

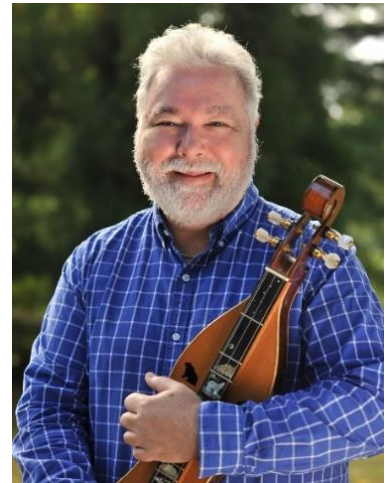
Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest 2021 Instructors



Aubrey Atwater, from Warren, RI, is an award-winning musician, singer, flatfoot clogger, writer, teacher and public radio commentator who presents captivating programs of folk music, dance, and narration. Aubrey has performed throughout the United States and beyond for 35 years, singing and playing mountain dulcimer, banjo, guitar, mandolin, and whistle, and thrilling audiences with her highly percussive freestyle clogging. In a scholarly, yet humorous way, Aubrey conveys the heritage behind traditional folk music and dance, showing deep passion and understanding of folk history and key players. Aubrey and her husband Elwood Donnelly have thirteen recordings and eight books to their credit. www.atwater-donnelly.com

Rob Brereton was one of the first dulcimer players to arrange extensively in chromatic and other alternate tunings. Although he specializes in the standards and early jazz tunes of Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, and the like, Rob is equally adept at playing the more traditional Celtic, Appalachian, old time, and other dulcimer repertoire. Rob has taught all levels of dulcimer at most major music festivals and folk schools across the country. He has won several awards for his playing including a coveted Winfield National flatpicking award. He has been playing dulcimer for over 30 years and is an internationally recognized performer and instructor since his first CD, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, was released in 1992. David Schnauer called Rob's playing "...strong and innovative."

<https://robertbrereton.com/>



Heidi Cerrigione has been playing mountain dulcimer since 1999. She and her husband John live in Ellington, CT and together with their band mates Neal & Coleen Walters, are Doofus Music. Heidi also plays autoharp and hammered dulcimer and has performed and taught week-long classes and festival workshops for the past 20 years at various programs across the country, including the Augusta Heritage Program, Dulcimerville at Black Mountain, the John C Campbell Folk School, the Cranberry Dulcimer Gathering, the Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, August Dulcimer Daze, and the Ozarks Folk Festival. For more information, visit their website at: <https://jhacousticmusic.wordpress.com>

Bill Collins has been in love with the Appalachian dulcimer for well over 25 years. He has conducted more than 130 dulcimer workshops at festivals in nine states and has taught week-long sessions at Augusta Spring Dulcimer Week and Shenandoah University. Bill has written six books of dulcimer arrangements: two collections of Shaker tunes (one co-written with Nina Zanetti), O'Carolan tunes, Irish jigs, Icelandic folk tunes, and a potpourri of advanced arrangements. He has composed over twenty pieces for the instrument, several of which are featured on a CD entitled *The Sum of the Parts*, a recording of dulcimer solos and duets performed by Bill and 2008 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion Nina Zanetti.

<https://www.pineyridge-music.com/bill-collins/>





Dr. Joe Collins has been a folk musician and mountain dulcimer player since the late 70s. He is a songwriter, vocalist, and an occasional guitarist. However, his primary love is the mountain dulcimer. In 2007, he won the National Mountain Dulcimer Championship held in Winfield, Kansas. An educator most of his professional career, Joe has a heart for teaching the things he loves most. He has become a popular teacher in mountain dulcimer festivals around the country because of his love for music. As an assistant professor at Gardner-Webb University, he also teaches religious education and practical ministries in the Department of Religious Studies. <http://www.jedulcimer.com/>

Larry Conger has been involved with music as a vocation for almost 40 years. Besides being a popular instructor at various dulcimer workshops around the country, Larry has been a participating artist for the Tennessee Arts Commission's Arts in Education program as well as the Kentucky Arts Council's Teacher Incentive Program, bringing dulcimer music into the public schools. He and his wife Elaine are co-directors of Dulcimer U at Western Carolina University. They also host their own Duet Dulcimer Retreat, Gatlinburg Dulcimer "Hymposium" and the September On The Mississippi Dulcimer Retreat each year. In 1995, Larry won the Southern Regional Mountain Dulcimer Championship in Mountain View, Arkansas. Three years later in 1998, he won the prestigious National Mountain Dulcimer Championship in Winfield, Kansas. Larry has authored fifteen dulcimer books and has numerous recordings to his credit. <https://www.larryconger.com/>



