

RED RIVER DULCIMER FESTIVAL

August 1 - August 3, 2025 (Friday - Sunday)

Schedule

(Last Update: 05/26/2025, Subject To Change)

Aug 1 - Friday	Main Area Area 1	Side Area Area 2	Back Room Area 3	SS Room Area 4	Jam Tent
1:00 pm - 1:15	Welcome				
1:15 pm - 2:15	Sacred Harp Singing(Vocal-All) Margaret Wright	Start from the Beginning(HD-B) (loaner HDs available) David & Dana	Let’s Get Started(MD-B) (loaner MDs available) Allie Gill	Psaltery from Scratch(BP-B up) (loaner BPs available) Scott Reeder	Vanderveers
2:30 pm - 3:30	Canjo Building(All) (simple stringed instrument with tin can resonator, small fee to cover cost of materials) Susan Bittner, Steve Dowell, David, Dana, Nicholas	“The Black Nag” with a Strong-Arm Lead(HD-AB up) Scott Reeder	Mountain Dulcimer Survival Skills(MD-All) Irma Reeder	Beginning Penny Whistle(PW-B) (Inexpensive PWs available) Joel Vanderveer	Dave & Cheryl Turner
3:45 pm - 4:45		Sing A-Long(Vocal-All) Annette & Margaret		Learning the Bounce of Old Time Music(HD-AB Up) Luke Vanderveer	
4:45 pm - 7:00	Dinner Break				
7:00 pm - 9:00	Instructor / Attendee Jam (all acoustic instruments welcome)				
Aug 2 - Saturday	Main Area Area 1	Side Area Area 2	Back Room Area 3	SS Room Area 4	Jam Tent
9:30 am -10:30	Beginning Mountain Dulcimer(MD-B) (loaner MDs available) Irma Reeder	“Be Thou my Vision” & “Antioch”(MD-AB up) Annette Lindsey	Intro to the Hammered Dulcimer(HD-B) (loaner HDs available) Scott Reeder	Bass Walkin’ & Runnin’(Guitar-I) Nicholas Vanderveer	Dave & Cheryl Turner
10:45 am -11:45	Strumming Counts!!(MD-AB) Margaret Wright	Waltzing with the MD(MD-I) David Ellison	Increasing Your Bandwidth(All) Vanderveers	Let’s Pick Out a Tune or Two(AH-AB) Annette Lindsey	Reeders
11:45 am -12:30	Lunch (available at the Community House for a donation)				
12:30 pm - 1:00	Midday Concert (open stage) – Sign up by Saturday 10:45 am				
1:15 pm - 2:15	“Baurentanz” & “Tom Bigbee Waltz”(MD-AB up) Margaret & Annette	“Jimmy Mo Mhíle Stór” using Hand-Independence(HD-I) Scott Reeder	Learn “Sail Away Ladies” with Embellishments(HD-AB) David & Dana	Bodhrán for Fun(BD-All) (loaners available) Irma Reeder	Vanderveers
2:30 pm - 3:30	Finger Fun!(MD-AB) Margaret Wright	Dust Off Those Fingers(MD-I) David Ellison	Hammer and Hand Control and Playing Tricks(HD-AB Up) Luke Vanderveer	“The Grenadier and the Lady”(BP-AB up) Scott Reeder	Dave & Cheryl Turner
3:45 pm - 4:45	Playing in Parts(MD-AB up) Irma Reeder	Learn “Apple Blossom” & “Sarah Armstrong”(HD-AB up) Luke Vanderveer	Fun Music Toys(All) David & Dana (outside if good weather)	“She Moved Through the Fair”(PW-AB up) Scott Reeder	
4:45 pm - 7:00	Dinner Break				
7:00 pm - 9:00	Concert featuring Irma & Scott Reeder, David Ellison, Sweet Song String Band, Margaret Wright, and the Vanderveer Brothers				
Aug 3 - Sunday					
10:30 am -12:00	Old time hymn sing-along worship service				
6:30 pm - 8:30	Final concert featuring Irma & Scott Reeder, Sweet Song String Band, Margaret Wright, and the Vanderveer Brothers				

Instrument abbreviations: AH = Autoharp, BD = Bodhrán, BP = Bowed Psaltery, HD = Hammered Dulcimer, MD = Mountain Dulcimer, PW = Penny Whistle

Suggested skill level: B = Beginner, AB = Advanced Beginner, I = Intermediate, All = All levels

Attendees can take any workshop regardless of skill level, but class will be taught at the advertised skill level – challenge yourself!

Workshop Descriptions

Friday Workshops

1:15 pm - 2:15

- Area 1 **Sacred Harp Singing**^(Vocal-All) - Margaret Wright
Even if you've never heard of Sacred Harp singing, Margaret can show you the ropes and get you started on this historical way of learning to read music by shapes. It's really not that hard and you believe the harmonies you are going to hear and the beautiful tunes and poetry involved! Come join us for an hour of beautiful music!
- Area 2 **Start from the Beginning**^(HD-B) (loaner HDs available) - David & Dana
Let David and Dana introduce you into the world of the hammered dulcimer. They are great beginner teachers that love to get people into playing the dulcimer and some tunes. Some loaner instruments will be available.
- Area 3 **Let's Get Started**^(MD-B) – Allie Gill
Let Allie show you how easy it is to play the mountain dulcimer. She is a great beginner teacher that loves to get people playing the dulcimer with some easy tunes. Some loaner instruments will be available.
- Area 4 **Psaltery from Scratch**^(BP-B up) - Scott Reeder
Producing beautiful ethereal sounds, the bowed psaltery is an easy instrument to begin making music with. Come learn how to play a few tunes. Plenty of loaner instruments will be available so you can try it out yourself.

