

# Neal's Workshops

## Autoharp Workshops

### Beginning to Intermediate Level

- **¾ Strum Accompaniment:** this is a beginners class building on a simple ¾ strum and applying it to songs such as "Down in the Valley" and "Across the Blue Mountains".
- **Easy Lullabies:** this is an easy strumming workshop focusing on accompaniment of "Brahm's Lullaby", "Hush Little Baby", and "Slumber My Darling": all in the key of C. While you might be tempted, no snoozing is allowed!
- **Picking Clean Melodies:** here are some basics for playing melodies on the autoharp and what you can do to make them stand out clearly. Focus will be on pinch-pluck but we'll work a bit on thumb lead as well.

### Intermediate to Advanced Level

- **Wonderful Waltzes:** we'll take a couple of simple waltzes; get the melodies down and then explore filling in the "holes" with delicate rhythms. Possible tunes are "Rainbow Waltz", "Cowboy's Waltz", "Peeler Creek" or "Tombigbee".
- **Ragged Tunes:** we'll work through a couple tunes like "Pig Ankle Rag", "Red Apple Rag" or "Victory Rag" and then focus on the rhythm accents, which make these tunes so much fun to play.
- **Old Time Songs & Tunes:** a good repertoire builder: we'll start off with some simple songs and tunes and then work up to some more obscure fiddle tunes you may not have heard. Novice strummers and melody pickers alike, should enjoy this hour.
- **Duets on the Autoharp:** here are several examples of duet playing: from call & answer to counter melodies. Titles include "The Clayhole", "Precious Memories", "Alo-ha Oe" and "Spotted Pony".
- **Thumb Lead:** here's a way to play melody on the autoharp alternatively to the pinch-pluck method. Good songs for exploring this are "Going to Italy", "Golden Slippers", and "Do Lord".
- **Repertoire Development:** all of the "theme" workshops listed under mountain dulcimer are available for autoharp as well.

**Note:** most of our workshops can be tailored for any level from beginner to advanced but in the absence of any prior arrangement to the contrary, will generally be targeted at the levels indicated.

# Mountain Dulcimer Workshops

## Beginning to Intermediate Level

- **Music Theory for Dummies:** a little theory is often as useful as a lot of technique in terms of improving your playing, particularly in jamming situations. This workshop is designed to demystify what every dulcimer or autoharp player should know about chords, modes, keys, and other frightening but important subjects. Time permitting; we'll also discuss jamming techniques and etiquette.
- **Exploring the 1-3-5 Tuning for Dulcimer:** this tuning is particularly good for ragtime, blues, and other guitar-like tunes. We'll learn some simple tunes like "Victory Rag", "Railroad Bill" and "John Henry" that benefit nicely from this tuning.
- **Easy Chords In D-A-D:** let's start off at the very beginning with easy chords. We'll try a few easy strum patterns and then add some additional fingerings. We'll move right into some simple songs to sing that will accompanied by our chord playing.
- **Simple Harmony in D-A-D:** we'll take some familiar tunes and find alto, tenor and bass "harmony" lines to add to the melody for an ensemble sound. Starting with "Bile the Cabbages", we'll move on to "Go Tell Aunt Rhody", "Sweet Hour of Prayer", and "Big Eyed Rabbit".
- **D-A-A Chords:** a clear chord chart will be provided and participants will go through the exercise of penciling in fingerings next to the chord names. Songs to be used for the exercise are: "Hard Times", "Banks of the Ohio", "Jubilee", "Down the Road", "Going to Little Creek" and several more.
- **Easy Children's Songs in D-A-D:** sometimes it's the early childhood songs that allow our fingers to quickly get familiar with the fret board. Examples of these include "London Bridge", "Michael Row Your Boat Ashore", and "Brahm's Lullaby".
- **Learn a Tune by Ear:** a good exercise in listening and training your fingers to imitate what you hear. We'll take a basic tune and break it down phrase by phrase: slowly: and then put all the pieces together for a new tune to add to your repertoire: without tab... gasp!
- **Left Hand Techniques:** every intermediate player should be familiar with left hand techniques such as hammer-ons, slides, pull-offs, and triplets. We'll break each of these techniques down and practice applying them in appropriate tunes.
- **Right Hand Techniques:** there's more to your right hand than bum-ditty-bum. Learn a variety of strumming techniques to add variety to your music and allow you to "match the mood" of the material you're trying to play.
- **Fills, Breaks, and Turnarounds:** learn what to do to fill those spaces when simply strumming the chord sounds too boring; learn to use turnarounds: that's what you do between the end of one part of the song and the beginning of the next: and get started taking instrumental breaks to spice up your playing.
- **Repertoire Development:** just want to learn a few new tunes? Try one of these

