

Workshop Leaders – MDMF 2020

Carolyn Brodginiski, CMP, discovered the dulcimer in 1980 when she heard Sally Rogers perform at a folk venue in Connecticut. An accomplished guitarist at the time, she just couldn't figure out what to do with this beautiful, sweet sounding instrument with so few strings. More than 30 years later, she found The Ct. Mountain Dulcimer Gathering, and has been playing ever since. She loves the many voices of the dulcimer, playing roots, blues, classical, ethnic music, lullabies, as well as the music of contemporary musicians. As a performer, songwriter, teacher, and Certified Music Practitioner, she is passionate about "spreading the dulcimer Gospel", taking great joy in introducing this beautiful original American instrument to others. Her essay on her work as a CMP, and two of her original pieces have appeared in Dulcimer Players News.

Sam Edelston plays rock, pop, blues, country, classical, show tunes, assorted other styles, and even some original songs on acoustic and electric dulcimer. Oh, yes, and folk music, too. He aims not just to expand the horizons of dulcimer players, but to bring dulcimers to the attention of the general public. He draws his musical inspiration from rock bands, symphony orchestras, modern a cappella, and anything else that crosses his path. Sam's online videos have gotten 500,000 views, in over 190 countries. He is chair of the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, held every October in Milford, CT. In 2020 Sam will be teaching/performing in Colorado, California, Mississippi and other states that haven't been announced as of press time. www.SamTheMusicMan.com

George Haggerty is an accomplished dulcimer builder, player, and teacher. His enthusiasm for this versatile instrument is apparent in his workshops which build a solid foundation for even the most inexperienced player. He has taught students from first grade to senior citizens - in school programs, and at festivals in the northeast and as far south as Florida. George is currently teaching dulcimer playing and dulcimer building (two separate classes) at "The Putney School" in Putney, Vermont. 2019 is his tenth year at Putney. His CDs, *Just Friends...One More Time* and *The Best of Just Friends* are dulcimer instrumentals. He is director of his annual festival in Vermont, August Dulcimer Daze, now in its twenty-ninth year. www.Augustdulcimerdaze.com

Lori Keddell has been playing the dulcimer since 1985, and has taught classes and workshops for both children and adults in building and playing cardboard dulcimers. She was instrumental in organizing our first MDMF in 1989, and has been the coordinator since 1991. She was on the staff of the Cranberry Dulcimer and Autoharp Gathering from 1987 to 2016, and has been an instructor at numerous festivals in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. With George Haggerty, she taught a week-long Dulcimer Elderhostel class in Vermont for many years. She has published 4 books of arrangements for the mountain dulcimer, each with an accompanying CD: *A Mountain Dulcimer Potpourri – 33 Songs in DAA for Beginning and Novice Players*, *A Treasury of Christmas Music For the Mountain Dulcimer*, *Dulcimaniac's Delight – A Multitude of Minor Melodies in DAC Tuning*, and *A Mountain Dulcimer Sampler – 50 Songs in DAD for Beginning and Novice Players*. She has also contributed many pieces of music to the monthly newsletter of the Dulcimer Association of Albany.

Sandy Lafleur has been playing Appalachian dulcimer for over 20 years and teaches out of her home in Wilton, NH and at festivals around NE. A contra dance caller and organizer of dances, a monthly jam session, and a coffeehouse series, Sandy enjoys bringing people together around music.

CarolLynn Langley has been teaching mountain dulcimer at festivals, schools, camps, and privately since 1998. She and her husband, Gene, began performing together at about that same time and especially enjoy bringing their music to both adults and children in a variety of facilities. CarolLynn has written *Singing in Harmony, My Dulcimer & Me*, an instructional book for creating mountain dulcimer accompaniment arrangements, and she and Gene have produced a CD, *Speak a Little Louder, Please*. The Langleys are both officers in the Dulcimer Association of Albany and were coordinators of the Cranberry Dulcimer & Autoharp Gathering from 2008 to 2016.

Gene Langley led a jam group in his hometown of Poestenkill, NY for over twelve years, and has taught jamming in adult education classes, and to children in schools and camps. He also repairs and refurbishes both mountain dulcimers and autoharps. Gene and his wife, CarolLynn, began performing together about twenty years ago, and have produced a CD titled *Speak a Little Louder, Please*. Gene has been treasurer of the DAA for many years and, with his wife, was a coordinator of the Cranberry Dulcimer & Autoharp Gathering from 2008 to 2016.

