

Workshops Listed by Instructor – MDMF 2024

Carolyn Brodginiski

2. Beginner I - String Side Up

Fri. 2:45 – 3:45

Have you always wanted to play a musical instrument, or decided you want to learn a new one? The mountain dulcimer is the one for you. This original American folk instrument is beautiful looking, sounding, and so easy to play. You'll be playing in no time. DAA New Player

34. A Classical Approach to the Dulcimer

Sat. 1:00 – 2:00

An instrument is just a vehicle to make music. Any kind of music. So why not add some classical music to your repertoire? In this workshop we'll work on The Bach/Gounod "Ave Maria", and another short piece if time permits. Lovely classical pieces sound best without a pick, so have your fingers ready to play LOTS of arpeggios. Bring you dulcimer with the 1+ fret. DAD Intermediate – Advanced

42. Playing with others - Instruments that is

Sat. 2:15 – 3:15

What happens when you're the only dulcimer player at a jam? Even scarier, they are playing music you don't have tab for? OH NO! Yes, dulcimer players can play with others. This workshop will give you the tools you need to hold your own by helping you recognize chords played on the guitar, and familiarize you with the most common chords played in different keys. You'll also learn a cool and easy blues riff, in case a harmonica shows up. Bring a capo. DAD All

Joe Collins

8. Funny Songs for Your Repertoire

Fri. 1:30-2:30

Kick back and have some fun in this workshop. We'll be playing and singing a variety of songs to tickle your funny bone! We'll also learn how to use the dulcimer to accompany ourselves as we help people laugh.

DAD Adv. Beginner & up

19. Sweet & Gentle Tunes–Vol 2

Sat. 10:30-11:30

While we appreciate fast & furious tunes, sometimes it is good to relax and play sweet, gentle songs on the mountain dulcimer. This is a repertoire workshop of pretty tunes that are not hard to play, including "Banks of the Catawba," "Shenandoah," and others. DAD Novice & up

25. Sweet & Gentle Tunes -Vol 3

Sat. 9:15-10:30

Beautiful, slow-paced tunes for your repertoire, including "Bring Me Lil' Water, Sylvie," "The Shepherd's Wife," "Mary Hamilton," and others. DAD Novice Plus & up

30. When Irish Eyes Are Weeping

Fri. 2:45 – 3:45

For centuries, tragedy was a way of life for the Irish. Some would argue it may still be. This is a Celtic repertoire workshop of sad, sad songs from the emerald isle. Learn to play Irish songs that will make people cry in their Guinness! DAD Int – Adv

41. Hornpipes-Vol 2

Sat. 1:00-2:00

Hornpipes make folks want to dance on the deck of a ship somewhere or, at the very least, tap their feet. The unique bouncy rhythms of hornpipes will really make your dulcimer shine! Songs include "Dorsetshire Hornpipe," "An Comhra Donn," and "Devil's Dream." DAD Advanced

Sam Edelston

16. Stronger Pinky – Better Playing

Fri. 2:45-3:45

Do you avoid fretting with your pinky just because it's your weakest finger? (Can you imagine a concert pianist avoiding using her pinky?) Getting comfortable with your pinky can help you play chords and can generally help smooth out your playing. We'll do some songs and exercises designed to give your pinky a good, diverse workout on single notes, hammer-ons, chords, and more – while also being (mostly) fun. DAD Novice

24. Turn Any Song Book into a Dulcimer Book

Fri. 4:00-5:00

Can't find dulcimer music for the songs you love? Learn how to use any book with guitar or uke chords, instead! In this class, you'll learn how to find the book's chords on your dulcimer ... options for retuning if the song is in a terrible key ... and a tool to transpose into a key that works better for your voice and your dulcimer. DAD Intermediate

28. Piano Exercises for Mountain Dulcimer

Sat. 2:15-3:15

Want to become a killer flat-picker? I found a real treasure on my sheet music collection – an old piano exercise book – and I realized that piano exercises could be adapted and turned into dulcimer exercises. Learn from the great pianists! DAD Intermediate

32. Unexpected Songs That Don't Need Extra Frets

Sat. 9:15-10:30

Although I'm best known for playing surprising songs that require one or more extra notes, in this workshop we'll broaden your palette with a few DAD songs that you probably wouldn't have thought of, and that won't require you to add any "clutter" to your fretboard. DAD Intermediate-Advanced

David Fox

1. Care and Feeding of your Dulcimer

Fri. 1:30 – 2:30

A course in simple basic care techniques for keeping your instrument happy and smiling. New Player / Beginner

