

2020 DUTCHLAND DULCIMER GATHERING

Workshop Descriptions — Listed by Instructor

What is my skill level? Instruction level is indicated for each workshop to help you choose the ones best suited to your skill level.

Beginner: You are new to the mountain dulcimer, are just beginning to learn, or have not played in years. You may need help learning to tune or play basic tunes.

Novice: You can read basic tablature and play a number of easy tunes. You are learning to create chords and are comfortable playing at a slower speed.

Intermediate: You can read and follow tablature, know how and when to use both hammer-ons and pull-offs, and can play songs up to speed. You are learning more complex chords, how to use a capo, flatpicking, and arpeggios.

Advanced: You know the dulcimer well, and can play in different styles and tunings. You are interested in learning new or unusual styles and arrangements, and are ready for more challenging techniques.

All: Suitable for beginner through advanced players.

Tuning is DAD except for a few workshops where instructors have indicated a different tuning in the listing below.

Please Note: Not all workshops are for standard mountain dulcimer. The following classes are different:

- **Kirk House's** workshops are all for bass dulcimer.
- **Butch Ross** is teaching two ukulele workshops — Insanely Useful Chord Progressions for beginning ukulele players and up (*Session 6*) and Three Hard Chords to Change Your Life for intermediate and more advanced players (*Session 7*).
- **Aubrey Atwater** is teaching a clogging class (*Session 6*) — fun for all ages!
- **Andy Fox's** workshops are for advanced beginner and up level fingerstyle guitar, Right Hand Techniques (*Session 5*) and, for all guitar players, an innovative approach to basic music theory, Why Do Chords Do What They Do (*Session 6*).

Workshops by Aubrey Atwater

Songs of the Sea

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Description: Aubrey, an Ocean State native, will present traditional seafaring songs each in its own way beautiful, playful, tragic, or joyous. **You will need a capo for one of the songs.**

Using the Capo on the Mountain Dulcimer

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Description: What an interesting and strange thing to do on a dulcimer! Aubrey will discuss what capoing means on the dulcimer and how it differs from the guitar or banjo. The class will do some experimenting and run through a few songs and tunes using the capo. **Bring a capo!**

Reverse Tunings

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Description: What is a reverse dulcimer tuning and why use one? Come find out! Aubrey will present songs in Reverse Ionian, Aeolian, Mixolydian, and Dorian. You'll be surprised at how interesting, great-sounding, and easy it is!

Chording and Singing Ballads

Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Description: Participants will learn basic chords for the DAD Mixolydian tuning and how to sing and play at the same time! Aubrey will choose from some of her favorite traditional ballads.

Clogging

Level: All Levels, All Ages

Description: This is a nice physical break from the sitting and information-absorbing in a festival! Clogging is a percussive form of dance that precedes tap dancing, with rhythmic tapping of the feet, traditionally danced to old-time fiddle tunes. Aubrey will teach simple clogging (also known as flatfooting, jig dancing, or buckdancing) steps learned from the masters in Kentucky and North Carolina.

Improvising on the Mountain Dulcimer

Level: All Levels

Description: Related to playing by ear, learn to play along with the group in an informal, loosely structured manner. The workshop will discuss how to improvise with chords, lead and bass note playing and will articulate some of the tricks and structure behind what appears to be pure artistic "happening."

Workshops by Elwood Donnelly

Playing in DAA

Level: Beginner/Early Intermediate

Description: Learn some songs in this Ionian tuning. Noting, strumming and fingerpicking patterns will be studied while adding songs to your repertoire.

Using the Noter

Level: All Levels

Description: Participants will learn how to play the mountain dulcimer in D-A-dd using the noting stick: one of the most ancient and haunting, yet quite simple, methods of playing. Students will learn how to hold the noter most effectively, as well as a few tricks for ornamentation including sliding, hammering down, and pulling off while building a song and tune repertoire.

Coping in a Jam Session

Level: Early Intermediate/Intermediate

Description: 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.**

Finger-picking for the First Time

Level: Beginner/Early Intermediate

Description: Elwood will provide a framework for finger-picking simple tunes on the mountain dulcimer in D-A-dd. Participants will learn basic patterns for vocal accompaniment as well as methods for finger-picking in common and $\frac{3}{4}$ time signatures.