Ellen Pratt has been playing dulcimer for nineteen years. She began writing her own music in 2004. She has performed at numerous open mics and taught at festivals throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Ellen's style of playing is a mix of traditional and contemporary. She enjoys the hard, fast strumming of old time music and jam tunes with both the dulcimer and banjo but also enjoys the quieter, more contemporary chord melody style with fingerpicking on dulcimer. Recently, she has been arranging and composing multipart pieces for ensembles. Ellen plays dulcimer and banjo in the elementary school where she teaches second grade. She has worked with students and their families to build cardboard dulcimers so that students could learn to play them. She played with the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra in Connecticut for several years. She co-coordinates Vermont's August Dulcimer Daze festival with George and Mary Haggerty.

Butch Ross is a master of the mountain dulcimer, drawing out variable rhythmic landscapes that hum and vibrate with the wild electricity of his singular musical vision. And while this instrument is often viewed in its relative position to traditional (read: old-timey) sounds, Ross prefers to view it as a conduit for bridging the past and the present. His nimble fingerpicks and strums echo with a certain weighted history, the kind of turbulent lineage that acts as both inspiration and recalibration. Under his precise guidance, the dulcimer attains a mythic quality, resulting in a grand exposition in regard to its necessity in modern musical practice. "For over ten years Butch Ross has been gleefully destroying the assumptions of what the mountain dulcimer is while demonstrating what it can be. From his home base in Chattanooga, TN, Ross possesses a keen awareness of the dulcimer's boundless prospects, and in his hands, it reacts in startling and often unexpected ways." --Joshua Picard, Chattanooga Pulse" www.butchross.com

Jeremy Seeger has been building and playing mountain dulcimer for 50 years and has been fascinated by how his playing has changed with the changes in his instruments over time. Music never came easy for him and in his workshop he shares his experience and love for the dulcimer and traditional folk music. The understanding of how he learns and how it has shaped his life have brought new understanding of what it takes to be able to enjoy making music. www.jeremyseeger.com

Lucy Joan Sollogub has been enjoying playing, teaching, performing and arranging with the mountain dulcimer for decades. She plays in a mountain and hammered dulcimer duo and also with the New England Irish Harp Orchestra. Lucy loves teaching and teaches dulcimer, lever harp, guitar, tin whistle and recorder at two music schools in Boston and Belmont Massachusetts. In addition Lucy teaches general music in the Boston Public Schools and Jewish Music at Central Reform Temple in Boston.

Carol Walker's formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice. For 32 years Carol was a high school choral teacher with an active and successful program -- in 2003 she was honored to receive the NJ Governor's Teacher of the Year Award, and in 2008 she retired. She branched out from her formal classical training after purchasing her first mountain dulcimer in 1999. It wasn't long before she found a way to combine her love of teaching with her new direction in folk music, and has been a popular workshop leader and featured performer at festivals all over the US. Carol has made two trips to the Isle of Man where she has done extensive research into traditional Manx music, producing two books of arrangements for mountain dulcimer (*Tailless Tunes* and *Tailless Tunes 2*) and a CD (*Alas! The Horse is Gone*), all exclusively devoted to this delightful Celtic-flavored music. Carol has also written a trilogy of dulcimer instruction books designed to take dulcimer players from Basic Beginner to Adventurously Advanced. (*DNA* Dulcimer Ditties*, each with accompanying CDs.) Carol recently released her first instructional DVD, produced by Happy Traum of Homespun Tapes -- she is in good company with other Homespun dulcimer instructors, including David Schnauffer and Jean Ritchie. Her dulcimer book of classical tunes was released in 2017 -- *Classical Music for Wascally Wabbits*, and includes a unique collection of solos and ensemble "awwancements of cwassical favowites." Her newest release was in 2019, *Church in the Wildwood*, a collection of 40 favorite hymns arranged for duets and ensembles. www.musicladycarol.com

