

Redwood Dulcimer Day 2024

Schedule of Workshops

	Mountain Dulcimer				Hammered Dulcimer
9:00 -9:30	Orientation				
Session I 9:45-11:00	Sea Shanties & Nautical Songs (Advanced Beginner) Jessica Comeau	American Hymns & Spirituals (Intermediate) Neal Hellman	Diva Hits of the 60s & 70s (Intermediate) Janet Herman	Mapping Chord Shapes (Int/Advanced) Steve Eulberg	Patterns that Fuel Creativity on Hammered Dulcimer (Beginner and up) Katie Moritz
					Intro to Hand Independence on Hammered Dulcimer (Intermediate) Colin Beasley
Session II 11:15-12:30	Ancient Vibrations: Medieval Chants (Intermediate) Jessica Comeau	Three String Choir (Advanced) Nina Zanetti	O' Dulcimer, Where Art Thou? (Intermediate) Dusty Thorburn	Strumming Steadily & Changing Chords Smoothly (Advanced Beginner) Steve Eulberg	Intro to Improvisation on Hammered Dulcimer (Intermediate) Colin Beasley
12:40-1:00	Stretch with Stephanie in the Home Room				
1:10 – 1:50	Lunch in the Home Room Mini-Concert: Each teacher plays a tune				
Session III 2:00-3:15	The Softer Side of Dulcimer (Intermediate and up) Nina Zanetti	Up & Down & Straight Across (Advanced Beginner) Dusty Thorburn	Old Time Gospel Songs (Intermediate) Janet Herman	Arranging & Playing Popular Music (Int/Advanced) Steve Eulberg	Add Chromatics to Anything on Hammered Dulcimer (Intermediate and up) Katie Moritz
Session IV 3:30-4:45	Irish Inspiration (Advanced) Jessica Comeau	Folk Hymns from America's Past (Advanced Beginner) Nina Zanetti	The Music of Stephen Foster (Int/Advanced) Neal Hellman	Fiddle Tunes that Sound Good Slow (Intermediate) Dusty Thorburn	Arranging Songs from Musicals on Hammered Dulcimer (Intermediate and up) Katie Moritz
4:45-5:00	Final tune in the Home Room				

Session I Class Descriptions

Sea Shanties & Nautical Songs (Advanced Beginner) – Jessica Comeau

Come and set sail with the mountain dulcimer to discover nautical songs and sea shanties! On this voyage, we will build confidence with the fretboard, explore some gentle chords, and reinforce alternating picking direction and clean fretting. Selections will include the timeless, briny melodies “So Early, Early in the Spring,” “Farewell to Tarwathie,” “Cape Cod Girls.” Our home tuning will be D-A-D.

American Hymns & Spirituals (Intermediate & Up) – Neal Hellman

Spirituals is a genre of Christian music that is "purely and solely the creation" of generations of Black Americans, which merged African cultural heritage with the experiences of being held in bondage in slavery (Wiki). I have also included several of my favorite hymns. Selections include “Abide with Me,” “My Father How Long,” “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen,” “Poor Wayfaring Stranger,” “Rise Up Shepherd.” “I Will Arise,” and “Steal Away.”

Mapping Chord shapes on the Fretboard to create interesting and accessible chord-melody arrangements from known melodies. (Intermediate to Advanced) – Steve Eulberg

For many of us, playing in the Chord-Melody style is the holy grail of dulcimer playing. We will decode some tunes so that we can more easily play them, and we’ll create our own arrangements of a tune by integrating a map of Chord Shapes on the Fretboard as our guide.

Diva Hits of the 60’s & 70’s (Intermediate) – Janet Herman

Let's have some fun singing some tuneful hits made popular by female vocalists like the Supremes, Dusty Springfield, Linda Ronstadt, Anne Murray, Christine McVie, Emmylou Harris, and Abba. You'll get a mix of fingerpicking and strumming techniques in this workshop. Bring a capo if possible.

Patterns that Fuel Creativity (Beginner & Up) – Katie Moritz

Learn fun and easy patterns that can help you develop musical intuition with creative expression, dynamics, hand independence, chord notes, and more! We will start small and build on each pattern to demonstrate how much these patterns can grow with you as you increase your skills.

Intro to Hand Independence (All Intermediate) – Colin Beasley

Explore a new world of dulcimer playing by learning to separate your hands from one another. This class will help you develop the skill of playing melody in one hand and harmony in the other. Through various pattern exercises and simple tunes, you will gain the tools needed to create colorful, full sounding arrangements of your favorite songs.

Session II Class Descriptions

Ancient Vibrations: Medieval Chants for Mountain Dulcimer (Intermediate) – Jessica Comeau

Allow your dulcimer to become an instrument of peace through these mystical melodies from the Middle Ages. The flowing soundscapes of chant will encourage you to practice sustain, clean picking, and dynamic phrasing. Selections will include “Polorum Regine,” “Sia Laudato San Francesco,” and “Gaude Virgo Salutata.” Please come tuned to D-A-D.

Three String Choir (Advanced) – Nina Zanetti

The beauty of choral music often involves the complex interweaving of “inner harmony voices”. We’ll use some advanced arrangements to explore how we can approach our three-stringed dulcimer as a choir of three independent voices, all contributing to the beauty and interest of the music.

Tuning: D-A-D, possibly others.

