Participants’ Afternoon Elective Descriptions

These afternoon classes offer instruction in many styles of music, special playing techniques, and other dulcimer/musical enrichments. **You need to pre-register for your elective choices**, so please fill out and send in the attached Enrollment Form A.S.A.P. Each day’s listings begin with classes for beginners and graduate to those for advanced players.

**Monday, June 22, 2-4 p.m.:**

M1. **BEGINNER SKILLS COACHING,** with Sarah Borders. **Beginner Course Students only.** Class members will have a review of the morning’s material. We encourage all Beginner students to take these afternoon sessions. Sarah will give individual help and will direct students to individual practice on their own.

M2. **BEGINNER-INTO-NOVICE SKILLS COACHING,** with Paul Andry. **Beginner-into-Novice Course Students only.** Class members will have a review of the morning’s material, but another elective may be taken instead if you feel you are up on the lessons. Paul will give individual help and will direct students to individual practice on their own.

M3. **NOVICE SKILLS COACHING,** with Paul Henderson. **Novice Course Students only.** Class members will have a review of the morning’s material. Paul will give individual help and will direct students to individual practice on their own. (After today we recommend Novice students enjoy trying some of the regular electives. They include your skill level.)

M4. **LEARN TO PLAY THE “DULCIJO,”** with Michael Fox. **No prior experience needed. Loaner dulcijos available.** The “Dulcijo” is a friendly hybrid of mountain dulcimer and old-time clawhammer banjo. It has a diatonic fret pattern and only 3 strings just like your dulcimer, making it easy to play DAD or DGD dulcimer tunes you know. You hold the Dulcijo upright like a banjo, but this ain’t no strumstick! Its 3rd string is like a banjo’s high thumb string for a more authentic banjo sound! Michael will teach the right-hand clawhammer picking lick on the Dulcijo, will give you plenty of time to play, will have some simple Dulcijo tablatures, and will show you how to play very easy accompaniment chords. He will have about 10 loaner Dulcijos for this class (also for sale) so the class will be small. It will be repeated on Tues. (T5), and on Thursday (H10) for those who already have a Dulcijo and want to continue learning.

M5. **GREENWICH VILLAGE FOLK SONGS OF THE ’50s AND ’60s,** with Ralph Lee Smith. **Novice level playing and others who love this music are welcome!** Starting tuning DAA. Yes, he was there! From 1957 to 1971, Ralph lived on Jones Street in the heart of Greenwich Village, and played dulcimer in the now-legendary scene where young musicians were creating the Folk Music Revival. Ralph brings the excitement and the music directly from the Golden Days in Washington Square, the Folklore Center, the MacDougal Street coffeehouses, and Allan Block’s Sandal Shop, to this workshop! If you couldn’t be there, treat yourself to the next best thing – hear the stories and learn to play the songs!

M6. **“I’M IN A GOOD MODE”** with Susan Boyer Haley. **Novice & up.** With this ages-old system of playing, you will hear how your dulcimer takes on several new “voices” as you learn easy re-tuning to play in several modes. Modes are simply old scales determined by the whole and half steps on your dulcimer’s fretboard. They offer a new versatility to your playing. Susan will help you be comfortable and enjoy each mode. The class begins with the basic tuning used on zither family instruments throughout the world - Ionian Mode (we’ll start with DAA tuning) and its benefits. Then the class will simply re-tune the dulcimer’s first string and visit Dorian mode (DAG), then Aeolian mode (DAC), and Mixolydian mode (DAD using the 6th fret). You’ll learn where the scales are on the first string and learn a tune in each mode to get the feel of your dulcimer’s many voices.

**MON. and TUES. 4-HOUR AFTERNOON MINI-COURSE:**

M7. **ARRANGING MUSIC FOR THE DULCIMER, PART I** “with Larry Conger. **Novice & up.** To take this class, you sign up for and attend both afternoons (Mon. and Tues. T7, 2-4 p.m.) because it continues into Tuesday and Tuesday’s lessons require Monday’s learning. Part I today will be a hands-on workshop based on a discussion of how to choose tunes to arrange for the dulcimer and then arranging those tunes from standard musical notation. Knowledge of musical notation will be helpful but certainly not a requirement.

M8. **MEDIeval, Elizabethan and Renaissance Style Music for Mountain Dulcimer,** with Stephen Seifert. **Intermediate.** Starting tuning DAD. Bring a capo. Stephen will walk you through Medieval melodies, Elizabethan lute pieces, and tunes from the Massif Central Region of France. Sound hard? They’re not. Many of these tunes seem as if they had been written for the dulcimer. Stephen will also cover strumming, fingerpicking, and fingering techniques helpful in playing this music.

