

# Workshop Topics & Descriptions – MDMF 2020

## NEW PLAYER

- 1. Welcome to the Wonderful World of Dulcimer** *Stephanie Barrett* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
For the brand-new player or first-time attender of dulcimer festivals. An introduction to dulcimers, the history of the instrument, types of dulcimers, tunings, festivals, tab, and much more. We'll give you a beginner's guide to what the festival has to offer and will help you feel comfortable in this wonderful new world of dulcimer. DAA or DAD New Player
- 2. Dulcimer 101 (Beginner I – Let's Begin!)** *George Haggerty* Sat. 9:15 - 10:30  
While being introduced to your dulcimer, learn the basics of how to hold it, how to tune it, hold the pick, understand dulcimer tab and begin playing. DAA New Player
- 3. Dulcimer 102 (Beginner II – The Next Step!)** *Norm Williams* Sat. 10:45 – 11:45  
Taking a step upwards, you'll learn three new tunes, then learn how to add a strum pattern to the songs. We will go over the basics of 3 different strumming patterns. DAA New Player
- 4. Dulcimer 103 – Moving Right Along! (Beginner III)** *Lori Keddell* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30  
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. Come tuned to DAA New Player

## NEW PLAYER / BEGINNER

- 5. Basic Chords for Beginners** *CarolLynn Langley* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
Most beginning dulcimer players start out with learning to play simple melodies, but guess what? You can have a lot of fun with just 3 basic (and very simple) chords in DAA tuning, and will soon find yourself strumming along with ease on many familiar folk songs. (Chord sheets will also be provided for those who want to “stretch themselves” and try more challenging chord patterns.) DAA New Player / Beginner
- 6. Getting More Comfortable** *Sam Edelston* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
Become more fluent at strumming with your right hand, and moving around the fretboard with your left. New Player / Beginner
- 7. Basic Repertoire for New Players** *Sandy Lafleur* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
Simple, simple melodies for beginners to have fun with including a round. DAD New Player – Beginner
- 8. “Note” that tune!** *Pam Weeks* Sat. 1:15 – 2:20  
For those with tender fingers, and simply to create the distinctive old-style sound, we will explore playing the dulcimer with a small wooden dowel called a “noter”. DAD Beginner

## BEGINNER and UP

- 9. You CAN Jam!** *Gene Langley* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
Even as a beginning player you can learn some tips that will allow you to first listen, then apply some basic principles, and then start jamming! Learn to break down a tune into the individual chords it's composed of, and the order in which the chord changes are likely to occur. Jamming is a great way to train your ear to recognize these chord changes and have fun playing with others! DAA or DAD Beginner & up
- 10. Common Jam Tunes for Beginners** *Carolyn Brodginiski* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
Learn some jam tunes to play with a group of people. Carolyn will give you tab and chords so you can play with others. Great prep for the Friday night jam! Come tuned to DAD. Beginner and up Fri. 4:15 – 5:15
- 11. Appalachian Roots** *Rob Brereton* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
Here are some traditional songs for dulcimer arranged for one finger (or a noter!). These charming traditional tunes include Pretty Saro, Barbara Allen, and more. If time allows, we may discuss the history of some of these songs as they travelled from British Isles to the US. DAD Beginner and up Sat. 9:15 – 10:30

**12. Front Porch Strumming and More!** *Susan Trump* Sat. 10:45 – 11:45  
We'll work on developing a good right hand strum, learn how strum direction can help you with counting and rhythms and explore some basic ideas about chords and left-hand fingering. AND, we'll learn some really fun tunes for your repertoire. DAD Beginner/Advanced Beginner

**13. Playing With Your Dulcimer** *Lucy Joan Sollogub* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
In this workshop we will simply play with our dulcimers - We will use noters, fingers, various sticks, hammers, feathers, drumming, damping, and harmonics to enjoy the various sounds our dulcimers can make. We will use some of these techniques to enliven some familiar simple folk tunes. DAD Beginner & up

**14. Chord Boot Camp** *Sam Edelston* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
Last year's Chord Boot Camp was so popular, we're doing it again. 80%-90% of the material will be different from last year, so you can take it again and learn plenty of new things. We'll drill these fingerings into you until you develop a genuine esprit de chord. Beginner-Novice

