

Gebhard Woods Dulcimer & Traditional Music Festival

2023 Workshop Descriptions

(Updated May 17)

Instructor(s)	Title	Description
Mike Anderson	Mountain Dulcimer "Boot Camp"	First place the dulcimer string-side up on your lap. Basic essential skills ranging from strumming to reading tablature to keeping the silly thing from sliding around.
Mike Anderson	Clawhammer Mountain Dulcimer	This will be an exploration of "frailing" the dulcimer. Frailing or clawhammer is a style of strumming usually associated with banjo. On the dulcimer it is an alternative way of pickless strumming. A sense of humor and a good frustration level are encouraged.
Mike Anderson	Making It Smooth (Mountain Dulcimer)	We'll work through a couple of songs thinking about hand position above the fingerboard to play smoothly, and seemingly, effortlessly.
Sandy Andina	Humor and Songwriting	For songwriters (including aspiring ones), how to inject levity into your lyrics. We'll discuss styles of humor, from the subtle to the clever to the just plain silly. We'll also delve into what makes a parody merely funny or spot-on great--maybe we'll write one together! (Note: we'll steer clear of the political.)
Sandy Andina	Adapting Non-Dulcimer Songs to Mountain Dulcimer	Want to go beyond the mountain dulcimer standards (and even traditional folk) and play songs you never thought would fit your dulcimer? I'll show you how to recognize features of pop, rock, and other genre songs (not just the melodies and chords but even the other instruments on the recordings) that are clues that they can work on a mountain dulcimer--and give you examples.
Sandy Andina & Stephen Lee Rich	Open Jam	
Sandy Andina & Stephen Lee Rich	Integrating Mountain Dulcimer and Guitar in Duets	Are you a mountain dulcimerist who plays with a guitarist (or vice versa)? We'll show you how to choose songs that will work seamlessly with both instruments--including which key to tune a DAD dulcimer, which guitar tunings are a good fit for dulcimer, and how not to step on each other's toes.
Jennifer Ashley & Joel Simpson	Fiddle Tune Jam	Ashley & Simpson invite you to their fiddle tune jam. Bring your instruments and join in on making some lively music as Joel and Jennifer lead the group playing timeless Appalachian and Celtic tunes.
Kara Barnard	One Easy Chord Shape, 16 Chords (Mountain Dulcimer)	One easy chord shape that will get you through any jam session. Learn several songs with Kara in multiple keys.
Kara Barnard	Chord Stamina on Mountain Dulcimer	Three finger chords, efficient finger shifting exercises, and stamina building workouts.
Kara Barnard	Learn "Edelweiss" on Mountain Dulcimer	Learn Kara's duet arrangement embellished with a few harmonic chimes.
Kara Barnard	Complex Harmonics on Mountain Dulcimer	Exploring "false" harmonics in all new places. We will also work on your regular chimes to increase the volume.
Phil Cooper and Susan Urban	Song Accompaniment on Mountain Dulcimer (plus Sing Along)	We will bring song sheets for a number of great songs played with easy chords on the mountain dulcimer, and we will learn and sing them together. We will also bring several songs tabbed for doubling the song's melody on the dulcimer as you sing. If you play another instrument, you can use the chords.
Phil Cooper and Susan Urban	Playing a DAD Tuned Mountain Dulcimer in Keys Other Than D	The key of D is often used for songs and tunes when a mountain dulcimer is tuned to DAD, but sometimes other keys are better suited to someone's vocal range, or just the mood of a musical piece. There are easy ways to play in other keys, even without a dulcimer capo (but if you have one, do bring it along).
Priya Darshini	Physiology of the Voice, Voice Technique and Breath Work	This workshop will focus on understanding the physiology of the human voice, voice health, vocal & mindfulness technique, powering the voice with breathing techniques. With class interaction and examples, Priya will demonstrate how the human