M9. **PLAYING THE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS,** with Lois Hornbostel, Bill Taylor, Jim Gaskins, and Kenneth Bloom. **Intermediate thru Advanced.** Starting tuning DAD. Bring your capo. Ever want to join an old-time string band? Play jigs and reels in an Irish jam? Play along on country songs? This class will help you pick up these styles so your dulcimer fits in well, will help you tune to different keys, deal with volume balances, to take “breaks” on your dulcimer, and to decide how best to contribute to the over-all sound and have lots of fun.

M10. **EXPLORING AND IMPROVISING IN THE PENTATONIC MODE,** with Anne Lough. **Intermediate thru Advanced.** Explore the amazing melodic variety and harmonic blend using the five whole tones of the scale. In addition to playing some familiar
pentatonic tunes, we will discover the creativity within, using the Do-Re-Mi-Sol-La of the D and G scales to improvise and create new melodies and harmonies. Tunings used will be DAD, DGD and will include the use of the capo.

**M11. TWO-HANDED TAPPING FOR MOUNTAIN DULCIMER, with Jerry Rockwell. Advanced.** DAD tuning. Tapping is a technique whereby your right hand helps out the left hand to add an extra layer of rhythmic texture and interest to your solo performance, not only plucking but also hammering-on and pulling off to fretted notes. This will be a hands-on overview of tapping, beginning with simple tapping techniques to enhance fingerpicking, and going on to explore more complex tapping where the right and left hands are connected in an interlocking relationship. Even simple tapping can create the illusion of another instrument backing you up.

**Tuesday, June 23, 2-4 p.m.:**

**T1. BEGINNER SKILLS COACHING, with Sarah Borders. Beginner Course Students only.** Class members will have a review of the morning’s material. We encourage all Beginner students to take these afternoon sessions. Sarah will give individual help and will direct students to individual practice on their own.

**T2. BEGINNER-INTO-NOVICE SKILLS COACHING, with Paul Henderson. Beginner-into-Novice Course Students only.** Class members will have a review of the morning’s material. Paul will give individual help and will direct students to individual practice on their own. (After today we recommend Beginner-into-Novice students enjoy trying some of the regular electives, specifically those that are for “All Skill Levels’ and your own.)

**T3. DULCIMER MAINTENANCE, with “Dulcimer Doctor” Joe Shelton. Any skill level.** Bring your dulcimer along and learn how to keep it healthy and performing its best. Joe will teach how to determine string gauges for your dulcimer, to change strings, and how to recognize if adjustments or repairs are needed. Joe suggests if you have internet you first read his article on “Understanding Dulcimer Maintenance” in the August ’05 Back Issue of www.DulcimerSessions.com. This will allow more time for additional maintenance information and discussions in class.

**T4. SHAPED-NOTE SINGING, with Dr. Will Peebles. Singing.** The harmonious Southern hymns of this tradition used notes with different shapes as a simple way of teaching people without standard notation. Come and learn how, sing along, and enjoy the music! We will have an additional session during Wednesday evening jam time, and those who like may join our group to sing a couple of hymns at Thursday night’s Open Stage.

**T5. LEARN TO PLAY THE “DULCIJO,” with Michael Fox. No prior experience needed. Loaner dulcijos available.** This is a repeat of Monday’s class. (Details all under M4.)

**T6. NOTER STYLE PLAYING, with Phyllis Gaskins. Beginner-into-Novice & up.** Starting tuning DAD. Bring a hardwood noter if you have one – or a popsicle stick! This style of playing provides a very clear melody to go with the dulcimer’s traditional drone sound. Learn how to hold and work the noter stick on your dulcimer’s first string. We’ll learn some simple traditional tunes and some with a little more challenge to “grow into” with practice. Some of the tunes you will learn noter-style are “Black-Eyed Susie,” “Over the Waterfall” and “Ravin” Gambler.”

**M0N. and TUES. 4-HOUR AFTERNOON MINI-COURSE:**

**T7. ARRANGING MUSIC FOR THE DULCIMER, PART II “ with Larry Conger. Novice & up.** To take this class, you sign up for and attend both afternoons (Mon. M7 and this Tues. session, from 2-4 p.m.). This session requires the experience of Monday’s learning. It will take the same tunes addressed in Part I and enhance them by applying chords to the basic melody, discussing whether to flatpick or strum, and exploring variations in an effort to personalize your arrangement.

