

Central Ohio Folk Festival / June 6 & 7, 2026 / 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)

Intro to Bodhran

Presenter: Jim Lindroth

Percussionist Jim Lindroth of All Those Who Wander will share some history and cultural context of the drum, as well as teach beginning techniques and accompaniment styles for jigs and reels. **ALL**

jimlindroth@yahoo.com

jimlindroth.com

SATURDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #2)

Let's Pick! How to Play in a Bluegrass Jam

Presenters: George Welling and Fred Staunton

Been playing your instrument for a while, but not sure your ready for a real jam session? Certified instructors George Welling and Fred Staunton offer a taste of the Wernick (that's famed banjo player Peter) Method for Bluegrass jamming. If you can switch between G, C, D, and A chords smoothly, bring your instrument for a hands-on experience! Aimed at advanced beginners. Audit at any level. **ADV BEG & UP**

george.welling@gmail.com

fstaunton59@gmail.com

<https://wernickmethod.org/teachers/fred-staunton-george-welling>

SATURDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #3)

Bluegrass History in Columbus and Central Ohio

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

bluegrass.brent@gmail.com

SATURDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #1)

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. BEG**

eireflute1964@gmail.com

SATURDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #2)

Songwriting, Arranging, and Playing in a Band

Presenters: My Brother's Keeper

Learn how to work and play in a band setting. We will discuss the songwriting and song-selection process, the arranging and practicing process, and helpful tips for jamming and performing. According to the presenters, this workshop has been proven to decrease band breakups by 75%! **ALL**

keepyourbrothers@yahoo.com

www.mybrotherskeeperband.com

SATURDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #3)

Learn Clawhammer Banjo in 50 Minutes

Presenter: Chris Coole

This workshop will explain the how, what, when, and why of the basic strum, which is the foundation of all clawhammer (aka frailing) banjo. This workshop is not just for the "banjo curious." It's also for beginner/intermediate players who might want to tune up the economy of motion in their right-hand technique. **BEG/ADV BEG/INT**

www.chriscoole.com

www.lonesomeace.com

SATURDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #1)

Black Roots of Bluegrass and Banjo

Presenter: Tray Wellington, Festival Headliner

Tray will present a powerful exploration of the Black roots of bluegrass and folk music, tracing the banjo's journey from its African origins to its role in shaping American

traditional music. The presentation will move from the earliest mentions of traditional music in America through the development of bluegrass, highlighting the often-overlooked contributions of Black musicians. Tray will also connect this history to the present day, showing how these roots continue to influence the music we hear and play now. **ALL**

<https://traywellington.com>

SATURDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #2)

Irish Session Tunes by Ear

Presenters: Brian Buchanan, Rose Baldino, Caroline Browning

(House of Hamill)

Learn two traditional Irish session tunes the old-fashioned way—no sheet music, just listening and playing. House of Hamill will break down each melody phrase by phrase, sharing ornaments, rhythmic feel, and regional variations. For intermediate-to-advanced players comfortable on their instruments who want to sharpen ear-learning skills. All melody instruments welcome—observers, too! **INT and UP**

<https://houseofhamill.com>

SATURDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #3)

Songwriting and the Secret Power of Everyday Detail

Presenters: Clymer & Kurtz

Clymer & Kurtz’s songwriting portrays a tapestry of everyday details, from “tea on a coaster” to “muddy driveway, moonlit trees.” In this workshop they’ll talk about their songwriting process, sing a few of their songs and tell their back stories, and invite attendees to share their own everyday song ideas. **ALL**

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

<https://www.instagram.com/clymerkurtz/>

clymerkurtz.com/spotify

clymerkurtz.com/stream

SATURDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #1)

Serving the Song: Working with Side-Players

Presenters: Annie and Rod Capps

In this workshop we’ll explore how arrangement and delivery shape what listeners feel. Using originals and covers, participants learn to collaborate with side-players who

understand dynamics, tasteful embellishment, and restraint. Through mindful listening and creative choices, this workshop helps performers let songs breathe, support the story, and step forward or disappear when the music asks for the greatest emotional impact. **ALL**

<https://www.annieandrodapps.com>
info@maynardmusic.com

SATURDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #2)