		voice is a special embodied instrument, requiring a technical, yet holistic approach.
Priya Darshini	Vocal Embellishments and Ornamentation	We will explore various tools, and techniques to add intricate ornamentations and embellishments to the singing voice. Ornamentation is an essential tool that adds depth to songwriting, and expands the language of composition. These techniques are also useful to instruments that seek to imitate the voice.
Priya Darshini	Improvisation and Indian Classical Techniques for Songwriting	With over thirty years of experience in classical Indian music, Priya will explore improvisation techniques based in classical Indian music that can be used as tools for improvisation and songwriting across various styles of music.
Carole Ehrman	Hands-on Mountain Dulcimer	Come early to borrow a dulcimer for this beginner class. You will be playing your first song in minutes.
Carole Ehrman	Songs of Jean Ritchie on Mountain Dulcimer (plus Sing Along)	Jean Ritchie brought the mountain dulcimer into the folk revival, and ultimately to each of us. Come play and sing songs I learned from her, some first hand and some from recordings. Musical notation, chords, lyrics and mountain dulcimer tab are available.
Carole Ehrman	Lute-like Songs on Mountain Dulcimer	Plucking and pinch-picking can give the dulcimer a lute-like sound. We will apply these techniques to songs both ancient and modern.
Mim Eichmann	Learn "The Glasgow Reel" on Hammered Dulcimer	Also known as "Tam Lin". Also known as "The Howling Wind".
Chris Foss	Hammered Dulcimer Building as a Career	Learn about being a hammered dulcimer luthier as a hobby, part time or full time. A discussion workshop about anything you want to know about building these wonderful instruments from how they are constructed to the kind of shop and tools required and the life benefits. Q&A.
Chris Foss	All Instrument Jam	
Moto Fukushima	How to Practice	Practicing is incredibly important in how to be better at your instrument. There is no shortcut, but there are smarter ways to work. Simplifying the topic and finding out where one needs to focus is the key to procure a finer result. Continuous effort will give us many healthy benefits.
Moto Fukushima	Japanese Music	I have found that it is an absorbing experience to learn and play Japanese traditional music. In this workshop we will touch on several melodies and learn Japanese music's three fundamental pentatonic scales. We will also talk about the history of Japanese music and the Zen mindset needed to comprehend the sound of transience and imperfection.
Moto Fukushima	Before Playing the Instrument	Playing instruments is not only for your fingers and mind, but also all other parts of our bodies. I'd like to show a stretching/breathing method, which is a good technique for before playing your instrument. Being mindful of each part of your body will help your musical performance, learning speed, and connection between mind and body.
Bing Futch	Beginning Method for Mountain Dulcimer	New and returning players are welcome here! I've got a method to get you playing mountain dulcimer and we'll begin with strums before adding some melody and playing some simple tunes. Discover how easy and fun it is to read tablature, and try your hand at making something up as you go. I'll give you tips along the way to tie everything together.
Bing Futch	Mountain Dulcimer Embellishments: Powerful Tools for Your Musical Toolkit	Once you learn to play a song on the mountain dulcimer, the next step is to play it with feeling and expression. We'll introduce embellishments that add a little spiciness to our musical stew. We begin with simple slides and vibrato, giving the instrument a more "human" voice, and then explore hammer-ons and pull-offs, bends, and bass lines, plus a quick look at creating intros and outros on the fly.
Bing Futch	"Amazing Grace": A Study in Song (Mountain Dulcimer)	We'll take a deep dive into this universally-loved song and use it as a vehicle for demonstrating arrangement techniques. Starting with only melody as a guide, you'll learn when and how to add harmony and bass support. We'll introduce substitute chords to

