

# Workshop Descriptions – MDMF 2012

In the hope of avoiding overcrowding in workshops and so that we can tell workshop leaders the approximate number of hand outs they'll need, we're asking participants to indicate on their registration forms those classes they plan to attend. Please give careful attention to the workshop descriptions when considering which ones to sign up for to keep changes at the festival to a minimum. We anticipate, and welcome, walk-ins, but if it's at all possible for you to pre-register and sign up for workshops ahead of time, it would be greatly appreciated.

## What's Your Playing Level?

**New Player** – no previous dulcimer experience.

**Beginner** – has a little experience with the dulcimer, but needs more help with the basics.

**Advanced Beginner** – familiar with basic strumming and fingering, can play simple melodies and a few basic chords in DAA and/or DAD tuning.

**Novice** – starting to make 3-finger chords, ready to try a different tuning and a few left-hand techniques.

**Novice Plus** – can play 3-finger chords, learning to use a variety of strumming patterns, flat and/or finger picking, and tuning variations.

**Intermediate** – has experience playing in several different tunings, familiar with chords and different right and left-hand techniques. Exploring various tunings and embellishments.

**Advanced** – is comfortable playing in a variety of styles and tunings; the accomplished musician, ready for more challenging techniques and repertoire.

The levels above give a very basic description of what players at that level should know and be able to do. Workshops for each level will teach techniques, skills, and repertoire that will help you progress to the next level, building on the skills you already have.

## BEGINNER

### 1. **Beginner I - Let's Begin!** Bonnie Leigh

While being introduced to your dulcimer, learn the basics of how to hold it, hold the pick, understand dulcimer tab and begin playing. DAA Beginner/New Player Fri. 3:00

### 2. **Dulcimer Basics** Ellen Pratt

What is a dulcimer? What do you do with it? We'll cover how to hold it, strum and play some simple songs in this workshop. Come tuned to DAA. (help with tuning will be available) DAA Beginner/New Player Sat. 9:30

### 3. **Moving Right Along (Beginner II)** Sandy Lafleur

We'll build on what you've learned in the earlier Beginner workshops and learn some simple and familiar tunes. DAA Beginner/New Player Sat. 10:45

### 4. **Beginner's Round Table** Lori Keddell

If you're on "information overload" and need more help with all the things you've been learning this weekend, bring your questions and we'll help you get things sorted out. You will also leave with several easy new tunes to add to your repertoire. DAA Beginner Sat. 1:15

### 5. **Old-Time Dulcimer from Scratch** Don Pedi

Free style strumming and natural noting (fretting) for beginners. Playing techniques to develop good rhythm and economy of motion. DAD Beginner Sat. 2:30

## ADVANCED BEGINNER AND UP

### 6. Basic Chords in DAD Steve Miklos

A description of the methods used to create chords and then hands-on playing in different strums to many familiar pieces of music. Learn to be familiar with the “Big Three” (and the extra one) with which you can play many thousands of folk and popular songs; and learn about the other chords in the key of D and how they all relate to the keys of G and A. DAD Advanced Beginner/Novice Fri. 3:00

### 7. Playing in DAD Norm Williams

We will work through several simple tunes – “Bile them Cabbage,” “Aunt Rhody” & “Liza Jane,” and continue to work with melody adding basic DAD chords; exploring and understanding the keyboard using tunes like “Old Joe Clark,” Holy Manna” and “Sadie out the Back Door.” (All tunes subject to change at leader’s discretion) Come tuned in DAD. Beginner/Novice Sat. 9:30

### 8. Sing, Strum, and Play Steve Miklos

When dulcimer players join a jam, they can strum along with the chords, or play the melody if they know it (or can pick it up), or sing, or, at the last gasp, turn the dulcimer over and beat out the rhythm on the back! Tab with chord symbols will be given for several songs, and you can sing along and play the chords or the melody, or just thump – whatever you are comfortable with. DAD Advanced Beginner/Novice Sat. 1:15