workshops.

- » Easy Contra Dance Tunes
- » Easy Old Time Fiddle Tunes
- » Songs about Mountains
- » Favorite Gospel Songs
- » Gospel Technology
- » Easy Country Blues Songs
- » Slow Airs
- » Harvest and Thanksgiving Songs
- » Winter Songs
- » Pub Favorites
- » Songs about Birds
- » Children's Songs
- » Cowboy Songs
- » Doofus/Bozo Songs
- » Songs about Exotic Places
- » Father's Day Songs
- » Mother's Day Songs
- » Songs about Food
- » Gardening Songs
- » Nostalgic Songs
- » Songs about Ordinary People
- » Railroad Songs
- » Songs about Water
- » Silly Songs
- » Songs of the Supernatural
- » Tear Jerkers and Dying Downers
- » Your State's Name Here

### Intermediate to Advanced Level

- **Out of the Ordinary Waltzes:** waltzes are wonderful on the dulcimer. We have a large number of obscure, beautiful and, often, unusual waltzes that we've arranged for dulcimer over the years. We'll bring along several of our favorites, arranged in D-A-D. (This could easily be coordinated with a similar autoharp workshop).
- **Fiddle Tunes You Probably Can't Dance To:** the Southern solo fiddle tradition contains a number of tunes that were not designed for dancing. Many have unusual twists and turns, often adding or subtracting beats. Even those that may have been intended as dance tunes sound good on the dulcimer, particularly at a statelier tempo.

- **Love, Death and Barnyard Animals:** some of our favorite country blues tunes: like Deep River Blues, Deep Elm (pronounced Ellum) Blues, and maybe even Deep Doo Doo (that's a joke!) – come from the guitar playing of people like Doc Watson and Libba Cotton. These tunes sound wonderful on the dulcimer and are great “repertoire expanders.”
- **Scottish Tunes in DAD:** learn a couple beautiful melodies that lie nicely on the dulcimer. Selections include “Loch Tay Boat Song”, “Rorate”, “Ian Ruddah’s Lament”, and “Cuillins of Home”.
- **Ragged Tunes:** the left hand fingering and syncopated rhythms make these tunes fun to play on the dulcimer. “Pig Ankle Rag” is in D-A-D and “Red Apple Rag” is in D-A-D capo 3.
- **Adapting Guitar or Other Written Music to the Dulcimer:** there is a lot of music available in books for guitar and other folk instruments. Learn how you can easily adapt this music to the dulcimer.
- **Putting Your Music on Paper:** an informational discussion of music notation programs, tablature, and other computer resources for those who “want to but don’t know how.”
- **Practical Music Theory:** a more advanced version of the Music Theory for Dummies workshop. This one covers the beginning topics, i.e. chords, modes, keys, etc., but goes into more depth to include transposing, chord inversions, the use of capos, and more. This should be scheduled for two hours or more.
- **Repertoire Development:** the repertoire development workshops outlined under the Beginning to Novice levels can be presented at a more advanced level as well.

Note: most of our workshops can be tailored for any level from beginner to advanced but in the absence of any prior arrangement to the contrary, will generally be targeted at the levels indicated.