Tom Irving

11. String Changing Basics

Sat. 9:15-10:30

Tom will demonstrate and discuss the often feared changing of the strings on your dulcimer. I'll cover the simple tools needed, the type of strings needed (and how to correct some issues). You'll see the tools used and learn some "tricks" to make the job much easier. Once the change is done I will demonstrate my "DeSqueaking" technique to end that annoying sound. There is no need for fear!! Beginner and up

Lori Keddell

6. Easy Tunes in DAA

Sat. 1:00-2:00

Expand your repertoire with several new tunes that are fun and easy to play. We may even add some simple 2 finger chords to enhance the basic melody and drone. DAA Beginner

26. Learn to Play in EAA

Sat. 10:30-11:30

Playing in EAA tuning is similar to playing in DAD, but with the melody pitched 3 notes lower (great for those who can't sing the high notes in DAD!), and the harmony notes in the chords turned "upside down". You'll enjoy this versatile way of playing new tunes as well as ones you already know in DAD tuning. Come tuned to EAA, or come a bit early if you need help retuning. Novice Plus & up

Bernd Krause

17. Noter Style Playing

Fri. 4:00-5:00

Noter playing is not just for DAA tuning. Come learn 3 easy tunes, in 3 different tunings, changing only one string for each tuning. Expand your playing with these 3 tunes in the noter and pick style, sliding the noter up and down the fingerboard to give that traditional dulcimer sound. Noters will be provided. We will start with DAA tuning. Novice

Sandy Lafleur

5. Tips for Beginning Players

Sat. 10:30-11:30

Practicing ideas, finding the groove, methods of learning new tunes, playing with others, keeping the beat. DAA New Player to/Novice.

20. Christmas/Seasonal Melodies

Sat. 1:00-2:00

Old and different - not your usual Christmas jingles! DAD Novice Plus.

29. The Baritone Dulcimer

Fri. 1:30-2:30

How it can fit in with a standard dulcimer to add the low end you've been looking for. AEA and ADA Intermediate.

Bonnie Leigh

4. Beginner III – Moving Right Along!

Sat. 9:15-10:15

Learn how to switch from DAA to DAD and back to DAA, and play some DAD tunes with a few easy chords. This workshop will discuss why & when you might use these alternate “D” tunings. Beginner

7. Easy Tunes for Beginners

Sat. 2:15-3:15

Expand your repertoire with several new tunes that are fun and easy to play. Come tuned to DAD. Beginner

12. Strumming through Strumming

Sat. 10:30-11:30

Learn fun songs while adding different strum patterns. Also little tips on how to keep your strumming smooth. DAA Beginner-Novice

Ellen Pratt

22. Songs for Children

Fri. 1:30-2:30

In this class, we will learn some fun songs to sing along with your child, grandchild, or students in a classroom. Song choices include Froggy Went a Courtin', Waltzing with Bears, Rattlin' Bog, etc. Students should be familiar with D, G, and A chords on dulcimer. Come tuned to DAD Novice Plus and up

23. Songs of the Civil War

Fri. 2:45-3:45

This is a repertoire class where you'll learn some favorite old Civil War tunes such as Hard Times, Tenting on the Old Campground, and others. Come tuned to DAD. Intermediate

35. Ensemble Arrangements for Mountain Dulcimer

Sat. 2:15-3:15

Do you love to play with others but you are tired of traditional jams? Come and explore the world of ensemble music where you will learn to play several parts of a piece and try them all out with your fellow ensemble members. There will be a part that everyone can play! Come tuned to DAD Novice Plus to Advanced

Butch Ross

10. Jam Session Survival Guide

Fri. 4:00-5:00

Jamming with other people is probably the best way you can learn tunes and become a better player. But it can be intimidating for a new player to put their feet in the water. Come learn three simple things that will allow you to participate in jam sessions—regardless of level—and make you feel like you belong there. DAD Beginner and up

21. Swing! Leathernecks Swing!

Sat. 2:15-3:15

Fun tho' somewhat obscure tunes that SWING! The title is a joke, come find out what it is. DAD Novice Plus. and up

33. Flat pick, strum, half-strum

Sat. 10:30-11:30

Learn easy, yet effective ways to separate your strum between bass notes and treble notes. When to play one note and when to not worry about it. Basically, everything you need to know to develop a solid and great sounding strum hand. DAD Intermediate and up

39. Reverse Slant Chords

Sat. 9:15-10:30

We all know what I call “thumb-leading” chords (the L-shape, Slant and extended slant shapes), what about their opposites? These chords, in addition to being closer in voicing to standard piano chords (root-third-fifth) sound better and are more versatile than their well-worn cousins. DAD Advanced

