bought his first dulcimer at the Kutztown Folk Festival in 1985. The vendor said that anyone could play the instrument, you just had to know how to count. Having mastered that skill, Jonah had the vendor teach him a song and he fell in love with the instrument. After several years of playing in his room, Jonah met some people from the Pocono Dulcimer Club and started going to their meetings. It was here that he learned the joys of playing traditional Old Time Folk Music. Jonah's playing has been influenced by the people he has had the pleasure of playing with for many years, as well as the professional players he has admired. He has played frequently with the Pocono Dulcimer Club at the Quiet Valley Historical Farm as well as giving concerts in some small local venues. He volunteers at a local hospital where he plays for patients, staff, and anyone who stops to listen. In addition to playing, Jonah has written a few tunes and he has begun to learn the craft of building mountain dulcimers. Jonah believes finding that first dulcimer was one of the greatest blessings he has received in life. <mailto:jonahalbott@gmail.com>



CAROL WALKER Originally from Colorado, Carol has lived in northern New Jersey since 1968. Her formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice.

As a professional piano accompanist, she continues her association with various schools, churches, theater groups, and community choruses around the tri-state area.

Carol branched out from her formal classical training when she bought her first mountain dulcimer in 1999, and she has gone on to become a three-time Top Five Finalist in the National Mountain Dulcimer Championship in Winfield, Kansas. She is an Endorsing Artist for Folkcraft Instruments of Woodburn, IN, and is the founder and director of the New York Dulcimer Orchestra, based in the lower Hudson River valley. Carol published her 10th and 11th dulcimer tab books in 2023, and expects to release *Pooh Songs Volume 2* in early 2024; in addition, she has produced three CDs, and one DVD with Homespun Music based in Woodstock, NY. <http://www.MusicLadyCarol.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 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, bio-diversity experts, videographers, 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. <https://www.bearmeadow.com/>



NORM WILLIAMS Norm is co-founder, along with Bob Mallalieu, of The Pocono Dulcimer Club, and the Pocono DulcimerFest in East Stroudsburg, PA; a co-founder of the Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival, presidents of the Folk Arts Consortium, and board member of the French Creek Music Retreat. He began teaching in 2002 and has been faculty/performer at festivals throughout the Northeast since (including the DAA Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, August Dulcimer Days, the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, Augusta Heritage Festival, Ashokan Music & Dance Camps & others). He offers private, personal instruction in person or via ZOOM. In addition to mountain dulcimer, he plays guitar, ukulele & banjo. 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* with Cliff Cole & Rob Yoder. He has several recordings and is a sometimes radio host at WDIY 88.1 FM in Bethlehem, PA. Norm is currently retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Emmaus, PA. <https://www.awayfarer-normw.com/>

NINA ZANETTI Nina 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 major 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 published ten books of tablature arrangements for mountain dulcimer, including four duet books with Beth Lassi. She is featured on *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer Play Music for Christmas* (CD) and she has recorded a CD of solos and duets with Bill Collins, as well as two solo CDs, *Beside Still Waters* and *Winter’s Light*. www.ninazanetti.com

