

SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY

presents

MOUNTAIN DULCIMER WEEK

“Songs of the Community”

July 11 – 16, 2010



Let the distinct and traditional sounds of the mountain dulcimer take you on a musical journey during Shenandoah University’s fourth annual Mountain Dulcimer Week in the Shenandoah Valley, “Songs of the Community.” Co-directors Madeline MacNeil and Ralph Lee Smith once again invite you to experience the tradition of the mountain dulcimer and its music during this week-long, hands-on event featuring three skill-level classes: Beginner, Advanced Beginner/Intermediate and Intermediate/Advanced. A specialty class featuring dulcimer history and rare songs will also be offered. Nationally known performers and instructors will teach all sessions. Come and enjoy special attractions and workshops, evening concerts, jam sessions, open-stage events and the dulcimer marketplace.

LOCATION

Shenandoah University is located in historic Winchester, Va, 75 miles west of Washington, D.C., affording participants the best of both worlds: the peacefulness of a small town with easy access to a major metropolitan area. Spend time exploring some of the many historic and cultural attractions of the Winchester area and take in a show at Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre (SSMT) on the university’s main campus. SSMT, the Shenandoah Valley’s only professional music theatre company, will present SEUSSICAL during the dates of the Mountain Dulcimer Week. For further information, visit our Web site at www.shenandoahsummermusictheatre.com.

For driving directions, visit our Web site at www.su.edu and type in directions in the search feature.

CLASSES

Beginning Mountain Dulcimer with Madeline MacNeil, instructor



Want to play the mountain dulcimer, but you don't have an instrument? We'll lend you one! Do you have a dulcimer, but have rarely played it? If you've never played or have very little experience, this is the class for you. We'll start at the beginning with techniques and explore tuning, strumming and even backup for singing or accompanying other instruments. Loaner dulcimers will be available for this class.

Arts centers and universities throughout the United States have presented Madeline MacNeil in concert. Across the Atlantic, she has performed at the O'Carolan Festival in Keadue, County Roscommon, Ireland; the Glasgow Festival of the Arts in Scotland; and for the Nonsuch Dulcimer Gathering in East Norton, Leicestershire, England. For several years she was a touring artist under the sponsorship of the Virginia Commission for the Arts. She is a best-selling author of mountain and hammered dulcimer books for Mel Bay Publications and has recorded numerous CDs through the years.

Advanced Beginner/Intermediate with Aaron O'Rourke, instructor

For this course you should be comfortable with tuning the dulcimer, basic strumming, and be able to play a few simple melodies. We'll talk about playing relaxed and getting your right and left hands working in sync. We'll start off each day practicing exercises for both hands that will not only improve technique but also help you become more comfortable with the entire fretboard. We'll also cover simple tricks for playing with a group and how to add variety to your playing. Tune your dulcimer to DAD and bring a capo.



Aaron O'Rourke found the dulcimer by chance when he was 16 years old, playing bass in a high school punk rock band. Soon after, he began teaching dulcimer at festivals in the Southeast and performing at newgrass festivals, playing progressive old-time arrangements as well as classically influenced original compositions. Aaron has a solo recording featuring guest musicians Madeline MacNeil and Thom Henderson as well as a CD with The Aaron O'Rourke Trio. He is currently working on a series of instructional books for mountain dulcimer and a CD that will include Celtic fingerstyle arrangements on guitar and banjola as well as original compositions on the dulcimer.

Intermediate/Advanced with Nina Zanetti, instructor



In this course we'll cover a variety of techniques that intermediate and advanced players can use to enhance their playing. Techniques will include left-hand embellishments, harmonics, various right hand techniques, playing melodies across the strings, use of different tunings, and how to play smoothly. There will be special emphasis on fingerpicking and playing expressively. We'll also explore aspects of music theory, such as chords, keys, and modes; how to harmonize and create backups; and arranging and creating variations on a tune. There will be a unit on playing duets and multipart arrangements. Repertoire will include Celtic, classical, American folk hymns, and more.

Nina Zanetti is the 2008 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion. She comes to the mountain dulcimer from a diverse musical background, including choral music, violin, viola, piano, and shape note singing. She plays regularly at churches, historic sites, and community events and has taught workshops at dulcimer festivals in Vermont, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York; at the Colorado Dulcimer Festival; and at Western Carolina University Mountain Dulcimer Week. Nina has produced two books of gentle, finger-style solo arrangements for mountain dulcimer, *The Softer Side of Dulcimer* and *Celtic Variations*. She has also produced two books of duets with Beth Lassi and appears with Beth in the compilation album *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer play Music for Christmas*. Nina has also produced a CD of solos and duets, *The Sum of the Parts* with Bill Collins.