**15. The Roots of Rock-n-Roll** *Butch Ross* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
There are a slew of techniques that—while unique to rock—can be applied to make dulcimer playing exciting and fun in any genre. This workshop has a lot to offer to anyone who plays dulcimer, regardless of style. DAD Beginner and up

**53. Cat Tales** *Lori Keddell* Sat. 10:45 – 11:45  
Let's have some fun with a few songs and tunes about a favorite pet – cats. They'll have you purring in no time – well, 4/4 time or 6/8 time, that is. DAD Beginner & up (All levels)

### ADVANCED BEGINNER and UP

**16. Hammers, Pull offs, and Slides** *Lucy Joan Sollogub* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
These wonderful left hand techniques help to bring variety in the sounds of our playing, create a flow of our melodies, and are helpful at any tempo. We will learn and strengthen these techniques through playing several traditional tune. DAD Advanced Beginner-Novice Plus

**17. Intro to DGD tuning** *Pam Weeks* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
An introduction to this easy way to play in the key of G (and related keys). DGD is more related to DAA than you might think! We'll learn a couple simple tunes with an easy way to add instant harmony. DGD Advanced beginner and up

### NOVICE

**18 Quebecois Music** *Pam Weeks* Sat. 10:45 – 11:45  
This workshop can be reels, jigs, waltzes, or chanson respondre (call and response songs).... or more than one workshop for the different types of tunes. DAD Novice

**19. Introduction to Chord Melody Style** *Sandy Lafleur* Sat. 1:15 – 2:15  
Moving beyond Melody/Drone playing we'll explore ways to add chords into the melody line for a fuller, more harmonious sound. DAD Novice Sat. 1:15 – 2:15

**20. Music of the Westward Expansion** *Nina Zanetti* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
When the pioneers moved West, they took with them some favorite songs, such as “Betsy from Pike” and “Shenandoah”. Come learn these and other favorite tunes of the American frontier. DAD Novice

**21. Stay Awake** *Carolyn Brodgerski* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
As if the sound of the dulcimer isn't soothing enough, play a lullaby and everyone in the room will be drifting off to dreamland in no time with sleepy time songs from around the world. DAD, capo needed. Novice

### NOVICE and Up

**22. Noodling (And A Way To Remember It)** *Norm Williams* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
Have you ever played something and thought, “I wish I could remember that!” Take a few minutes and let yourself go with your MD. If you hear something you like (and you will) learn how to write it down to remember and develop it into a theme. Knowledge of TAB not needed - we'll learn it. DAD Novice/Int

- 23. Australian Folk Songs** *Pixie Wright* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
Chord melody arrangements for some of Australia's most popular folk songs. Included is an introduction to Aussie slang and phrases to better understand song lyrics and lifestyle DAD Novice-Intermediate
- 24. First Steps in Fingerpicking** *Nina Zanetti* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
Learn to fingerpick and how to make this style of playing sound pretty. 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. DAD Novice & up
- 25. Singing with the Mountain Dulcimer** *Carol Walker* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
In this workshop you'll learn the basic elements of presenting a song from scratch. We'll experiment with finding the right chords and strumming styles, adding variety and interest with introductions and interludes, along with tips for improved vocal and performance techniques. DAD Novice / Intermediate
- 26. Old Folk Songs Made New** *Pixie Wright* Sat. 10:45 – 11:45  
We'll learn a few old folk songs that became popular as rock & pop songs in the 50's and 60's, sometimes with different lyrics such as "Aura Lee" which Elvis Presley used in his "Love Me Tender". Other songs we may explore include Sloop John B, Scarborough Fair, and La Bamba." DAD Novice to Intermediate
- 27. Americana Music – A Sampler** *Susan Trump* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
We'll learn a Stephen Foster song, an Appalachian Song and a Folk Hymn, just a sampling of the wonderful body of music we call American music. DAD Novice-Intermediate
- 28. Chord Progressions** *Ellen Pratt* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
Knowing different positions for chords can add flavor to your musical arrangements. We will learn and practice several chord shapes up and down the fretboard in this class. Novice & Intermediate DAD
- 29. Favorite Hymns as Solos and Duets** *Carol Walker* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30  
Your long-time favorite hymns have been arranged in "Easy" and "Fancy" versions, allowing everyone in your group to play together -- for personal enjoyment, or in a performance such as a church service or a nursing home. DAD, capo Novice – Advanced
- 30. Cool A minor tunes! (Not everything is in "D")** *Sandy Lafleur* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
Using a capo and DGD tuning we have a whole new musical world to explore! Novice Plus and up
- 52. Music of the Shakers** *Nina Zanetti* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
The Shakers produced a huge body of sacred music, including lively dance tunes and ethereal meditations. "Simple Gifts" is the most well-known example, but there are many more tunes, all well-suited to playing on the dulcimer. DAD (possibly some other tunings) Novice - Intermediate
- 54. Making It Beautiful** *Lucy Joan Sollogub* Sat. 1:15 – 2:15  
Do you love the lyrical, emotional, magically sweet sound that some players create on the mountain dulcimer? Come experiment with a variety of left and right hand technique, harmonies and phrasing that will lead to more beautiful dulcimer playing. We will play with scales, a familiar melody and an Irish air in our journey to "making it beautiful. If you want to bring a piece you are working on, we may possibly have time to see how it could be made more beautiful. DAD Novice-Intermediate

