

## Workshops Given by Nina Zanetti

### Fingerpicking for the First Time

NOTE....THIS IS A DOUBLE WORKSHOP – TWO CONSECUTIVE SCHEDULE SLOTS.

**Level: Novice**, plus more experienced players who have limited experience in fingerpicking.

**Tuning:** DAD

**Description:** Learn to fingerpick and how to make this style of playing sound pretty. We'll start with an overview of right-hand technique for fingerpicking, and then will work on reading tab for fingerpicking arrangements and on interpreting this tab with respect to chord structure. We'll explore the different patterns of fingerpicking and will learn some tunes to gain practice with these patterns. Once we have the basic patterns down, we'll continue learning some pretty tunes and use them as examples for how to play fingerstyle arrangements with grace and expression. IF time permits, we'll also explore how to take tab arranged for strumming or flatpicking and turn it into a fingerstyle arrangement.

### Folk hymns from America's past

**Level:** Intermediate

**Tuning:** DAD

**Description:** 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.

### Music of the Shakers

**Level:** Novice OR Intermediate

**Tuning:** DAD (possibly some DGD and/or DAC)

**Description:** The Shakers produced a huge body of sacred music (possibly as many as 10,000 hymns), including lively dance tunes and ethereal meditations. "Simple Gifts" is the most well-known example, but there are many more tunes, all well-suited to playing on the dulcimer. After a brief introduction to the Shakers – who they were, what they believed, how they lived, what they left us- we'll focus on their music, learning tunes from the various periods of Shaker music, which spanned from colonial days until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Music of Turlough O'Carolan**

**Level:** Advanced

**Tuning:** DAD tuning

**Description:** Learn a little about the life and times and music of the great Irish harper. His music sounds wonderful on mountain dulcimer. We'll learn several examples of his lovely tunes, including some with variations. These tunes lend themselves well to embellishments, such as trills, rolls, hammer-ons, and pull-offs, so we'll also work on incorporating these techniques into our playing of the tunes.

## **Welcome to the Wonderful World of Dulcimer**

**Level:** New Player

**Tuning:** DAA or DAD

Max Number: approx. 30

**Description:** For the brand new player or first-time attender of dulcimer festivals. An introduction to dulcimers, the history of the instrument, types of dulcimers, strings, tunings, festivals, tab, and much more. We'll give you a beginner's guide to the festival has to offer, and will help you feel comfortable in this wonderful new world of dulcimer.

## **Those dazzling harmonics !**

**Level:** Intermediate Plus and Advanced

**Tuning:** DAD

Max Number: approx. 30

Time preference: prefer 1 hr

**Description:** Harmonics are those bell-like high notes that can add dazzle or mystery to an arrangement. We'll first discuss how to produce a clear sound, both with natural (not-fretted) and artificial (fretted) harmonics. Then we'll learn some tunes that show how they can be incorporated into an arrangement.

## Workshops Given By Elwood Donnelly

### **SONGS OF THE CARTER FAMILY:**

#### **Intermediate/Intermediate**

Discover the wonders of this early pioneering American country music group. Participants will learn a variety of Carter Family songs with simple chord progressions while exploring their history. Elwood will choose from some of his favorite Carter Family songs. Early It is helpful to know basic chords.

#### **•CHORDING, STRUMING AND SINGING:**

##### **Beginner/Early Intermediate**

Participants will learn basic chords for the D-A-D Mixolydian tuning and how to strum accompanying rhythms while singing and playing at the same time! Elwood will choose from some of his favorite traditional ballads.

#### **•USING THE NOTER:**

##### **All Levels**

Participants will learn how to play the mountain dulcimer in D-A-D 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.

#### **•FINGER-PICKING FOR THE FIRST TIME:**

##### **Beginner/Early Intermediate**

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

### **MOUNTAIN DULCIMER -D-A-A**

#### **•CHORDING, STRUMING AND SINGING:**

##### **Beginner/Early Intermediate**

Participants will learn basic chords for the D-A-A Ionian tuning and how to strum accompanying rhythms while singing and playing at the same time! Elwood will choose from some of his favorite traditional ballads.