Write Your Own Tablature in DAD

Level: All Levels

Description: If you ever wanted to uncover the mystery of tabbing your favorite songs, this workshop is designed to teach just that. We will first tab out the melody of a song, then determine the main chords and their positions. Finally, we will turn each note into its own special chord until the song is completely tabbed to our pleasing.

Songs of the Carter Family in DAD

Level: Beginner/Early Intermediate

Description: 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, *Such Singing You Will Hear*, participants will use the noting stick, chords and finger-picking styles to build a repertoire of these glorious songs.

Workshops by Susan Trump

Susan's Favorites

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Description: We'll learn some tunes that are demanding enough to challenge you, but not so hard that they're not fun to play. DAD Tuning, **maybe a capo.**

Songs of the 60s and 70s

Level: Intermediate

Description: You'd be surprised how many of the songs from "our" era are based on traditional songs. And then there are the great classics too. Take a stroll down memory lane and enjoy the good old days. DAD Tuning.

Rounds, Duets, and Ensembles

Level: All Levels

Description: Play with others in a dulcimer "orchestra." Playing with several different parts makes the whole experience that much more fun!! DAD Tuning.

Modulating From D to G and Back

Level: Intermediate and up

Description: Playing the same tune in two different keys adds some beautiful variations to your music. You'll like the effect and it's not that hard. DAD Tuning.

Calypso Anyone?

Level: Intermediate

Description: Learning songs using the calypso strum and variations will be a great way to focus on the right hand and develop some real independence. Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho and others will be taught. Bring a capo. DAD tuning.

Workshops by Joe Collins

What Goes a-Round

Level: Beginner and up

Description: This is a workshop of rounds, those wonderful little tunes that two or more people can enter at different times to create a cacophony of harmony and counter-melody. We'll learn several rounds from Joe's new book of rounds that are worthy of playing together out in public whenever you have two more players.

Crossing Over to the Fun Side

Level: Novice and up

Description: 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.

Traditional American Folk Hymns

Level: Advanced Beginner and up

Description: 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.

Focusing on Basic Chords

Level: Novice and up

Description: This is a workshop on playing in DAD out of major chords. Includes exercises and songs to improve one's ability to change chords efficiently. Workshop is designed for novice players, but more advanced players may benefit from trying this system used by a number of top players.

Multi-Part Hymns

Level: All Levels

Description: Come experience the joy of being part of an ensemble playing hymns with multiple parts, no matter what your playing level is. Hymn will include "Only Trust Him," "Hyferdol," and "I Surrender All."

Old Hymns with New Tunes

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Description: This is a repertoire workshop in which Joe shares one of his favorite musical endeavors — taking old hymns and setting them to new, original tunes. The new tunes created for old hymns like "The Old Rugged Cross" are very folksy and appropriate for a folk mass or worship.

Workshops by Butch Ross

Show Off!

Level: Advanced

Description: Learn to make unusual, offbeat and fun sounds on the dulcimer — in short, stuff that sounds cool! Learn string bending, natural and artificial harmonics, Two-hand tapping, slapping, hammer-ons, pull-offs and using the dulcimer as a drum.

Thinking Inside the Box

Level: Intermediate and up

Description: Using cross-string picking and three finger "boxes" to tame tricky tunes without simplifying melodies or removing notes. Improve speed and dexterity without actually playing faster.

Beatles for Dulcimer

Level: Beginner and up

Description: The Beatles made songs that were both quirky and complex ...but not always. Come learn a couple of fun tunes from the Fab Four while learning solid fundamental techniques at the same time. DAD tuning. **Capo is required.**

Rock and Roll Boot Camp

Level: Beginner and up

Description: Learn the basics of playing dulcimer, theory and technique, using fun tunes from the golden era of rock ` roll.

Insanely Useful Chord Progressions — UKULELE CLASS

Level: Beyond Beginner and up

Description: These chord progressions (or variations on them) show up in a lot of popular music. Learn them and use them to learn songs faster.

Three Hard Chords to Change Your Life — UKULELE CLASS

Level: Intermediate and up

Description: Yes, the dreaded Bb is in here. But learn how these three Barre chords can open up a whole new world to your playing.

Workshops by Bill Collins

The Laredo Variations

Level: Intermediate

Description: 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 tuning.