## INTERMEDIATE

- 31. Smoothing Out Your Playing** *Rob Brereton* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
A perennial favorite. Let's explore what makes playing choppy and then replace it with solid skills that will make your playing smooth and musical. All are welcome and all can benefit from the techniques, but the music presented will be intermediate, chord/melody style. Start in DAD Intermediate
- 32. Ensembles with Classical Music** *Ellen Pratt* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
Playing with others is great fun! This repertoire class will teach a few ensemble pieces from composers such as Bach, Dowland, Grosjean, Praeltorius, or others. Some of the parts are wildly challenging while others are less intense, so there is a part for everyone to play! DAD Intermediate

**33. Making the Most of your 1½ Fret** *Sam Edelston* Sat. 10:45 – 11:45  
New chords and voicings you didn't have before, and some things you can do with them. C, F, G7, D7, Gsus, Csus, Am, Dm, Gm7, D9, E+, A7+ ... stuff like that. Also, see how the 1½ fret can help you play together with other instruments and make you a better singer! Intermediate Sat. 10:45 – 11:45

**34. Gospel Hymns for Mountain Dulcimer** *CarolLynn Langley* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
My husband and I frequently provide music for services at our church, play at the chapel services of a mission, and we find that nursing home residents frequently enjoy hearing, and singing along with, old time hymns. Our hymns of choice are either old fashioned gospel songs, or occasionally some that I've composed. In this workshop we'll play some of each. All traditional hymns are in the public domain. DAD Intermediate

## INTERMEDIATE and UP

**35. Moravian Music** *Nina Zanetti* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
The Moravian church (Bohemian Brethren) originated in Europe, during the reformation movement of the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, but in 1740, the Moravians established a settlement in Bethlehem, PA. They brought with them from Europe a rich musical heritage, but Moravian music continued to develop in the new world, where it continues to play an important part in Moravian worship. In this workshop we'll sample this little-known but elegant and intensely spiritual body of music. DAD Intermediate Plus

**36. Chords, Capos and Tunings** *Susan Trump* Sat. 9:15 – 10:30  
We'll understand the I, IV, and V chords and then explore them in DGD, and EAA using simple chord progressions and a few tunes. We'll also use the capo in various tunings to learn about how they enable us to play in different keys. DAD Tuning to start. Intermediate to Advanced

**37. Strummed Jigs** *Lucy Joan Sollogub* Sat. 10:45 – 11:45  
A clear system for playing music in 6/8 and 9/8 will be introduced that supports the dance feeling of these great Celtic tunes. We will use strums, hammers, pulls and slides and the end result will be enjoying our jig making. Capo needed. DAD, DAC Intermediate-Advanced

**38. A Peek Into the Mysterious World of Modes** *Rob Brereton* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30  
Nearly every piece of music has a mode. Traditional American songs have a long history of modal music. We will explore songs and tunes using the most common modes and maybe even some no-so-common modes. We will discuss the definition of modes and see how capos and modes are related. Start in DAD Int/Advanced.