Beyond the Bum Ditty: Clawhammer Banjo

Presenter: Brad Kolodner

In this hands-on workshop geared towards intermediate-to-advanced clawhammer banjo players, Brad will explore the versatile nature of old-time banjo and go “beyond the bum-ditty.” Tunes in a variety of tunings will be taught as vehicles for reinforcing fundamentals while also exploring an array of more advanced techniques. We will explore concepts like drop-thumb, playing back up, bass lines, going up the neck, learning by ear, incorporating variations and achieving good tone. Regardless of your skill level, you will walk out of the workshop with a fresh approach to clawhammer and practical tools to sharpen your skills. **ALL**

bradkolodner@gmail.com
www.bradkolodner.com

SATURDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #3)

Irish Rebel Songs

Presenter: Molly Roisin

The national symbol of Ireland is the harp. In this workshop, you’ll learn how the Irish people used music—rebel songs—as a powerful weapon in their struggle for independence. Join Molly to examine the context in which rebel songs were written and sung. **ALL**

mollyroisin13@gmail.com

SATURDAY 4pm (Wkshp Tent #1)

Before You Call It Done: A Songwriting Workshop

Presenters: Annie and Rod Capps

When is a song truly finished? This songwriting workshop explores the space between inspiration and intention. We’ll examine how to take the song from first drafts, through to lyrical precision, better melodic choices, tempo, and phrasing to uncover what a song

is really trying to say. Learn how to recognize when a song has reached its strongest, most honest form and when it needs more work. **ALL**

<https://www.annieandrodcapps.com>
info@maynardmusic.com

SATURDAY 4pm (Wkshp Tent #2)

Denison University: Bluegrass Goes to College

Presenter: Adam Schlenker

You've heard the Denison music ensemble—now find out firsthand what its like to study roots music at the college level. Program director Adam Schlenker will be joined by students and alumni to share their experiences of this unusual focus of study. Learn why the program is more than music education; it's an opportunity for students to develop multiple aspects of their interests through double majors to build a future path based on their passions. **ALL**

schlenkera@denison.edu
www.5thfretproductions.com

SATURDAY 4pm (Wkshp Tent #3)

Map of the Hammered Dulcimer

Presenter: Ken Kolodner

This workshop is intended to describe the layout of the instrument. We review three basic ways of playing scales, how to play octave scales, scales in opposing directions, how to find octaves, basic and not-so-basic arpeggio patterns including inversions. Participants should be able to find nearly any chord at the conclusion of the workshop. The workshop is geared toward beginners and advanced beginners but is also useful for intermediate players who missed some of this material along the way! **ALL**

kenkolodner2@gmail.com
www.kenkolodner.com

SATURDAY 5pm (Wkshp Tent #1)

Introduction to Calico Fiddle Tuning

Presenter: John Showman

Calico (AEAC#) is a haunting and beautiful fiddle tuning. In this workshop, John will introduce you to some of the ins and outs of this tuning and teach you the lovely Illinois tune "Little Bird in the Ashbank." **INT/ADV**

<https://lonesomeace.com/showman-and-coole-duo>

SATURDAY 5pm (Wkshp Tent #2)

Bluegrass and Flatpicking Guitar Fundamentals

Presenter: Adam Schlenker (facilitator - Denison University Roots Alumni Band)

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, unlocking your potential for both rhythm and lead playing. **ALL**

schlenkera@denison.edu

www.5thfretproductions.com

www.youtube.com/adamschlenker

SATURDAY 5pm (Wkshp Tent #3)

Mandolin from a Folk Perspective

Presenter: Jason Dennie (of the Annie and Rod Capps Quartet)

The mandolin is typically associated with bluegrass thanks to Bill Monroe, Sam Bush, Ricky Skaggs, and others. As a sought-after side-player with many singer/songwriters, Jason has developed a creative approach to incorporating the mandolin in folk music. He'll talk about the differences and share why it should be all about the song. **ALL**

jasondennie@gmail.com

<https://www.jasondennie.com>

SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #1)

You Too Can Uke! Ukulele for Beginners

Presenter: Joanie Calem

Participants will learn four important chords (C, Am, F, G7), which will allow them to play most simple folk and pop rock songs. Joanie will also share tricks to make chord changing more fluid. **Some loaners will be available, or bring your own soprano, concert, or tenor instrument! BEG**

joaniecalem@gmail.com

www.joaniecalem.com

SUNDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #2)

