

Mountain Dulcimer Virtual Music Fest

March 6, 7 & 8, 2021

Workshops listed by instructor

Workshops are shown by day: Fri - sessions A to F, Saturday - sessions G to M, and Sunday - sessions N to P, and by session number.

Session	Level	Title	Workshop Description
Aubrey Atwater			
B - 2	Beginner to Advanced Beginner	Songs of Jean Ritchie	A delightful repertoire workshop with songs Aubrey has learned through her long contact with Jean Ritchie, the person largely responsible for introducing the dulcimer to the folk scene mid-20th century. We'll cover several songs, talk about Jean's life and work, address the traditional style of playing with the noter, and easily play in different tunings. Start in DAD
E - 3	Advanced Beginner to Novice Plus	"Spotted Pony": Flatpicking for the First Time	Aubrey will provide an arrangement for the traditional dance tune, "Spotted Pony" and give important tips on alternating the direction of the flatpick, fingering, timing, tempo, and feel. We will also discuss the functionality of this type of tune, traditionally used for dancing, and the far reaches of this framework in American music. DAD
G - 5	Novice & Intermediate	Celebrating DAA	Aubrey will present a few lively and hauntingly beautiful songs to be played on the mountain dulcimer in what is now thought of as an old-fashioned tuning: DAA. Be sure to have a noter and pick on hand! DAA
L - 5	Novice - Intermediate	Songs of Jean Ritchie	A delightful repertoire workshop with songs Aubrey has learned through her long contact with Jean Ritchie, the person largely responsible for introducing the dulcimer to the folk scene mid-20th century. We'll cover several songs, talk about Jean's life and work, address the traditional style of playing with the noter, and easily play in different tunings. Start in DAD
O - 3	All Levels	Flatfoot Clogging	We will learn basic steps of this wonderful American freestyle dance form as well as watch videos clips, exploring the cultural history of percussive dance forms around the world. Be prepared with a hard floor to dance on, smooth soled shoes, and supportive clothing.
P - 7	Intermediate and up	Feisty Women (Multi-instrument repertoire workshop)	In this fun and raucous repertoire workshop, we play a variety of traditional story songs about women warriors who wear disguises, outwit the devil, hold out for true love, or otherwise state their needs! Examples include: <i>The Devil and the Farmer's Wife</i> , <i>When I Was a Fair Maid</i> , <i>Dabbling in the Dew</i> , and <i>The Wagoner's Lad</i> . Start in DAD
Rob Brereton			
C - 6	Intermediate	Unusual Christmas Tunes	These three Christmas songs you probably won't hear on the radio. Some you may know, but some may be brand new to you. Start in DAD

A - 8	Advanced	Arranging Chromatic Music on Standard Dulcimer	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. DF#A
D - 8	Advanced	Two for One: Jig Strum AND Reverse Tunings	We will be learning a couple Irish jigs including the jig "Drops of Brandy". Be aware that this jig strum uses lots of hammer-ons and pull-offs, so please be comfortable with this technique. We will also be discussing dulcimer reverse tunings. What are they and why are they cool? Come and find out! Start in DAD
F - 3	Beginner - Novice	Appalachian Roots	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
G - 6	Intermediate - Advanced	A Peek Into the Mysterious World of Modes	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
H - 7	Intermediate - Advanced	Smoothing Out Your Playing	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
J - 7	Intermediate - Advanced	Alternate Chords for Snazzy Sounds	Many of us know the I, IV, and V chords. Let's take the piece "Simple Gifts" and add the chords ii, iii, and vi. Learn how to adapt simple pieces into more interesting pieces using more unusual chords and harmonies. Our result will be a beautiful ensemble arrangement of simple gifts you can play with others. DAD

Heidi Cerrigione

A - 1	New Player	Beginner I - Let's Get Started	We'll start with the very basics including tuning, picks, and getting comfortable with the dulcimer. We will work with some simple strums and start with songs like Boil Em Cabbage Down, Twinkle Twinkle, and Camptown Races. DAD
B - 2	New Player	Beginner II - The Next Step	We'll do a review of the previous session and then introduce a chord shape for each of the chords of D, G, and A. We will use the tunes Oh Susannah, When the Saints Go Marching In, and Waterbound to practice chording and also to play the simple melodies. DAD
H - 6	Intermediate Plus	Scottish Melodies	This session will add some beautiful melodies to your repertoire. Songs in DAD include The Loch Tay Boat Song, The Cuillins of Home, Rorate, and Red Is the Rose. DAD