**•FINGER-PICKING FOR THE FIRST TIME:**

**Early Intermediate/Intermediate**

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

**Workshops by Aubrey Atwater**

**Song of Jean Ritchie Part II (Beg/Int):**

This is a good repertoire workshop where Aubrey will teach a variety of songs she has learned over the years through her contact with Jean Ritchie and other Ritchie family members. Workshop focuses on the traditional style of playing with the noter and playing in different tunings.

**Songs of the Sea (Int):**

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.

**Going to the Cleaners (Int/Adv):**

This workshop addresses cleaning up your playing. We will have students play songs and pieces they already know and discuss how they might refine and improve technique. Come prepared to present one piece.

**Reverse Tunings:(Int/Adv):**

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!

**Multi-instrument and dance: Paying and Dancing: (All levels):**

This is an integrated workshop where Aubrey will teach basic clogging steps and/or a couple of short dances and games and the people NOT dancing will play the music! This is incredibly fun and reminds us of the function of the tunes we often play in jam sessions.

## **Creating Instrumentals:**

Learn how to draw out a song's melody while strumming or fingerpicking integral chords. This workshop takes a "by ear" approach but also addresses how to tab or make note of the arrangement being created.  
(Intermediate/Advanced)

## **Workshops Given by Judy House**

### **Playing A-Round! (Advanced Beginner and Up)**

Rounds began to show up during the 12th Century in England. They are fun to participate in, and a wonderful way to introduce you to playing harmony with a group. This workshop will use the fun of playing rounds as a way to improve your group playing skills and help you learn to listen to what others are playing.

### **Developing into a Confident Performer (Beginner and Up)**

If you struggle with **music performance anxiety** or just want to take your performances to the next level, this is the class for you! This class is designed to help you boost your sense of self and get your eye off what's missing in your performances and onto the attributes you already possess for success. Join me for a discussion about confidence and find ways to develop yours. We will construct your music confidence resume and talk about how to take control of your confidence.

### **The Shape of Things to Come (Advanced Beginner and Up)**

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.

### **Entertaining the Older Generation (Advanced Beginners and Up)**

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. Learn a few songs that they can relate to and make some new memories for yourself in the process.

## **Top 10 Practice Tips (Beginner and Up)**

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!

### **Strumming – Does Your Left Hand Know What Your Right Hand is Doing? (Beginner-Advanced Beginner)**

For so long, the right hand has been neglected. This workshop will take a look at where your right hand is, where it should be, and what it is capable of doing! Your rhythm, dynamics, and smoothness all come from your right hand!

### **Workshops Given by Bing Futch**

#### **Learning To Play Native American Flute**

This beautiful, haunting and expressive instrument dates back 4000 years on the North American continent. Originally used in courtship and later in ceremonies and, more recently, ensemble performance, the Native American flute now enjoys great popularity in all types of music. You'll be surprised at just how easy it is to play! In this workshop, you'll learn basics: flute anatomy, how to hold it, breath control, major and minor scales, ornamentation techniques and how to discover your very own spirit song. If you don't have a flute, I will have a limited supply of loaners that are also available for purchase. Key does not matter if you wish to bring your own. *(Beginner to Intermediate)*

#### **Mountain Dulcimer - The Wonderful World Of Disney**

If you're like me, then you're a big Disney fan, and what would be more fun than picking some Disney tunes on the mountain dulcimer? We'll have a good time with classics as well as recent hits from films like "*Mary Poppins*", "*The Jungle Book*", "*Beauty and the Beast*", "*The Little Mermaid*" and "*Frozen*" as well as take a look at some of the music from the various theme parks. Along the way, we'll learn techniques to help you play these tunes "in a most delightful way!" *(Beginner - Intermediate)*

## **Mountain Dulcimer - "Ashokan Farewell: A Study In Song"**

Jay Ungar's classic and emotional piece has been captivating folks since 1982 when it was composed and it gained a new generation of appreciative fans when it was featured as the theme song to the 1990 PBS series "The Civil War." This lovely tune is quite simple to play and we'll approach it with a simple arrangement using partial strums in pure chord-melody style. We'll also work on smoothing techniques to make this piece sound as sweet as it can! (*Beginner - Intermediate*)