**T8. MOUNTAIN HYMNS, with Don Pedi. Novice & Intermediate.** Starting tuning DAD. Don will teach some lovely and uncommon hymns that are pretty simple to play. Selections will include: “Oh Lord, What a Morning,” “Walk Around My Bedside,” “The Ship That Is Sailing High,” and “The Saint’s Delight”...

**T9. INTRODUCTION TO FINGERPICKING, with Nina Zanetti. Novice & Intermediates who don’t fingerpick yet.** Starting tuning DAD. We will begin with an intuitive approach to fingerpicking, then will work on interpreting tab for fingerpicked arrangements and making this style of playing sound pretty. We will also talk about how to take tab arranged for strumming or flatpicking and turn it into a fingerpicked arrangement.

**T10. MUSIC OF THE WORLD, with Kenneth Bloom. Intermediate.** Starting tuning DAD. Others will be used. This class will cover approaches to playing music from other lands on your dulcimer. We will cover music from the Balkans, Mongolia, and some from Western Europe as well. This class will include a few techniques not usually used on mountain dulcimer but very effective for music from the countries covered. Come and speak with a different musical voice and amaze your friends at parties!

**T11. COUNTRY-BLUES DULCIMER, with Leo Kretzner & Jerry Rockwell. Intermediate through Advanced.** Starting tuning DAD. Leo returns with this popular elective from last year, and while the basic ideas will be similar to those taught last year, the specific songs and examples used will be new and different. From the Mississippi Delta byway of the Midnight Special to Chicago and Detroit, the blues has influenced all musical styles, including country and bluegrass. We’ll cover what specific aspects of a piece make it sound like “the blues” and how to do those things on dulcimer. Learn basic chord progressions such as the 12-bar blues pattern, boogie-woogie bass runs, and how to pull those “blue notes” out of your dulcimer!

**T12. CLASSICAL MUSIC ON MOUNTAIN DULCIMER, with Paul Andry. Intermediate thru Advanced.** Starting tuning DAD. Many of today’s most beautiful melodies have endured from the musical era known as the Classical Period (roughly from 1550 to 1900). When used as a synonym for *Western art music*, Classical traditionally encompasses a range of ecclesiastical and concert musical styles. These melodies are traditionally played on a broad range of old world instruments, and many adapt well to mountain
dulcimer. In this workshop we will explore two playing techniques (draw & pluck and fingerpicking) while learning popular melodies from several composers. This year’s new music will include “Pomp and Circumstance,” “Greensleeves” in E minor and A without a capo, as well as some classical Irish pieces.

Wednesday, June 24, 2-4 p.m.:

W1. BEGINNER SKILLS COACHING, with Sarah Borders. Beginner Course Students only. Class members will have a review of the morning’s material. Sarah will give individual help and will direct students to individual practice on their own. (After today we recommend Beginner students enjoy trying some of the regular electives suggested for ‘All Skill Levels’ and ‘Beginner-into-Novice level.’)

W2. KIDS’ SONGS, with Mike Anderson. Any Skill Level. Starting tuning DAD. Starting to play for kids, do kids’ shows? In need of a little “Itsy Bitsy”? Then this workshop will give you songs, techniques, and some strategies for surviving the experience.

W3. SINGING WITH THE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER, with Susan Boyer Haley. Beginner-into-Novice & up. The class will begin in the Ionian (DAA) tuning, adding the voice to traditional melodies. Simple harmonies will be introduced that make the mountain dulcimer the perfect singing partner! Encouraging the students’ enjoyment of singing and finding each voice is a natural part of this class. It is how the teacher fell in love with the mountain dulcimer many years ago.

W4. THE GERMAN HUMMEL, with Wilfried Ulrich. Novice & up. Bring your regular dulcimer. Starting tuning DAA. The German hummel is one of the family of Northern European zithers at the roots of our Appalachian mountain dulcimer. Hummels have more drone strings, but the diatonic fretboard and similar tunings to the mountain dulcimer make it familiar to learn to play. In addition to teaching the history of the hummel and presenting a visual show, Wilfried expects to bring 8 hummels to try, and will teach several European pieces in tablature that you can play on your mountain dulcimers.

W5. MUSIC THEORY I, with Elaine Conger. Novice & up. DAD tuning. This workshop will discuss such basic things as the notes available on the dulcimer, rhythmic notation, time signatures, key signatures available to the dulcimer player while tuned DAD. (Thursday’s H5 elective will continue beyond this class, focusing on ear training. You may attend either or both days.)