Bill Collins			
D - 5	Novice & up	Flatpicking Techniques	Using various right-hand exercises, this workshop introduces the use of alternating flatpicking technique (plus hammers, pulls, and slides) to play single-note melodies across the strings, using very few frets. We'll learn a jig and hornpipe to demonstrate how flatpicking techniques help perform fast tunes with minimum effort. DAD & DGD
F - 5	Novice & up	"Bagpipe Tuning" for Dulcimer	Tuning your bass string down to low A gives you the closest thing to a bagpipe that you can get on a dulcimer. Using the two lower strings as octave drones and playing tunes in A Mixolydian produce an exciting sound. We'll learn a number of tunes, plus explore how to improvise and ornament to add to the Scottish flavor of your playing. Low AAD
H - 5	Intermediate	Tunes in DGD	This workshop explores some of the advantages of DGD tuning, particularly when playing faster tunes. Sometimes referred to as "reverse Ionian" (though not by participants at the end of this workshop!), a 1-4-8 tuning is the easiest tuning alternative to DAD. The workshop shows the easiest way to get into and return from DGD (without electronic tuner) and introduces a number of melodies that sound great in this tuning. Participants will also learn some useful chord shapes for this tuning. DGD, capo required
K - 6	Intermediate	Left-Hand Embellishment Techniques	You're comfortable with basic left-hand finger placement—single notes and chords—and want some ways to dress up a tune, add some ornamentation, and make your playing more personal and expressive. This workshop will explore slides, hammers, pulls, rolls, trills, open-string harmonics, vibrato, bends, chord chops, and muting. If there's time and interest, we can look at using noters and slides. DAD
M - 4	Novice & up	Shaker Music for Dulcimer	This is a repertoire workshop designed to introduce the music of the Shakers, whose musical legacy consists of perhaps 10,000 tunes. Many of the tunes are quite lovely in their simplicity, and share a spiritual, contemplative quality. After a brief introduction to the background of the music and some performance suggestions, we'll work on as many tunes as time permits. DAD, capo required
O - 6	Intermediate	The Laredo Variations	There's no limit to the number of ways a given tune can be played. This workshop takes a very simple melody ("The Streets of Laredo") and offers 16 ways to give it a different sound and feel, such as changing the rhythm, chords, key, time signature, etc. The tools we'll cover can be used with any tune to provide variety or to put your personal stamp on a performance. DAD
P - 8	Intermediate - Advanced	Airs from the Shetland Islands: The Music of Tom Anderson	Tom Anderson (1910-1991), revered in the Shetlands for tirelessly preserving the region's traditional fiddle music and for teaching it to generations of young players, was also a prolific composer of exquisite melodies. This workshop presents some of his loveliest and most haunting tunes. DAD

Joe Collins			
B - 4	Novice & up	Crossing Over to the Fun Side	This workshop gently guides players to leave the security of playing the melody on one string to exploring the world of cross-picking. In addition to some work with scales and hitting individual strings, we'll learn to cross-pick some familiar songs effectively and efficiently. DAD
C - 4	All Levels	Traditional American Folk Hymns	This is a repertoire workshop of hymns that have been set to traditional American tunes, including "On Jordan's Stormy Banks," "How Firm a Foundation," "What Wondrous Love Is This," and others. DAD, capo required
E - 1	Beginner	Good Habits to Develop Early	Even little things can negatively affect our playing as we continue playing the mountain dulcimer. This workshop will help you to develop good habits for things like hand position, posture, sliding, noting, etc. We'll play a few tunes but will be focusing technique that will help us grow as players. DAD
G - 2	Beginner - Advanced Beginner	Strummin' Along and Sounding GOOD!	A workshop on basic strumming skills designed to help inexperienced players develop versatility in the strumming hand. Focus is on learning to strum well in both directions, using dynamics with the strum, developing effective patterns of strumming, and how to hold the pick for greatest effectiveness. Start in DAD
J - 8	Advanced	The William Tell Overture	This workshop breaks down how Joe plays the "William Tell Overture" on the three strings of a standard dulcimer. We will work with inverted chords, controlled picking and strumming, bending strings, etc. – whatever it takes to beat out the tune! (<u>This is truly are for advanced players only</u>) DAD
M - 8	Advanced	Waltzing in My Cowboy Boots	Expand your repertoire of waltzes popular in, or at least well suited for, Cowboy country! Includes an original tune by Joe named, "Aldia's Waltz," and two well-known waltzes, "Oklahoma Waltz," and "The Cowboy Waltz." (<u>This is truly are for advanced players only</u>) DAD
Larry Conger			
E - 8	Advanced	Five Fingers on the Fretboard	This workshop addresses the "moveable capo" meaning that, instead of using a capo, the player will learn to use his/her last three fingers to form a moveable barre chord while the thumb and index fingers play the melody in front of the barre chord. A fun challenge for those adventurous players. DAD
F - 2	Advanced Beginner	Intro to the Capo	In this class, Larry will present five short songs, all of which use the capo, to demonstrate the various places a capo can be used on the mountain dulcimer. The presentation will help guide you through the process of properly seating the capo as well as what sort of capos are available on the market today. Part Powerpoint and part practical application. Capo needed. DAD
L - 8	Advanced	Thematic Medleys	Add interest to your performance. This class will explore various medleys of three songs creatively arranged in three different keys. Learn the craft of compiling thematic medleys while changing keys between songs. A challenge for the upper intermediate level player and perfect for the more advanced player. DAD