Pam Weeks is a mountain dulcimer player, fiddler in Cajun, Quebecois, New England, and old-timey styles, multi-instrumentalist, singer, and educator. Solo or with her bands, Pam is dedicated to sharing the "joie de vivre" of traditional American music and dance! Since moving to Maine in 1985, Pam has been performing with T-Acadie (folk trio), Jimmyjo & the Jumbol'ayuhs (Cajun), and Scrod Pudding (contradance), and giving private and group lessons at home. She is a teaching staff member at Maine Fiddle Camp and has taught at multiple music camps and festivals around the country. Pam is also an accomplished tunesmith and has composed scores of tunes, from lively jigs and reels to entrancing airs and beautiful waltzes. Many of these are recorded on her four albums, the most recent of which is "By the Sea" with T-Acadie.

<http://www.pamweeks.com/>

Dwain Wilder makes his livelihood building Appalachian dulcimers, and his *Bear Meadow* mark is held in high regard, both here and abroad. Dwain also relishes teaching. He holds studio classes and conducts apprenticeships in his Bear Meadow Studio, and maintains the BearMeadow.com website, whose sections on building technique are used as a reference by many of his colleagues. A published poet, Dwain has published a collection, *Under the Only Moon*, co-editor of *Liberty's Vigil, the Occupy Anthology; 99 Poets for the 99%* and editor of *Vigil for the Marcellus Shale*. He is also a trained voice-over artist and actor recently starring in Jon Robbin Baitz's "The Paris Letter," to critical and audience acclaim. Dwain, a native of a small town outside Dallas, moved to Rochester, NY in 1970, and now lives with his wife, along with a large rowdy maccaw and a dog, in a quaint untidy 19th century farmhouse surrounded by quaint and untidy – but beautiful – parklands.

www.BearMeadow.com

Norm Williams has been playing and teaching mountain dulcimer for over 20 years. He is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club, a coordinator of the Pocono DulcimerFest to be held each year the 4th weekend in April, in Stroudsburg, PA and co-founder of the Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival held annually the 2nd Sunday in July. He has been faculty at festivals throughout the Northeast since (including the Pocono DulcimerFest; DAA Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, August Dulcimer Days, Music by the Bay, the Cranberry Dulcimer Gathering, Maiden Creek Old Time Festival, Ashokan Music & Dance Camps & Augusta Heritage Center, WV). In addition to dulcimer he plays guitar, ukulele and banjo. Norm is a lover of Old Time music and plays with the bands Wayfarers & Company, Tom & Betty Druckenmiller, and most recently *the Dulcimer Boys* with Cliff Cole & Rob Yoder. He is featured on several recordings, the most recent being "*a wayfarer... songs of hope and encouragement*," released in 2017. Norm is semi-retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Emmaus, PA. www.awayfarer-normw.com

Pixie Wright, a certified teacher and therapeutic musician, has taught instrumental music at DeAngelis School of Music, The East Penn School District, Strings and Keys, and at Wright Music Studio for over four decades. She teaches harp, dulcimer, ukulele, guitar, piano, and banjo. Her specialty is music theory made simple and making learning fun with humor and humorous songs. Pix's entire house is filled with dozens and dozens of instruments in every room, all with a story to tell.

Nina Zanetti is the 2008 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion. She comes to the mountain dulcimer from a diverse musical background, including choral music, violin, viola, piano, and shape note singing. She plays regularly at churches, historic sites, and community events and has taught workshops at dulcimer festivals throughout the country, including Western Carolina University, John C. Campbell Folk School, and Kentucky Music Week. Nina is especially fond of the "softer side of dulcimer". She has produced several books of solo arrangements for mountain dulcimer and has co-authored four books of duet arrangements (the *Tunes for Two or More* series, with Beth Lassi.) She has a strong interest in American folk hymns, many of which appear in her tablature book *Glories Immortal: A Collection of Hymns from America's Past* and in a book of Shaker music (co-authored with Bill Collins), *The Humble Heart*. Her other musical love is Early Music, featured in her tablature book, *Heart's Ease*. Nina is featured on *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer Play Music for Christmas* (CD) and has also recorded a CD of solos and duets with Bill Collins (*The Sum of the Parts*), as well as a solo CD, *Beside Still Waters*. Her newest CD, *Winter's Light and companion book Winter Variations celebrate the quiet joys and consolations of the winter season*. www.NinaZanetti.com