

## **2021 Blue Ridge Old Time Music Instructors**

### **Advanced Fiddle Class: Rachel Eddy**

Join us for a week of advanced fiddling tips and tunes! This workshop will largely focus on the more subtle nuances of fiddling, such as drive, groove, tone and bowing patterns, while shaping phrases to make all these things work together. We will talk about and explore the mechanics of bowing, and how to engage parts of your shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand to create better mechanical flow and groove. Good economy of motion and a relaxed, yet strong bowing arm help to make fiddling sound smoother while also driving the tune forward. There will be a good handful of interesting and challenging tunes that will guide us through these conversations, and serve as take-away examples of things you can hopefully apply to all aspects of your playing.

### **Fiddle Blues and Rags: Mick Kinney**

Since the 1800s, Ragtime and blues has been part of fiddling. Studying one measure at a time, you will have some great pieces to include in your collection. We'll begin with tunes in familiar keys and scales so you can get into some raggy rhythms right away. As we progress, we will cover some improvisations within the blues, and the harmony behind the old-time rags. Our material will range from classic American composers W.C. Handy and Scott Joplin, to Jug Band and street style fiddlers. Suggested for intermediate to advancing fiddle or mandolin.

### **Intermediate Fiddle: Beverly Smith**

In this class we will be concentrating on old time fiddle style - how to get that sound you love. We will be working with different tunings commonly used by old-time players as well as the standard tuning. Emphasis will be on bowing and other little details that give the music the old-time sound. Participants will learn versions of tunes from the older players mostly (but not exclusively) from Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. Students should know their scales in D, G and A and, if possible, bring a recording device.

### **Early Intermediate Fiddle: Emily Shaad**

In this class, we will build some basic tunes into your repertoire and spend a lot of time playing. Topics for discussion include finding a comfortable way to hold your fiddle, producing a good tone, practice skills, building a repertoire, learning by ear, and playing with strong rhythm. Recommended for players who have gotten a start on the fiddle and can play a few tunes. We will play some tunes in standard (GDAE) tuning and in cross A or G tuning. All tunes will be taught by ear, but I'm happy to help you through this. Please bring a recording device (your phone or a basic voice recorder will do).

### **Advanced Banjo: Riley Baugus**

Often people ask, "I'm not an advanced player, do I belong in this class?", and the answer is YES!

"Advanced" is the appropriate level class for those players who consider themselves upper intermediate, or advanced. Those who already possess advanced skills want to improve those skills and further their knowledge of the instrument and learn even more technique and tunes. Those players who consider themselves "intermediate" players, are exactly the students that need to move to the advanced level, in order to learn the skills and speed that make you an "advanced" player.

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In this class we'll focus on large amounts of technique, put in context by the tunes we'll learn. We'll start our class by examining the "Basic Rhythm" of clawhammer banjo. The focus of the tunes will be in the Round Peak style of North Carolina but will include looks at other areas of the Blue Ridge as well. We will slow down the tunes, piece by piece, segment by segment, learning lots of techniques along the way that will improve your playing, your listening skills and will help to increase the amount of confidence and fun you have while playing the banjo.

Please bring a working banjo, extra strings, some device for recording sound and/or video, or staved paper for taking tab if that's a method you use for remembering tunes.

### **Intermediate Banjo: Hilary Dirlam**

How do you translate a fiddle tune into "banjo language?" Once you're ready to move into playing in a group, you're faced with this challenge. In this banjo class we'll look in depth at various approaches to playing banjo with the fiddle. These approaches include rhythmic backup (including chords and occasional harmony notes), sketching the melody, and playing note-for-note with the fiddler. Beginning with listening to a fiddle tune (we'll have live fiddler with a new tune every day) we can explore ways for the banjo to enhance and have fun with the tune. To be in this class you need a solid grasp of clawhammer banjo basics, including common tunings, basic chords, hammer-ons and pull-offs. You should be able to play several tunes comfortably in a couple of tunings. There may be a little tab used in this class, but a recording device and paper and pencil will be much more useful. Any questions? Email me at [silvervajra@gmail.com](mailto:silvervajra@gmail.com)

### **Early Intermediate Banjo: Robby Robertson**

The Early Intermediate Banjo Class is for the picker who is wondering, "OK, what's next?" You've already got the basic clawhammer lick under your belt and know a few tunes and want to learn even more. We'll work on old-time tunes in G and C tunings, and at the same time, we'll learn some cool new licks like hammer-ons, pull-offs and slides. Bring a playable banjo, an electronic tuner (or a good ear) and if you have one, a portable recorder. We'll learn to play the banjo the old-timey way – by listening and practicing.