Elwood Donnelly			
A - 5	Novice to Intermediate	Coping in a Jam Session	Learn to play in different keys on the mountain dulcimer (tuned to D-A-dd) by using simple I, IV, V chord progressions, as well as by retuning and applying a capo. The class will do some experimenting while learning songs and tunes. ***Bring a capo. DAD
D - 3	Beginner - Novice Plus	Songs of the Carter Family	Discover the wonders of this early pioneering American country music group whose songs have bewitched music fans and players for decades. Using songs from Elwood's songbook, <i>Such Singing You Will Hear</i> , participants will use the noting stick, chords and finger-picking styles to build a repertoire of these glorious songs. DAD
J - 2	Beginner - Advanced Beginner	Chording, Strumming, and Singing	Participants will learn basic chords for the D-A-D tuning and how to strum accompanying rhythms while singing and playing at the same time! DAD
N - 1	Beginner - Novice	Using the Noter, Strumming, and Singing	Participants will learn how to play the mountain dulcimer in D-A-D tuning using the noting stick: one of the most ancient and haunting, yet quite simple, methods of playing, as well as how to strum accompanying rhythms while singing and playing at the same time! DAD
Sam Edelston			
D - 6	Intermediate	Playing in "Non-Dulcimer" Keys	What if you don't have other dulcimer players to play with where you live? Or what if you just want to branch out into other, broader musical crowds? You don't need to sit out every song that isn't in D or A. We'll look at ways to play in a wide variety of keys. Extra frets won't be necessary for this workshop, though some of the time will be spent talking about them. DAD
F - 4	Novice	Barriers to Progress	Feeling limited? Here's how to do more with your dulcimer, and have more fun doing it! We'll dig into things that hold some people back, and we'll work with some specific examples. Start in DAD
H - 8	Advanced	Chromatic Dulcimer - Songs of Tin Pan Alley	A lot of the evergreen songs you grew up with were written in the late 1800s or early 1900s. Many of them go beyond the usual handful of chords, and they really come to life when you can play the in-between notes that a chromatic dulcimer offers. DAD
K - 5	Intermediate	Chord Cadences: Rock & Roll Edition	The most useful thing I learned from my childhood piano lessons was chord progressions – or as my teacher called them, cadences. When I started playing guitar (and other instruments), this enabled me to understand the structure of songs. It's a powerful tool for dulcimer players. My regular "Chord Cadences" workshop has been popular at in-person festivals. Here, we'll pump it up with progressions that work with rock or pop music. DAD
M - 2	Beginner	Easy Chords: How to Play 1,000 Songs	Yes, really! When you're comfortable playing just a few basic chords, you can do tons of songs. No tab or music notation required for this class – we'll use pictures. DAD