### 9. Harmony Shapes Susan Trump

Using one or two simple two-finger chord shapes you can create a very rich and full sound for a lovely effect! Beautiful tunes made EASY! DAD Beginner/Novice Sat. 2:30

## NOVICE

### 10. Easy Irish Polkas Kristin Gitler

Polkas can be easy and fun – we’ll learn how to flat pick a few simple Irish polkas, and add some embellishments as time permits. DAD Novice Fri. 3:00

### 11. Bring your Strumming up to Speed Bonnie Leigh

Do you feel you can play songs but just can’t seem to keep up with the speed of others? Using fun familiar tunes, starting out at medium speed, we will work up the strum speed of the songs. Start slow.....then goooooooooooooo! DAD Novice Sat. 10:45

### 12. Cajun Music Pam Weeks

The music of the Cajun people of southwest Louisiana is beautiful and passionate, happy and sad at the same time. We’ll learn a waltz and two-step that fit easily with the dulcimer’s drones. Novice Sat. 1:15

### 13. Dancing Fingers Kristin Gitler

Let’s get those fingers dancing! We’ll learn how to do hammer-ons, pull-offs and slides, and where and when to add them to a tune. DAD Novice Sat. 2:30

## NOVICE PLUS

### 14. Folk Songs for Young Folk CarolLynn Langley

Keep the tradition alive by teaching folk songs to children, either your own or others’ while enjoying them yourself as well. Some of these may be new to you as well as to the kids you sing them with. DAD Nov & Nov. Plus Fri. 4:15

### 15. Island Tunes Beth Lassi

Come to this workshop and learn to play a few calypso type tunes. It has been a long winter - let’s get ready for some warm weather music. DAD Novice Plus Sat. 9:30

## NOVICE or NOVICE PLUS and UP

### 16. Music Theory as it Applies to the Dulcimer Sandy Lafleur

Knowledge of a little bit of music theory can help you expand your horizons! DAD Novice Plus & Intermediate Fri. 3:00

**17. Learn That Song By Heart** CarolLynn Langley

The most effective method for getting the message of a song across to an audience is to reach the point where you can put away your tab and lyrics and sing from your heart. We'll discuss, and experiment with, ways to accomplish this. Novice & Intermediate Sat. 9:30

**18. How to Vary a Tune and Make it Your Own** Beth Lassi

In this workshop we will look at how we can vary the way we play a tune on the dulcimer. We will cover playing in different octaves, choosing particular chords, breaking up chords, using embellishments and much more. We will also talk about why we want to vary a tune in the first place. There will be tab for at least 3 different tunes of various types and we will explore variations that are suitable for each type of music. DAD Novice Plus and Intermediate Sat. 10:45

**Fingerpicking – Mini Course (two sessions)** Nina Zanetti

DAD Novice Plus and up, plus more experienced players who have limited experience in fingerpicking.

**19. Part I:** we will learn to fingerpick and how to make this style of playing sound lovely. We'll start with an overview of right-hand technique for fingerpicking, and then will work on reading tab for fingerpicking arrangements and on interpreting this tab with respect to chord structure. We'll explore the different patterns of fingerpicking and will learn some tunes to gain practice with these patterns. Sat. 1:15

**20. Part II:** This second session will continue to explore the techniques of fingerpicking, with emphasis on how to make this technique sound musical. We'll learn some pretty tunes and use them as examples for how to play fingerstyle arrangements with grace and expression. We'll also explore how to take tab arranged for strumming or flatpicking and turn it into a fingerpicked arrangement. Sat. 2:30

## INTERMEDIATE

**21. Old-Time Sacred Songs** Don Pedi

Traditional versions of popular and archaic sacred songs from the Southern Appalachians. DAD, DGD Intermediate Fri. 4:15

**22. Civil War Tunes** Bonnie Leigh

Enjoy songs from the 1800's that our soldiers in the Civil War wrote or sang to help them get through the hard times of war. DAD Intermediate Sat. 9:30

