



MOUNTAIN DULCIMER WORKSHOPS

ROB BRERETON:

MD1 & MD6 - 1-3-5: Arranging Chromatic Music on a Standard Dulcimer Pt 1&2 (2 sessions) Advanced

Rob was one of the first people to use the 1-3-5 tuning and has been arranging and teaching chromatic music on a standard dulcimer for over 35 years. His chromatic arrangements have won him several awards including a coveted Winfield award. Learn about chord structure and voicing, as well as all the ins and outs of this fascinating tuning. Plenty of hand outs and tools to get you started arranging quickly. Tuning D-A-d

MD19 - Anything but Major and Minor Upper intermediate

Let's learn some tunes but leave the major and minor behind. Using the capo and perhaps a little re-tuning, let's explore some of the other modes like mysterious Dorian, Flamenco Phrygian, mystical Lydian, bluesy mixolydian, and discuss why nobody likes Locrian. Some will be familiar tunes, but others will be original tunes designed to give you the feel of each mode. Tuning D-A-d & bring a capo.

MD24 - Caribbean Strums and Tunes Novice - intermediate

Music from the Caribbean often has repeating syncopations in the accompaniment. This is a perfect opportunity to not only develop our strumming rhythm, but also to learn some fun songs from this part of the world. We will start with non-syncopated rhythms, then work in some easy syncopations, then finally develop our own rhythms. Songs will include melody, but our focus will be on expanding our chord repertoire and strumming accompaniment. Tuning D-A-d

SAM EDELSTON

MD2 - Barriers to Progress Novice to Intermediate

Feeling limited? Here's how to do more with your dulcimer ...and have more fun doing it! We'll dig into things that hold some people back, and we'll work with some specific examples. Tuned DAD

MD12 - Hot Hammers and Pull-offs Advanced

I've got a fun-to-play, beautiful piece (from the guitar playing of John Renbourn) that'll add an extra dose of "snap" to your left-hand technique. Tuned DAD

MD25 - Chord Progressions in Minor Keys Intermediate

Minor keys can be a challenge on a dulcimer because some of the notes you want may not be there. We'll dig into several well-known minor-key chord progressions. You'll learn where on your fretboard to play them, and what you can do with them. Tuned DAD, capo & 1+ fret will be used.

MD31 - National Anthems Intermediate

The Summer Olympics are coming! So, let's get into the Gold Medal spirit with some tunes you might hear during the medal ceremonies (You'll learn some playing tips, too.) And remember, if you can play The Star-Spangled Banner, you're guaranteed to get a standing ovation! Tuned DAD

DAVE FOX

MD18 - The Minimalist Approach ...or ...Clean Up Your Act! - Intermediate

Dave has developed his style of playing by combining ideas borrowed from other dulcimer players, and also from his experience with many other types of instruments, styles, and music. His style of playing is not technical, it's more simplistic and "clean". He will present several thoughts, tips, and suggestions that will help you develop a style that won't get muddled up by "too many notes". We may also touch on some alternate tunings, as well.

MD30 - Carin' and Feedin' for your Mountain Dulcimer ...or ...I Broke a String! Now what? ALL levels

How to take care of your instrument, including tuning (and retuning) in the different keys, changing strings, where to put strap buttons, how to fix minor problems, how to recognize major problems (to take them to a Luthier), and answers to your questions about your instrument.



POCONO DULCIMER FESTIVAL 2024

KIM JENNINGS:

MD28 - Critter Songs

Novice

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'; Tuning: DAD

LORI KEDDELL:

MD11 - Dulcimaniac's Delight:

Novice & up

Minor melodies can be not only melancholy, but joyful, pensive, lively – and definitely addictive. And while songs in DAC often sound beautiful with just the melody and drones, adding chords adds a new dimension that will be sure to delight you. We'll learn several tunes with chords that will leave you begging for more. Tuning: DAC

MD16 - Songs & Tunes from the "Other Celtic Nations"

Novice & up

Scotland and Ireland are not the only Celtic countries. We will learn at least one tune each from Brittany, Wales, Cornwall, Galicia, and the Isle of Man. Tuning DAC

MD32 - Songs of the Sea:

Novice & up

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

BERND KRAUSE

MD5 - History & Overview of the Mountain Dulcimer

Beginner & anyone else interested in this.

