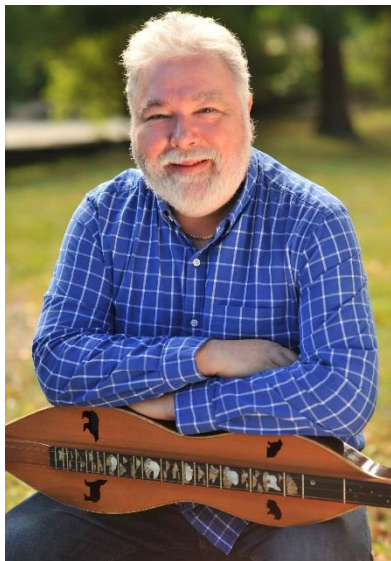
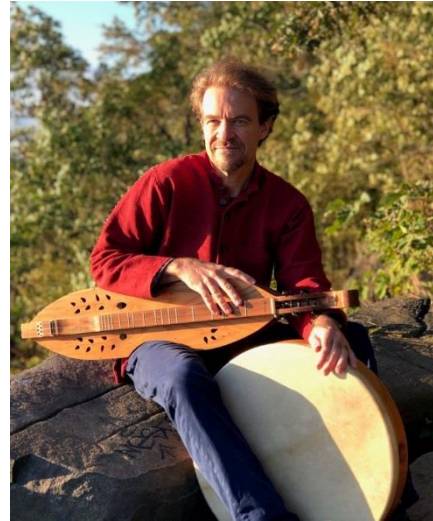


Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest 2026 Workshop Leaders

Sasha Bogdanowitsch is a composer, vocalist, multi-instrumentalist and educator who writes and performs music for theater, dance, film, concert music and original songs. He is a co-founder of World In One Pan Arts Collaborative (a non-profit arts organization) and Loom Ensemble (an interdisciplinary theater ensemble). He is also active performing and writing for the New York Dulcimer Orchestra and the Hogfiddle Consort as well as numerous other ensembles in New York City and the New York Hudson Valley. Sasha has performed worldwide and throughout the New York area in venues such as: Carnegie Hall, Whitney Museum, Symphony Space, BAM and Roulette.

www.timbretree.com,

<https://sashabogdanowitsch.bandcamp.com/>



Rob Brereton is widely recognized as a pioneer of contemporary mountain dulcimer playing. With roots in classical guitar and a degree in music theory and composition, he brings a refined touch and fresh approach to arranging. Among the first dulcimer players to explore chromatic and alternate tunings, Rob is known for his distinctive interpretations of early jazz standards by Duke Ellington and George Gershwin, as well as traditional Celtic, Appalachian, and old-time repertoire. A performer and teacher for more than three decades, Rob has taught at major festivals and folk schools across the U.S. and abroad. He has earned multiple awards, including a coveted Winfield National Flatpicking title. He co-founded the Housatonic Dulcimer Celebration and continues to organize Dulcimer Adventures festivals. His recording *Someone to Watch Over Me* established him as an internationally recognized performer and instructor, praised by David Schnauffer as “strong and innovative.” And yes — to his friends’ dismay — he also yodels.

www.robertbrereton.com

Carolyn Brodgerski was a quick study when she finally got her hands on a is an award-winning singer/songwriter, therapeutic musician, multi-instrumentalist, and self-proclaimed “musicaholic”. In addition to the mountain dulcimer, she plays guitar, mandolin, ukulele, and Celtic harp. She teaches private and group lessons, and at dulcimer festivals from Vermont to Georgia and online. She runs the Connecticut Mountain Dulcimer Gathering, and you may also know her from the Send In The Music virtual dulcimer jam. Since 2012, she has appeared on and produced 7 CDs. When she’s not playing the dulcimer, she runs a monthly community sing, performs with her band, Seat of Our Pants, and with Joyful Blue, a bluegrass Gospel band. She also plays therapeutically at a memory care facility, as part of her church’s Care Team, and at an annual retreat for women with Breast Cancer. www.carolynbrodgerski.com





