

# MOUNTAIN DULCIMER FACULTY:

## **CAROL WALKER: FEATURED FACULTY/PERFORMER**

Originally from Colorado, Carol has lived in the Northeast since 1963. Her formal training includes a degree in Music Education, with majors in piano, harp, and voice. She was an active high school choral director in northern NJ for 32 years, and in 2003 was a recipient of the NJ Governor's Teacher of the Year Award. She continues to freelance as a classical piano accompanist and musical theater director.

In 2008 she retired from her school job and moved on to her next adventure: Getting better acquainted with her Appalachian dulcimer, which she had purchased in 1999. This newly found avenue of folk music led her to connect with many other folk musicians, along with an invitation to join *Wayfarers & Company*, an eclectic old-time folk group based in Stroudsburg, PA. Carol was active with this group for over 15 years, adding vocal harmonies and playing dulcimer, upright bass, piano, melodica, and harp. The Wayfarers have produced two CDs.

She also began teaching dulcimer workshops in 2006 (right here in the Pocono Festival) and soon became a popular workshop leader at festivals all across the United States. In 2014 and 2016, Carol entered the National Mountain Dulcimer Contest in Winfield, Kansas, both times placing as one of the Top Five Finalists.

Carol is best known for her successful books of arrangements for mountain dulcimer. Seven different titles are in use throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia. Her first two books (*Tailless Tunes and Tailless Tunes 2*) contain dozens of traditional Manx melodies. Her arrangements of these unfamiliar Celtic-flavored tunes from the Isle of Man have been enthusiastically welcomed on this side of the Atlantic.

Two CDs of Manx music (*Alas! The Horse is Gone & Tailless Tunes 2*) were also released in conjunction with the books, featuring Carol performing on dulcimer, harp, piano, melodica, and upright bass, accompanied by other professional musicians playing Celtic fiddle, guitar, whistle, and bodhran.

Next, she published a trilogy of sequential instructional books (*DNA\* Dulcimer Ditties*), designed to guide dulcimer students from their very first simple tunes all the way up to advanced show-stoppers. (\*Songs so familiar they're practically etched on your DNA)

In 2015, Carol released her first instructional DVD (*Exploring the Beauty of the Appalachian Dulcimer*), produced by Happy Traum of Homespun Tapes, in Woodstock, NY.

Her long-awaited book of classical arrangements appeared in 2017: **Classical Dulcimer for Wascally Wabbits**, in which dulcimer players discover that they are already familiar with the best classical melodies, thanks to Bugs Bunny cartoons, and that these arrangements, taken from full orchestral scores, are actually playable on a three-string diatonically-fretted mountain dulcimer!

And in **October of 2019**, she celebrated the **official release of her seventh dulcimer tab book: CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD**, a collection of 40 favorite hymns and spirituals arranged as solos and/or for dulcimer ensembles of all levels. She even made a special trip to Nashua, Iowa, home of the actual Little Brown Church, where she took photographs for the new book, and also made a video of herself, sitting on the altar, playing the title tune on her dulcimer. [www.MusicLadyCarol.com](http://www.MusicLadyCarol.com)

## **BILL COLLINS:**

Bill has been in love with the Appalachian dulcimer for nearly 30 years, and is equally passionate about playing, teaching, and learning. In his performing and teaching, he seeks to focus on bringing out the dulcet qualities inherent in the dulcimer and on expanding the repertoire of music played on the instrument.

Bill has conducted more than 120 dulcimer workshops in ten states and has taught week-long sessions at Augusta Spring Dulcimer Week, Shenandoah University, and Kentucky Music Week. He also offers private lessons. He has been a featured concert artist at several festivals and has performed at weddings, receptions, church services, museums, and private functions.

He has written six books of dulcimer arrangements: collections of Turlough O'Carolan tunes, Irish jigs, and Icelandic folk tunes, a book of challenging arrangements for the advanced player, and two collections of Shaker tunes (one co-written with Nina Zanetti). He has composed over 20 pieces for the instrument, several of which are featured on a CD entitled *The Sum of the Parts*, a recording of dulcimer solos and duets performed by Bill and 2008 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion Nina Zanetti.

## **DAVE FOX:**

Dave has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education with a concentration in low brass, from Nyack College, and a Master's Degree in Music Education with a concentration in 5-string banjo, from Shenandoah Conservatory. During his tenure at Brookfield Central School, his thesis/research-teaching project was on the use of the Appalachian dulcimer in the general music classroom and it's use as an inter-disciplinary tool involving each academic subject, and also included the technology classes. More advanced performance classes were available for older students. Dave has been teaching music since 1988 and is currently in his 10th year as Director of Bands, Herkimer High School, Herkimer, NY. He also holds the positions of tuba player with Rags to Riches - a Dixieland band, and tuba player with the Mohawk Valley Chamber Brass Sextet - a brass ensemble comprised of current and retired band directors in the Utica/ Mohawk Valley area. Dave has been building and playing Appalachian dulcimers and 5-string banjos for more than 15 years. Dave also builds mandolins on a special-order-only basis. His instruments are made from his own locally grown wood, most of which he has hand-selected right from standing timber. The wood is always high quality and, and each instrument allows the wood to "show off" it's best features. Fox's instruments are built with the goal of preserving the instrument's heritage yet having a slightly more streamlined, modern appeal.