Along with Norm Williams, we'll explore where this instrument originated, its migration to the Americas and how it came to be in its present form. We'll also provide an overview other instrument discussing its uniqueness in the American landscape.

BONNIE LEIGH:

MD8 - Beginners 1 - Let's Begin!

No Experience Beginner

While being introduced to your dulcimer, learn the basics of how to hold it, holding the pick, understanding dulcimer tab and begin playing. Tuning DAD

MD13 - Beginners II - The Next Step

Beginner

Continue learning to smooth out your playing and have more confidence while learning some new songs. Improving your basic skills while practicing playing together as a group. Tuning - DAD

MD21 - Strumming through Strumming

Beg/Nov.

Learn how to incorporate strumming into fun songs while learning three different strum patterns. You will also learn little tips on how to keep your strumming smooth. Tuning DAD

ALL-3 - Healing Music and the Dulcimer

All levels, All instruments

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. And learn the history of healing music. Bring your questions.

ELLEN PRATT:

MD3 - Songs for Children

Novice and up

In this class, you will learn Childrens' songs such as The Cuckoo and the Donkey, Froggie Went a Courtin', and several other fun songs that children love.

MD7 - Ensembles for Mountain Dulcimer

Intermediate to Advanced

Have you ever wanted to play with others but are tired of jam tunes? Multipart arrangements (ensemble pieces) may be just what you are looking for! Come learn all the parts to a song and then listen as the magic happens when all the parts play together. Bring a baritone and bass along with your standard dulcimer if you have them!



ELLEN – CONT.

MD20 - Tearless Tuning

After Novice/Intermediate

Are you stuck in DAD? Have you wanted to try other tunings, but were afraid to break a string? In this class, you will explore four different tunings, how to move from one tuning to another, how to tune back to a familiar tuning (DAD or DAA), as well as learn a couple of songs in each tuning.

ALL-2 - Appalachian Crankies

All levels – Non-Dulcimer

Is your brain tired from learning lots of new songs and techniques? If so, join me to learn about the history of the Appalachian Crankie. Students will create mini crankies. No instrument is needed for this class.

JOE ROOLEN:

MD14 - “Hard Times Come Again No More” NOT using any tab:

Nov – Int

There’s a lot of ear players & eye players out there, if that’s you this class is for you! Using a song by the American composer Stephen Foster (1826-1864), “Hard Times Come Again No More”. Most of us have heard this well-known tune, now it’s time to learn it, only this time not using any tab. Allowing it to become a bit more “yours” by seeing, hearing and then feeling it. Starting simple, step by step looking at different sections then adding chords using various positions. Adding melody alone, melody drone, singing (optional 😊). Eventually putting it all together.

Tuning DAD

MD22 - Getting started or, your first dulcimer experience:

Novice

Gather round all you beginners & novices, bring your dulcimer and get ready for a fun learning experience. Use this class as a starting point for your dulcimer playing. Have no fear, we’ll be playing a song by the end of this class. Begin with a review of the basics of the instrument, then learn some simple chords and melodies, as well as comfortable ways to hold the dulcimer. We’ll also learn a few very easy songs and take things as slowly as we need to. There will be ample time to jam/play these songs and parts covered in the class.

Tuning DAD (1.5 fret helpful)

MD26 - CHORDS! CHORDS! CHORDS!

Nov – Int.

Do you know your basic chords but get to a point where you feel stuck? Where do I go? Is this it? Fear not my dulcimer friend, there's more! We’ll take these chords and explore them in other positions on the fingerboard. Using familiar songs from the mountain dulcimer catalog we will play tunes with these new chord positions, hearing how they sound. Exploring improvisation, using simple lines around and through them adding a whole new dimension to your playing. When in a jam these variations can add another color to the overall sound of the music

Tuning DAD - **1.5 required**

JONAH TALBOTT

MD17 - Singing with the Dulcimer

Novice/Intermediate

One of the joys of playing the dulcimer is being able to easily sing along with the instrument. This is done either by singing and playing the melody line together or playing chords as you sing. Participants will learn three tunes in this workshop: (1. For the Beauty of the Earth (2. Old Joe Clark. (3. The Drunken Scotsman.