In Search of Lost History and Rare Songs with Ralph Lee Smith, instructor

The dulcimer entered the post-World War II Folk Revival virtually without a written record, and most of its history was lost. Through Appalachian field trips, collecting of old instruments, talking to old folks, and comparing notes with other enthusiasts, Ralph Lee Smith discovered many of the instrument's forgotten secrets. Ralph exhibits historical instruments from his collection, and shares his unrivalled knowledge of the dulcimer's story with his class. He also teaches rare songs, and rare versions of better known songs, field-collected nearly a century ago in Virginia and Kentucky. The course requires moderate familiarity with simple chording.



Ralph Lee Smith plays traditional Appalachian music on the dulcimer, and is a leading authority on the dulcimer's history. He has made many field trips and owns

many old and traditional dulcimers. His books include *Appalachian Dulcimer Traditions* and *Songs and Tunes of the Wilderness Road*. He has performed and/or exhibited old instruments at the White House, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, and colleges, universities and historic sites. He has a repertoire of beautiful songs and tunes field-collected in the old mountain world, which he shares with his audiences and students.

SPECIAL WORKSHOPS (Tues and Thurs) with CarollLynn Langley, instructor

The Dulcimer Goes to School & Camp will pertain to teaching in schools at various levels, including continuing education, and at summer camps. We'll discuss how to teach workshops in which the students make their own dulcimers from kits and learn to play them. It's important to pass along the old folk songs to the younger generation, so bring your dulcimers along and we'll play from tab some pieces that will help keep the tradition going.

The Dulcimer Goes to Adult Care Facilities will give information on preparing to present concerts for the various facilities, establishing oneself with the activities directors of the facilities, what to expect during concerts, and the importance of providing the highest level of performance possible. Also discussed will be alternative programming possibilities. Bring your dulcimers because we'll be playing some songs and tunes appropriate to these venues.

The Dulcimer Goes to a Meeting will explain the steps involved in starting a local club, how to conduct meetings, and ultimately how club members could go about planning and carrying out a festival. Sample copies of the Dulcimer Association of Albany's brochure and monthly newsletters, as well as DAA Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest brochures will provide you with some ideas to help you get started.



CarollLynn Langley is president and newsletter editor of the Dulcimer Association of Albany, New York and is coordinator, with her husband, Gene, of the Cranberry Dulcimer & Autoharp Gathering. Life on their farm, and Gene's boyhood in North Carolina, have shaped their music, both time honored and original, which they perform and teach in a wide variety of venues from New England to North Carolina. They have recorded one CD, are heard on two compilation albums, and CarollLynn has published a book on singing with the dulcimer.

CLASS REGISTRATION PROCESS

You will also recognize a more streamlined look for our announcement of the 2010 Dulcimer Week. As Shenandoah University becomes increasingly interested in sustainability as well as providing economical options for our community, we have scaled back our brochure look to a more sustainably-sensitive and cost-effective publication for communication with you – our dulcimer community. We hope you will support us as we endeavor in many other ways to become more responsible to our environment.

In this effort, we have also moved to online class registration as a way to reduce paper and waste. Please follow these steps for online enrollment for the classes of your choice:

For CLASS REGISTRATION ONLY, please follow these steps for online enrollment:

- 1) Using an Internet browser, go to the following address: bbd.su.edu
- 2) Locate the Links box and click on 'Instant Enrollment'
- 3) Find the 'Topic Code' section and in the drop-down box click on 'Lifelong Learning Center' and then click on the 'Submit' button
- 4) Locate your desired course(s) from the list and click on the box in the 'Select' column for the course(s) for which you wish to register then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the 'Submit' button
- 5) Complete the fields as appropriate, particularly those marked required, and click on the 'Submit' button
- 6) In the drop-down box, click on 'Special Student – Lifelong Learning' then click on the 'Submit' button
- 7) Complete the questions on the page and click on the 'Submit' button
- 8) Complete the payment information requested and click on the 'Submit' button. The conference class only fee is \$355.
- 9) Class registration complete!

REGISTERING FOR ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED AT SU

If you are registering for on-campus housing, meals and/or table, please call 540-665-5442 during normal business hours. If you get a voice mail answer, please leave a message and someone will return your call within the week. A form will be sent to you for completion and to be returned with payment to secure additional arrangements.

HOUSING

Special conference rates will be available at nearby hotels within walking distance of the university. University housing in residence halls is also available upon request at rates of \$65 per person per day for single occupancy and \$55 per person per day for double occupancy. Call 540-665-5442 for additional information.

MEALS

Special meal plans are available for participants. Meals (15 total) include Sunday dinner through Friday lunch in the Allen Dining Hall on main campus. The cost of three meals a day for the full week is \$96.25