N - 8	Advanced	Gilbert & Sullivan for Diatonic Dulcimer	Opera (or operetta) is the most fun when it's in English and has a sense of humour. We'll look at some songs ("all of whom are beauties") that you never realized would work on an ordinary dulcimer. (And along the way you'll learn some handy tricks for playing and arranging.) DAD
O - 4	Novice	Chord Boot Camp – Key of A	DAD tuning is great for more than just the key of D. We'll drill these fingerings into you until you develop a genuine esprit de chord. DAD
Jeff Furman			
B - 7	Intermediate & Advanced	Woodshedding Your Fingering to Improve Your Playing!	You can play. This class will cover some music that has some challenging transitions that will force you to figure out how finger certain parts to maximize smoothness and sustain, and thereby improving the quality of the music you play. The goal will be for you to listen to what you are playing and to understand how to "woodshed" your fingering so it sounds better to you, and hence also to any one listening to you! Please bring a CAPO. Start in DAD
E - 4	Novice & Novice Plus	Playing Celtic Airs (Beyond the Notes!)	The mountain dulcimer and Celtic Airs make a wonderful combination. This workshop will teach you how to play several beautiful airs, and we will also explore certain techniques to enhance the feeling of these simple, yet beautiful and pleasing, melodies on the dulcimer. Start in DAD
J - 5	Novice/ Intermediate and above	Exploring the Aeolian Mode	The haunting sound of the Aeolian mode transports the listener to another place and time. This feeling is very close to the heart and roots of the mountain dulcimer. This workshop will explore this beautiful mode as you learn several tunes, techniques, and chords in this tuning to enhance your repertoire and joy of your dulcimer. DAC
K -4	Novice	Improving Essential Left-Hand Skill	This workshop will focus on improving your ability to use some basic left hand "nuts and bolts" techniques, including how to get good clean sound, hammer-ons, pull-offs, and more. You will learn how to play these techniques cleanly and clearly and how to incorporate them into your playing smoothly and confidently. We will use exercises and repertoire so you can practice and improve these essential left hand techniques. Start in DAD
L - 2	Beginner	Intro to Flatpicking	Flatpicking is a great way to emphasize melody or harmony notes and to provide contrast to just strumming. You can do this! In this workshop we will review the how and why of flatpicking, review exercises to help you practice this technique, and apply this useful skill to playing tunes so you can start incorporating flatpicking into your playing! Start in DAD
N - 7	Intermediate & Advanced	Beyond the Notes: Improving Your Personal Expression	This workshop will explore concepts and techniques of expressing yourself through your playing. Music is so much more than notes. We will apply these ideas of expression to several tunes. This class will strive to "open your mind" and get those creative juices flowing! Please bring a CAPO. Start in DAD

P - 5	Novice to Advanced	Beyond "D"! (or, Easing Your Fears of other Keys and Tunings)	This workshop will take the mystery out of playing in other keys. We will also cover one or more other tunings to help broaden you're your musical horizons. And you will learn some great tunes! Please bring a CAPO. Start in DAD
Bing Futch			
A - 65	Intermediate	How One Little Fret Will Change Your Life	More and more players are adding the 1+ and 8+ frets to their dulcimers and loving it! In this workshop, you'll discover how these frets can be useful for not only playing tunes, but also understanding the basics of music theory. Includes a spin through a couple of really cool tunes that really take advantage of those extra frets. (Extra frets are recommended, but not required.) DAD
B - 3	Advanced Beginner - Intermediate	Dulcimers of the Caribbean	Avast, matey! There be pirate songs ahead! We'll explore swashbuckling on the high seas with a selection of tunes that will bring out your inner Jack Sparrow. These be easy songs, savvy? So say "yoo-hoo" to a hearty "yo-ho!" and learn to use strumming and flatpicking to navigate the cursed course of chords and melody that come straight from Davey Jones' Locker. Arrrgh! DAD
F - 6	Intermediate	The Magic Of Inversions	One of the nicest things about DAD (1-5-8) tuning is the ability to easily invert chords to change the way they sound. But inversions are also excellent shapes to know for the purpose of percolating melodies and lovely descending bass lines. You'll learn three basic shapes and then, through exercises, learn how to harness the hidden power of the inversion and add great expression and colors to your playing! DAD
J - 3	Advanced Beginner - Intermediate	Crooked Fiddle Tunes: Crookednado!	And if you get that reference, then you're probably twisted enough to enjoy this workshop featuring a whole bunch of crooked fiddle tunes. A tune is "crooked" if it has uneven beats and/or measures, so it's not "squared." Crooked tunes have an appealingly janky sound and have been described as "instinctively right, not technically right", so come join us for a bunch of fun, addictive, off-kilter jams! DAD
M - 7	Intermediate - Advanced	Making It Look Easy	What makes a good arrangement great? We've all hacked our way through a piece of tablature, but the real trick is in smoothing out the rough spots and being able to identify when extra care is needed when plotting fingerings and strumming/picking techniques. We'll take a challenging arrangement, play through it, take note of "trouble spots" and then I'll lay some secrets on you for turning a shaky presentation into a deceptively breezy performance. DAD
N-2	Beginner - Novice	Learning the Fretboard	Even if you don't know how to read music, you'll hear lots of musicians talking about different notes, keys and chords. Music is, after all, a language and one that's not all that hard to understand once you can wrap your head around it. This beginner-level course serves as an introduction to a proven method that will help you learn the notes of the fretboard while also shedding some light on how basic music theory works. DAD

