

# Central Ohio Folk Festival / May 3 & 4, 2025 / Workshops List

KEY: ALL=all / BEG = beginner / ADV BEG = Advanced beginner / INT = intermediate / ADV = advanced. All workshops are 50 minutes

## **SATURDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Introduction to Autoharp**

*Presenter: Paul D. Race*

This workshop will present a brief history of the autoharp and include example instruments. Loaners will be available. There will be a chance for up to a dozen attendees to handle the instruments and play simple songs. If you have your own, you are welcome to bring it. BEG

[racep@donet.com](mailto:racep@donet.com)

<https://creekdontrise.com/acoustic>

<https://paulracemusic.com>

## **SATURDAY NOON & SUNDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #2/#3)**

### **Introduction to Irish Whistle**

*Presenter: Beth Hicks*

We'll go over how to get a good sound, how to tune, basic fingerings, learning a couple of simple tunes, and ornamentation. It will be enough to "whet your whistle," as well as give you the tools to explore whistle playing on your own. Loaner whistles in the key of D will be available or bring your own.

[eireflute1964@gmail.com](mailto:eireflute1964@gmail.com)

## **SATURDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **How to Play in a Bluegrass Jam**

*Presenters: George Welling and Fred Staunton*

Been playing your instrument for a while, but not sure you're ready for a real jam session? Certified instructors George Welling and Fred Staunton offer a taste of the Wernick Method for Bluegrass jamming. If you can switch between G, C, D, and A chords smoothly, bring your instrument for a hands-on experience! For Advanced Beginners. Audit at any level. ADV BEG & UP

[george.welling@wosu.org](mailto:george.welling@wosu.org)

[fstaunton59@gmail.com](mailto:fstaunton59@gmail.com)

<https://wernickmethod.org/event/fs-gw-2025-06-pickerington>

## **SATURDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Introduction to 5-String Banjo**

*Presenter: Paul D. Race*

Curious about that odd but popular beast, the five-string banjo? This workshop is your chance to see one up close, as well as learn the history, parts, and basic playing styles of this essential folk instrument. BEG

[racep@donet.com](mailto:racep@donet.com)

<https://creekdontrise.com/acoustic>

<https://paulracemusic.com>

## **SATURDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Using Violin Technique to Improve Fiddling**

*Presenter: Matt Opachick*

Fiddler and teacher Matt Opachick will explore how fundamentals of traditional violin technique can help you improve in a wide variety of folk styles, including Irish, Scottish, old-time, and bluegrass. ALL

[mattopachick@gmail.com](mailto:mattopachick@gmail.com)

## **SATURDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **Bluegrass History in Columbus, OH**

*Presenters: Brent Davis and Rich Baker*

Radio/TV producers and accomplished bluegrass musicians Brent Davis and Rich Baker present a brief history of bluegrass music in Central Ohio, paying close attention to the transformative effects of Appalachian migration on the area. ALL

[columbusbluegrass.org](http://columbusbluegrass.org)

[bluegrass.brent@gmail.com](mailto:bluegrass.brent@gmail.com)

## **SATURDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Banjo: Scruggs to Melodic**

*Presenter: Todd Sams*

Workshop attendees will learn advanced banjo licks and how to build interesting solos in Scruggs, Melodic and a mixture of both styles. Participants will also learn how to play respectfully with other players and tasteful back-up playing. INT-ADV

[sams@stewmac.com](mailto:sams@stewmac.com)

<https://5thfretproductions.com/appalachianswingbluegrass.html>

## **SATURDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Irish Fiddle Technique**

*Presenter: Jeff Kanel*

There are certain techniques used in Irish fiddling that are not commonly taught in the US repertoire and learning on your own can be challenging. During this workshop, you'll learn these techniques, such as rhythm and bowing, rolls, cuts, treble bowing, runs, and double-stops. ADV BEG and UP

[kanel.jeff@gmail.com](mailto:kanel.jeff@gmail.com)

<https://thepintsband.com>

## **SATURDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **Song Structure: Key to Creativity**

*Presenter: Scott Cook*

This workshop will take a look at how form can be a source of inspiration rather than limitation. Scott will focus on six formal lenses (rhyme scheme, chords by number, song form, rhythm, melody, and motif), analyze a few well-known songs through those lenses, and see how we can reverse-engineer old forms into new creations. ALL

[grooverevival@gmail.com](mailto:grooverevival@gmail.com)

