

2019 Mountain Dulcimer Class Descriptions

Judson Steinback New Players Class/ White Oak Theater

Specially designed for those who have no experience with the instrument, Judson's class starts with the simple building blocks to get folks on their way to making music with the mountain dulcimer. ***Recommended as a three day, continuous workshop as each day's lessons build on the previous days.*

Aubrey Atwater –Skillet Restaurant/Committee of 100 Room

Thursday AM (9am-12:15 w/breaks) Aubrey's Potluck:

Dive in and explore repertoire and technique including chording, singing, fingerpicking, tunings and modes, "slap" strumming, embellishments, four equally-distant strings, playing by ear, playing with the noter, and more, as time allows! **(Advanced Intermediate/Advanced)**

Thursday PM (2:30-4:00pm) Playing in a Group:

Playing in a band, club or jam session can be a time of great joy and learning. Sometimes, certain issues and pitfalls arise too. We will explore arranging, repertoire selection, tempo, group and musical dynamics, playing by ear, and more. Aubrey will provide songs and tunes to play but if you wish, bring group members and pieces you are working on. **(All instruments welcome--advanced Intermediate/Advanced)**

Friday AM (9am-12:15 w/breaks) Going to the Cleaners:

Aubrey will address ways to refine your playing, so bring music you are working on to present to the group if you wish! A few pieces will also be provided that deal with fingering, stamina, ornamentation, dynamics and more. **(Advanced Intermediate/Advanced)**

Friday PM (2:30-4:00pm) Playing and Dancing:

Aubrey will teach simple clogging steps (also known as flatfooting, jig dancing, or buckdancing) as well as a few play-party and simple group dances. Smooth soled shoes with a good "slide" are best. For those who would like to play some well-known tunes for the dancers, come jam! **(All Levels, All instruments and dancers)**

Saturday AM (9am-12:15 w/breaks) Mining the Archives:

Songs of Jean Ritchie: In a new spin on Aubrey's longtime repertoire and history

workshop, the class will explore Ritchie Family song archives readily available online and navigate how to learn these delightful songs not necessarily tabbed out for dulcimer. **(Advanced Intermediate/Advanced)**

Tull Glazener-Bois D' Arc Building

Thursday AM (9am - 12:15 w/breaks) - "Playing More Expressively"

This class will focus on some techniques you can apply to nearly any tune to make your playing a bit more expressive, such as hammer-ons, pull-offs, slides, using vibrato, dynamics, and more. **(Intermediate and above)**

Thursday PM (2:30 - 4:00pm) - "Playing in Other Keys"

The dulcimer sometimes gets a "bad rap" about being able to play only in one key. We'll spend this session exploring how to play in other keys besides our beloved key of "D", both with and without a capo. **(Intermediate)**

Friday AM (9am - 12:15 w/breaks) - "It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing"

We'll focus on learning to play tunes with syncopated rhythms and off-beat accents, such as rag-time, Tin Pan Alley, reggae-style tunes, and more **(Intermediate and above, capo may be required for some tunes).**

Friday PM (2:30 - 4:00pm) - "Jamming Techniques"

We'll spend this session doing a S-L-O-W jam session, where we'll be playing a bunch of common jam tunes at a slower tempo, and calling out the chord changes for those tunes that you may not know yet. Come prepared to call out some of your favorites! **(Beginner to early intermediate).**

Saturday AM (9am - 12:15 w/breaks) - "Sum of the Parts"

We'll learn some multi-part/ensemble arrangements pulled from a wide variety of genres, such as old-time, hymns and gospel tunes, waltzes and aires, world folk music, classical, and more. **(Intermediate)**

Larry Conger-All Levels

BEGINNER

Beyond the Drone 1

Applying two and three finger chords to basic songs - an essential element of improving your playing skills and staying alive in a jam session. DAD tuning.

Beyond the Drone 2

Explore the chord-melody style of playing the dulcimer, a combination of strumming and picking techniques. Several basic songs will be presented to help you understand and develop this playing style. DAD tuning.