## Banjo Workshops

- **Beginning to Intermediate Level Getting Started on 5-String Banjo:** learn beginning 5 string clawhammer techniques starting with the basics: how to hold and tune the banjo, and quickly move on to 2 & 3 chord melodies. The class will play out of an open G tuning (gDGBD) starting with the basic clawhammer frailing rhythm and then adding some hammer-ons, slides & pull-offs. Tab and exercises will be provided. Get off to a solid start, ready for years of banjo addiction!
- **Old Time Tunes on 5-String Banjo:** for those novice players comfortable with the basic clawhammer rhythm, we will teach some old time tunes: slowly: a phrase at a time: and then put it all together. Tab will be provided for those who learn by sight as well as by ear!
- **Intermediate to Advanced Level Adding Spice to Your Playing:** explore more advanced right and left hand techniques such as hammer-ons, pull-offs, slides, double thumbing, syncopation, etc. and learn how these techniques fit into both simple and

more complex arrangements of common tunes in the basic banjo repertoire.

- **Playing with a Fiddler:** learn techniques for accompanying fiddle tunes and for playing with fiddlers. An actual real-live fiddler will participate.
- **Repertoire Development:** learn some uncommonly good and sometimes rare banjo tunes to build your repertoire and to amaze your friends!
- **Singing with the Banjo:** learn accompaniment to old-time songs, including intros, fills and endings.

Note: most of our workshops can be tailored for any level from beginner to advanced but in the absence of any prior arrangement to the contrary, will generally be targeted at the levels indicated.

## Mandolin Workshops

- **Getting Started on Mandolin:** for the absolute beginner. Learn how to tune the mandolin, how to hold the pick, and how to play several basic chords in an accompaniment style. We'll focus on the key of D for playing in dulcimer jams.)
- **Repertoire Development:** learn some nice and relatively easy mandolin tunes to build your repertoire and to further amaze your friends!

# Coleen's Workshops

## Bass Workshops

- **Basic Discovery Class:** every group can benefit from having a bass to keep the beat and add to the overall sound. This class will introduce you to the instrument and teach you to play simple accompaniments in the most common keys, particularly the key of D.
- **Bass Runs and More:** build on the skills learned in the basic discovery class to play in the keys of G, A, and C and to add some spice to your playing using bass runs.

## Hammered Dulcimer Workshops

### Beginning to Intermediate Level

- Reading Music & Playing the HD: learn to sight read standard notation and find those notes on your HD. We'll work through some exercises to allow us to look away from the strings and up at the music.
- Backup Chords on the HD: we'll try some different patterns and rhythms for 3/4 and 4/4 time. These can be used for vocal backup (yes, we'll do some singing) and for accompanying other instruments.
- Lullabies: A session on some sweet melodies such as "Brahm's Lullaby" and "Hush Little Baby".
- Hymns on the HD: we'll work on some lovely old hymns such as "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and "Precious Memories". First we'll get the basic melodies down, one phrase at a time, and then work in some chords to fill them out.
- Wonderful Waltzes: we'll take a couple of simple waltzes; get the melodies down and then explore filling in the "holes" with chords. Possible tunes are "Rainbow Waltz", "Cowboy's Waltz", "Peeler Creek" or "Tombigbee".
- Old Time Repertoire: We'll learn some jam standards such as "June Apple", "Mississippi Sawyer", and "Road to Boston".