## **ELLEN PRATT:**

Ellen has been playing dulcimer for seventeen years. She began writing her own music in 2004 and has performed at numerous open mics and festivals. Ellen's style of playing is a mix of traditional and contemporary. She enjoys the hard, fast strumming of old time music and jam tunes with both the dulcimer and banjo but also enjoys the quieter, more contemporary chord style with fingerpicking on dulcimer. Ellen plays with the **Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra** in Connecticut. She co-coordinates Vermont's **August Dulcimer Daze** festival with George Haggerty.

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## **JOE ROSOLEN:**

Joe has been playing the mountain dulcimer for about 10 years and also plays electric bass and acoustic guitar. Pocono was the first dulcimer festival he attended in 2009. Currently he performs with "Never Grow Up" & "Linda & The LoveTones," two North Jersey bands. Joe's musical influences include The Carter Family, Robert Force, Dvorak, The Beatles, Elizabeth Cotton, Vivaldi, Don Pedi, The Rascals to name but a few... He plays Doug Berch dulcimers.

## **JEREMY SEEGER:**

"I build musical instruments and give workshops, intensives and run programs to awaken abilities in you that the modern world overlooks. These abilities were present when you were born and have not been nurtured. My workshops, residencies and intensives are designed to empower you to explore, build skills and develop your talents in the crafts offered. My experience of falling thru the "cracks" in school gifted me with my lifelong commitment to make sure that everyone I work with succeeds. You'll find many ways to integrate your new skills into the fabric of your life." <http://jeremyseeger.com>

## **JONAH TALBOTT:**

Jonah is a social worker who works with at risk youth for the Carbon-Monroe-Pike (C-M-P) Drug & Alcohol Commission. A mountain dulcimer player, he joined the PDC in 1998 and has been a member of the Dulcimer Fest committee since 2004. Jonah demonstrates great skill, patience and humor in helping newer players to learn this wonderful instrument. He lives in Hamilton Square, PA with his wife and son.

## **KIM JENNINGS:**

Kim Jennings is an art teacher at Voorhees HS in Glen Gardner, NJ. She discovered the mountain dulcimer in 1987 and became a more avid player after becoming a member of the Pocono Dulcimer Club in 1997. She especially loves playing her Folk Notes Banj-Mo and enjoys helping new dulcimer players become comfortable with their dulcimer. She lives in Bangor, PA with her husband and two sons.

## **LORI KEDDELL:**

Lori has been playing the dulcimer since 1985, and has taught classes and workshops for both children and adults in building and playing cardboard dulcimers. She was instrumental in organizing the DAA's first Mountain Dulcimer Music Fest in 1989, and has been the coordinator since 1991. She was on the staff of the Cranberry Dulcimer and Autoharp Gathering from 1987 until its final year in 2016, and has been an instructor at numerous festivals in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. With George Haggerty, she taught a week-long Dulcimer Elderhostel class in Vermont for many years. She has published 4 books of arrangements for the mountain dulcimer, each with an accompanying CD: *A Mountain Dulcimer Potpourri – 33 Songs in DAA for Beginning and Novice Players*, *"A Treasury of Christmas Music for the Mountain Dulcimer"*, *"Night Songs and Lullabies"*, and *"Dulcimaniac's Delight – A Multitude of Minor Melodies in DAC Tuning"*. She has also contributed many pieces of music to the monthly newsletter of the Dulcimer Association of Albany.

## **NINA ZANETTI:**

Nina 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 throughout the country, including Western Carolina University, John C. Campbell Folk School, and Kentucky Music Week. Nina is especially fond of the "softer side of dulcimer". She has produced several books of solo arrangements for mountain dulcimer and has co-authored four books of duet/ensemble arrangements (the *Tunes for Two or More* series, with Beth Lassi.) She has a strong interest in American folk hymns, many of which appear in her tablature book *Glories Immortal: A Collection of Hymns from America's Past* and in a book of Shaker music (co-authored with Bill Collins), *The Humble Heart*. Her other musical love is Early Music, featured in her tablature book, *Heart's Ease*. Nina is featured on *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer Play Music for Christmas* (CD) and has also recorded a CD of solos and duets with Bill Collins (*The Sum of the Parts*), as well as a solo CD, *Beside Still Waters*. Her newest CD, *Winter's Light* and companion book *Winter Variations* celebrate the quiet joys and consolations of the winter season. [www.ninazanetti.com](http://www.ninazanetti.com)

## **NORM WILLIAMS:**

Norm has been teaching Mountain Dulcimer since 2002 and has been faculty/performer at many festivals and events since including the MDMF, Cranberry, French Creek Music Retreat and the Augusta Heritage Festival. Norm is co-founder of The Pocono Dulcimer Club and a coordinator of their Winter DulcimerFest held annually in the Poconos of PA. He is also co-chair of the Maiden Creek Old Time Music Festival, held in July in Blandon, PA, and a great promoter of the mountain dulcimer. Norm is currently semi-retired and resides with his wife, Erin, in Emmaus, PA. [www.awayfarer-normw.com](http://www.awayfarer-normw.com)