Flatpicking Technique

Level: Novice and Up

Description: Using various right-hand exercises, this workshop introduces the use 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 and DGD tunings.

Icelandic Folk Tunes for Dulcimer

Level: Intermediate and up

Description: The Icelandic langspil is a Scandinavian cousin of the Appalachian dulcimer; both are diatonically fretted zithers featuring drone strings. So it seems appropriate to try to arrange Icelandic folk tunes for dulcimer, despite the challenge some of these unusual melodies present for the instrument. These workshops all introduce different tunes, some of which use unfamiliar scales and harmonies. DAD tuning. **Capo required.**

Putting the "Dulcet" into Your Dulcimer Playing

Level: Advanced Beginners Through Intermediate

Description: Pretty, musical, and expressive aren't the same as fast, complex, or ornate. You don't have to be a technical virtuoso to give a moving, memorable performance. Expressive playing comes more from the head and heart than from the hands. Moreover, just "playing the notes" may not be the same as "making music." This workshop offers 10 ideas that can help you in your pursuit of the dulcet sound. There will be a special emphasis finding the elusive legato, the single most important technique in making your dulcimer "sing." DAD tuning.

Tunes in DGD

Level: Intermediate

Description: This workshop explores some of the advantages of DGD tuning, particularly when playing faster tunes, such as flatpicked jigs, hornpipes, or reels. This 1-4-8 tuning is the easiest tuning alternative to DAD. The workshop shows the quickest way to get into and return from DGD (no need for an electronic tuner!) and we'll play a number of melodies that really lend themselves to DGD. Participants will also learn some useful chord shapes for this tuning. **Capo required.**

Tunes from St. Kilda

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Description: The people of St Kilda, the westernmost island of the Outer Hebrides, had a unique culture and lifestyle for many centuries. Though there have been no residents on St Kilda since 1930, some of their strange and beautiful music has been passed on. This workshop provides dulcimer arrangements of several of these tunes. DAD, Low AAD tunings.

Workshops by Judy House

Christmas is A-Comin'

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: No matter what time of year, there's one thing for sure — Christmas is A-Comin'! So, start now getting ready to dazzle and amaze your friends and family or your congregation with some of the most beautiful songs ever written! Come learn some old favorites in parts, some in unison, and maybe some you've never heard before!

The Shape of Things to Come

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: Once you start wanting to play more than one string at a time on your dulcimer, it is easier if you know how to form chords in 4 main shapes. Come learn how to find all the D, G, A, Em, F#m chords, and more, using a simple pattern. We will also take a look at fingering techniques for smoother and faster playing of chords.

Capo Anyone?

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: Use a capo to play in a variety of keys! Learn the what, when, where, and why of the capo. Don't forget to bring a capo with you to participate in class! (I will have some loaners just in case!)

Entertaining the Older Generation

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: We all get numerous opportunities to play our dulcimers for shut-ins and retirement home residents. Music is a wonderful way to bring back delightful memories for our older friends and family. Come learn a few songs that they can relate to and enjoy and make some new memories for yourself in the process.

Top Ten Practice Tips

Level: Beginner

Description: Teachers will always tell you WHAT to practice, but they never tell you HOW to practice! Sign up for this class and learn what to do when you are practicing! You might be surprised at what you should be doing in order to learn to play your music. This applies to all instruments, not just the dulcimer! Become a better musician, faster!

Waltz Across the Strings

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: An introduction to playing in $\frac{3}{4}$ time, or Waltz Time. We will start with several strumming techniques for the right hand, then take a look at a couple of well-known songs to change into waltzes and apply the strumming techniques, then finally, learn to play a couple of beautiful waltzes on our dulcimers.

Workshops by Laurie Alsobrook

You Rock!

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: This promises to be a class that really rocks...including "Rock the Cradle Joe," "Rock the Cradle Lucy," and more rockin' tunes.

All Girl Review

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: Now that I have your attention...join me for a few tunes, "Waiting for Nancy" and "Sadie at the Back Door," to name a few.

Front Porch Favorites

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: Inspired by songs of the "Singing Family of the Cumberlands," this workshop offers fun tunes that last for generations!