### Intermediate to Advanced Level

- Call & Answer Tunes: Many fiddle tunes are well suited for trading the lead back and forth between players. Possible tunes are "Spotted Pony", "Briarpicker Brown" and "Duck's Eyeball".
- Ragged Tunes: we'll work through a couple tunes like "Pig Ankle Rag", or "Red Apple Rag" and then focus on the rhythm accents which make these tunes so much fun to hammer.
- New England Tunes: add some contradance standards to your repertoire such as "Road to Boston", "Swallowtail Jig", "Come Dance & Sing" and "Staten Island".
- Crooked Tunes: It can be a challenge to learn irregular tunes – ones where a beat is added or dropped. Come learn "Texas", "Elk River Blues", and "Roscoe's Waltz".
- Duets on the HD: we'll work through some counter melodies to tunes you probably already know - like "Southwind" and "Golden Slippers". We'll put the two parts together and give some ideas on arrangements and dynamics.
- Swiss Tunes: learn some traditional Swiss folk tunes to add to your repertoire. Bring your yodeling voice and join in the fun!

## Heidi's Mountain Dulcimer Workshop Suggestions:

Title: Mountain Dulcimer 101

Level: Beginner

Tuning: DAA

Description: We will start with getting the dulcimer comfortable on your lap, getting the instrument in tune, holding the pick, and finding some easy melodies on the fretboard. No previous music experience is necessary.

-----

Title: Easy Rounds

Level: Beginner/Novice

Tuning: DAD

Description: One of the quickest ways to play harmony with your dulcimer buddies is to learn rounds. Everyone will learn the melody and then split into groups.

-----

Title: Capo 101

Level: Beginner/Novice

Tuning: DAD

Description: An introduction to using a capo and how helpful it can be! A few capos will be available, but bring one if you have one.

-----

Title: Learn a Song by Ear

Level: Beginner/Novice

Tuning: DAD

Description: A good exercise in listening and training your fingers to imitate what you hear. It will also help develop skills for memorizing songs.

-----

Title: Chords in DAA

Level: Beginner/Novice

Tuning: DAA

Description: A clear chord chart will be provided and participants will go through the exercise of penciling in fingerings next to the chord names. Songs to be used for the exercise are: "Hard Times", "Banks of the Ohio", "Jubilee", "Down the Road", and "Going to Little Creek".

-----

Title: Easy Children's Songs

Level: Beginner/Novice

Tuning: DAD

Description: Sometimes it's the early childhood songs that allow our fingers to quickly get familiar with the fret board. Examples of these include "London Bridge", "Michael Row Your Boat Ashore", and "Brahm's Lullaby".

-----

Title: Up the Fretboard

Level: Intermediate

Tuning: DAD

Description: A workshop to focus on chord shapes at higher frets. This is a nice way to vary the sound and add texture to your playing.

-----



Title: Scottish Tunes  
Level: Intermediate/Advanced  
Tuning: DAD  
Description: Learn a couple beautiful melodies that lie nicely on the dulcimer. Selections include “Loch Tay Boat Song”, “Rorate”, “Ian Ruddah’s Lament”, and “Cuillins of Home”.

---

Title: Ragged Tunes  
Level: Intermediate/Advanced  
Tuning: DAD  
Description: The left hand fingering and syncopated rhythms make these tunes fun to play on the dulcimer. “Pig Ankle Rag” is in D-A-D and “Red Apple Rag” is in D-A-D capo 3.

---

Title: Duets  
Level: Intermediate/Advanced  
Tuning: DAD  
Description: We’ll experiment with counter melodies to tunes you probably already know such as “Southwind” and “Golden Slippers”. We’ll put the two parts together and give some ideas on arrangements and dynamics.

---

Title: Old Time Repertoire  
Level: Intermediate/Advanced  
Tuning: DAD  
Description: Learn a couple of fiddle tunes that are fun to play, and not so widely known such as “Prairie Sunflower”, “Rosetree”, “Grand River Whiskey”, and “Coleman’s March”.

---

Title: Call & Answer Tunes  
Level: Intermediate/Advanced  
Tuning: DAD  
Description: Many fiddle tunes are well suited for trading the lead back and forth between players. Possible tunes are “Spotted Pony”, “John Brown’s March”, “Briarpicker Brown” and “Duck’s Eyeball”.