Honoring Tradition in Modern Folk Songwriting

Presenters: Caroline and Wesley Crow of The Hen & the Crow

Attendees will examine how modern folk songwriters rely on tradition, as well as current events, in their writing and learn how to create instrumental and lyrical elements of a folk song. The presenters will also focus on employing traditional folk instrumentation and harmony. ALL

spacecanoerecords.com

SUNDAY NOON (Wkshp Tent #3)

Jamming: Making Music with Others

Presenter: Dan Clarke

Curious about folk music jams? Join active jammer and longtime jam organizer Dan Clarke to learn everything you need to know to take that first step into playing music with other musicians of all levels. Learn why your skill level, whatever it is, is definitely not a deal-breaker! ALL

Dana41n@att.net

<https://www.youtube.com/@cbusjammers>

SUNDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #1)

Introduction to Mountain Dulcimer

Presenter: Paul D. Race

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

racep@donet.com

https://creekdontrise.com/acoustic/app_dulcimer/

[appalachian_dulcimer_introduction.htm](https://creekdontrise.com/acoustic/app_dulcimer/appalachian_dulcimer_introduction.htm)

<https://HarpersGuild.com>

<https://paulracemusic.com>

SUNDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #2)

Open Mic Survival Guide

Presenter: Landon Ross

Been wanting to check out one of the many open mics in central Ohio? Wondering if you've got the chops (and the nerve) to stand up and perform? Join Landon Ross to learn about the skills you need to improve your performance, create connections, and build lasting friendships with fellow musicians thought the magic of open mics. **ALL**

landonrossmusic@gmail.com

www.landonrossmusic.com

SUNDAY 1pm (Wkshp Tent #3)

Introduction to Irish Whistle (repeat of Saturday 1 pm Wkshp tent #2)

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. BEG**

eireflute1964@gmail.com

SUNDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #1)

Playing Your Favorites on the Uke: Ukulele for Intermediate Players

Presenter: Joanie Calem

Participants in the intermediate-level workshop will expand their chord vocabulary, learn the cycle of fifths for transposing songs, and work on strumming techniques. **Some loaners will be available, or bring your own soprano, concert, or tenor instrument! INT**

joaniecalem@gmail.com

www.joaniecalem.com

SUNDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #2)

Blues Guitar Techniques

Presenter: John Hill, with David Gastel of the Rainmaker Blues Duo

In this workshop, participants will learn the Nashville chord numbering system, eight- and twelve-bar blues forms, and chord progressions in major and minor keys, as well as how to combine basslines and chords, provide rhythmic and supportive playing, and solo over chord changes. **BEG-INT**

johnnybluesman1957@gmail.com

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

<https://www.facebook.com/John-Henry-The-Rainmakers-100063250718779>

SUNDAY 2pm (Wkshp Tent #3)

Playing Bluegrass Bass

Presenter: George Welling with Brent Davis

George Welling has been spotted onstage with many of central Ohio's most popular bluegrass ensembles, providing the rock-solid foundation the music needs. Learn how to fill the same role in your music making. This workshop will address the role of bass in bluegrass and folk music settings. Participants are encouraged to bring their instruments. Power will be available for bass guitar amplifiers. **ALL**

george.welling@gmail.com

SUNDAY 3pm (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**, and handouts will be distributed. 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**

<https://paulracemusic.com>

racep@donet.com

<https://creekdontrise.com/acoustic>

<https://harpersguild.com>

SUNDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #2)

Blues Harmonica; History, Styles, Techniques, and Tricks

Presenters: David Gastel with John Hill of the Rainmaker Blues Duo

You'll learn how to play 10-hole 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. A ten-hole harmonica in the key of C is recommended. However, attendees are welcome to bring whatever harmonicas they own. **ALL**

gastelda@hotmail.com

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

<https://www.facebook.com/John-Henry-The-Rainmakers-100063250718779>

SUNDAY 3pm (Wkshp Tent #3)

Improve Your Rhythmic Strumming Technique

Presenter: Chris Shaw (of The Shaw Brothers)

What kind of strum emerges when a guitarist combines a marching band drumming background, Appalachian fiddle training, and soul/funk electric guitar? Find out, as Chris Shaw introduces a myriad of unique rhythms applicable to guitar. Take the next step towards strumming eclecticism! **ALL**

c.topherjames@gmail.com

www.shawbrothersmusic.com

www.andyshawband.com

www.topherjamesmusic.com

www.chrismakesmusic.com