

# HAMMERED DULCIMER FACULTY:

## **MARK ALAN WADE: FEATURED FACULTY/PERFORMER**

Mark is a freelance musician based out of North-Eastern Ohio. An orchestral trumpeter by trade, Mark has a doctorate in Trumpet Performance from The Ohio State University and has played in a dozen orchestras in the US and in Europe. Mark is also a National Hammered Dulcimer champion and performs all over the world on hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, trumpet, piano, guitar, and penny whistles. To say that Mark Alan Wade is an eclectic performer understates the acoustic explosion of music his concerts ignite. His visit to a dulcimer player's home in Kentucky lit the spark that started it all. Over a decade later, Mark is a headlining performer in concerts and music festivals around the country. Mark's audiences are drawn into a broad spectrum of emotions that his music evokes. Mark captures the joy of American traditional music from fiddle tunes to Texas Swing to Jazz. Just after he has fired off a fiddle tune with a frenzied display of technical marvel, his mastery of the subtleties and finesse of Celtic Airs and Chopin Nocturnes will put a tear in your eye. It's not surprising that his 1998 National Contest-winning repertoire included a Celtic ballad, a contemporary piece by Rich Mullins, a Baroque harpsichord solo and, of course, *Danny Boy*.

## **MARYA KATZ:**

Marya (Mar-ya) is a musician, an educator, a lover of growing things...actually, all of those pretty much go together. She plays a variety of instruments, her main passion being the hammered dulcimer. She performs with her folk group, *Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge*, composes music, and has been a workshop leader at various Dulcimer Festivals along the East Coast. Marya plays for schools, weddings, receptions, festivals, parties, and churches; She is also available to teach private lessons on this beautiful instrument. Be sure to check out her "[Musical Musings](#)" link for ideas, hints, and original compositions - She'll publish new thoughts about every 2 weeks for you to explore. (And if you'd like to book performances, purchase books/CDs, or schedule lessons, see her "[Contact Information](#)" link)

Marya is a National Board Certified Teacher (Early/Middle Childhood Music, 2002), retired after teaching elementary public school music for 33 years. She continues to conduct the adult choir at her church -- a position she has held for 36 years. She resides in Blacksburg, VA, in the heart of the beautiful Blue Ridge mountains.

## **BRETT RIDGEWAY:**

Brett's philosophy is that "anyone can make music, regardless of age, musical ability or knowledge!" And his philosophy shows in responses to his workshops. He currently teaches hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, bluegrass banjo, clawhammer banjo, beginner acoustic guitar and mandolin as well as several unique ALL INSTRUMENT workshops. Brett has authored and marketed a series of instructional CDs that display his friendly method of teaching the hammered dulcimer. He currently has a lesson series available on YouTube and also teaches lessons via Skype and FaceTime. Brett's workshops offer a large draw. He had the largest class at the 2016 Dulcimer Funfest in Evart, Michigan and the largest classes at the Ohio Valley Gathering for the last two years. There are a few reasons for this kind of draw but for the most part, it is because Brett loves to teach and he remembers what it was like to learn in an inpatient world. Brett tours alone promoting traditional American music and sometimes performs and teaches with Phyllis Woods Brown. He has released a total of eight recordings. Additionally, an original composition, "Gettysburg Rain" written and performed by Brett Ridgeway is featured in the soundtrack of "The Path of the Wind", a 2010 movie which features Wilford Brimley.