

Mountain Dulcimer Workshop Topics

Mark Tindle

1	Dulcimer Duets
Level	Novice to Intermediate
Subject	Two familiar tunes arranged for 2 mountain dulcimers in D-A-D
Description	Playing with others is always a joy, but playing two different parts together is even more fun! In this class we will work through 2 familiar tunes and learn to listen to not only ourselves play our part, but the second part, and both as a whole. The biggest challenge is deciding which part to play!
Handouts	Southwind, Amazing Grace
2	Hymns & Choruses
Level	Novice to Intermediate
Subject	Two popular tunes in D-A-D; one traditional hymn and one modern chorus
Description	The church has long provided a rich history of great music, which continues to this day. In this class we will explore one familiar traditional hymn and a more modern worship chorus. A discussion of the mountain dulcimer in a worship leading role is also likely.
Handouts	O Worship the King, Jesus Strong and Kind
3	Chords in D-A-D
Level	Novice to Intermediate
Subject	Chord structures, patterns, fingerings
Description	Learning to play chords on the dulcimer can be simplified by building most of them upon the foundation of just a few basic fingering patterns at various fret positions. In this class we will explore these patterns and approach to fingerings using a 3-string chord chart and a familiar hymn that makes a great chord change practice tool.
Handouts	3-string D-A-D chord chart, A Mighty Fortress is Our God
4	Embellishments in D-A-D
Level	Novice to Intermediate
Subject	Hammer-ons, pull-offs, slides, harmonics, mutes, etc.
Description	Creatively add more color to songs you already know with several cool embellishment techniques. In this class we will add some tasteful pizzazz to your playing by working on a couple of exercises that focus on these techniques, as well as discuss where you might use them in a song.
Handouts	Didley No.1, Hammerpull
5	Maximizing One Tuning - Getting the most out of D-A-D
Level	Intermediate
Subject	Playing other keys, different modes, multi-octaves, using a capo, all in D-A-D
Description	One of the cool things about the mountain dulcimer is its modal nature. But, with so many possible tunings and extra frets (or not) it can get a bit confusing when the notes we know on the fretboard change! In this class we will work entirely in the D-A-D tuning and learn a more efficient approach that maximizes just one tuning inside and out, forwards and backwards. You may be amazed just how many keys, modes, and octaves you can play in without retuning...plus, all the notes stay the same!
Handouts	Capo Chart, Southwind

6	Crosspicking in D-A-D
Level	Intermediate
Subject	Introduction to the crosspicking style, as distinguished from fingerpicking
Description	In this class we will explore the vast versatility of using a flatpick to not only strum and flatpick, but also to emulate fingerpicking without having to put down the pick. We will try a few crosspicking exercises and look at a couple of familiar traditional tunes.
Handouts	Crosspicking Exercises, Simple Gifts, The Ashgrove
7	4-Equidistant Strings - Level 1
Level	Intermediate to Advanced
Subject	Introduction to 4-equidistant strings - Level 1
Description	By implementing this simple 4-equidistant string approach you can greatly improve sustain, flow, and expressiveness in your dulcimer playing and learn that it is really not as intimidating as you might think. In this class we will explore a 4-string chord chart and introduce you to using these fuller sounding four-note chords, as well as utilizing open strings, crosspicking "patterns", harp runs and other valuable techniques. We will take a look at the traditional Irish piece called Blind Mary which can benefit greatly from these techniques.
Handouts	4-string D-A-d-d chord chart, Blind Mary
8	4-Equidistant Strings - Level 2
Level	Intermediate to Advanced
Subject	Introduction to 4-equidistant strings - Level 2
Description	In this class we will dive much deeper into the 4-equidistant string techniques introduced in the Level 1 class. We will explore a couple more tunes that demonstrate advantages of 4-string when it comes to chords, crosspicking, and harp runs.
Handouts	The Touch, Rights of Man
9	Open Forum Q&A
Level	Novice to Intermediate
Subject	Novice through intermediate level question and answers
Description	No tab, no specific song or techniques, just quality time with Mark to ask your questions about anything to do with playing the dulcimer. This is always a fun class and will be a relaxed Q&A format aimed at the novice to intermediate level players. Be sure to bring your dulcimer, your questions, and a note pad.
Handouts	No handouts
10	Open Forum Q&A
Level	Intermediate to Advanced
Subject	Intermediate through advanced level questions and answers
Description	No tab, no specific song or techniques, just quality time with Mark to ask your questions about anything to do with playing the dulcimer. This is always a fun class and will be a relaxed Q&A format aimed at the intermediate to advanced level players. Be sure to bring your dulcimer, your questions, and a note pad.
Handouts	No handouts