Strumming Steadily and Changing Chords Smoothly (Advanced Beginner) – Steve Eulberg

Using chord shapes that we already know, or that are easy to learn, we’ll use some chord progressions from tunes to keep our WHAT hand (fretting hand) interested, while we focus on the steady pulse of our WHEN hand (strumming) in order to improve and solidify our rhythms for playing.

O’ Dulcimer, Where Art Thou? (Intermediate) – Dusty Thorburn

You loved the film, now learn the tunes! Come play some of the music from the Coen brothers’ film O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000). Tunes covered may include “Keep on the Sunny Side,” “Angel Band,” “Down in the River to Pray,” “Big Rock Candy Mountain,” and more. Particular attention will be placed on how to vary the rhythm of the melody in ways that approximate the cadence of a singer. (DAd tuning)

Intro to Improvisation (Intermediate) – Colin Beasley

Experience music in its most personal form by opening the door to the world of improvisation. Though it may seem daunting, you will learn simple and easy methods that will get you started in creating your own solos that sound great over a chord progression. Discover what a fulfilling experience it can be to freely speak with your instrument!

Session III Class Descriptions

The Softer Side of Dulcimer (Intermediate & Up) – Nina Zanetti D-A-d tuning

“Dulcimer” means “sweet music”. In this workshop, we will explore both right- and left-hand techniques that can help us achieve a sweet sound and musical expression in our playing. We’ll review a gentle finger-picking style that can produce a “softer”, dreamy sound; and we’ll look at left-hand skills that help create a fluid, song-like quality in our playing. As we learn some lovely tunes, we’ll explore how expression, phrasing, and Intermediate dynamics can make our playing both soothing and musically captivating.

Up & Down & Straight Across (Advanced Beginner) Dusty Thorburn

This workshop examines common dulcimer tunes arranged in two different ways: going up and down the melody string and by staying near the nut and playing across all strings. The approach not only provides variations of tunes in two octaves to make a single rendition more interesting, but along the way you will gain an intimate knowledge of the fretboard. Tunes may include “Soldier’s Joy,” “Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss,” “Wildwood Flower,” “Angelina Baker,” and, if we get ambitious, “Blind Mary.” (D-A-d tuning)

Arranging & Playing Popular Music on the Dulcimer (Intermediate to Advanced) – Steve Eulberg

We’ll play selected Level 3, 4 & 5 tunes from my book, *First 50 Songs to Play on Mountain Dulcimer*. NO TABLATURE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED although there will be PDF handouts. Students will need to have their OWN COPY of the book which can be purchased through several on-line venues, or an autographed copy can be purchased here: bit.ly/First50Songs

Old Time Gospel Songs (Intermediate) – Janet Herman

Come learn appealing old time gospel songs like I Saw the Light, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, and Who Will Come and Sing for Me. At least some of the songs will be arranged as duets, with both melody and harmony parts written out in tab and notation. Janet will be joined by a second player/singer for this workshop to help demo the songs.

Add Chromatics to Anything (Intermediate) – Katie Moritz

In this workshop we will learn how to jazz up you’re playing by adding chromatic runs to the tunes that are already in your repertoire. I’ll provide a collection of examples from excerpts of the most popular fiddle tunes and more.

Session IV Class Descriptions

Irish Inspiration (Advanced) – Jessica Comeau

Join me in celebrating the richly varied moods of Irish music through three transporting selections: “Captain O’Kane,” “The Otter’s Holt,” and “The Chanter’s Tune.” Hammer-ons, pull-offs, and slides will help bring the music to life with Celtic ornamentations. Please bring a capo and come tuned to D-A-D.

The Music of Stephen Foster (Intermediate & Up) – Neal Hellman

Stephen Foster (1826 -1864) has been called “the father of American music.” In this class we will explore some of his well-known pieces “Beautiful Dreamer,” “Hard Times,” and “Gentle Annie,” along with some of his lesser-known compositions “Farewell My Lilly Dear” and “Slumber My Darling.” All arrangements will feature back up chords for singing each piece. Knowledge of the basic embellishments (hammers, pulls & slides) are essential to this class.

Folk Hymns from America’s Past (Advanced Beginner) – Nina Zanetti

Favorite hymns from early in American history often have simple harmonies and captivating tunes that sound great on mountain dulcimer. We’ll learn hymns from a variety of historical traditions, including selections from the Sacred Harp (shape note) tradition, early American hymn writers, spirituals, and/or Shaker music. We’ll also learn a bit about the musical traditions that the tunes come from, and we’ll explore ways of playing the tunes that are expressive and that evoke the style of the tradition.

Fiddle Tunes that Sound Good Slow (Intermediate) – Dusty Thorburn

Slow jams are a traditional way of learning songs in Irish and bluegrass circles, but in this workshop, we will not only play slowly; we will concentrate on fiddle tunes that sound great at slow speeds. Learning fiddle tunes obviously builds up your repertoire but is also a really fun way to develop both right- and left-hand techniques. Tunes examined may include "The Quail is a Pretty Bird," "Big Sandy," "Chez Seychelles," "MacPherson's Lament," "Sandy River Belle," "Strawberry Blossom," and more. (DAd tuning)

Arranging Songs from Musicals (Intermediate/ Advanced) – Katie Moritz

Dive into arranging music from Broadway. In this workshop, you will learn a step-by-step process outlining where to start, how to find the most usable notation, and how you can transpose pieces into dulcimer-friendly keys. A couple popular songs from musicals will be used as examples.