

WINTER WEEKEND, JAN 5-8, 2023

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS (All Mountain Dulcimer)

FRIDAY

8:30-10:00 am

LEVEL 1 - New Players with Jim Miller *Participants registering for this class should plan to stay in this class throughout the weekend, as one concept will build on the ones before. Jim will be starting with the very basics of playing the mountain dulcimer, then slowly progressing at a pace that he deems comfortable for the class.* (Be sure to request one of our loaner dulcimers if you don't own one.) - Session 1: Intro to the mountain dulcimer (tuning, strums, fingering, picks, chords, scales)

LEVEL 2 – Advancing Beginners - “Short and Sweet Songs – So Simple and Satisfying!” (Laurie Alsobrook) – It only takes eight measures for these songs to make an impact. Included are short and sweet songs you will love playing over and over again ... lullabies, hymns, and traditional melodies. Please bring a capo.

LEVEL 3 – Lower Intermediate - “Give Me That Old Time Religion” (Carol Crocker) - Come learn some traditional old time gospel tunes including “Old Time Religion”. We will play these tunes using chord melody, flatpicking and arpeggio, as well as traditional strumming styles.

LEVEL 3 and up - Intermediate to Advanced - “Be the Bass Player!” (Elaine Conger) – Attention bass dulcimer enthusiasts! Come review your alternating bass technique or learn it for the first time. This will be the first of three sessions in the same day entirely focused on being the bass player on your bass dulcimer. If you've had my classes before, newer material will be presented in addition to reviewing standard dulcimer jam repertoire. As the class progresses throughout the day, we'll add a little walking bass to the mix along with some boogie and rock styles. By the end of the 3rd session, we'll be ready to go on tour! *Be sure to register for all 3 sessions for the most benefit.* (DAD tuning; bass dulcimer with 1.5 fret required)

(Prerequisite: Elaine's book, “It's All About the Bass Dulcimer” available for [download](#) or [physical book](#). Will also be available on-site.)

LEVEL 3/4 - Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - “Combining Your Picking & Strumming” (Joe Collins) - This workshop will focus on picking out the melody in between and in combination with the strums that give body to arrangements. We'll use exercises to develop effective strum/flatpicking technique and two tunes to incorporate the technique.

LEVEL 4/5 – Upper Intermediate into Advanced - “Playing Tunes All Over the Fretboard” (Sarah Morgan) - One of the most important and interesting things you can do to advance your playing and understanding of the dulcimer is to instantly be able to transfer the melody to multiple different locations on the fretboard. We'll start by mapping out multiple melodic “zones” on the fretboard. Then we'll take a simple fiddle tune on the melody string and translate it to many other locations. DAD tuning.

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

LEVEL 1 - New Players, cont. (Jim Miller) Session 2 – Simple melodies

LEVEL 2 – Advancing Beginners - “Peas & Harmony: Rounds, Canons and Partner Songs” (Laurie Alsobrook) - Rounds, Canons, and Partner Songs are fun ways to bring harmony to your dulcimer and into your life...and give you “peas,” aka peace.

LEVEL 3 – Lower Intermediate - “The 7th Fret and Beyond....” (Carol Crocker) - So, you are feeling pretty confident about your playing skills as long as the tab and tune doesn't go above the 7th fret. Some players are hesitant or uncomfortable playing in the “nosebleed” section. Here's your chance to just go for it as we focus on tips and techniques to help build confidence playing in the upper octave of your dulcimer. You will need your capo.

LEVEL 3 and up - Intermediate to Advanced - “Be the Bass Player!” (Elaine Conger) –
continued from 8:30

LEVEL 3/4 - Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - “A Wintry Mix” (Joe Collins) - Participants will learn to play some classic winter tunes often associated with holiday, but not necessarily about Christmas (“Jingle Bells,” “Over the River and Through the Woods”). There will also be a couple of less familiar tunes. This workshop is a great opportunity to add tunes to your repertoire that can still be timely after the holidays are over. Of course, you can play them for the holidays, too.

LEVEL 4/5 – Upper Intermediate into Advanced - “Approaches to Improvisation” (Sarah Morgan) - I wanna show you how to loosen up and liven up your playing. I'm gonna give you the tools to be able to make up interesting and musical things on the fly. We'll start with learning two ways I approach improvisation. Then I'll be teaching a simple tune with lots of room to experiment, then using these approaches to improvise within the structure of the tune. Knowledge of chords and chord shapes will be very helpful for the class. DAD tuning.