W6. NOVICE & INTERMEDIATE SONGS & TUNES, with Leo Kretzner. DAD and DGD tunings. We’ll start off in DAD tuning with a couple simple but uncommon songs, including a few easy but fancy-sounding chords. We’ll then look at crossing over the strings just a bit for a couple simple fiddle tunes. In the second hour we’ll explore the very useful DGD tuning, with the basic chords laid out for a couple songs, and then a simple “entry level” jig.

W7. GALAX, VIRGINIA STYLE DULCIMER PLAYING & MUSIC, with Phyllis & Jim Gaskins. Intermediate. Starting tuning DAD for regular dulcimer. If you have a Galax style dulcimer with all .010 gauge strings, bring it tuned to DDDD. Bring a hardword noter if you have one – or a popscicle stick! Bring a capo too. The Galax area in Southwestern Virginia has its own unique and exciting noter-style of playing. Phyllis will describe the style and will teach some of the lively tunes and songs from the Galax tradition. You will learn some favorite tunes in Galax style like “Forked Deer,” “Whiskey Before Breakfast,” “Sail Away Ladies” and “Ebenzer.”

W8. WED. and THURS. 4-HOUR AFTERNOON MINI-COURSE: COMPUTER GENERATED TABLATURE WITH TABLEDIT – PART I, with Stephen Seifert. To take this class, you sign up for and attend both this afternoon’s half of the course, and Thursday’s continuation (H8). This mini-course, held in the WCU computer lab, will teach you to create your own mountain dulcimer tablature with TablEdit, an inexpensive software package for PC and Mac (http://tabledit.com/). Bring along your laptop computer with TablEdit installed if you have that. While Stephen will have some specific advice for Mac users, this mini-course will concentrate on Windows-based PC use. Part I today will cover installation, configuration, simple music entry, and printing. Special attention will be given to accurate rhythm entry.

W9. CELTIC SLOW AIRS, with Linda Brockinton. Intermediate thru Advanced. DAD and CGC tunings. The dulcimer has a sound very near that of the traditional Irish harps that were strong with brass strings, so the music transfers beautifully to the dulcimer. Many wonderful Celtic airs have survived throughout history, and this class will explore a few of them. Ornamentation is a big part of Irish music and we will be learning about the trills, triplets, and turns (using hammer-ons and pull-offs) that bring the Celtic music to life.

W10. WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA SONGS, TUNES & TALES, with Don Pedi. Intermediate thru Advanced. Starting tuning DAD. This class features interesting historical "facts" and authentic 19th century versions of songs and tunes about events that took place in Western North Carolina. Includes a thirty minute interactive slide presentation, dulcimer tab, discussion and playing tips. Music includes "Tom Dula," "Bonaparte's Retreat," "The Ballad of Frankie Silvers," "Walking in the Parlor" ...

W11. PLAYING EXPRESSIVELY, with Nina Zanetti. Advanced. Starting tuning DAD. You’ve picked a lovely tune, have mastered the notes, perhaps have even memorized it, but now you’d like to be able to “play it with feeling.” Using some beautiful tunes as examples, we’ll take an analytical approach to exploring ways of playing expressively.

Thursday, June 25, 2-4 p.m.:

H1. THE ROOTS OF AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC, with Joe Hickerson. Any Skill Level. Joe will explore the history of American folk music through archival recordings from the Library of Congress Archive of Folk Culture. You will not only hear vintage examples of tunes and songs such as those included in Dulcimer Week classes, but also the voices of the men and women who made these pioneering field recordings, starting as far back as 1890! Learn some of this heritage music on your mtn. dulcimer.
H2. **DULCIMER BUILDERS’ FORUM, with Bill Taylor, Jerry Rockwell, Wilfried Ulrich and more.** Not a dulcimer playing class, but feel free to bring your dulcimer with you. We have several outstanding dulcimer builders here this week who will participate. This class is for everyone interested in how dulcimers are made. Bring your questions on different aspects of building like creating tonality and response, materials (and if it’s true that the sound of the dulcimer is influenced by what the builder ate for breakfast that morning).

H3. **RARE OLD SONGS OF VIRGINIA, with Ralph Lee Smith. Any Skill Level.** Starting tuning DAA. In the years 1916-1918, the English folk song collector Cecil Sharp and his assistant, Maud Karpeles, spent 54 weeks in the Appalachian Mountains, gathering the greatest collection of mountain ballads, songs and tunes that was ever made. In 1932, Oxford University Press published Sharp’s great work, *English Folk Songs From the Southern Appalachians*, comprising 274 songs and ballads with 968 tunes. From this book, Ralph has selected rare, beautiful songs and tunes from Virginia that he will teach in this workshop.

