

Susan's Workshops Topics

www.SusanSherlock.com

SVRoberts@mac.com

819 Colonial Drive, Rock Hill SC 29730

803.322.3256

Battery powered recorders are highly recommended for all workshops!

Introduction to the Hammered Dulcimer – Part I (New Beginners)

Want to know what the Hammered Dulcimer is all about? If you are completely unfamiliar with the Hammered Dulcimer, then this course is for you. Topics covered will be tuning, hammers, markers and strings, finding scales and repetitive patterns.

Introduction to the Hammered Dulcimer – Part II (Beg/Adv-Beg)

This workshop is often taught as a "part two" to the one above in an "all-day workshop" setting. Topics will include alternate hammer patterns, harmony notes, and an elementary introduction to chords. These techniques will be demonstrated and we will learn to apply them in a familiar tune.

Basic Music Theory for the Hammered Dulcimer (Beg/Adv-Beg)

Here, we define and explore, scales, keys, and chords, How to find them on the dulcimer and how to use them. This workshop includes an introduction to reading standard notation (written music).

Hammered Dulcimer Repertoire Tricks (Beg/Adv-Beg)

Mostly for beginners with limited repertoire, this workshop will show you how to take the tunes you already know and simply play them differently to "stretch" your repertoire. Great for playing that 30-minute wedding prelude when you only know 3 tunes.

Tunes Everyone Wants to Know (Adv Beg)

Everyone enjoys hearing a familiar tune on the hammered dulcimer! This course will teach advanced beginner students some favorite, often requested tunes. The selection of tunes will include Amazing Grace, Pachelbel's Canon, Greensleeves, some common waltzes and others as time permits. After learning the basic tune, some arranging techniques and harmony ideas will also be offered. Standard notation will be provided, but emphasis will be on learning tunes by ear. A recording device is strongly recommended.

Carolan Tunes (Adv-Beg/Int)

This workshop will teach a tune from the vast repertoire of Turlough O'Carolan. Once past the basic melody we will quickly deviate from the written music and various arranging ideas will be presented.

Chord Patterns on the Hammered Dulcimer (Adv-Beg/Int)

Don't know what a chord is, and afraid to ask? This workshop will answer that question and more! We will solve the mystery of chords and how to use them on the hammered dulcimer to make your tunes more interesting enjoyable and fun to play.

Solo Arranging on the Hammered Dulcimer (Adv-Beg/Int)

Once you have learned the basic melody, then what? How do you add the frills and embellishments to dress up your tunes? This class will introduce novice to intermediate players to basic solo arranging techniques including two note chords, three note chords, arpeggios, flams, drones, and beginning hand separation. Attention will be given to phrasing and playing musically. Written music will be provided, however the emphasis will be on learning to play and arrange tunes by ear. Bring a recording device to this session!!

Musicality (Adv-Beg/Int)

What makes a tune "musical"? The answer to this question is a very personal issue, as what sounds musical to one may sound like chaos to another! But, for the purpose of our discussion here I will apply *my* theory of musicality as it relates to the way *I* play traditional music. Learn techniques for making your dulcimer tunes sound more MUSICAL! Emphasis will be on phrasing, dynamics, and texture, and playing thoughtfully.

Separate hand Techniques (Intermediate)

This workshop is an Introduction to teaching your hands to play independently. We will learn a tune in which each hand plays different lines simultaneously (melody vs. back-up/harmony/counter melody)

Playing for Weddings (Intermediate)

This workshop will explore tunes, common and not-so-common, for weddings including tunes appropriate for preludes, processions, recessions, receptions and discussions on booking weddings, contracts, "do's and don'ts" for the musician, and expecting the unexpected. Standard notation will be provided, but emphasis will be on learning tunes by ear. A recording device is strongly recommended.

International Tunes (Adv-Beg/Int or Int/Exp)

This music is just too beautiful not to be shared!! I have several countries represented in my repertoire, including Sweden, Canada, Israel, China and more.

Writing Tunes on the Hammered Dulcimer (Int/Exp)

Think you'd like to write a tune but don't know where to start? This course will guide intermediate/experienced players through the creative thought process needed for writing original music on the hammered dulcimer for the first time. We will use a variety of exercises to get the creative juices flowing and discover the composer within!

Chord Theory and Substitutions (Int-Adv)

Learn why certain chords are used in a tune and the simple formula to find them. Learn what chords can be replaced with other chords and how to find these replacement chords. Students should be able to find G, D, and C arpeggios.

Managing Performance Anxiety (everyone)

What makes a performance or a performer special? Some players seem to be natural performers. What do they do (or know) that makes it look so easy? Nothing can replace experience, but when one is new to performing, simply knowing what to do before and during *your* performance can make the experience more enjoyable and less fearful. Learn a variety of techniques to help manage the shaking hands, cold sweats, and fear of "blanking out".

Repertoire (Adaptable to various levels)

Just want to learn/arrange some tunes? This workshop can take on many titles: Irish Hornpipes, Waltzes and Slow Airs, Southern Hymns, Christmas Tunes, etc.