		add variety and we'll explore key changes as a method of raising the emotional stakes. All of this will help you create your own arrangements!
Bing Futch	The Art of Flatpicking and How to Do It (Mountain Dulcimer)	The mountain dulcimer makes chord-melody style arrangements sound great and the same can be said when it's flat-picked. Focusing on melodic movement and minimal drones, we introduce techniques for finger placement and picking exercises for accuracy through a number of jigs, reels, and old-timey tunes. I'll also share techniques for mixing flat-picking and strumming for a more dynamic sound. Have a capo handy for playing in different keys.
Diane Ippel	Event Building	Exploring the backbones for creating longstanding and successful organizations and events.
Diane Ippel	Split-Brain Approach to Hammered Dulcimer	An arranging style in which the melody is carried entirely by the left hand ("right-brain") and the accompaniment is carried by the right hand ("left-brain"). One may use a harder hammer surface in the left hand to pop the melody above the accompaniment.
Diane Ippel	Learn "Pagan Rite" on Hammered Dulcimer	Syncopated D Minor tune learned from Missouri fiddler Billy Mathews.
Diane Ippel	Celtic Ornamentation for Hammered Dulcimer	Demonstrations of rhythmic styles which will include the slide, hornpipe, jig, double-jig, waltz, air, and slip-jig. Will also demonstrate types of turns and beats.
Stan Ketcik	Ukulele 3 Chord Sing Along	Pure ukulele fun! The participants will have the opportunity to use easy two, three, and four chord progressions to participate in a tuneful musical sing-along. Instructor Stan Ketcik guarantees a fun filled "campfire sing along" (without the campfire). All levels of ukulele players are welcome to participate.
Stan Ketcik	Ukulele Tunes Jam for All Instruments	
Hugo Kringle	Hugo's Holiday Songs for Mountain Dulcimer	Arrangements of "What Child Is This", "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel", "Up On the Housatop", and "In The Bleak Midwinter".
Peggy Mistak	Ukulele Fingerpicking Skills	Fingerpicking is a fun way to make your accompaniments more interesting. We will look at several styles including Carter and Travis picking.
Peggy Mistak	Ukulele "Forgotten Verses"	Many of the songs from the 1920s and 30s were used in stage productions such as the Follies or Vaudeville. These songs told stories through verses which have often been lost as time went on. We will look at many of these "forgotten verses" as we sing and play the original songs and also learn some interesting facts about their past history.
David Mom	Staying Musically Active Throughout the Year	In this workshop I will be sharing my process of finding new music online. I will also share practice techniques and how I review tunes.
Jeffrey Mom	Basic Hammered Dulcimer Chord Structure and Layout	In this workshop we will talk about markers on bridges and how chords relate.
Jeffrey Mom	Learn "Fisher's Hornpipe" on Hammered Dulcimer	We will learn this tune step by step.
Liesl Mom	Come Improv With Me!	Ear learners will like this one. We'll play the echo game and talk about how to join in if someone is noodling around!
Sherese Mom	Fiddle Fun!	Fiddlers, get technique tips, help on a tune you want to learn (music helpful), and/or learn/play a tune or two (I will have options for different levels).
Sherese Mom, David Mom and Jeffrey Mom	The Circle of Fifths	Learn about or review the circle of 5ths and how it relates to major/minor keys, key signatures, sharps and flats, and more. Musicians benefit from understanding these patterns and relationships well. We will apply it to some instruments, but it is relevant to all. Instruments optional.
Grant Olson	What Was That Chord? (Mountain Dulcimer)	We'll walk through how chords are organized on the mountain dulcimer and how to find them, so you may identify the basic chord shapes and how they fit together. We will also discuss different possible strumming patterns for various types of songs.

		At the end, we'll apply what we have learned both to playing some simple songs, and to playing chords in a jam session.
Grant Olson	Introduction to Fingerpicking (Mountain Dulcimer)	If you consider yourself past the beginner level, but have never really learned how to fingerpick, here's a great option for you! We will discuss the basics of fingerpicking, including how I fingerpick and why, along with the other ways people fingerpick. We'll work through a few exercises to practice fingerpicking, and end by learning a basic fingerpicking song.
Grant Olson	Carulli: Mountain Dulcimer Style	Ferdinando Carulli was an Italian composer born in 1770. We will work through "Andantino in G major" and possibly "Country Dance" if we have time. These will be easier to fingerpick, but you are welcome to flatpick as well. No extra frets beyond 6+ will be required. This will be an opportunity to sharpen your skills of fingerpicking, timing, chord transitions, and left hand fingering.
Grant Olson	Dowland on the Mountain Dulcimer	John Dowland was an English lute composer born in 1563. We will work through "Mrs. Winter's Jump" and possibly "Mr. Dowland's Midnight" (if we have time) both composed by John Dowland, and arranged for diatonic dulcimer. Both are nice tunes and will give you an opportunity to develop your left hand fingering skills.
Peggy Peryam	Moving Beyond Beginner Level on Hammered Dulcimer	Bring your dulcimer, your beginning frustrations and hopes, and we will work on strategies to move your playing from scratch to the next comfortable and joyfully productive level.
Peggy Peryam	Moving Beyond Advanced Beginner Level on Hammered Dulcimer	Think you might be ready to try jamming? Ready to try new hammering techniques to make better sounds? Let's work together to enhance your playing and build your confidence.
Stephen Lee Rich	Stagecraft and Interplay	Players &/or singers, how'd you like to take it up to the next level: performer, even entertainer? Learn how to enhance your audiences' enjoyment--both audibly and visually. Stephen Lee and Sandy met on the comedy club circuit and have integrated that into their performances, with sharp repartee and the right amount & type of song intros--both humorous & thoughtful.
Bill Robinson	Learn "ODPC 2023" on Hammered Dulcimer	Original tune commissioned for this year's 60th ODPC Funfest in Evert MI.
Bill Robinson	Learn "Mom's Waltz, Her Name Was Lola" on Hammered Dulcimer	Another original tune from Bill Robinson.
Tony Scarimbolo	Barn Dance Basics	Put on your dancing shoes and join us for some great fun in preparation for tonight's dance! Learn the easy moves needed for the tunes. Bring a friend, and your two left feet, two right feet, or one of each. No prior experience needed!
Joel Styzens	Rhythmic Foundations and Approach to Hammered Dulcimer Composition	Improve your rhythmic confidence through all the most common subdivisions of rhythm. Learn more about rhythmic counting relationships and exercises that will help you "lock it in" and develop more awareness and control of "elastic time." Become friends with the almighty metronome and learn how to apply different rhythms, stickings, and compositional techniques for different music writing possibilities.
Rick Thum	Making Your Hammered Dulcimer Easy to Understand and Play	You will learn the basics needed to start playing your dulcimer. You do not need to read music. I will show you the tricks to make learning a song easier and your first embellishments. You will understand how your instrument works and will be able to make it sound like what made you want to play it. Come get started.
Rick Thum	Harmonies and Drones Made Easy (Hammered Dulcimer)	Thirds make great harmonies until they don't work. Find out why and how to make them work. Drones create that definitive hammered dulcimer sound. Playing harmonies with drones will make your playing sound magical. This is a fun class with lots of playing. You will use "Ode to Joy" or "Mary Had a Little Lamb" to try out your new skills. Come have fun learning and playing.
Rick Thum	Learn "Sarah Armstrong" on Hammered Dulcimer	A great jam tune in the key of D. This tune is starting to show up at jams in the dulcimer world. You can be the one to bring it to your area. See you in the workshop.

