

33rd Annual Fort New Salem Dulcimer Weekend



August 9 - 11, 2024

Events and Performances

Music Workshops – There are workshops on the mountain dulcimer, hammered dulcimer and other instruments throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday. See schedule at center.

Evening Concerts – There are concerts both Friday and Saturday evenings. Both the Friday and Saturday concerts are a showcase of the work of our workshop leaders.

Late Night Jams – Following the concerts, there will be jam sessions. It is a time to relax, meet others and share some music.

Song Circle – This is a time to gather on Sunday morning and share some music in an informal session. Each person in the circle will be given a chance to play a song, request a song or to just sit and listen.

Finale – The festival will conclude with an all-participant gathering in which everyone is invited to join in to sing and play as we end the festival in song and perhaps harmony.



Vendor Information

There will be a workshop leaders sales table with books, CDs and dulcimer-related items by many of the workshop leaders.

Workshop Descriptions

Abbreviations:

MD = mountain dulcimer, also known as lap dulcimer

HD = hammered dulcimer

B = beginner – no previous playing experience required.

AB = advanced beginner – is familiar with tuning, knows some basic strumming and fingering and can play several songs with ease.

I = intermediate – knows basic chording and harmony playing, can read and learn from tablature, standard music notation or by ear, and has a growing repertoire of songs in a variety of styles.

A = advanced – knows a wide variety of techniques and songs, can read and learn from tablature, standard music notation or by ear, and has experience playing in a variety of situations.

ALL = workshop is open to any instrument and skill level.



Workshops

Saturday 9:00 – 10:00

Getting Started on Mountain Dulcimer – Cynthia

Brissey – This workshop is for the very beginner. Participants will be shown how to tune the mountain dulcimer, find notes, and how to strum. Participants will also learn how to play several easy melodies. MD – B

Strengthen Your Strum 1 – Bill Locke – The idea of using a flat pick to structure a strum into a rhythmic pattern is explored in this workshop. A single well known and simple tune will be used with a series of strum methods to develop a variety of sounds that can add a different energy to a tune. This may be used to provide sounds familiar from the playing of other instruments in an old-time band. We start with the basics and add complexity as we go. MD – AB, I

HD Set-Up/Tuning – The space will be open for folks to set-up and tune instruments prior to the workshops. HD – All

Bowed Psaltery – Tish Westman – This workshop presents an Irish repertoire including King of the Fairies, The Maids from the Parish of Penderyn and others if time allows. Bowed Psaltery – AB

Saturday 10:15 – 11:15

Just Past Beginner Mountain Dulcimer – Marge Diamond – So you know a few tunes and where some notes are, what's next? Marge will help you continue your journey with some basic techniques, encouragement and a few new tunes. MD – AB

Strengthen Your Strum 2 – Bill Locke – In this workshop Bill will show some more advanced strumming techniques including triplets (cross-picking) and damping methods which may be used to further add variety to playing. A range of tune genres might be tried using these methods including old-time and blues sounds. As before, we are playing the instrument in a fashion that tends to “join the band” as it relates to the overall sound. MD – I

Never Touched a Hammered Dulcimer Before? – Jeff Fedan – This is a workshop for someone who has not spent more than five minutes at the instrument, mostly looking at it, but wants to try it out to see if they’d like to play it. We’ll cover the layout of the instrument, tuning, hammering technique, and learn a real song or two. Loaner instruments will be available for use. HD – B

Traditional Native American Songs and Stories – Linda Sigismondi – In this workshop, you will have a chance to hear and learn about the stories behind several traditional Native American tunes including Wendeyaho, Cherokee Lullaby, Lakota Lullaby and others. Tab will be available for those who would like to try out some for the tunes. NAF – All



Saturday 11:30 – 12:30

Playing Harmony on the Mountain Dulcimer – Linda Sigismondi – In this workshop, participants will start with a simple song and will be shown how to make harmonies using octaves, thirds and fifths. Rounds will also be explored as a method of harmonizing. DAD tuning MD – AB