[www.scottcook.net](http://www.scottcook.net)

## **SATURDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Intro to Bodhran**

*Presenter: Jim Lindroth (from All Those Who Wander)*

Attendees will learn some history and cultural context of the drum, as well as beginning techniques and accompaniment styles for jigs and reels. BEG

[jimlindroth.com](http://jimlindroth.com)

## **SATURDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Breaking Barriers in Country Music**

*Presenter: Roberta Lea*

People of color and women are under-represented in modern country music. Singer-songwriter Roberta Lea will share her journey and discuss challenges, opportunities, and successes as she navigates today's Nashville. Learn how her experiences helped shape her unique take on country and Americana music. Get up close and personal with the songs, life, and thoughts of this rising star.

[iamrobertalea@gmail.com](mailto:iamrobertalea@gmail.com)

[www.iamrobertalea.com](http://www.iamrobertalea.com)

## **SATURDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **Narrative Voice in Songwriting**

*Presenter: RICHARD SHINDELL. (FESTIVAL HEADLINER)*

Think all songs are autobiographical? Think again! Join Richard Shindell to examine the way he uses the tool of narrative voice to provide unique and fascinating (and sometimes unusual and off-kilter) perspectives in songs. ALL

<https://richardshindell.substack.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RichardShindell/>

## **SATURDAY 4pm (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Neil Young Songs on Dulcimer**

*Presenter: Butch Ross*

Several songs by Neil Young not only fit well on the dulcimer, they almost seem like they were written to be played on it. Come learn what may already be some of your favorite songs. DAD tuning, Capo required, 1.5 frets preferred. INT

[www.butchross.com](http://www.butchross.com)

[butchross.bandcamp.com](http://butchross.bandcamp.com)

## **SATURDAY 4pm (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Reinventing Traditional Songs**

*Presenter: Cigar Box Scott*

Discover how to re-arrange traditional songs into new creations. We'll start by playing popular adaptations of traditional music and breaking down the arrangements to understand how the songs were changed. Then, we'll create our own arrangements of a traditional song by applying different musical styles. ALL

[info@cigarboxscott.com](mailto:info@cigarboxscott.com)

[www.cigarboxscott.com](http://www.cigarboxscott.com)

## **SATURDAY 4pm (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **Old-time Fiddle**

**Presenter: Bobby Taylor**

Looking for that authentic old-time fiddle sound? Master fiddler Bobby Taylor from West Virginia will explore and teach some of his favorite tunes and share the important idea of retuning in old-time fiddle music to create special and unusual effects.

[btfiddler@suddenlink.net](mailto:btfiddler@suddenlink.net)

<https://www.grandmasterfiddler.com/fiddler-competition/judges/>

## **SATURDAY 5pm (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Instrument Maintenance and Adjustments**

**Presenter: Todd Sams**

Athens Bluegrass banjo player and master Stew-Mac instrument craftsman Todd Sams has built, repaired, and set up folk instruments for over three decades. He will share tips on how to tweak your instruments to get the very best out of them. ALL

[sams@stewmac.com](mailto:sams@stewmac.com)

<https://5thfretproductions.com/appalachianswingbluegrass.html>

## **SATURDAY 5pm (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Jazz & Folk Fusion**

*Presenter: Cross-Eyed Possum*

Join members of this eclectic band to learning and apply simple jazz and music theory concepts to expand the map of folk/popular music performance and songwriting possibilities. ALL

[thecrosseyedpossumband@gmail.com](mailto:thecrosseyedpossumband@gmail.com)

[www.crosseyedpossumband.com](http://www.crosseyedpossumband.com)

## **SATURDAY 5pm (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **Old-time Fiddle and Mandolin Duets**

**Presenters: Bobby Taylor and Johnny Staats**

Fiddle and mandolin make up a winning combination in old-time music. The identical ranges of the instruments allow for tight harmonies and enchanting duets. Join standout West Virginia musicians Johnny Staats and Bobby Taylor as they share their skills and ideas for music-making. INT

[lstaats@wirefire.com](mailto:lstaats@wirefire.com)

[btfiddler@suddenlink.net](mailto:btfiddler@suddenlink.net)

## **SUNDAY NOON & 3pm (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Getting Started on the Uke**

*Presenter: Deborah Van Kleef*

Participants will learn a 3-chord song, plus chord-changing and practice techniques. Some loaners will be available or bring your own instrument! BEG