Carol Crocker's first introduction to mountain dulcimer was at a school Heritage Day program. As a folk musician Carol enjoys sharing her love of the dulcimer with children, schools, churches and senior homes. She has been a private instructor, and at various dulcimer festivals including Dulcimer U, Winston-Salem Dulcimer festival, Stephen Foster, North Georgia Foothills Festival, QuarantUNE, Mt Dora, Kentucky Music Week. She is a regular song leader on the Send in the Music Virtual Jam and has a Send in the Music songbook "Tunes from Zoom". Other books include "Songs of the Spirit" Books 1 and 2, African American spirituals arranged for the mountain dulcimer with a CD and digital download; "Beginner's Guide to Mountain Dulcimer", and "Dulcimer in The Schools". Carol has a BS degree in Music Education from Western Carolina University and a MM degree in Music Education from UNC-Greensboro. She lives in Winston-Salem, NC, with her husband Joe. <https://carolcrockermusic.com/>

Sam Edelston comes to mountain dulcimers from the direction of chords, songs, and popular music (similar to how most people learn the guitar). He's on a mission to bring dulcimers to the general public through songs they already love in genres like rock, pop, folk, blues, country, and even jazz and classical music. His online videos have been viewed over 1,000,000 times, in over 190 countries. Sam chairs the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, held every fall in Milford, CT. He's performed or taught at numerous folk festivals, dulcimer festivals (including MDMF many times), concert halls, and beyond, in the Northeast and across the country, as well as QuarantUNE and other online festivals. He is now a full-time musician and dulcimer teacher. In 2024, he released his first recording, *Making Waves*, consisting of mostly classic rock and pop songs on dulcimer. www.SamTheMusicMan.com



David Fox earned his Master of Music Education degree from Shenandoah Conservatory at Shenandoah University (5-String Banjo and Appalachian Dulcimer), and his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Nyack College (Low Brass). He has been teaching since 1988, and was in the Herkimer Central School District Music Department for his last 21 years, where he retired after 31 years of teaching music in NY. David is member of Rags to Riches, and a member of the Mohawk Valley Chamber Brass sextet for several years. He is currently an Adjunct Music Instructor at Morrisville State College –SUNY Morrisville, directing the Music Ensemble and the Pit Orchestra. This year marks his 20th year as the New York State American Legion Boys' State Program Band Director. You can also find him every summer as "the vendor out in the campground" with parts and repair service at the Pickin' in the Pasture bluegrass music festival in Lodi, NY



Gerry Heinrich has been a woodworker for more than fifty years. During the pandemic he was looking for "live music videos"(an oxymoron) on U-tube. He was presented a video titled "Mountain Dulcimer, easiest string instrument to learn to play". After extensive research, and the acquisition of a McSpadden, Gerry felt confident that he could build one himself. Not yet a Luthier, he relied on his knowledge of woodworking. Realizing some common Luthier methods actually defy long held woodworking practices, his approach was strictly from that of a woodworker. Simplicity and Tension, along with the proper wood combinations, are the key considerations when making a Dulcimer. Having built more than 150 of these wonderful instruments, he continues to explore new methods and new combinations of wood species. Each with its own voice and the freedom to sing. Gerry is currently living the dream. www.heinrichdulcimers.com



Ron and Dawn Jordan

Ron added crafting rhythm bones to his woodworking skills after teaching himself to play a pair with the other hand on the steering wheel while driving to the ODPC Funfest in Evart, MI. He then started teaching others as they stopped by the Wolf Hill Woodworking booth at every festival. His wife, Dawn, has honed her rhythm and teaching skills over the years as a K-8 music teacher at a small Christian school in their hometown of Berne, NY, playing marimbula with The Sons of Redemption bluegrass gospel band, and leading weekly therapeutic drumming sessions at the Capital City Rescue Mission's New Faith Program for Women and Children. Together they've taught bones to folks at festivals across the country. This year they've added handmade claves to the class for those with less nimble fingers or joint issues who find bones too challenging. No one is too young or too old to have fun making beautiful rhythms together!

www.wolfhillwoodworking.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, VT, MA, PA and CT. With George Haggerty, she taught a week-long Dulcimer Elderhostel class in Vermont for many years. She has published 5 books of arrangements for the mountain dulcimer, each with an accompanying CD. Her newest book, "Lullabies and Night Songs for the Mountain Dulcimer" contains 78 lullabies from around the world. She has also contributed many pieces of music to the monthly newsletter of the Dulcimer Association of Albany.