## **Mountain Dulcimer - "Da Slookit Light: A Study In Song"**

This haunting piece by Scottish fiddler Tom Anderson is a favorite among fiddle players everywhere and Ken Bloom likes to perform it on bowed dulcimer. It sounds quite lovely on standard mountain dulcimer and we'll use a chord-melody style to navigate its looping melodies. We'll explore the composition of the piece and see how even chords that aren't native to our tuning (DAD) can still be arranged. Come learn a tune that you've heard before and perhaps have always wanted to learn! (*Intermediate*)

## **Mountain Dulcimer - The Secret To Chord Melody Style**

There is a secret to creating a compelling arrangement on the mountain dulcimer. In this workshop, you will learn how to take a simple melody into a full-fledged arrangement. (*Intermediate to Advanced*)

## **Workshops Given by Dave Haas**

### **Arrangements that Sparkle! (I-A)**

Wow! Create performance-ready arrangements of slow and fast songs on the mountain dulcimer. Learn about the process of arranging, introductions and endings, incorporating melody and chords in a second position on the dulcimer, and special touches that will make your arrangements sparkle.

Performance tips will also be discussed. Bring a smile and a "we can do it!" attitude. DAD

### **Hymns of Faith (N-I)**

Praise God with these prayerful and popular hymns. Learn left and right hand techniques to improve your playing of both slow and fast songs. Learn how to play slow arpeggios as a way to backup hymns that are played or sung. Build your repertoire of popular hymns. DAD

## **Hooked on The Classics (I-A) – Repertoire**

Expand your repertoire with wonderful classical pieces arranged for the mountain dulcimer. Bach's "Minuet in G", "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring", and other popular classical music will be explored.

Strumming, arpeggio, and fingerpicking skills will be utilized. Come ready to be hooked! DAD

## **Past Beginner (N)**

Learn how to improve your strum to make your tunes more musical. Learn how to improve your left hand fingering to make your play more smooth and fluid. Learn how to improve your play of both fast and slow tunes. Learn how to use a capo and play embellishments such as hammer-ons, pull-offs, and harmonics. DAD.

## **Chords, Chords, and More Chords! (N-I)**

Learn the names and shapes of chords along the entire length of the fretboard. Learn fingerings that allow you to change between chord shapes while keeping most of your fingers on the strings. Learn how to simplify chords to play fast tunes more smoothly. DAD.

## **Singing with the Dulcimer (N-A)**

Learn how to sing and accompany yourself with the dulcimer. Learn how to create a song arrangement with introduction, ending, instrumentals, and chordal accompaniment. Learn how to engage the audience with your singing. DAD.

## **Workshops Given by Butch Ross**

### **Get right with rhythm -- Beginner and up**

Rhythm is more than just a really great word for playing hangman, it's the key to solid and engaging playing. In this class, we will learn basic strumming techniques that will give you a solid rhythmic foundation. With these techniques even the simplest tunes will sound better

### **Beatles on Dulcimer (capo required) -- Novice and up**

The Beatles (sic) are a promising young band from Liverpool, England who recently made a big splash on the Ed Sullivan show. Come learn some of their fun and catchy tunes.

### **Not quite crooked, not quite straight. -- Intermediate**

Crooked tunes are a fun part of old-time music, but can be tricky to play (that's part of what makes 'em fun). These tunes aren't really crooked, but ain't quite "square" either

### **From Tune to Arrangement – Intermediate**

Learn how a few simple embellishments, and a minor mental adjustment can turn "tunes" into compelling and "arrangements." Make fiddle tunes fun or breathe new life into old chestnuts.

### **More Great Tunes nobody Plays -- Novice and up**

There are plenty of great tunes that don't get played enough. Come learn what will be come your new favorites!

### **Why E is the key for me (Capo required) -- Int and up**

You wouldn't think so, but the capo-ing at the first opens up a world of interesting possibilities.

### **It's all Cabbage, Really - Beginner and up**

The "Passomezzo Moderno" is an "ostinato" or "ground bass" that dates back to the Middle Ages.

You, of course, know as

Boil Them Cabbage. Come learn how pretty much every song is really just Boil Dem Cabbage