Intro To Four-Chord Loops – Jerry Rockwell – I will demonstrate a few of my favorite short chord progressions and how to do some fun and interesting variations on them. These short chord loops serve as a basic underlying structure for you to get creative with your dulcimer, and they are slow and easy to play! DAD tuning. MD – I

Hammered Dulcimer Tunes from North-Central West Virginia We Should Play More Often – Jeff Fedan – So many tunes...so little time. What about tunes in the old-time repertoire that we have neglected? Let's learn a few of them. HD – AB, I

Playing Parts in Folk-Style Music – Bill Schilling – The purpose of this workshop is to introduce the learners to playing parts of a song with other players. Workshop participants will concentrate on listening and working with others as they try different parts of several songs. Since some players can simply play the melody or chords, the workshop can be appropriate for most instruments. Songs planned are in the keys of D and Em. All instruments and levels

Saturday 1:15 – 2:15

Chord Progressions – Tish Westman – Learn to recognize and play chord patterns easier. MD – AB

Irish Music on the Mountain Dulcimer – Steven K Smith – I'll present four lesser-known tunes from the Emerald Isle in this repertoire building workshop. We'll also discuss techniques for decorating the tunes and adapting non-dulcimer-based sources to the mountain dulcimer. Capo required. a limited number of extra capos will be available. MD – I

The 8-Note Miracle Cure for Hammered Dulcimer – Brett Ridgeway – This eight-note lick will change the way you play and “fancify” your playing with a lively syncopation! And we will also apply this lick to several tunes so you understand exactly where and how to use this little miracle cure! When I learned this technique many years ago, it literally changed how I played and open up new possibilities for embellishment and crazy fun! We will also share tricks and exercises to strengthen your less dominant hand thus improving your playing all the way around! HD – AB, I

Beginning Ukulele Chording and Strumming – Bill Schilling – The purpose of this workshop is to introduce the participants to ways to play simple accompaniment in the key of C (and maybe G, F, or D as time allows) on the ukulele. Players will learn how to read ukulele chord charts, will learn some basics of strumming, and will play chords for accompanying lead instruments or vocals using songs that are simple to play. Participants will work on singing while they are playing. Ukelele – B



Saturday 2:30 – 3:30

Basic Blues on the Mountain Dulcimer – Steven K Smith – Yes, you really can play the blues on the mountain dulcimer. It’s fun, it’s easy, and it sounds GREAT! In this class we’ll go over the basics of the instrumental 12 bar blues pattern in several keys, all while tuned to DAd. Rather than teach a couple of individual songs, I’ll show you the basics of a popular blues pattern so you can improvise your own music. Capo required. A limited number of extra capos will be available. MD – AB

Descending Scales and Modes – Jerry Rockwell – I have learned SO MUCH over the past decade by harmonizing descending major scales as well as a few modes. I will show you how these chords descend very logically - fret-by-fret - down the fingerboard, and how easy it is to put some intuitive melodic ideas with them. DAD tuning. MD – I, A

Accompaniment Melodies and Rhythms – Tish Westman –This workshop will focus on accompaniment patterns for familiar jam tunes you already should know...Yes, Boil them Cabbage is one. Ukelele, Autoharp and others – AB

Saturday 3:45 – 4:45

Fun With Pentatonic Scales – Jerry Rockwell – The simple major pentatonic scale is the basis for many folk songs we know and love, and this easy-to-play five-tone scale is the quickest route to making your own music and getting started with improvisation. I will show you how to play the D, G, and A pentatonic scales and how they relate to these three chords. And I have written a few very easy pentatonic tunes I will share with you. DAD tuning. MD – All

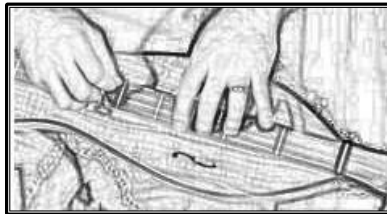
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**Fort New Salem
Dulcimer Weekend
Friday, August 9, 2024**

Times	Event
5:00 to 7:00	Registration
7:30 to 9:30	Evening Concert Workshop Leaders Showcase Part 1: Marge Diamond, Jeff Fedan, Brett Ridgeway, Linda Sigismondi, Tish Westman
9:45 to ?	Late Night Jam Session Bill Schilling/Linda Sigismondi