Sandy Lafleur, from Wilton, NH has been playing and sharing her love of the dulcimer for over 30 years and has taught many workshops over the years at our MDMF, at Dulcimer Daze, and Nutmeg festivals, as well as others. Sandy teaches out of her home in NH and on Zoom, and encourages her students learn to express themselves musically, while learning new tunes and having fun! Her arrangements are accessible and highlight the innate beauty of the Appalachian dulcimer. You may also find Sandy playing with an assortment of other instrument-playing friends at local Farmer's Markets and Town events. A contra dancer, caller, and dance organizer, her greatest joy comes from bringing people together around music.

www.wanderingdulcimer.com

Bonnie Leigh, CMP - a Certified Music Practitioner, performer/teacher and singer/songwriter, actively performs and teaches her gentle style of playing with the mountain dulcimer across the northeast coast. Bonnie has taught at eleven dulcimer festivals across the east and has been giving lessons, teaching at festivals and performing since 1991. You would find her at historical villages, libraries, clubs, meetings, coffeehouses and nursing homes. Her easy manner makes learning to play fun and relaxed. As a Music Practitioner Bonnie would play the dulcimer and small harp at the bedside of hospice patients. Bonnie and Ellen Pratt are the co-coordinators of the New England Dulcimer Days in Bennington, VT. As a songwriter, Bonnie's original songs can be found on her 3 recordings all with accompanying dulcimer tab songbooks. She has written 3 poem books.

bonnie@bonnieleigh.com



MJ Pattison lives in Chatham Massachusetts. She is delighted to be a first-time workshop leader at the 2026 Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest. MJ has been playing acoustic guitar since receiving her first guitar as a Christmas gift at the age of 11, and she has provided guitar instruction to both individuals and groups. At Yale Divinity School, a fellow seminarian from North Carolina introduced her to the mountain dulcimer. When her family moved to the Capital Region in 2005, she met Nina Zanetti, whose unique and award-winning style rekindled her interest. After moving to Chatham in 2020, MJ looked for dulcimer players. The response was invariably "What's a dulcimer?" With seed money from her church community, MJ organized what might be the first dulcimer fellowship group on Cape Cod.

Ellen Pratt has been playing dulcimer for twenty-five years. She began writing her own music in 2004. She has performed at numerous open mics and taught at festivals throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic states, and online festivals. Ellen's style of playing is a mix of traditional and contemporary. Since 2018, she has been composing and arranging multipart pieces for dulcimer ensembles. Ellen played with the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra in Connecticut for several years. She is a composer and host for the First National Dulcimer Orchestra's (FNDO) Tuesday night online rehearsals. She writes and conducts pieces for in-person FNDO concerts at festivals in New York, Connecticut, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and North Carolina. 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 and has been teaching after-school dulcimer programs for many years. Ellen co-coordinates New England Dulcimer Days with Bonnie Leigh. ellen@ellenprattdulcimer.com



Lucy Joan Sollogub has been enjoying playing, teaching, performing and arranging with the mountain dulcimer for at least 5 decades! She feels very fortunate to have learned to play with 2 wonderful musicians and teachers; Lorraine Hammond and Leo Kretzner. In the "old days" of dulcimer playing, when we didn't have capos, 6½ frets, 1½ frets etc., we needed to re-tune to play in minor keys, and play in different keys and modalities. Lucy feels quite fortunate that she experienced this way of playing dulcimer, and utilizes these different modal tunings frequently. Currently Lucy teaches dulcimer, recorder, tin whistle and lever harp to people of all ages in two music schools in Massachusetts. Lucy also performs regularly with the New England Irish Harp Orchestra which has many concerts throughout the year. Lucy has been a featured performer at the Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, the Cranberry Dulcimer Gathering, and the August Dulcimer Daze festival and is thrilled to be at MDMF this year.