Rick Thum	Learn "Orange Blossom Special" on Hammered Dulcimer	You will learn all the tricks needed to ad-lib and fancy-up all of the parts of this exciting crowd pleaser. A great tune to show off with to your friends. Lots of room for ad-lib and embellishment. I hope you know your chords. It really helps on this tune.
Victoria Van Arnam	Hammered Dulcimer Basics	Become comfortable with your instrument and the layout.
Victoria Van Arnam	Creating an Engaging Performance	Do you want to start performing in front of people but just don't know how? Have you been performing, but feel like you could connect more with your audience? Tips, tricks and techniques to engage your audience through music and personal style.
Victoria Van Arnam	Look Up! (Hammered Dulcimer)	Play without looking at your strings. How to maintain eye contact and presence with your audience while playing your instrument.
GiGi Wong-Monaco	EZ 'Ukulele Strum Patterns and Techniques	Learn basic strum patterns and techniques, an easy picking, and apply them to various, popular songs. Participants should have their own 'ukuleles and music stands. Handouts will be provided.
GiGi Wong-Monaco	Hawaiian 'Ukulele Workshop	Beginner-level workshop focusing on Hawaiian 'ukulele, origins, strums and songs. Participants should have their own 'ukuleles and music stands. Handouts will be provided.
Max ZT	Hammered Dulcimer Speed	Fast is king! There are so many techniques to increase one's speed. We will focus on the patterns of the dulcimer, different phrases and figures, and how to best utilize practice time. This will greatly improve your accuracy, agility, and grace while moving from note to note. Let us have the patterns and beauty of the dulcimer teach us!
Max ZT	Polyrhythms on Hammered Dulcimer	Polyrhythm can be a game changer for your music. We will focus on sticking exercises to improve ambidextrous independence. Let's get that effortless flow in your hands!
Max ZT	Hammered Dulcimer Fluidity	The hammered dulcimer is one of the few instruments in the world with such a large geographic area to cover. This means that there are some really unique patterns to the instrument, and when understanding all the variations, you can fly through your instrument with ease. Learning variations of chords and how to visualize their connections is a great step in becoming fluid on the dulcimer.
Max ZT	Hammered Dulcimer in New Contexts	The hammered dulcimer sits at an unusual intersection of multiple responsibilities. Is it a chordal, melodic or rhythmic instrument? Is it to be a complimentary instrument, or lead? Both? How does one address the natural resonance when composing for a group? How does one not overpower? What about chromaticism? But most importantly, how does one truly tap into the assets of this unique and beautiful instrument without lessening its greatness?
TBA	Jam	
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