O - 5	All Skill Levels	Delta Blues	2016 International Blues Challenge Finalist Bing Futch offers up this fun and fascinating class on playing authentic Mississippi Delta Blues on the mountain dulcimer. Three chords and heartbeat rhythms lead to us adding layer upon layer of new elements, all while strumming and playing the blues! Bing won the "Best Guitarist" award in the solo-duo category at the International Blues Challenge while playing the mountain dulcimer! DAD
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Lorinda Jones

B - 5	Novice Plus and up	DAA Playing: The Gateway Tuning	This class will move quickly from playing with the noter, to parallel chord harmonies up to beautiful lush melodies formed in this tuning that will the player an understanding of the movable scale and playing in different tunings and keys. Hymns and Folk songs artfully arranged for DAA. DAA
C - 1	New Player - Beginner	Beginner III – Moving On	The next step in playing the dulcimer is moving from songs with notes only on the treble string, to the melody notes on the middle string. This session will focus on this particular skill of isolating the middle string with a pick, rather than a strum in classic tunes like Red River Valley, Peace Like A River, Will The Circle Be Unbroken. DAD
D - 2	Beginner - Advanced Beginner	Yes Virginia, There Are Notes on the Dulcimer	Knowing the notes on the fretboard, not just the numbers, will open your world to a better understanding of how to play chords, scales and all that music that you have stashed away in a piano bench! This will be a basic introduction to playing your dulcimer, thinking about notes and why you have may extra frets. DAD
F - 7	Intermediate and up	How and When to Substitute Major and Minor Chords to Alter Mood, Style and Keys	Two Irish songs will be taught in a way that explores the use of chord choices and how it changes a feel for the song, changes the complexity of a song, and changes the keys in some cases. Enjoy learning some chord theory as well as some beautiful melodies. DAD
K - 7	Intermediate and up	How to LOVE, rather than AVOID your 1.5 Fret	Selected tunes will provide exercises in learning how and when to use the 1.5 fret, how to add a blues sound to your D tunes and how to play in D minor, as well as the key of G, all with the 1.5 fret! Come discover the joy of the 1½ fret. DAD
L - 4	Novice	How to Strum Varying Time Meters	Learn how to play and strum songs that are in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4 and 6/8 rhythm. Explore the difference in making a song feel like a waltz or a march, a song or a dance. American folk songs represent all these rhythms from Cowboy songs to hymns. DAD
M - 5	Intermediate	St. Patrick's Day Party Pack	Get ready for going green on the 17th with all the favorite Irish tunes. A variety of well-loved songs and dances of the Irish that your audience will enjoy. Sing-alongs, beautiful melodies, and polkas for dancing! DAD

Sandy Lafleur

C - 5	Novice / Novice Plus	Fingerpicking: a Different Approach	Rather than learn a finger-picked version of a tune, learn how to apply techniques to any tune you'd like to finger-pick, opening up a whole new world of music on the dulcimer. DAD
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H - 1	New Player	String Side Up! (Beginner I)	From the very beginning, what you need to know about noting, strumming and having fun with the dulcimer. DAD
J - 1	New Player	Moving Ahead With Your Playing (Beginner II)	Building upon the basics, learn how to get the best tone out of your instrument and feel the rhythm and the beat of the music. Simple tunes to get you strumming and smiling! DAD
N - 6	Intermediate Plus	Save the Hornpipe!	Hornpipes are wonderfully fun and bouncy tunes and their existence is in jeopardy! Come learn why and how you can be part of the movement to preserve them! DAD
O - 1	Beginner	Tunes for Beginning Players	Simple tunes you can master as a beginner including a simple round and a tune with a harmony part. DAD Beginner
P - 3	All Levels	Info. and Basic Hacks	Instrument care and feeding, thoughts about stings, tuners, strap ideas, music stands. This is an Interactive workshop. Each participant expected to share one idea with the class. All levels