2:30-4:00 pm

LEVEL 1 - New Players, cont. (Jim Miller) Session 3 – Chord melody style

LEVEL 2 – Advancing Beginners - “Making Waltzes Move!” (Laurie Alsobrook) - How do you take a simply tabbed piece and make it an arrangement of your own? Tools for doing this with strum variations for waltzing across your fretboard will be presented in this "moving" workshop. :-) DAD tuning will be used.

LEVEL 3 – Lower Intermediate - “Shaped Note Hymns for Mountain Dulcimer” (Carol Crocker) - Come learn Shaped Note hymns arranged for the mountain dulcimer. Shaped note music is an American four-part harmony, acapella singing tradition dating from early 1800s. “Shape-notes” refers to the different shapes of the note heads of the music scale. We learn multi-part “choral” arrangements of shape note hymn tunes arranged for

mountain dulcimers. Materials will be provided from the traditional shaped note tune books.

LEVEL 3 and up - Intermediate to Advanced - "Be the Bass Player!" (Elaine Conger) – *continued from 10:30*

LEVEL 3/4 - Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - "When Irish Eyes Are Weeping" (Joe Collins) - Some sad, sad songs that are standard pieces in the Irish repertoire, including "Foggy Dew," "Carrickfergus," and others.

LEVEL 4/5 – Upper Intermediate into Advanced - "Singing with the Dulcimer" (Sarah Morgan) -Learn to tastefully and artistically back your singing and others. Learn how to choose appropriate chords and strumming patterns and create melodic fills that effectively support your singing. DAD tuning

SATURDAY

8:30-10:00 am

LEVEL 1 - New Players, cont. (Jim Miller) Session 4 – simple fiddle tunes

LEVEL 2 – Advancing Beginners - "Strumming Traditional Fiddle and Folk Tunes" (Carol Crocker) - This workshop will focus on reinforcing and expanding mountain dulcimer playing skills for those of who are just beyond beginner players. We will learn some well-known traditional fiddle and folk tunes beyond Boil Them Cabbage. As we learn these tunes, a few left-hand fingering and right-hand strumming techniques will be included to help with efficiency and playing smoothly.

LEVEL 3 – Lower Intermediate - "From Ireland; Filled with Hope" (Laurie Alsobrook) - I am drawn to melodies that reflect my family's migration from Ireland in the mid 1800s. Two tunes that fit this genre are "East of River Shannon" and "River of Dreams," both lyrical gems by Arlene Faith Kortwright,* which conjure images of weary travelers seeking a new home in America. Also included is the beautiful Irish traditional, "Slane" otherwise known as "Be Thou my Vision."

LEVEL 3/4 - Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - "Morning Has Broken:" Four part ensemble (Larry Conger) - This old Gaelic tune was paired with the words "Morning Has Broken" by Eleanor Farjeon in 1931. It was recorded by Cat Stevens in 1971, becoming a #1 hit on the Billboard charts that year. There will be parts for standard, baritone and bass dulcimers. The workshop will not require participants to own or bring all instruments. Just bring your favorite dulcimer. Typically, there is always a shortage of baritones, so please bring them if you have them and let's have some fun!

LEVEL 3/4 – Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - "Strumming and Picking Mastery" (Sarah Morgan) - This class will focus on developing a strong, consistent, and interesting strumming hand. We'll cover pick selection, clean flatpicking, volume control, developing speed, how to play syncopated rhythms with confidence, and how to add rhythmic drive and energy to your playing.

LEVEL 4/5 – Upper Intermediate into Advanced - “American Spirituals, Volume 1” (Joe Collins) - A spiritual is defined as a religious song of a kind associated with black Christians of the southern US and thought to derive from the combination of European hymns and African musical elements by black slaves. This workshop will introduce you to some deeply emotional songs about trials and joys of life. Includes “Ain’t a Dat Good News,” “Deep River,” and others.

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

LEVEL 1 - New Players, cont. (Jim Miller) Session 5 – hymns

LEVEL 2 – Advancing Beginners - “Easy Arrangements of Spirituals” (Carol Crocker) - The history of spirituals is the result of a deep expression of emotions among enslaved African Americans. Many of these songs can be very rhythmic and syncopated. This workshop will include easy arrangements of a few favorite spirituals for advancing beginning players including “This Little Light of Mine” and “My Lord What a Mourning”.