**39. Show Off!** *Butch Ross* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
Learn to make unusual, offbeat and fun sound on the dulcimer. In short stuff that sounds cool! Learn string bending, natural and artificial harmonics, Two-hand tapping, slapping, hammer-ons, pull-offs and using the dulcimer as a drum. DAD Intermediate & up

**40. Thinking "inside" the Box** *Butch Ross* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
Using cross-string picking and three finger "boxes" to tame tricky tunes without simplifying melodies or removing notes. Improve speed and dexterity without actually playing faster. DAD Intermediate and up

## ADVANCED

**41. Adding New Dimensions** *Carol Walker* Fri. 3:00 – 4:00  
This workshop is designed to bring your playing to a new level, and will have you exclaiming, "Wow I never knew a dulcimer could sound like that!" Your right hand will learn various techniques that will help the melody to "sing" clearly through the harmonic background. Your left hand will discover the subtleties of smooth fretting, vibrato, anchors and slides, and creating "delicious" chords. Your packet of music will include a varied collection that will challenge you and add a new dimension to your repertoire. DAD w capo Advanced

**42. Arranging Chromatic Music on Standard Dulcimer** *Rob Brereton* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
This is a theory and playing class for people looking to get the most out of their dulcimer. We will arrange a piece by Gershwin on a standard dulcimer with a 6.5 fret. No 1.5 fret is needed. We will learn the theory behind chords and arranging. What we will learn in this class can be applied to arranging for any tuning and any level of difficulty. Advanced Sat. 2:45 – 3:45

**43. Beethoven for Dulcimer** *Susan Trump* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
We'll learn Beethoven's Sonatina in F (but it's in D for us) and a harmony part. Using techniques of playing across the strings, grace notes, damping and dynamics we'll shape the music and make Mr. Beethoven proud! Challenging but not too hard. DAD Advanced

## GENERAL

**44. Strings and Things for the Dulcimer** *George Haggerty* Fri. 4:15 – 5:15  
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

**45. Playing for open mic.** *Jeremy Seeger* Sat. 1:15 – 2:30  
This takes practice and some know how. You will receive a hand out before the weekend to help you prepare a tune/song ahead of time which you can perform at the workshop with a supportive audience and helpful feedback. Advanced Beginner & up

**46. Ukulele Chord Patterns in Songs** *Pixie Wright* Sat. 2:45 – 3:45  
Play chords and learn chord progressions common in folk, rock, blues, and more. Find the best keys to sing songs for your voice. GCEA Adv. Beginner and up

**47. Troubleshooting the Troublesome Dulcimer** *Dwain Wilder* Sun. 10:15 – 11:15  
This is a workshop in learning how to assess whether something you know is wrong can be fixed by you or a repair shop. We'll also get into problems that are difficult to pin down, various buzzes and peculiar noises such as sympathetic buzzes, and how to locate their source and how to fix the problem simply (in some cases). Bring your troubled dulcimers and we'll use them as case studies for the class! All

**48. Playing Well With Others** *Norm Williams* Sun. 11:30 – 12:30  
Folks often get stuck when even thinking about playing with others with questions like, "How do I play with other instruments?" ...or "What if the play in a key other than D?" ...or "What if I don't know the tune?" ...or "I'm not good enough to keep up." In this workshop we'll discuss and explore ways to make playing with others less uncomfortable and offer ways to make it more enjoyable. We'll discuss, demonstrate and practice some basic techniques to improve your hearing, visual cues and ways to fit in whether in an informal jam or in a musical ensemble/band/etc. Come join us tuned to D. All Levels

## JAMS

**49. Slow Jam** *Ellen Pratt* Fri. 9:30 PM (after the concert)  
Love jams but don't know the music? Come to this jam session and we will play the most popular jam tunes played at dulcimer festivals very slowly, several times, so you can get the song in your head. DAD All

**50. Fast Jam (Experienced Jammers)** *Butch Ross* Fri. 9:30 PM (after the concert)  
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!

**51. Folk Revival Jam** *Sam Edelston* Sun. 9:00 – 10:00  
Let's bring back some of those wonderful songs from the '50s and '60s that you, or your parents, or your grandparents grew up loving. Bring your dulcimers, other instruments, and voices! 'This jam is your jam, this jam is my jam. This jam is made for you and me. All aboard!' Come tuned to D. All