



News Wire

Get in tune with Yorkville Music Weekend: Two-day event begins Friday.

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Nov. 2--YORK -- Traditional music and historic York go together like bread and butter. "They're a perfect match," said longtime York resident Susan Sherlock. And, they'll make for a delicious weekend of music and memories, she said. Sherlock will host the fifth annual Yorkville Music Weekend on Friday and Saturday at the McCelvey Center. The weekend was designed to bring musicians of all levels together, and it includes an acoustic jam session, dulcimer and fiddle workshops, a concert and musicians networking gathering. "The whole thing has sort of a roots-appeal," Sherlock said. "There's a lot of historical interest in the type of music we play, and of course, there's plenty of interest in old York, especially the McCelvey Center." As in years past, Sherlock will bring in nationally-acclaimed musicians to lead the jam session and workshops. They'll also perform solo sets and combination acts during Saturday's finale concert, which Sherlock said will include everything from traditional folk music to blues and jazz. Lois Hornbostel, editor of www.DulcimerSessions.com and founder of Western Carolina University Mountain Dulcimer Week, headlines the featured musicians. Her mastery in playing the Mountain Dulcimer has been recognized with championships across the Southeast. She'll be joined by James Leva, a prolific composer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose virtuosity on fiddle, claw hammer banjo and guitar blends the melodies of traditional Appalachian lands with ancient descendants. Randy Marchany and Wes Chappell -- best known as members of the award-winning quartet No Strings Attached -- round out the musical guest list.

"You'll see three separate musical communities represented here," Sherlock said. "We have something for everyone." The guest artists will present a series of workshops throughout the day on Saturday. Classes range from beginners to advanced and will touch on foundations of playing, plucking and hammering techniques, harmonics, playing by ear, tuning and more. "That's the meat of the whole weekend," Sherlock said. "For the average musician to be able to come in and sit down in an intensive workshop and learn new tunes from a nationally known musician. To be able to pick their brain and play with them. There's nothing like that is around here." Sherlock describes most area musicians as "front porch pickers" who simply play at home or with friends for fun. But Yorkville Music Weekend gives these casual players new experiences and opportunities to learn from the best, she said. However, you don't have to be a musician to enjoy the annual event. Sherlock said many people come out to the jam session or concert to hear a variety of music on some rather rare instruments.

Sherlock plays the Hammered Dulcimer, a large trapezoid stringed instrument that dates back to Biblical days. Its sound is a cross between a piano and a harp, Sherlock said. "Most people don't know what a dulcimer is," Sherlock said. "And even if they've seen them, I know they haven't seen them played like they'll be played this weekend. These guest musicians are at the top of their game." Staying in York Sherlock said many musicians have urged her to move the music weekend to Rock Hill or other larger cities, but she refuses to do so. "There's something about bringing traditional musicians and storytellers into York," said Sherlock, who has lived in York for about 25 years. "There's a difference when you gather people in an old building with wooden floors and plaster walls and say we're going to play something that they played when this building was first made."

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