Carol Walker

13. Magic Chords for Beginners!

Sat. 1:00-2:00

Even if you've never played before, you'll instantly be playing chords like a pro! No tab is needed, and there are no awkward left-hand positions to think about! If you can recite the first seven letters of the alphabet, that's all you need for this workshop! DAD Advanced Beginner

31. Dulcimer à la Mode

Fri. 4:00-5:00

Curious about modes but afraid to ask? This workshop is way more than just a boring theoretical explanation. Instead, we'll sample seven songs, each one in a different mode, which will give you a taste of the distinct flavor of each mode. Our diatonic fretboard makes it super easy to figure out!
DAD tuning/capo required Intermediate Plus

36. Winnie-the-Pooh Volume Two

Fri. 1:30-2:30

If you have fond childhood memories of that "silly old bear," you'll enjoy romping and rambling through these new adventures with Winnie and Christopher Robin, as arranged for solo dulcimer in Carol's newest book. Carol will walk you through some of the Tricky Bits in a sampling of pages taken directly from this second set of Pooh Songs. DAD Intermediate Plus -Advanced

40. Copyright – the Do's and Don'ts

Sat. 10:30-11:30

Ever the teacher, it is my goal to *educate* interested folks as to all the do's and don'ts related to copyright law. **Jot down your questions ahead of time, and I'll answer them one by one.** This workshop will be a forum for asking/answering questions about all the "do's and don'ts" related to recording, publishing, arranging, performing, etc. All levels

Dwain Wilder

43. Easy DIY Dulcimer Repairs

Sat. 9:15-10:30

This is a workshop on easy refinishing/repair of the various scrapes, dings, breakage, etc. that can be done with simple tools and easily found materials. Bring any dulcimer you have with finish problems and we may be able to demonstrate fixing them as part of the workshop! Small sets of some supplies will be handed out to those who attend. And I'll have a few extra sets for people who for some reason spontaneously join. All

Norm Williams

3. Beginner II – Continuing on the Path

Fri. 4:00-5:00

We will continue to work with simple melodies developing your rhythm and learning different strum patterns. These techniques will give you skills and to provide a platform for all of your future playing as rhythm is basic to all styles of music. DAA New Player / Beginner

14. Mountain Duct Tape

Sat. 2:15-3:15

In this workshop, we'll put what you've been learning together, play a few simple tunes, and have fun! We'll also take time to talk about practicing and troubleshoot any questions you might have. DAD Beginner-Novice

27. "Old Time" Songs and Tunes for the Mt. Dulcimer

Sat. 1:00-2:00

Learn 3-4 simple, not-so-familiar, Old Time Appalachian songs/tunes and their background. We'll also focus attention to timing, rhythm & singing. DAD Intermediate

37. The Zen of the Mt. Dulcimer, Rhythm

Fri. 2:45-3:45

This workshop re-enforces strumming and rhythm techniques to increase your skills and to provide a platform for all of your future playing. We'll learn the fundamentals of rhythm, strumming, angle and hand placement, speed, and tone. The goal of this session is to have the learner comfortable with strum-hand technique so s/he can concentrate on the music. All

Nina Zanetti

9. Introduction to Chord-Melody Style

Fri. 2:45-3:45

Now that you're somewhat familiar with your instrument, expand your skills by learning chord-melody style. We'll start with familiar tunes arranged in simple single note or "drone" style, and then will use a step-by-step approach to learn how to play the melody while adding chords for color and expression. DAD Advanced Beginner

15. Songs of the Wild West

Fri. 1:30-2:30

Enjoy some of the songs of the western frontier! These tunes adapt well to the simplicity of the mountain dulcimer and evoke images of wagon trains, cattle drives, gold rushes, and cowboys singing in the night. Selections will include "Home on the Range", "Oh Susanna", and "The Dreary Black Hills." DAD Novice

18. Finger-Picking Training Wheels

Sat. 9:15-10:30

Mystified by the fingerstyle approach to playing mountain dulcimer? We'll break it down into three basic skills: right hand technique (how to produce a good tone, how to use different fingers to create patterns, how to bring out the melody notes); left hand technique (smooth chord transitions); and how to decipher fingerstyle tablature. This brief introduction to the "basics" will prepare you to approach simple fingerstyle arrangements with confidence.

DAD Novice & up

38. Carolan's Love

Fri. 4:00-5:00

Turlough O'Carolan, the great Irish harper, had a life-long love for a woman named Bridget Cruise. He wrote several lovely tunes in her honor. In this workshop, you'll get to learn two of these tunes, including one with some intricate and beautiful variations. DAD Advanced