

Gorge Dulcimer Workshops for 2012

Harmony and Backup for Singing and Instrumentals Level: Advanced beginner and up

The dulcimer can provide lovely accompaniments for the voice and other instruments. We'll explore chords and how to adapt them to basic and more intricate harmonies.

With Maddie MacNeil

Singing for the Joy of Singing: Want to sing? That's the only "requirement" for this workshop. We'll work on ways to make singing easier for you while expanding the voice's range. Most important, we'll sing in harmony with each other and enjoy our individual voices.

With Maddie MacNeil

Compose a waltz for the dulcimer: We'll work together for a basic format and then work individually to express your ideas.

With Maddie MacNeil

Rounds and Canons: This class is an experience to be heard! The more the better, as we'll divide up into three or four part groups to play a variety of rounds (some familiar, some obscure) on the dulcimer. This workshop is a marvelous musical experience—you'll discover what it's like to "become" a true part of the ensemble sound and will enhance your timing and sight reading skills. The pieces are simple to play and the results are astonishing; most, if not all the arrangements will be new this year. Suitable for all skill levels; come tuned DAD

With Janita Baker

Fingerpicking Techniques and Repertoire: We'll look at ways to improve the musicality and performance of our fingerpicking by working on a variety of arrangements and different styles of music. Suitable for players with at least a little experience in fingerpicking. Come tuned DAD

With Janita Baker

Classical Tunes for Mountain Dulcimer: Some familiar, some not-so-well-known classical pieces arranged for fingerpicking and flatpicking/strumming on the mountain dulcimer. Suitable for advanced beginners on up; come tuned DAD.

With Janita Baker

Duets and Ensembles: Just what the title says: arrangements for two, three or four instruments. This class, in addition to creating beautiful harmonies, gives the participant a chance to work on their sight reading and timing skills. Simple arrangements for all skill levels. Come tuned DAD

With Janita Baker

Watching the Fretboard: Playing with Guitarists: An introduction for dulcimer players who wish to jam, play, and perform with guitar players. For beginning and intermediate players. We will work in the Mixolydian mode on dulcimer while learning how to "watch, listen, and know" what's going on when playing with guitar players. We will learn how to read the guitar players hands, listen for and learn the basic guitar chords and chord patterns, and enjoy being able to expand dulcimer playing, jamming, and performing with guitar players. No guitar playing or guitar experience necessary.

With Scott Snyder

Classic Folk, Rock, and Pop Songs on Dulcimer: Focusing on selected classic songs from Bob Dylan, CSN, The Beatles, and the Grateful Dead we will adapt both chord and instrumental single string lead techniques for dulcimer on some of the best known songs from these popular groups and writers. For players of all skill levels who wish to play these songs solo as well as in a group/ensemble setting.

With Scott Snyder

Rhythms & Syncopation Level: Intermediate

We will explore *counter-rhythm*, alternating the flat-picked "roll" and the strum within the same song to build syncopation dynamics. To further understand this "counter" effect we will incorporate techniques such as hammering on, pulling off, splitting strings, harmonics and playing the melody with one hand only. We will also visit a few tricky chord progressions. Using these techniques we'll play some traditional and contemporary compositions and even recast a few folk songs as reggae and calypsos.

With Robert Force

Two-Stop Chords Level: Beginner-Intermediate

I believe the unique, musical world-voice of the dulcimer (and its charm) resides in the two-stop chord. They subtly imply harmony and tune direction rather than powerfully declaring so with bold strokes. On the time line of world musical history, the dulcimer is the bridge between the lyrical and the chordal. These "almost" chords are the shy, tentative, innocent first kisses of youth, full of wistfulness and coltish grace. As we learn to "walk" these chords, the truly named "sweet sound" of dulcimer is revealed.

With Robert Force

Modes-the Historical Dulcimer Level: Novice on up.

Beginning with American traditional and Icelandic folk tunes in the Aeolian mode, this course will provide a basic understanding of the wide range of musical options presented by traditional modal tunings. Some folks get "skeered off" just by mentioning modes. Aeolian is the A-minor scale; Ionian is the C-major scale. See? Not hard! Nothing to memorize. Great handouts. No quiz. Amaze your friends. 5-credits-- fulfills general education requirement (just kidding-- well, not actually.)

With Robert Force

Songwriting for the Dulcimer and Beyond

The workshop you have been waiting for-- composing your own tunes with the mountain dulcimer! An empowering and enlightening experience, no previous writing skills are required. Let your inner composer out. Funny, poignant, reflective, emotional, spiritual, zany-- the many moods of being alive. Yes there are tools. Yes you can learn them. "You're already here. You've come to the dance. Say yes! Take a chance, take a chance." What comes first-- the words or the music? Neither. You do.

With Robert Force