Fort New Salem Saturday,

Times	McIntyre's Cabin	Jonathan Bee Cabin
9:00 to 10:00	Getting Started MD Cynthia Brissey MD – B	Strengthen Your Strum 1 Bill Locke MD – AB, I
10:15 to 11:15	Just Past Beginner Marge Diamond MD – B, AB	Strengthen Your Strum 2 Bill Locke MD – I
11:30 to 12:30	Playing Harmony Linda Sigismondi MD – AB	Intro to Four-Chord Loops Jerry Rockwell MD – I
12:30 to 1:15	Lunch	
1:15 to 2:15	Chord Progressions Tish Westman MD – AB	Irish Music Steven K. Smith MD – I
2:30 to 3:30	Basic Blues on MD Steven K. Smith MD – AB	Descending Scales and Modes Jerry Rockwell MD – All
3:45 to 4:45	Fun with Pentatonic Scales Jerry Rockwell MD – All	Flatpicking with your LEFT hand Brett Ridgeway MD – I
5:00 to 7:00	Dinner	
7:30 to 9:30	Workshop Leaders Bill Locke, Jerry Rockwell,	
9:45 to ?	Late Night Linda Sigismondi	

Dulcimer Weekend August 10, 2024



Farmhouse	Meeting House	Times
HD Set-Up/ Tuning	Bowed Psaltery Tish Westman BP – AB	9:00 to 10:00
Never Touched HD Jeff Fedan HD – B	Trad. Native American Songs and Stories Linda Sigismondi NAF – All	10:15 to 11:15
HD Tunes from WV to Play More Often Jeff Fedan HD – AB, I	Playing Parts in Folk- Style Music Bill Schilling All	11:30 to 12:30
Lunch		12:30 to 1:15
8-Note Miracle Cure Brett Ridgeway HD – AB, I	Beginning Ukulele Bill Schilling All – B	1:15 to 2:15
Open for Jamming	Accompaniment Melodies & Rhythms Tish Westman All – AB	2:30 to 3:30
Drum Circle Linda Sigismondi All	Beg. Vocal Accomp. for Autoharp Bill Schilling Autoharp – AB	3:45 to 4:45
Dinner		5:00 to 7:00
Showcase Part 2 Bill Schilling Steven K. Smith		7:30 to 9:30
Jam Session And Bill Schilling		9:45 to ?



Fort New Salem Dulcimer Weekend Sunday, August 11, 2024

Times	McIntyre's Cabin	Jonathan Bee Cabin	Farmhouse	Meeting House
9:30 to 10:30	Song Circle Bill Schilling			
10:45 to 11:45	Add More Fiddle Tunes to Your Play List Marge Diamond MD – AB	Use Chords in Your Music Bill Locke MD – AB	North-Central WV Tunes - Embellished Jeff Fedan HD – I	Hymns for MD and Others Cynthia Brissey MD – B, AB + others
12:00 to 1:00	Lunch			
1:00 to 2:00	Easy Country Dance Tunes for MD Steven K. Smith MD – AB	Building Your Mountain Dulcimer Arsenal Brett Ridgeway MD – AB, I	Spoons Are for More than Eating Jeff Fedan All	
2:15 to 3:00	All-Participant Finale Linda Sigismondi/Bill Schilling			



Saturday 3:45 – 4:45 (continued from page 8)

Flatpicking with your LEFT Hand – Brett Ridgeway

– In most Flatpicking workshops, the focus is on the "picking" or right hand, and while we will cover those basics, the emphasis of this workshop will be on the LEFT hand! Once you discover the work and purpose of the left hand, well beyond chords, your playing will become much more interesting, colorful, and create those lovely hills and valleys of your music! The LEFT hand is every bit as important as the right when it comes to Flatpicking! MD – AB, I

Drum Circle – Linda Sigismondi – Is your head hurting from all the new techniques and music you worked on today? Come and beat out some tension in a drum circle. Some percussions instruments will be available for use. You can bring your own drum and percussion instruments. All