Erin Mae

A - 2	Advanced Beginner	Intro to Chord Shapes	Erin Mae will help you find major and minor chords on the dulcimer using four distinct chord shapes. You will learn naming conventions and common patterns to more easily play songs. DAD
C - 8	Advanced	The Magic of the Pentatonic Scale	The pentatonic scale may be the single most useful tool for improvisation, filler licks, and playing by ear. Erin Mae will show you two positions for playing these scales, teach them in four different keys, and give you lots of practice applying them to music. DAD
E - 5	Intermediate	Accompaniment Patterns for Singing with the Dulcimer	Erin Mae will show you several different rhythm patterns and chord progressions to make accompaniment on the mountain dulcimer more fun and interesting. We'll sing familiar folk songs while trying out all of the new techniques DAD
G - 4	Novice Plus	Adding Arpeggios to Slow Tunes	Using simple arrangements of slow, pretty pieces, Erin Mae will teach you where to add arpeggios and how to know which patterns to use. You'll learn practice strategies, tips for writing the patterns into your music so you remember them next time, and techniques for improvising with these patterns in jams. DAD
H - 2	Advanced Beginner	"John Stenson's #2"	This is a fun, melodically simple fiddle tune. Erin Mae will help you learn to play the tune, then memorize it so you'll remember it after the class. You will also learn several simple variations to give your playing more variety. DAD
J - 6	Intermediate Plus	Right Hand Masterclass	This class takes a really in-depth look at how sound is created on your instrument. We'll talk about pick selection, in vs. out strumming, the angle your pick hits the strings, exploring the full dynamic range of your instrument, and how to get the best possible tone. We'll also look at advanced right hand techniques like flat-picking, syncopation, and damping. Bring all your questions and right hand struggles for an interactive class that helps you sound better! DAD

M - 1	New Player - Beginner	Establishing Good Habits	We'll focus on developing good technique, proper body mechanics, and healthy practice habits for playing the dulcimer without hurting yourself. We'll spend time evaluating how to hold the instrument, where to strum, how to fret for the cleanest tone, efficient left-hand fingering, and plenty of simple tunes to keep it fun. DAD
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Jerry Rockwell

H - 4	Novice	Celtic Tunes	These are some of my favorite slower melodies from the Celtic lands. Titles include: Suzy McGuire, Baidin Fheilimi, Balinderry, Dives and Lazarus, and my original Irish Lullabye No. 1. DAD
K - 1	Beginner	Twinkle Twinkle, Little Star	EASY melodic variations you will LOVE!! No chords to learn on this one, just some slow and soothing melodies in easy-to-play TAB and music handouts. DAD
P - 6	Intermediate	Four-Chord Loops	In this workshop we will explore 7 or 8 chord progressions that work beautifully as continuous, circular forms. Most of these have 4 chords and are very soothing and relaxing: I practice them daily as a form of musical meditation. We will also vary the melody on top of the chords some for more musical variety. DAD

Butch Ross

A - 3	Advanced Beginner & up	Working Backwards	Learn how starting at the end can help you learn songs better, faster and be more enjoyable in the process. DAD
C - 3	Advanced Beginner & up	Dulcimer Finishing School – Part 1	We'll break down playing the dulcimer to its core components and rebuild from the ground up. Learning strumming, fingering adding notes and in the end we'll take simple tunes and turn them into fun and interesting arrangements. Part one focuses on strumming. DAD
D - 7	Intermediate and up	Musical Hiccups	Phrases in tunes that have slight syncopations, often due to lyrics. So how to go from "bah bah bah bah" to "badup buh-ba ba bada". DAD
E - 1	Beginner	It's All Cabbage, Really.	"Boil Dem Cabbage" is the first song most people learn (and get sick of) is actually a Rosetta Stone of information. Learn how much harmonic information is contained in this simple song and how you can use it to learn new songs quickly or play along in jams, even if you don't know the tune. DAD
K - 8	Advanced	Chopsticks	Yes, that same beginner piano song. easy on piano, not so much on the dulcimer. We'll be using it as a springboard to fun and unique concepts using both left and right hand techniques. Everything from the fun and easy ideas to truly insane and ill-advised ideas. DAD
L - 3	Advanced Beginner & up	Just Five Notes	It's really based on one musical phrase, but it's all about the pentatonic scale, how to find it and how to use it in jams ... especially when you don't know the song. DAD
M - 3	Advanced Beginner & up	Dulcimer Finishing School – Part 2	We'll continue to break down playing the dulcimer to its core components and rebuild from the ground up. The focus of this workshop will be on melody. DAD