## Heidi – Autoharp Workshops

Title: 4/4 Strums  
Level: Beginner  
Technique: strumming  
Songs: Billie Boy  
Bile Cabbages  
New River Train  
Oh Susannah  
Camptown Races  
Keys: F and C  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

---

Title: Pinch Strums  
Level: Adv Beginner  
Technique: strumming  
Songs: Banks of Ohio  
Waterbound  
Simple Gifts  
Hold Fast  
Amazing Grace  
Keys: F and C  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

---

Title: Kids Songs  
Level: Adv Beginner  
Technique: strumming  
Songs: London Bridge  
Froggie Went Courtn  
Pizza Pie  
Pink Pajamas  
Happy & Know It  
Keys: G and D  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

---

Title: Lullabies  
Level: Adv Beginner  
Technique: melody playing  
Songs: Cradle Song  
All Thru the Night  
Oh How Lovely  
Hush Little Baby  
Brahms's Lullaby  
Keys: F and C  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

---

Title: Call & Answer  
Level: Intermediate  
Technique: melody playing  
Songs: Spotted Pony  
John Brown's March  
Prairie Sunflower  
Old Man & Old Woman  
Duck's Eyeball  
Keys: G, D and A  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

---

Title: Dreamy Waltzes  
Level: Intermediate  
Technique: melody playing  
Songs: Innishear  
Fanny Power  
Miss Rowan Davies  
Shepherd's Wife  
Boda Waltz  
Keys: G and D  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

---

Title: Rounds  
Level: Intermediate  
Technique: melody playing  
Songs: Are You Sleeping  
Make New Friends  
Kookaburra  
Music Alone Shall Live  
Dona Nobis Pacem  
Keys: C and D  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

---

Title: Swiss Melodies  
Level: Intermediate  
Technique: melody playing  
Songs: Weggiser Lied  
Es Beurebubli  
Chline Veili  
Uf den Alpen  
Lueget vo Berg  
Keys: C and G  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

---

Title: Afr. Amer. Spirituals  
Level: Intermediate  
Technique: melody playing  
Songs: Lonesome Valley  
Ezekiel Saw D'Wheel  
Swing Low  
Balm in Gilead  
I Got Shoes  
Keys: G and D  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

Title: NE Contradance  
Level: Intermediate  
Technique: melody playing  
Songs: Come Dance & Sing  
Road to Boston  
Staten Island  
Rose Tree  
La Bastringue  
Keys: G and D  
Suitable: Diatonic or Chromatic

Name: John Cerrigione

Address: 56 Egypt Road, Ellington, CT 06029

Phone: 860-872-3264

BIO:

John Cerrigione is a multi-instrumentalist from Ellington, CT. He plays guitar, autoharp and banjo in a duo with his wife Heidi, and the band Doofus. His repertoire includes sentimental favorites and old-time fiddle tunes. Recordings to date include "Wood Stoves and Bread Loaves" with his wife Heidi, as well as 4 recordings with his partners in Doofus Music. He has performed and taught workshops for the past 10 years at various festivals across the country, including the Cranberry Dulcimer Festival, Augusta Heritage Program, Mt. Laurel Autoharp Gathering, The Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival and the Rhode Island Folk Festival.

For more information on-line, visit:

<http://doofusmusic.com/JHWEB.html>

WORKSHOP INFORMATION:

## **Autoharp**

Title: Autoharp I

Level: Novice/Beginning

Keys: C,F,G,D,A

For students just beginning to play the autoharp. Tuning the instrument, simple strum patterns, and singing with the autoharp will be covered. The repertoire will be familiar melodies as well as common old-time tunes. The ability to read music is helpful but not required.

-----

Title: Autoharp Strum Variations

Level: Adv Beginner

Keys: C,F,G,D,A

Strum variations in both  $\frac{3}{4}$  and  $\frac{4}{4}$  time, as well as beginning melody picking will be covered. The repertoire will be familiar melodies as well as common old-time tunes. The ability to read music is helpful but not required.