Beginning Vocal Accompaniment for Autoharp – Bill Schilling – Combining consistency and variety, we will play several beginning autoharp accompaniment styles while singing “Clementine” in D, “Jesse James” in D, and “Nine Hundred Miles” in Dm (using just Dm and A7 chords). You can then apply these styles to other solo songs or even as backup for singers or instrumentals. Autoharp – B, AB



Sunday 9:30 – 10:30

Song Circle – Bill Schilling – This is a time to gather on Sunday morning and share some music in an informal session. Each person in the circle will be given a chance to play a song, to request a song or to just sit and listen. All

Sunday 10:45 – 11:45

Add More Fiddle Tunes to Your Play List – Marge Diamond – Marge has a large repertoire of fiddle and old-time tunes from her many years of playing at festivals. She will share a few of these with you in this workshop as well as answer questions on techniques. MD – AB

Use Chords in Your Music – Bill Locke – We will discuss and practice basic chords. Additionally this workshop could be used to learn some fiddle tunes in D. The strum methods used in the workshops will take some practice over time, but we will give it a good first start. MD – AB

North-Central West Virginia HD Tunes – Embellished – Jeff Fedan – Maybe there's one or two West Virginia tunes you don't know yet. Let's learn a few ways to embellish them. Be brave! HD – I

Hymns for Mountain Dulcimer and Others – Cynthia Brissey – This workshop will introduce you to a few simple hymns that can be played on the mountain dulcimer. Others are welcome to play and/or sing along. MD – B, AB and other instruments

Sunday 1:00 – 2:00

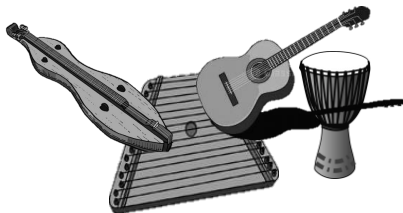
Easy English Country Dance Tunes on the Mountain Dulcimer – Steven K Smith – Four easy arrangements of English country dance tunes for the mountain dulcimer. Most of these will be from Playford's collection, first published in 1651. Capo required. A limited number of additional capos will be available. MD – AB

Building Your Mountain Dulcimer Arsenal – Brett Ridgeway – In this workshop, you'll build an “arsenal” of embellishments and techniques from which to draw as you play. This arsenal will contain 20 different skills you can use to provide you with numerous ways to play each phrase of any tune, thus allowing you to play around the melody at-will and from the heart, rather than simply playing a memorized arrangement. MD – AB, I

Spoons Are for More than Eating – Jeff Fedan – If you tap your feet when you play, why not do something with your hands too? Spoons add a special flavor to up-beat, old-time tunes and are easy to play. Some have suggested that spoons are (is?) the most important part of any old-time band. If you can clap your hands, you can play the spoons. Funny, no one uses forks or knives in a band! All

Sunday 2:15 – 3:00

Finale – Linda Sigismondi and Bill Schilling – The festival will conclude with an all-participant gathering in which everyone is invited to join in to sing and play as we end the festival in song and perhaps harmony. All



2024 Workshop Leaders

Cynthia Brissey lives in Salem, WV and has attended nearly all Fort New Salem Dulcimer Weekends. She learned to play mountain dulcimer at various workshops in the region. She plays mostly for herself, but occasionally plays for church services. She is enthusiastic about getting others started on the instrument.

Marge Diamond started playing dulcimer in 1985 , after witnessing the fun and friendship old time musicians were having in playing their music together she decided that was what she wanted to do. She started out with a cardboard dulcimer in May and by August felt she deserved a wood dulcimer as she was hooked big time on the challenge of getting her fingers moving up and down the fret board in time with the music. The love of the instrument and the joy of making new friends has kept her going for over 40 years.

Jeff Fedan lives in Masontown, WV and learned to play the hammered dulcimer from his teacher and mentor, Patty Looman, who gave him the gift of music. He is especially interested in the old-time repertoire of northern West Virginia, and in preserving these tunes and the old-time traditions of the area. Jeff is founder of PattyFest, an old-time music festival honoring Patty Looman and now, her memory. He has conducted workshops at the Fort New Salem Dulcimer Festival, Dulci-More, the Gardner Winter Music Festival and PattyFest. Last and not least (?), he is a drummer and plays in a jazz trio, a Grateful Dead cover band, and tunes his spoons on a regular basis.