Susan Trump			
A - 7	Intermediate to Advanced	Celtic Airs	The dulcimer has its ancestry in the British Isles, which makes it perfect for playing some lovely tunes from “across the pond.” We’ll learn Bridget O’Malley, an Irish lament; and Mrs. Jamieson’s Favourite, a Scottish lament by Charles Grant. Advanced players welcome too. DAD
C - 7	Intermediate and up	Chords, the Key to Playing Better	Chords form the structure for all music. Understanding chord shapes, positions on the fretboard and chord progressions will enable you to learn new songs faster, play more smoothly, have more fun jamming, play harmonies and so much more! DAD
F - 1	Beginner	Join in the Fun – Simple Chords and Melodies	Chords form the framework for the tunes we play. Let’s get comfortable with three 2-finger beginning chords and the melodies will flow. You’ll be learning new tunes in no time and maybe singing some too! DAD
G - 3	Adv. Beginner - Novice	Easy Celtic Tunes	There are such beautiful melodies from the British Isles. They will tug at your heartstrings and become your new favorites! DAD
L - 1	Beginner	The Basics of Music for Beginners	(EASY Intro to music theory... how it all works) An introduction to the terms that you may have heard, but don’t have a clue what they mean, nor why you should know them. This workshop is especially designed for students with no previous musical experience. DAD
N - 5	Intermediate	Easy Old-Time Hymns - Strum and Fingerpick	The dulcimer is extremely well suited to the old mountain hymns. We’ll learn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”, and “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”. We’ll strum them and then learn a lovely easy fingerpicking pattern for that old-time sound. DAD
O - 8	Intermediate / Advanced	Tunes of Niel and Nathaniel Gow	Niel Gow (1727–1807) was the most famous Scottish Fiddler of the eighteenth century. Between him and his son Nathaniel, they composed approximately 300 lovely dance tunes. I think of him as the Scottish O’Carolan. DAD Tuning, maybe a capo.
Carol Walker			
B - 8	Intermediate - Advanced	Alternate Tunings and Capos	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 diversity to your playing. We’ll also briefly explore the “how to” aspect of figuring out which tuning or capo will work best for a song you’re arranging. Capo required. DAD to start.
C - 2	Beginner / Advanced Beginner	Songs You Already Know	We’ll take a journey back through those timeless “Americana” folk songs that you still remember from many years ago -- the songs that became a part of your musical DNA. In this workshop, by reading tabbed music and also playing by ear, you’ll learn how to play many of those familiar favorites on your dulcimer. DAD

G - 8	Intermediate Plus - Advanced	Bach's Cello Suite for Mountain Dulcimer	This iconic classical piece composed over 300 years ago has become well known today, thanks to cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Translating Bach's "Prelude" to a 3-string diatonic folk instrument has its challenges, but for the advanced player, this will be a worthwhile endeavor. We'll take apart this abridged arrangement, section by section, and put it back together again. 1½ fret useful, but not required. DAD
M - 6	Intermediate - Advanced	Variations on the Tune	Are you tired of playing the same old tune the same old way? In this workshop we'll get creative, adding a countermelody and passing tones, using different chords or positions, and using the entire fretboard. We'll take our tab from the basic bare bones to a fancy version suitable for performance. DAD
N - 4	Novice and up	Professor Walker's Warmups	Warmups can do wonderful things to improve your playing, regardless of your level of experience. But if you've ever wondered what kind of warmups will give you the best result in the least amount of time, this is the workshop for you. You'll also learn how to create your own effective warmups. DAD
O - 3	Intermediate and up	Tailless Tunes - Manx Music	We'll go on a musical journey to the Isle of Man, a tiny island located in the Irish Sea, where we'll explore an untapped source of this beautiful Celtic music, including lively jigs and reels, soothing lullabies, and haunting ballads. I'll share many anecdotes related to these songs, gathered during my two visits to the Island. Capo required. DAD