LEVEL 3 – Lower Intermediate - “Just ‘Darling!’” (Laurie Alsobrook) - What could be more endearing than a few songs about a loved one? Tunes included are the traditional "Goodbye My Little Darling," and Stephen Foster's "Slumber My Darling," with tab designed to help smooth out your playing in 3/4 time. An additional tune offered is the old Irish ballad, "Mo Ghile Mear" (“My Gallant Darling”).

LEVEL 3/4 - Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - “Red River Valley:” Four part ensemble (Larry Conger) - "Red River Valley" is an American folk song and cowboy music standard of uncertain origins. The song has gone by different names such as "Cowboy Love Song", "Bright Sherman Valley", "Bright Laurel Valley", "In the Bright Mohawk Valley", and "Bright Little Valley," depending on where it has been sung. This fun arrangement is intended for four standard dulcimers or three standards and a bass. There will be a part for the advancing beginner through upper intermediate level players. Each part is relatively easy to play, making use of lots of open strings. The technique of additive orchestration will be discussed and implemented to make the arrangement sound more interesting.

LEVEL 3/4 – Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - Learn the tune “Road to Maysville” (Sarah Morgan) - Learn this unique and moody, mid-tempo old-time tune from the playing of Eastern Kentucky fiddler, JP Fraley. I’ll share the basic arrangement plus a few regional variations that you can incorporate to create your own take on this tune. CGC tuning. Listen to a recording of this tune here - <https://www.slippe-ry-hill.com/content/maysville>

LEVEL 4/5 – Upper Intermediate into Advanced - “Old-Time Tunes” (Joe Collins) - A collection of fun old-time tunes with a few twists and turns like “Big Taters in Sandy Land” and others.

2:30-4:00 pm

LEVEL 1 - New Players, cont. (Jim Miller) Session 6 – Carter Family tunes in the public domain

LEVEL 2 – Advancing Beginners - “Changing Keys with a Capo” (Carol Crocker) - Using a capo with your mountain dulcimer can expand your ability to go beyond the key of D and play in different keys. We will explore playing a tune in E minor, G, and A by placing a capo at different frets, and learn to read tab written for capo tunes. Yes, you will need a capo.

LEVEL 3 – Lower Intermediate - “Holding Ukraine in Our Hearts” (Laurie Alsobrook) - Several Ukrainian folk songs will be taught in this workshop – songs that teach us about the beauty and strength of these people who are suffering so much right now. Included in this workshop are the rousing “Oh, the Red Viburnum in the Meadow” (1-½ fret needed) and their national anthem, a very powerful hymn with strong lyrics for a nation who is proud of its people and its freedom. We will end with a sweet lullaby. Please bring a capo.

LEVEL 3/4 – Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - “Crooked Fiddle Tunes” (Sarah Morgan) - If a tune is "crooked", that means it has an uneven number of beats or bars. That makes for an interesting listening experience as these tunes are an unexpected shift from the standard 32 bar fiddle tunes. We'll learn a set of two crooked fiddle tunes from the mountains from Appalachia. These tunes are not often played in mountain dulcimer circles but are really catchy and fun to play. Be prepared to play in both DAD and other tunings (I'll walk you through the re-tuning process) and have a capo handy.

LEVEL 3/4 - Intermediate to Upper Intermediate - “Going Home:” Four part ensemble (Larry Conger) - From Dvorak's "New World Symphony" this arrangement includes four parts - two standard dulcimers, a baritone dulcimer and a bass dulcimer. It is a relatively easy arrangement to learn as most of the arrangement involves single notes as opposed to two and three finger chords. Bring your favorite dulcimer or multiple dulcimers to try out all the parts. Experience the full, rich sound of multiple dulcimers being played together in an ensemble setting.

LEVEL 4-5 – Upper Intermediate into Advanced - “Hornpipes for the Mountain Dulcimer, Vol 2” (Joe Collins) - A repertoire workshop of relatively fast-moving hornpipes that will make folks want to dance on the deck of a ship somewhere or, at the very least, tap their feet. The unique bouncy rhythms of hornpipes will really make your dulcimer shine! Songs include “Dorsetshire Hornpipe,” “An Comhra Donn,” and “Devil’s Dream.”