Bill Locke has played guitar, dulcimer, and clawhammer banjo for many years. He has performed with us several times as well as at Dulci-More and many other venues. His music spans areas of old-time music, blues, and jazz.

Brett Ridgeway's philosophy is that *Anyone can make music, regardless of age, musical ability, or knowledge!* –a philosophy that resonates with people as evidenced in the positive responses he receives regarding his workshops. He currently teaches hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, ukulele, clawhammer banjo, and bluegrass banjo, and also conducts several unique all instrument workshops. Brett has authored and marketed a series of instructional CDs that display his friendly method of teaching the hammered dulcimer, as well as several tune workbooks for mountain dulcimer, banjo, and hammered dulcimer. His *Learning for Life* YouTube channel offers over 400 free lessons.

Jerry Rockwell is currently living in Wooster, Ohio, and he specializes in ambient, meditative music on the electric and acoustic mountain dulcimer. During the past five decades, Jerry has played at folk festivals in England, Ireland and Iceland and around the US. He has published nine instructional tunebooks, is featured on many recordings and musical collaborations, has co-founded three dulcimer festivals, and continues to design and build custom acoustic and electric mountain dulcimers.

Bill Schilling has been singing and playing various folk instruments (at least 20 with variations of several) for over 50 years. He has performed for audiences of all ages in many settings from coast to coast. Bill often performs with others including Rich & Kathy Small and

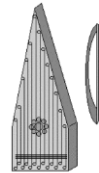
with Linda Sigismondi with whom he has recorded "Songs from Canal Days". Since Bill believes that his music should be inclusive, he is involved in many groups which share music including Dulci-More: Folk & Traditional Musicians (Bill is the founder and leader of this group); the Canton Folk Song Society; the Dulcimer Society of Trumbull County: Folknet; PattyFest,Inc.; and Folk Music at Weatherbury Farm. His "Dulci-More Public Domain Songbooks" (in several variations) are used by clubs and individuals around the country.

Linda Sigismondi is a mountain dulcimer player and folksinger from Gallipolis, Ohio. Her music includes traditional Appalachian tunes, Celtic tunes, traditional and contemporary folk music, and some original compositions that feature environmental themes. Linda organizes the music and workshops for the Fort New Salem Dulcimer Festival and has taught and performed at several folk music festivals in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and New York. Linda has written several books of mountain dulcimer tab and has one recording with Bill Schilling.



Steven K. Smith has been a player, composer, teacher, and recorder of dulcimer music since 1983. His playing expands on the traditional Appalachian repertoire for the instrument to encompass tunes from British Isles, European classical music, modern pop songs, and the blues. Steve improvises and composes much of his music as well. He's less of a "dulcimer player" than a "musician who plays the dulcimer." He has several albums and tune books of dulcimer instrumentals available.

Tish Westman My first instrument was a Ukulele at 4 yrs. old. Music is my life. I teach several instruments and I love to listen to newbies as they learn and experience the joy of playing music. I love to build instruments and hear the different voices of the woods. I love to write music and hear others play it. I love to knit and I love my gardens. You will often find me having coffee in my garden in the morning, knitting and listening to soft music. My husband, Greg and I are the Resident Woodworkers at Tamarack in Beckley WV since 2001. This is where we make Bowed Psalteries and several other instruments. We have CD's and about 40 books in our Noted Note style of music.



Fort New Salem



Fort
New
Salem
Foundation

Fort New Salem is a representative frontier log house settlement of nineteenth-century North Central Western Virginia/West Virginia. The village of over 18 relocated log structures was created as an extension of the Salem International University campus. Since December 2005, Fort New Salem has been under the private ownership of the Fort New Salem Foundation, Inc. It is a living history outdoor museum interpreting the history, crafts and lifestyles of the area.

Fort New Salem Map