Elwood Donnelly is one half of the husband-wife duo, Atwater-Donnelly, who presents delightful programs of traditional American and Celtic folk songs, a cappella pieces, old-time gospel songs, dance tunes, and original works. They blend gorgeous harmonies and play mountain dulcimer, banjo, tin whistle, harmonica, percussion, and other surprises including Appalachian clog dancing. Elwood has a BS degree in Education which contributes to his ability to coach and instruct students, particularly beginners, advanced beginners and intermediate players, with patience and understanding. Elwood's songbook: Such Singing You Will Hear, includes 35 songs of the Carter Family for dulcimer as well as chords, music and lyrics. www.atwater-donnely.com

Sam Edelston plays rock, pop, blues, country, classical, a bit of jazz, assorted other styles, and even some original songs on acoustic and electric dulcimer. Oh, and folk music, too. He aims to expand the horizons of dulcimer players and to bring dulcimers to the attention of the general public. His online videos have been viewed over 1,000,000 times. Sam is chair of the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, held every October in Milford, CT (or online last fall). He's performed or taught at various folk festivals, dulcimer festivals (including MDMF many times), other venues in the Northeast and across the country. If the pandemic permits, his 2021 schedule will take him to Mississippi, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. www.SamTheMusicMan.com





Jeff Furman is an award-winning mountain dulcimer player who is known for his smooth and expressive style. His gentle, humorous, and effective teaching style has made him a very popular instructor at numerous mountain dulcimer workshops across the country. Jeff is a multi-instrumentalist who has been playing old-time music since 1980. Primarily a clawhammer banjo player for many years, he developed a rhythmic and melodic style which has heavily influenced his dulcimer playing. He has an extensive repertoire of old-time fiddle music which crosses over to a strong interest in Celtic music. He has a particular fondness for waltzes and Celtic airs on the dulcimer. He has been performing for more than 35 years, and his technical abilities, quick ear, musical sensitivity, and expression have made Jeff a popular choice for playing on multiple recordings.

www.jeffurman.com

Bing Futch discovered the mountain dulcimer in 1986 and fell in love with the instrument immediately. From Old-Time and gospel to blues and rock-n-roll, he brings a variety of sounds and emotions with every performance. In the classroom, Bing is an enthusiastic and encouraging teacher, connecting with students in a way that enables and challenges all at once. As a full-time musician, Bing has centered his focus on the mountain dulcimer and his goal is "a dulcimer in every household." His long-running series "Dulcimerica" is a testimony to his love and devotion for this wonderful American instrument. <http://BingFutch.com>



Lorinda Jones brings the roots of American music to her audiences through the playing of the mountain dulcimer and folk harp. Lorinda has authored numerous books and recordings, and in addition, is a board certified music therapist. She teaches and performs at camps and festivals all over the United States, has 3 books published by Mel Bay Publications, and teaches private and group lessons. Lorinda has experienced a varied career in music, ranging from that of a band director, private and public school music instructor from preschool through college, to work as a music therapist. She is currently offering online classes, concerts and video tutorials via her website. www.lorindajones.com

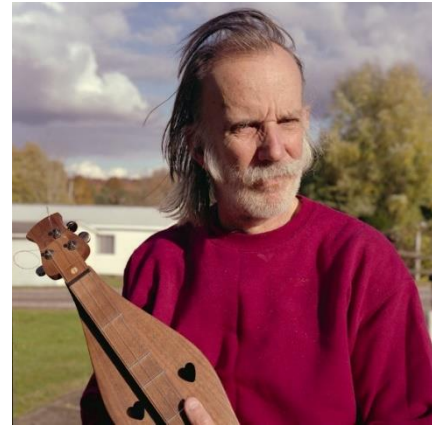
Sandy Lafleur from Wilton, NH has been playing and sharing her love of the dulcimer for over 25 years and has taught many workshops over the years at the DAA, Dulcimer Daze, and Nutmeg festivals, among others. A contra dancer, caller, and dance organizer her greatest joy comes from bringing people together around music. Her goal for her dulcimer students, whom she is now teaching on Zoom, is to help each player find their own unique musical voice. Sandy has a CD: "Amoskeag" which she recorded with her good friend Bill Perry on mandolin and guitar. www.wanderingdulcimer.com