MD33 - Let’s Just Jam!

Novice and Up

It’s been a long day of workshops. This workshop will be a time to learn a little bit about jam etiquette and what to do/expect in a jam. Mostly it will be a time to go over some of the music you’ve picked up during the festival.

CAROL WALKER:

MD4 - Winnie-the-Pooh, One & Two

Intermediate and up

Using selected favorite tunes from both of Carol’s recent Pooh Songs books, we’ll travel back to simpler times via the beloved poems by A.A. Milne, written for his four-year old son, Christopher Robin. These very same poems were set to music in the early 1920s by H. Fraser-Simson and have now been arranged for dulcimers from the original piano music! DAD tuning



CAROL – CONT.

MD9 - Magic Chords, AKA “EZ-PZ Chords: Novice & Up

Even if you’ve never played dulcimer before, you’ll instantly be playing chords like a pro! No tab is needed, and there are no awkward left-hand positions to worry about! Can you already count from zero to seven? Can you recite the first seven letters of the alphabet? Of course you can! That’s all you need for this workshop. DAD tuning

DWAIN WILDER

MD34 - "Laparoscopic Crack Repair" For MD Builders & tinkerers

A method for repairing cracks in any surface of mountain dulcimers or any music instrument without taking the instrument apart. The method uses small 'super magnets' to re-align the two sides of the crack. The method also places interior cleats across the crack in a fail-proof manner. This is accomplished from outside the dulcimer, using a nearby sound hole for all necessary access to the interior. Some special equipment is required, which can easily be made in any luthier’s shop. This workshop is for dulcimer builders, but will also be of interest for musicians who have a dulcimer or other music instrument needing crack repair. I will have materials on hand for the workshop itself, as well as for crack repairs during the rest of the festival. Musicians who want this repair during the festival can email me at dwain@bearmeadow.com. Please mention "Festival Repair" in the email subject line so my filters will pick it up.

NORM WILLIAMS:

MD29 - Putting it All Together: MD Duct Tape - Beginner

We’ll go over what you’ve been learning today answering ant questions, reviewing technique, and playing a few simple tunes to add to your repertoire. Tuning DAD

NINA ZANETTI:

MD10 - Beautiful Waltzes: Intermediate

Graceful, lyrical waltzes make us all feel like dancing! Learn some lovely waltzes from a variety of traditions. Selections will include “Southwind”, “Merry Widow Waltz”, and an O’Carolan tune.
Tuning: DAD

MD15 - Happy Hymn Medley: Intermediate/Adv.

In this workshop, you’ll have the opportunity to learn a beautiful medley of two American folk hymns: the shape-note tune “Beach Spring” and the popular “How Can I Keep from Singing”. The medley will include both a low and high version of each hymn, as well as a lovely introduction, interlude, and ending that help to knit the tunes together into a cohesive whole. This cheerful medley can be a great addition to your worship-friendly repertoire. Tuning: DAD

MD23 - Calling All Fingerpickers! Intermediate and up

If you’ve already taken a basic fingerpicking workshop and like the style, but still find the technique a bit perplexing, this workshop is for you! Come with questions and we’ll troubleshoot whatever may confuse you. Topics may cover common problems, such as achieving a good tone and avoiding “machine gun” playing; but the emphasis will be on whatever you find challenging about fingerpicking. You will also leave with some lovely tunes for your repertoire. Tuning: DAD

MD27 - Variations on a Renaissance “Hit” Tune: Advanced

“John, Come Kiss Me Now”, a tune from 16 th (?) century England or Scotland, was so popular in its time that many famous composers wrote complex variations (“divisions”) on it, to be enjoyed by instrumentalists of all kinds. For mountain dulcimer players, one fun feature of this tune is that it uses a common Renaissance chord progression that matches perfectly with one of our own favorite dulcimer “hits”. Tuning: DAD