### **Advanced Old-time Guitar: Evan Kinney**

Starting with the basic folk chords you know, we will concentrate on getting a powerful tone and clear strum on the off beat. We'll build on that by connecting one chord to the other with traditional bass runs, then on to more complex movements by great backing guitarists such as Riley Puckett, Melvin Dupree, and Jim Baxter. During the week you will pick up useful concepts such as circle of fifths and chromatic steps as we study some Rags, Blues, songs and novelty tunes of the old time repertoire.

### **Intermediate Guitar: Kellie Allen**

This guitar class is for folks who can play the basic chords of G, C, D, and A at a moderate-to-fast tempo and who are looking to improve their skills for playing guitar with old-time music to accompany a fiddler or an old-time song. We will work on developing good rhythm in your right

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hand, hearing chord changes, alternating bass notes, bass runs, playing in waltz time, and using a capo. If there is time and interest, we will learn how to employ more complex bass runs, and even play in one or two other keys (such as F and B $\flat$ ) without a capo. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with the Nashville numbering system for referring to chords. Along with your guitar, please bring a recording device and an electronic tuner. Let's have some guitar fun!

### **Early Intermediate Guitar: Susie Coleman**

A New Approach to Old-Time Guitar focuses on using the simplicity of alternating bass to help you become a powerful, reliable and confident old-time rhythm guitarist, featuring effective exercises to build strength and muscle memory in both hands. In addition to learning multiple fiddle tunes every session, students will study arrangement and timing basics, kickoffs, simple bass note runs, how to identify chord patterns by ear, how to navigate both square and crooked tunes, and a comprehensive overview of the Nashville Number System. Course includes a copy of the Pegram Jam Chord Chart Book, a fiddle tune reference for old-time rhythm players. We will work with first-position open chords only. Students should be familiar with most common major and minor chord shapes, be able to strum smoothly and have developed sufficient callouses and hand strength to play for a couple hours at a time.

### **Rhythm and Repertoire: Howard Rains and Tricia Spencer**

Howard Rains and Tricia Spencer have a combined experience of over 80 years of playing the fiddle. They will present their favorite tunes that they have picked up along the way. Some are from their home states of Texas and Kansas and the surrounding states of Missouri, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Iowa. Many of these tunes were learned directly from older masters or family members such as Tricia's grandfather, Kansas old time fiddler Vernon Spencer. They have also learned tunes from all over the country and will be delving further into some of these, as well. From Howard's obscure fife tunes to Tricia's festival favorites, they will be presenting tunes they have rarely taught in workshops before. On the rhythm side, Tricia will teach her trade secrets of fiddle chording which help musicians of any skill level be able to accompany all manner of fiddle tunes and play tunes effectively on the fly. Howard will also teach his guitar chording for the tunes. Everything is learned by ear so a recording device is encouraged.

### **Beginning Mountain Dulcimer: Margaret Wright**

Margaret will focus on Beginner and New Player level dulcimer students. The focus will be fretboard familiarity, rhythmic, musical strumming techniques, and tune acquisition in the keys of D, G and A. All subjects will be presented within the framework of fun, old-time tune material. This class is totally "hands-on!" Tunes will be taught by rote with ear training and muscle memory encouraged. However, tablature will be available. Be sure that your dulcimer is playable (don't just take it down off a wall and make assumptions!) Have it checked for string height and any buzzes. A capo will be needed and an electronic tuner. Your dulcimer should have a 6  $\frac{1}{2}$  fret, but please do not add 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  (unless it is already there.) Bring a set of extra strings and a device for recording. If you are not sure about your skill level, you may contact Margaret. [margaretgwright@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretgwright@yahoo.com)

### **Intermediate/Advanced Dulcimer: Don Pedi**

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This class for intermediate players and above will feature playing techniques for old-time music on the mountain dulcimer.

We will learn traditional tunes, songs and hymns, playing by ear, various noting techniques, different tunings, dulcimer history, and more.

### **Intermediate/Advanced Mandolin: Pete Vigour**

The mandolin has been a standard instrument in American traditional music for generations, gaining great popularity with the introduction of a wonderful line of instruments produced by the Gibson Company in the early 20th century. The mandolin can do it all— melody, chords, song accompaniment, and percussive rhythmic backup, and is perfectly suited for playing fiddle tunes and accompanying songs from the Carter Family, Blue Sky Boys, and other early country music performers. Pete will be assisted by his wife, mandolinist Ellen Vigour. Pete and Ellen will include tunes they learned personally from Kenny Hall, Everett Lilly, central Virginia's Bobby and Lovell Coleman, and other great players. Tunes will be presented specifically to clarify pick direction, opening the door to playing rags and other syncopated styles. Mandola, octave mandolin, and mandocello players welcome!

### **Old-Time Duets: Kari Sickenberger and Laurelyn Dossett**

In this class with Laurelyn and Kari, we will explore harmonies from the old time and country traditions, discover secrets that make them shine, and perhaps uncover some of our own! No singing experience required, just a curiosity about your voice and how it can blend with another. Be prepared to sing a lot and have fun!