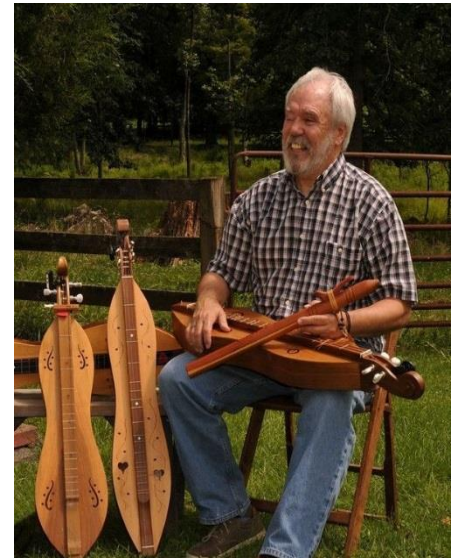
Carol Walker's formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice. She retired after 32 years as an active high school choral teacher (and was the recipient of the 2003 NJ Governor's Teacher of the Year Award), but soon found a way to combine her love of teaching with her new direction in folk music, and has become a popular workshop leader and featured performer at festivals all over the US, plus QuarantUNE Virtual Festival. Carol has published 12 dulcimer tab books, which have established her as a favorite arranger among players of all levels. She is an Endorsing Artist for Folkcraft Instruments of Woodburn, IN, and is the founder (2021) and director of the New York Dulcimer Orchestra based in Ulster County. www.MusicLadyCarol.com





Dwain Wilder is heir to the famous Sunhearth mountain dulcimer design created by his friend Walter Martin. He has extended and improved the original Sunhearth, and now offers nine models in Standard and Concert Series. Each dulcimer is designed and voiced specifically for the musical needs of the client commissioning it. Dwain also relishes teaching, and holds individual classes and apprenticeships in his Bear Meadow Studio. A video documentary of his dulcimer building process and techniques is in progress. He is also a published poet, essayist and editor —and a long-time activist in the fields of racial justice and the climate crisis. He leads the library team for a small international group of climate scientists, sustainable economists, bio-diversity experts, videographers and publishers, and conducts training for grass-roots activists in non-violent direct action. Dwain lives with his wife and their cat and dog, in a quaint cottage at the edge of a large dark forest. www.BearMeadow.com

Norm Williams is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club, and the Pocono DulcimerFest in East Stroudsburg, PA; a co-founder of the Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival, and current president of the non-profit, 501(C)3, Folk Arts Consortium, a non-profit supporting traditional folk arts in all its forms. Norm began teaching in 2002 and has been faculty/performer at festivals throughout the Northeast since (including the DAA Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest, French Creek Music Retreat, Ashokan Music and Dance Camp & others. In addition to mountain dulcimer, he plays guitar, ukulele & banjo. He offers private, personal instruction in person or via ZOOM. Norm is a lover of Old-Time music and performs solo as well as with the bands' Wayfarers & Company, Tom & Betty Druckenmiller, and the Dulcimer Boys. He has several recordings and is a sometimes radio host at WDIY 88.1 FM in Bethlehem, PA. He is currently retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Emmaus, PA. <https://www.awayfarer-normw.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 and online. 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 produced several books of solo arrangements for mountain dulcimer and has co-authored four books of duet/ensemble arrangements (the *Tunes for Two or More* series, with Beth Lassi.) She is featured on *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer Play Music for Christmas* (CD) and has recorded a CD with Bill Collins, as well as two solo CDs, *Beside Still Waters* and *Winter's Light*. www.ninazanetti.com