Neal Walters

A - 4	All	Music Theory for Dummies	A little theory is often as useful as a lot of technique in terms of improving your playing, particularly in jamming situations. This workshop is designed to demystify what every dulcimer player should know about chords, modes, keys, and other frightening but important subjects. Time permitting, we'll also discuss jamming techniques and etiquette and delve into transposing, chord inversions, the use of capos, and more.
B - 6	Intermediate and up	Fiddle Tunes You Probably Can't Dance To	The Southern solo fiddle tradition contains a number of tunes that were not designed for dancing. Many have unusual twists and turns, often adding or subtracting beats. These really sound good on the dulcimer, particularly at a statelier tempo. DA
D - 4	Novice and up	Out of the Ordinary Waltzes	Waltzes are wonderful on the dulcimer. Learn a few of the beautiful and, often, unusual waltzes that we've arranged for dulcimer over the years. DAD
G - 7	Intermediate - Advanced	Adapting Guitar or Other Written Music to the Dulcimer	There is a lot of music available in books for guitar and other folk instruments. Learn how you can easily adapt this music to the dulcimer. DAD
O - 2	Advanced Beginner and up	Left-Hand Techniques	Every intermediate player should be familiar with left hand techniques such as hammer-ons, slides, pull-offs, and triplets. We'll break each of these techniques down and practice applying them in appropriate tunes. DAD
P - 1	Advanced Beginner and up	Right-Hand Techniques	There's more to your right hand than bum-ditty-bum. Learn a variety of strumming techniques to add variety to your music and allow you to "match the mood" of the material you're trying to play. DAD

Coleen Walters			
H - 3	All	Making a CD - “How to do Home Recordings for Fun and/or Profit”	Coleen and Neal will walk you through all you need to know to get started on making your own CD. More recently due to the pandemic, people are also very interested in all aspects of recording their own music at home for both fun and possible profit. It's a broad topic, but we'll focus on those things that draw the most interest so bring your questions!
Pam Weeks			
D - 1	Beginner	“Note” that tune!	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
E - 6	Intermediate	Cajun Music	We'll learn a 2-step and a waltz in this heartfelt and engaging genre of Franco-American music, and explore a bit about the Cajun people and culture.
J - 4	Novice	Playing By Ear	Ever want to sit down at a jam session and play along but don't know the song/tune being played? Or have a recording of a tune you love and can't find the tab for? This workshop seeks to break the hold that tablature and printed music have on you! Music is made up of patterns, both melodic and harmonic/ chordal. We will work on learning to hear those patterns and identify what they mean translated to the dulcimer.
K - 2	Advanced Beginner	Intro to DGD Tuning	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
L - 6	Intermediate	Another (Slip) Jig Will Do	We'll start by learning the great slip jig, “Another Jig will Do”, and if time permits will go on to another! DAD
P - 4	Novice and up	Quebécois Music	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
Nina Zanetti			
E - 7 OR L - 7	Intermediate and up	Serenity This workshop is repeated twice - choose one or the other, not both.	Music can provide a source of serenity, for ourselves or for others. As we learn some intrinsically gentle tunes, we'll review techniques, such as phrasing and smooth playing, that preserve the serene nature of the music and convey it to the listener. Because we best convey calmness and “flow” when we are relaxed, we'll also explore how to increase ease (physical and mental) in our playing. DAD tuning. DAD
G - 1	New Player	Welcome to the Wonderful World of Dulcimer	For the brand-new player. Here's your chance to ask questions about anything related to mountain dulcimers! Come with (or send in advance) questions about anything that interests or confuses you about dulcimers. Depending on class interest, we'll consider FAQ such as: how to hold and tune the instrument, the history of the dulcimer, types of dulcimers, strings, tuners, capos, tab, styles of playing and much more. We'll also provide a beginner's guide to help you feel comfortable in this wonderful world of dulcimer. DAD

F - 8	Advanced	Songs About Bonnie Prince Charlie	This Scottish hero has inspired many beautiful songs, often disguised as lullabies or love songs. "Skye Boat Song" is one lovely example. DAD, possibly some DGD
K - 3	Novice	Fingerpicking Training Wheels	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
N - 3	Advanced Beginner	One Tune, Many Styles	We'll take some simple, familiar tunes and learn to play each one in a variety of different ways, including single notes, various strumming patterns, with simple chords ("chord-melody style"), and maybe even some fingerpicking. You'll be amazed at how many ways there are to play a tune, even with basic technique! This workshop will also give the beginner a glimpse into the wide range of playing styles that are possible on the mountain dulcimer. DAD
P - 1	New Player / Beginner	Beginners: Let's Put It All Together	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. DAD