**23. Developing your Hand skills (Or ways to make your fingers love you – in time)**

Picking patterns, arpeggios & triplets – patterns and repetitions for your right and left hands that will make you a better player. DAD Intermediate Sat. 10:45 Norm Williams

**24. Playing by Ear** Carol Walker

Sometimes you hear a melody at a jam session or club meeting that you really like, but no one has tabbed it out. Good grief! This workshop, taught by a recovering tabaholic, will give you lots of ways you can learn the tune on the spot, and still remember it when you get home. No TAB allowed! DAD Intermediate Sat. 1:15

**25. Play in A!** Sandy Lafleur

Many of the tunes folks play in "D" on the dulcimer are played in the key of "A" by most other musicians. Here's a way to do that! DGD capo 1 Intermediate Sat. 2:30

## INTERMEDIATE and UP

**26. Duets and Playing Well With Others** Susan Trump

Playing at least two-part arrangements we'll make beautiful music together. DAD Intermediate and Up Fri. 3:00

**27. The Lost Chord is Found** Carol Walker

In this workshop we'll arrange both new and familiar tunes, making choices as we go about which chords will sound best with your melody line, and why. A small dose of painless music theory will also be injected to aid in understanding the process. DAD Intermediate/Advanced Fri. 4:15

**28. Alternate Tunings and Capos: DGD, DAC, AAD, and others** Carol Walker

If you're stuck in the DAD rut, this class will freshen up your repertoire with a rich variety of tunes that will add colorful variety to your playing. We'll also explore the "how to" aspect of figuring out which tuning or capo position will work best for a song you're arranging. Various tunings Intermediate/Advanced Sat. 9:30

**ADVANCED**

**29. French-Canadian Fiddle Tunes** Pam Weeks

This repertoire workshop will center on how to use your flatpick and some left-hand "tricks" to fit all those notes in! Come tuned to DGD Advanced Sat. 10:45

**30. Using Arpeggiated Chords for Variations** Susan Trump

Arpeggiated chords can happen with the right hand as well as the left! Arpeggiated or "broken" chords sound like fingerpicking and add variety to any already good arrangement. Learn the technique and then we'll add it to fill in on some really pretty tunes! DAD Advanced Sat. 1:15

**GENERAL**

**31. Of Strings and Things for the Mountain Dulcimer** George Haggerty

George will show you the proper way to replace & tune strings, touch up scratches & nicks, how to choose the best polish & wax, and how to replace or repair a tuning peg. Bring your questions. General Fri. 4:15

**32. Just Jammin'** Gene Langley

Playing in a jam can be a learning experience as well as just plain fun, and it can be enjoyed by even absolute beginning dulcimer players. We'll explore what a jam is, and what it isn't, and show you exactly how you can shed your inhibitions, join in, and have a great time! DAA or DAD All levels Fri. 4:15

**33. Turtle Jam (Slow Jam)** Norm Williams

Come and join the fun in an informal jam session as we share common, easy tunes/songs with one another around a circle. All instruments welcome. Come tuned to D. All instruments Fri. 10:00 pm

**34. Fast Jam** Pam Weeks

What better way end the first day of the festival than by playing songs and tunes together! Bring your favorites to share, and expect everything to be played at a "normal" tempo for the music. All instruments welcome! Fri. 10:00 pm

**35. Understanding Tradition** Don Pedi

The words "Traditional Music" are used to describe a wide range of musical styles. Focusing primarily on music from the Southern Appalachians, we'll explore the influences of time, place and class, as well popular and elitist culture on traditional music. The class begins with a 30 minute DVD presentation entitled "A Brief History of the Mountain Dulcimer". Then with the help of commercial and field recordings as well as live demonstrations on the dulcimer, we'll sample a number of approaches to a song. Various tunings All Levels Sat. 10:45

**36. Jamming With George** George Haggerty

Bring your dulcimer, spoons, guitar, car keys, pierogies, or any other instrument you have. Come with your favorite tunes to share and George will lead you in a jam session. General, All Levels Sat. 2:30