[dvankleef@igc.org](mailto:dvankleef@igc.org)

## **SUNDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Blues Guitar Fundamentals**

*Presenter: John Hill of the Rainmaker Blues Trio*

In this workshop, participants will learn the Nashville chord number system, eight-and twelve-bar blues forms and chord progressions, how to accompany a harmonica player,

how to combine basslines and chords, and rhythmic and supportive playing and soloing over chord changes. BEG-INT

[johnnybluesman1957@gmail.com](mailto:johnnybluesman1957@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/RainmakerBluesTrio>

## **SUNDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **Mandolin Foundations**

*Presenter: Hayes Griffin*

By the end of the workshop, attendees will know the basics of mandolin playing including alternate picking, rhythm playing, ear training, and how to develop a good practice routine. ALL

[www.hayesgriffin.com](http://www.hayesgriffin.com)

[www.hayesgriffin.club](http://www.hayesgriffin.club)

## **SUNDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Choosing Cover Songs**

*Presenter: RICHARD SHINDELL. (FESTIVAL HEADLINER)*

Few artists have recorded as many thoughtful and illuminating cover versions of songs as Richard Shindell. What qualities does he look for when choosing a cover song? How does he make another musician's song uniquely his own? Richard offers a peek behind the curtain in selecting cover tunes and will share some of his favorites. ALL

<https://richardshindell.substack.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RichardShindell/>

## **SUNDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Blues Harmonica**

*Presenters: David Gastel with John Hill of the Rainmaker Blues Trio*

You'll learn how to play harmonica tastefully with an acoustic guitar and vocalist; how to reinforce the song's meaning and not interfere with the vocals; and how to excel at rhythm playing, add tasteful fills, and provide authentic, heart-felt solos. ALL

[www.facebook.com/gastelda](https://www.facebook.com/gastelda)

<https://www.facebook.com/RainmakerBluesTrio>

## **SUNDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **Grooving on Acoustic String Instruments**

*Presenter: Cross-Eyed Possum*

Create grooves that display the power of a full band using communication and coordination in a stripped down string band instrument setting. ALL

[thecrosseyedpossumband@gmail.com](mailto:thecrosseyedpossumband@gmail.com)

[www.crosseyedpossumband.com](http://www.crosseyedpossumband.com)

## **SUNDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #1)**

### **Arranging for an Ensemble**

**Presenter: Stillhouse Junkies**

Band members will take attendees through the process of arranging original material and covers for an ensemble. Using examples from the band's own repertoire, workshop participants will learn how to put together a bigger picture road map for a song and dive into the particulars of unison/harmonized melody, stops, holds, solos and written instrumental parts, group dynamics, intros, and endings. ALL

[stillhousejunkies@gmail.com](mailto:stillhousejunkies@gmail.com)

[www.stillhousejunkies.com](http://www.stillhousejunkies.com)

## **SUNDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Reverse-Slant Chords for Dulcimer**

*Presenter: Butch Ross*

We all know what I call "thumb-leading" chords (the L-shape, Slant and extended slant shapes), but what about their opposites? These chords, in addition to being closer in voicing to standard piano chords (root-third-fifth), sound better and are more versatile than their well-worn cousins. Dulcimers with 1.5/8.5 frets are recommended and shorter-scale instruments are preferable. INT

[www.butchross.com](http://www.butchross.com)

[butchross.bandcamp.com](http://butchross.bandcamp.com)



## **SUNDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #3)**

### **Bluegrass Guitar**

*Presenter: Adam Schlenker (from Denison Univ. American Roots Ensemble)*

This workshop will take a look at developing a method for learning and developing a strong practice routine. What often holds players back, at any skill level, is not having a clear path for progress. In this workshop, you will learn pathways to both technical and creative growth. ALL

[www.5thfretproductions.com](http://www.5thfretproductions.com)

[www.youtube.com/adamschlenker](http://www.youtube.com/adamschlenker)

## **SUNDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #2)**

### **Introduction to Clawhammer Banjo**

*Presenters: Aubrey Helmuth Miller with Craig Mast of the Upstream Drifters*

Attendees will learn about the rich history of the open-backed banjo and, particularly, the clawhammer style. Basic mechanics, tunings, and helpful resources for further learning will be discussed. BEG

[upstreamdrifters@gmail.com](mailto:upstreamdrifters@gmail.com)

[upstreamdrifters.com](http://upstreamdrifters.com)