-----

Title: Waltzes on the Autoharp  
Level: Intermediate

Keys: C,F,G,D,A

Tablature will be provided for picking the melody on some of my favorite waltzes. The emphasis will be on learning a new waltz or two. Come and enjoy adding some new tunes to your autoharp repertoire.

-----

Title: Calypso Strum  
Level: Intermediate

Keys: F

Learn to play Yellow Bird with a combination of melody picking and calypso strum pattern. We'll be putting masking tape on our strings to get a cool marimba sound. Come and enjoy the fun!

-----

Title: Autoharp Duets  
Level: Intermediate

Keys: F/C

Description: Participants will get a chance to experiment with several examples of duet playing. From call & answer to counter melodies. We'll pair up and have fun interacting together.

-----

# Banjo

Title: Beginning Clawhammer Banjo

Level: Novice/Beginning

Tuning: G

For students just beginning to play clawhammer banjo. Tuning the instrument, basics of frailing, and beginning exercises will be covered. The repertoire will be familiar melodies as well as common old-time tunes. The ability to read music is helpful but not required. Tablature will be provided.

-----

Title: Banjo – Adding spice to your playing

Level: Beginning/Intermediate

Keys: D ( aDADE)

Explore right and left hand techniques such as hammer-ons, pull-offs, slides, double thumbing, and syncopation. Learn how to apply these techniques to your banjo repertoire. Tablature will be provided.

-----

Title: Banjo Repertoire

Level: Intermediate

Keys: D ( aDADE)

Tablature will be provided for several old-time tunes. Emphasis will be placed on learning new tunes, and also incorporating hammer-on, pull-offs and slides into your playing.

-----

## **Guitar**

Title: Basics of Rhythm Guitar

Level: Novice/Beginning

This workshop is intended for students just beginning to play back-up guitar. The basics of strumming with an alternated bass rhythm will be covered. The repertoire will be familiar melodies as well as common old-time fiddle tunes. Use of the capo will also be discussed. The ability to read music is helpful but not required.

-----

Title: Fingerstyle Guitar – Travis Picking

Level: Beginning/Intermediate

Description: This workshop is intended to demonstrate the basics of Fingerstyle Travis Picking. Syncopated patterns with the right hand fingers while maintaining a steady bass rhythm will be covered. The ability to read music is helpful but not required. Guitar tablature will be provided.

-----

## **BASS**

Title: Beginning Bass

Level: Novice/Beginning

No Instrument required

For students wanting to explore playing the Bass. Simple Bass pattern techniques and song accompaniment will be covered. Come and have a fun experience with a new instrument.

-----

## All Instruments

Title: Slow Jam

Level: All

Tuning: N/A

Description: We'll discuss a bit of "Jam etiquette" and share songs with one another around a circle. Come and enjoy interacting with other players.

-----

Title: "Back-up" Playing

Level: All

Instruments: All are welcome

Description: Together we'll practice playing back-up chords to melody instruments or singing accompaniment. We'll discuss a bit of chord theory and ear training techniques to make our chord selections easier. Open to all instruments and all levels that are willing to participate.

-----

Title: Working with Sound

Level: All

Tuning: N/A

Description: An interactive workshop. Participants will get a chance to experiment with different kinds of microphones on their instruments and to experience working with sound equipment.

.



# Band-Led Workshops

## Band-Led Workshops

- **Playing with/in a Group:** playing in a group involves many skills including listening, arranging, finding complementary parts, and diplomacy. Learn how Doofus approaches these issues.
- **Song Arranging:** arranging a song can be boringly formulaic or exceptionally interesting. We share our tips.
- **Finding Vocal Harmonies:** vocal harmonies can make or break an arrangement. Our audiences consistently comment favorably on our approach. We'll tell you what we do.
- **Jamming Strategies:** getting along in a jam session is seemingly #1 on everybody's short list of "skills I would like to possess". Obviously a good ear is important but what's between your ears is even more important. There are patterns to discern if you both look and listen carefully. We'll show you how.