H4. **INTRODUCTION TO THE BOWED DULCIMER, with Kenneth Bloom. No prior experience needed.** Bowing the dulcimer has its roots in Europe and is a technique used in this country since the 18th century. This class will trace the history of the technique, and will provide a friendly and supportive setting to try out the very accessible bowed instruments Ken builds. The positioning is comfortable and the sound unique. The basics of playing will be covered. If you are either interested in checking this out or a flat out beginning player, this is the class for you.

H5. **MUSIC THEORY II – EAR TRAINING, with Elaine Conger. Novice & up.** DAD tuning. This class will explore the basic chords found on the dulcimer and relate those chords to playing with a group or in a jam session by training your ear to listen for the chord changes. Come prepared to do more playing than in Music Theory I. The workshop will culminate with a question and answer time. You may attend this class if you have not attended Music Theory I (W5), but have basic music theory experience.


One of the oldest and easiest ways of playing or singing music in parts (both in oral tradition as folk songs or as historical compositions) is the Canon. The Round is a type of canon in which two or more instruments or voices play exactly the same melody, but with each voice beginning at a different time so that different parts of the melody coincide harmoniously in the different voices. This will be a fun, relaxed class with lots of rounds and canons. The music will be in different levels so that Novice thru Intermediate players can play together. This class is all about counting so if timing is a weak area for you this will be a fun way to learn.

H7. **GAMELAN ORCHESTRA, with Dr. Will Peebles. Any skill level.** Gamelan orchestras consist of percussion/melody instruments and perform Javanese, Sudanese, and Balinese music. Playing in a gamelan orchestra feels like being inside a sweet music box. WCU is fortunate to have its own gamelan orchestra, conducted by Will, who is the Director of the WCU School of Music. This session provides the opportunity to try some exotic instruments and play in a group, and takes place in WCU’s Coulter Building.

H8. **WED. and THURS. 4-HOUR AFTERNOON MINI-COURSE: COMPUTER GENERATED TABLATURE WITH TABLEEDIT - PART II, with Stephen Seifert.** To take this class, you sign up for and attend both afternoons (Wed. W8. and this Thurs. session). Part II today requires Wednesday’s learning and will cover advanced music entry, text, lyrics, MIDI, exporting, page layout, and desktop publishing for the creation of a book. This is a hands-on class where you’ll be using a computer to enter music that Stephen brings. Whether you’re putting together a book of your arrangements or just preparing a handout for your club, it’s all covered here.

H9. **CHRISTMAS ANYTIME, with Anne Lough. Novice thru Intermediate.** DAD and DAC tunings. Bring your capo. Enjoy Christmas music any time of year with these traditional Christmas songs from the Appalachians and around the world.

H10. **“CONTINUING” DULCIO PLAYING, with Michael Fox.** This playing class is for students who have Dulcios and/or some experience playing them. Michael will show refinements in playing technique, with some different written music.

H11. **LOUISIANA CAJUN & CREOLE DANCE MUSIC, with Lois Hornbostel. Intermediate thru Advanced.** Starting tuning DAD. This is a great alternative to just playing old-timey tunes on your dulcimer! From party music like “Jambalaya” to the plaintive waltz "Jolie Blon," the vibrant music of the French-speaking Cajun and Creole people of southwest Louisiana is based on interesting, dulcimer-friendly melodies and exciting new rhythm grooves. Beginning with recorded examples, Lois will teach the easy dance steps to the music, then how to play some Cajun waltzes, two-steps, and Creole Zydeco dance tunes that rock the house!

H12. **TUNES WITH SYNCOPATIONS, with Paul Andry. Intermediate thru Advanced.** DAD tuning. Many of the most popular songs of today incorporate syncopation - stressing the beat that is normally unstressed - or - missing a beat where one would normally be played. Although this sounds complicated, it is actually very easy! Syncopation is used in most current musical styles including Irish, Mardi Gras, Latin, ragtime, reggae and rock’n’roll. Accenting the “back beat” (upbeat) will transform your strum from humdrum and add the drive that makes you want to dance. We will slow down and break down a regular 4/4 rhythm and then rebuild it using syncopations. This will be reinforced using a number of new songs this year including "Darktown Strutters' Ball," "Mary's Boy Child," and "Iko, Iko." Paul guarantees you will be able to play syncopated rhythms before leaving this class!

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*Please fill out and return the attached ELECTIVES ENROLLMENT FORM A.S.A.P.*

*so you have the best chance to get your favorite classes.*