Keep on Trucking

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: Actually, NOT a Grateful Dead tribute workshop...these songs focus on traveling. You will have a chance to practice strumming as well as the chord-melody technique as you develop smoothness in playing.

Taize

Level: Intermediate

Description: Not familiar with Taize worship music? Originally from a monastery in France, these peaceful, these meditative songs can enhance any worship service OR simply be enjoyed at any time. Short songs, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character.

Living and Dying in 3/4 Time

Level: Advanced Beginner and Up

Description: (Name that Jimmy Buffet tune!) This workshop has nothing to do with Margaritaville...rather we'll look at a few lovely tunes in three-quarter time. You will have a chance to practice chord-melody technique as you develop smoothness in playing.

Workshops by Kirk House

Please note: *If you do not have a bass dulcimer at this point, you are welcome to join either Intro class using a standard dulcimer, tuned to DAD. Also, a 1.5 fret is not mandatory but is highly recommended.*

Why YOU Should Play the Bass Dulcimer

Level: Open to Everyone

Description: This workshop is based on two foundational principles that I stress to my bass dulcimer students; but they are skills that any musician should have (and can probably improve on). The first is maintaining a good sense of rhythm; the second is developing and improving your 'ear' skills (hearing chord changes, identifying 'intervals' between pitches). We will discuss techniques and practice tips that will help you improve these skills.

Introduction to Bass Dulcimer

Level: True Intro Class; if you already have experience, you'll learn more!

Description: This class will provide an introduction to playing the bass dulcimer. It is designed for students who are new at playing the bass dulcimer (but who have had some experience playing a standard dulcimer); it is also appropriate for anyone who is just thinking about learning the bass dulcimer, or is otherwise interested. It is not necessary to bring a bass dulcimer to class if you don't have one already; all of the exercises can be done on a standard dulcimer, tuned to DAD.

We will cover fundamental principles of playing bass dulcimer "as a bass" — beginning with understanding common rhythms used in Old-Time and Bluegrass songs. We will learn how the bass player's line is built upon chord structure (root/fifth), and how to find those notes on the dulcimer fretboard. We will also do some "ear training" exercises, to help learn to recognize when chord changes occur in a song. Can you play chords with the bass dulcimer? We will use a variety of instructional resources to answer that question, and more, as we accomplish our class goals.

This class will dovetail nicely into the second Bass Dulcimer class I'll be teaching, but it is not necessary to take both classes; each class is complete in itself. **Also: a 1.5 fret is not mandatory but is highly recommended.**

Useful Techniques for the Advancing Beginner in Bass Dulcimer

Level: True Intro Class; if you already have experience, you'll learn more!

Description: This class will dovetail nicely into the first Bass Dulcimer class I'll be teaching; but each class is complete in itself (i.e., you do not have to take the first class if you already know the basics of playing bass).

In this class we will explore additional rhythms, beyond playing the basic "1st and 3rd" beats in 4/4 time. In particular we will look at how to play bass in 3/4 time (waltzes) and 6/8 time. We will look at the role of the bass player as "time-keeper" in the band, and examine some ways to develop your own time-keeping ability. I will introduce you to the basics of how to write your own bass lines, for songs you don't have "tab" for. And, if time permits, we'll try our hand at playing blues rhythms on the bass.

Common Riffs on the Bass Dulcimer

Level: Intermediate and up

Description: This workshop will focus on “walking bass” patterns — both short/simple and longer. Put these into your toolbox and know when to pull them out.

Writing Your Own Bass Lines

Level: Intermediate and up

Description: Tab is great, but you’ll find that there is not a lot of tab already written for the bass dulcimer. How can you learn to write your own bass lines? This of course is a lengthy subject, but we will focus on the basic principles involved. This class will give the tools you need to pursue this endless quest. (My mantra: I want to give you **tools** not **tab**)

Workshops by Andy Fox

Basic Right Hand Techniques — FINGERSTYLE GUITAR

Level: Advanced Beginner and up

Description: Learn the fundamentals for two common types of right hand finger picking: a traditional rolling style and the travis-picking style. See how they sound when you compare and contrast them, or even blend them together.

Why Do Chords Do What They Do? — GUITAR

Level: Advanced Beginner and up

Description: To many, music theory is a subject to be avoided. But what if you already knew all the basics and just didn't know it? Find out what you already know and why it works!