Beyond the Drone 3

Intro to Arpeggios (broken chords). This workshop will challenge you to take that step toward becoming a more intermediate level player. Thinking in patterns will make this technique surprisingly easy to accomplish. DAD tuning.

INTERMEDIATE

Chord Shapes in DAD Tuning

Perfect for all skill levels, this class is a “must” for everyone looking to improve their playing skills by becoming more comfortable with three finger chords in DAD tuning. The class will address the various chords available on the dulcimer and use shapes to identify each of them. Along the way, the most efficient fingering of these chords will be discussed.

Elvis Love Songs

This class will explore 2-3 songs that are actually old, traditional melodies made popular by Elvis. “Love Me Tender,” “I Can’t Help Falling In Love With You” and “The Twelfth of Never” will be presented as time allows. DAD tuning.

Hymns in Two Keys

This class will present several familiar hymn tunes that are played in two different keys, thereby adding interest to the arrangements. A perfect addition to your worship service repertoire. DAD tuning.

ADVANCED

Five Fingers On the Fretboard

This workshop addresses the “moveable capo” meaning that, instead of using a capo, the player will learn to use his/her last three fingers to form a moveable barre chord while the thumb and index fingers play the melody in front of the barre chord. A fun challenge for those adventurous players. DAD tuning.

Themed Medleys

Add interest to your performance. This class will explore various medleys of three songs creatively arranged in three different keys. Learn the craft of compiling thematic medleys while changing keys between songs. DAD tuning.

House of the Rising Sun

Requires a 1+ fret and a capo. In this class, you will learn an arrangement of a great old rock tune from 1964 made popular by Eric Burdon and the Animals. The melody is played in two different octaves and the arrangement makes extensive use of the 1+ fret. A challenge for the intermediate level player and perfect for the more advanced player. This tune “has been the ruin of many a poor boy.”
Come on! You know you want to learn this song! DAD tuning.

Duane Porterfield-All Levels

Beginners

Lullabies

Exploring “baby music” for the dulcimer. Send you children, grandchildren, someone else’s children to sleepy town with these relaxing tunes.

A Dulcimer in the Band

This is an introduction to playing your dulcimer with other instruments and/or joining in the jam. We’ll even invite some of the local musicians to stop by.

Four Historic Dulcimers (all levels)

Lynn McSpadden, Homer Ledford, Robert Mize, Hourglass, Box, Galax, Noters, The Holy Bible and Rattlesnake Rattles. A few of the stories (with visual aids) the dulcimer tells.

Intermediate

Turning Those Numbers Into Your Song

It's pretty simple to play tab numbers and create a melody. It's pretty rewarding to add your own feeling to that melody line to create your own version of a tune.

It's Bonafide

Creating your very own mountain dulcimer masterpiece. "Ain't no notes on a dulcimer, you just play it"

Making it Sad and Lonesome

A minor key can give a tune a completely different feeling. We will experiment with some wonderfully happy D maj. tunes and see what happens when we play them in an E minor key. It oughta be fun. Also, good practice, if you're new to playing with a capo. Bring it if you have it. Some will be available.

Advanced

Night in That Land

A beautiful tune by the late Scottish fiddler Johnnie Cunningham. Equally as beautiful on the dulcimer.

Starry Starry Night

A nice mountain dulcimer arrangement of Don McClain's *Vincent*. Capo needed. Some will be available.

Share the Music

If you've ever considered entering a dulcimer contest (or performing, for that matter) this class will ease your fears. A look at what to expect when you've entered a contest with some all-around tips for playing in front of an audience.

Pam Setster-All Levels

Pam is a second generation mountain dulcimer player from here in Mountain View, Arkansas. Pam's mother, Jean Jennings, helped popularize the instrument in this area and had her own unique style and song repertoire. Pam will have classes at all three levels that explore traditional Ozark styles of mountain dulcimer.