

2019 Hammered Dulcimer Class Descriptions

Joe Jewell-New Players/Auditorium Classrooms

One of the few hammered dulcimer players at the Ozark Folk Center, Joe Jewell's classes are designed for students who have never played the hammered dulcimer.

***Recommended as a three day, continuous workshop as each day's lessons build on the previous days.*

Jess Dickinson-All Levels

Beginner Classes

CHORDS/ARPEGGIOS 101

Chords are the key to learning the structure of music on the hammered dulcimer. Everything is built around them!

BUILDING SKILL

Adopting and committing to the proper daily exercise and workout plan will quickly move you to the next level of play. NOTE: They can be fun!

SIMPLE ARPEGGIOS

Arpeggios provide the beauty behind all that we play on the hammered dulcimer.

Intermediate Classes

CHORDS/ARPEGGIOS 201

In this class, we will go beyond simple chords to explore more complex arpeggios and chord structure, and various tasteful chord substitutions that can make your performance more interesting.

ARKANSAS TRAVELER WORKSHOP

In this class, we will learn this basic fiddle tune, then we will jazz it up to make it more interesting.

ODE TO JOY WORKSHOP

We will use this familiar Beethoven tune as a springboard to learn several rhythms and hammer pattern techniques to play the same tune.

Advanced Classes

COMPLEX ARRANGEMENTS

In this class, we will experiment with interesting ways to begin and end tunes, and new ideas for arranging tunes to make them your own!

CHORDS/ARPEGGIOS 301

In this class, we will explore complex arpeggios and chords, and learn interesting ways to use them. We will learn to find and play chords beyond majors and minors, and then try them out in a few tunes.

Ruth Smith-All Levels

Beginner Classes

Celtic Music for the New Player

Everyone needs a little Celtic music in their repertoire, so let's learn some of the universal favorites that are often played in jam sessions so you can jump right in and have fun!

Hymns for Beginners

Beautiful hymns deserve to be played with feeling, and even simple arrangements can sound musical. While learning a hymn, we'll play with expression right from the start and we'll begin adding harmony notes to the melody.

Intermediate Classes

Gaining Confidence

Have you been playing a little while but think you might have missed something important and are too embarrassed to ask? This class will help fill in the gaps and tackle any concerns you have. Nothing is "too basic" or "too dumb" to ask. We'll work on mastering basic skills along with important techniques while learning a new tune.

Duets for Fun!

Playing hammered dulcimers together is fun and makes such beautiful music.

We'll learn duets that you can take home to play with your friends and club members. These tunes and arrangements can work as well for two people as they do for a group.

Creating a Beautiful Arrangement

So you've learned all the basics and can play a number of melodies, but how do you start adding notes to create a nice arrangement? This class will focus on those first steps to creating your own beautiful music, including building chord-based arrangements, adding those fun "dulcimer-sounding" embellishments, and techniques to make your music more expressive.

Advanced Classes

Hands That Cooperate

Get your brain and hands working together better, gaining more control over both your dominant and non-dominant hands. We'll practice hand separation exercises and apply them to a favorite hymn, Sweet Hour of Prayer, with the ultimate goal of incorporating these techniques into your music to make more interesting arrangements.

From Heart to Hands

Add warmth and dimension to your playing as we work on the beautiful melody, Come Before Winter, which is easy to put your heart and soul into playing. We'll learn specific techniques that will help you play more expressively and make your music sing!

Creating Back-up, Fills and Transitions

Making music with others is the best part of playing music and it's fun to play more than just the melody. In this class we'll study different ways to play back-up to vocal and instrumental melodies, creating introductions, endings, fills and transitions.

Rick Thum-All Levels