Erin Mae has been playing for over twenty-five years, and in that time has developed a unique and progressive style. Carrying the rhythm section with her signature percussive chop and flat-picking fiddle tunes with impressive dexterity; audiences nationwide show amazement as they watch her fingers dance over her dulcimer strings. She received her first mountain dulcimer in 1994 at the age of seven. She became the youngest winner of the prestigious National Mountain Dulcimer Championship in 2004; and began touring professionally in 2011 as part of Scenic Roots. Erin Mae is a cancer survivor -- and her music and story act as a beacon of light for those going through difficult times. You can hear that passion as Erin Mae culls from her instrument music which lifts the spirit and heals the soul. www.ErinMaeMusic.com

Jerry Rockwell - During the past five decades, Jerry has played at folk festivals in England, Ireland and Iceland and around the US. He has published nine instructional tunebooks, is featured on many recordings and musical collaborations, has co-founded three dulcimer festivals, and continues to design and build custom acoustic and electric mountain dulcimers. Jerry encourages and challenges dulcimer and guitar students in workshops and online. Jerry's recent compositions explore the relaxing, meditative sounds of the electric dulcimer. His recent tracks have found their way on to hundreds of playlists on digital streaming platforms. <https://jermusic.com/> and <https://jerryrockwell.com/>



Butch Ross has been gleefully smashing disparate genres of music together for over fifteen years. Using the mountain dulcimer as a prism, he has tackled everything from Bach to the Beatles to Radiohead (and everything in between). His restless musical curiosity and virtuosity, coupled with his innate ability to break complex concepts into simple ideas, have made him an in-demand teacher and performer at many folk and dulcimer festivals both in the States and abroad. He is the author of several instructional books of music for both dulcimer and ukulele including his most recent book "How to play the ukulele in ten easy lessons (and one really hard one)." He is also a regular contributor to Dulcimer Players News. www.butchross.com

Susan Trump has been a favorite instructor and performer on the dulcimer scene for the past thirty-five years. She is known for her inspirational songs, her clear teaching style and interesting, playable arrangements, and has won awards in both mountain dulcimer and banjo competitions. She has authored four books of music for the mountain dulcimer, recorded four solo CDs and is the producer of the widely acclaimed "Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer CD series. Susan loves helping people learn to play and enjoy making their own music. Since 2008 she has produced the multilevel "Lessons in Your Living Room," a monthly subscription series, which is mailed to your home, or is available digitally. She is now enjoying teaching workshops and classes nationwide via Zoom! www.susantrump.com





Carol Walker's formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice. She retired after 32 years as an active high school choral teacher (and was the recipient of the 2003 NJ Governor's Teacher of the Year Award), but soon found a way to combine her love of teaching with her new direction in folk music, and has become a popular workshop leader and featured performer at festivals all over the US, plus the new QuarantUNE Virtual Festival. Carol has published seven dulcimer tab books, which have established her as a favorite arranger among players of all levels. www.MusicLadyCarol.com

Neal and Coleen Walters live in Greencastle, PA but grew up in Southern California. Singing and playing since the '60's, their music has been influenced by many different artists and styles of music. Along with John and Heidi Cerrigione, they perform as Doofus and, over the last twenty years, have recorded four albums. Neal was a member of the Mill Run Dulcimer Band for over 20 years and recorded nine albums with them. Neal has taught dulcimer, autoharp, banjo and guitar for nearly forty years in and around Washington, DC and at camps and festivals across the country. Neal and Coleen have three duet albums, *Snowbirds*, *My Pathway Leads to Pennsylvania*, and *Old Friends*. Web sites: <https://basementmusicstudio.com> and <https://doofusmusic.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, teaching, and recording traditional music. She plays a variety of instruments and sings with her Acadian folk trio, T-Acadie, and plays lead fiddle and sings with Jimmyjo & the Jumbol'ayuhs, Maine's premier Cajun band. Pam also teaches private lessons for bowed and fretted strings, woodwinds, piano, and voice on-line and at her studios in Turner, Bath, and Bowdoin, ME, and has taught at multiple music camps and festivals around the country. <https://pamweeks.com/>

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 at dulcimer festivals throughout the country. Nina is especially fond of the "softer side of dulcimer" and has a strong interest in American folk hymns, Early Music, and ensemble playing. She has published ten books of tablature arrangements for mountain dulcimer. She is featured on *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer Play Music for Christmas* (CD) and she has recorded a CD of solos and duets with Bill Collins, as well as two solo CDs, *Beside Still Waters* and *Winter's Light*. www.ninazanetti.com

