

Vendor's Bio's



DAVID N. 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 has been in the Herkimer Central School District Music Department as Director of Bands, and General Music Pre-K through 7th Grade, for the past 21 years, where he retired after 31 years of teaching music in NY. Dave has been a 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 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. Contact: hogfiddles@gmail.com



GERRY HEINRICH builds his dulcimers in his workshop in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. While working as a cabinetmaker for American Music Furniture he was exposed to all kinds of acoustic music. When the pandemic hit, he was increasingly frustrated by the lack of live music. Watching YouTube one day he saw a video featuring a mountain dulcimer, “the easiest stringed instrument in the world to learn to play”. Through his connections at work, he was loaned a McSpadden dulcimer to teach himself to play. After examining the dulcimer, he realized he could probably make one himself. After extensive research on the mechanics and the history of dulcimers he designed and built his first dulcimer in August, 2020. Due to the pandemic, he had to wait until the following spring to find someone who knew how to play to get feedback on his creations. He's had only positive reviews and encouragement from professional players and luthiers. With over 50 years as a woodworker, Gerry continues to experiment with different species of woods, with a focus on reclaimed wood. He builds both teardrop and hourglass dulcimers and has designed a hybrid which offers the sweet sound of a teardrop and the stability of an hourglass. He continues to design beautiful instruments with various color combinations and sound hole pattern designs. Gerry enjoys playing his dulcimers every day, and each has a unique sound. He'd love to build one for you! heinrichdulcimers.com



BERND KRAUSE 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. Contact: bjkrause13@gmail.com



DON KAWALEK grew up in NJ and attended Trenton State College where he obtained a BS degree in Industrial Arts Education. While at Trenton State, he built his first banjo as an independent study. A mountain dulcimer, a mandolin and a hammered dulcimer soon followed. Don, now retired, spent 34 years teaching middle school. He spends his time in his Bunker Hill, WV shop (AKA “the sanctuary”) passionately constructing heirloom quality guitars, mandolins, banjos, and dulcimers.

<https://donkawalek.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/>