2:30 pm - 3:30

- Area 1 **Canjo Building**^(All) A 2-hour workshop (children with parents or kids of all ages) - Susan Bittner, Steve Dowell, David, Dana, Nicholas
The Canjo is a simple stringed instrument with a tin can resonator that is a lot of fun to build and play. A \$10 fee will cover all the needed materials and you will walk away with a playable musical instrument. Before you leave we will have a short lesson on how to play it!
- Area 2 **“The Black Nag” with a Strong-Arm Lead**^(HD-AB up) - Scott Reeder
This delightful English Country Dance tune and popular jam tune was first published in 1657. Learn to apply a “strong-arm lead” hammering pattern to 6/8-time tunes like this, and you'll have great fun as you bring them up to speed! Play-along help video provided after the class.
- Area 3 **Mountain Dulcimer Survival Skills**^(MD-All) – A 2-hour workshop - Irma Reeder
Do you play solo or with others? Here's an in-depth look at playing accompaniment. In this 2-hour session, we'll learn/review some popular favorites, review chords and strumming, then practice playing melody or chords. We'll go a step further to see how we might play along with unfamiliar songs. What happens when you're playing in a group/club or jam and don't know the song? As long as there's a guitarist, you've got it made! We'll learn how to recognize basic guitar chords that you'll apply to the dulcimer. This is a great skill for any level. Absolute beginners are welcome to join in or watch. You won't be able to play everything, but there are some chords that will work for you. This class will include a 'field trip' to the Friday night jam!
- Area 4 **Beginning Penny Whistle**^(PW-B) - Joel Vanderveer
Come learn what a penny whistle is, how to play it, and a few songs to get you started on your penny whistle journey. Experience how beautiful and simple this instrument really is! For any of the Red River penny whistle classes, bring your own whistle in the key of “D” or buy an inexpensive one from one of the on-site vendors.

3:45 pm - 4:45

- Area 1 **Canjo Building**^(All) - continued
- Area 2 **Sing A-Long**^(Vocal-All) - Annette & Margaret
One of the favorite workshops of the festival. Bring your instrument and/or voice and join Annette and Margaret in some fun old tunes everyone loves to sing.
- Area 3 **Mountain Dulcimer Survival Skills**^(MD-All) – continued
- Area 4 **Learning the Bounce of Old Time Music**^(HD-AB Up) - Luke Vanderveer
How to make a song dance.

Saturday Workshops

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| 9:30 am - 10:30 | <p>Area 1 Beginning Mountain Dulcimer_(MD-B) - Irma Reeder
 Welcome to the dulcimer! In this session you will get familiar with the fretboard and fret numbers, consider left hand playing positions, learn about picks and basic strumming. We will explore TAB, what the numbers mean, and where to find them on your fretboard. We'll play a few songs to help you practice and get you moving forward. Some loaner instruments will be available.</p> |
| | <p>Area 2 "Be Thou my Vision" & "Antioch"_(MD-AB up) - Annette Lindsey
 Let's learn two hymns that are beautiful and soul moving. Whether you're a fairly beginner or have been playing for a while, you will be able to play these!</p> |
| | <p>Area 3 Intro to the Hammered Dulcimer_(HD-B) - Scott Reeder
 Have you ever wanted to start playing the hammered dulcimer, or are you just curious to see what it is all about? Come learn the simple note layout and how to play. It's easy to get started. Don't have a dulcimer? Some loaner instruments will be available.</p> |
| | <p>Area 4 Bass Walkin' & Runnin'_(Guitar-I) - Nicholas Vanderveer
 Easy guitar scale-walking and simple fills for those already adept at chord changes/key theory/alternating bass. We'll be learning how to walk between chords using a few common Old-Time songs. If time permits, we'll learn how to string walks together and 'run' through chords without stopping to make the chord shapes.</p> |
| 10:45 am - 11:45 | <p>Area 1 Strumming Counts!!_(MD-AB) - Margaret Wright
 Strumming patterns in Oh Susanna, Johnson Boys, Handsome Molly</p> |
| | <p>Area 2 Waltzing with the Mountain Dulcimer_(MD-I) – David Ellison
 In this workshop, you will learn a couple of beautiful waltzes. You will explore ways to give life to a tune by smoothing out the rhythm, and adding a few extra notes here and there, all while teaching your strumming hand to "dance." Capos needed (loaner capos will be available).</p> |
| | <p>Area 3 Increasing Your Bandwidth_(AI) - The Vanderveers
 Arranging and Performing with a Group – Come listen, learn, and enjoy our presentation and live demonstration as we share what we have learned about arranging over the years. We will share techniques we use and demonstrate their application, as well as show whole arrangements and how they were created. No instruments necessary.</p> |
| | <p>Area 4 Let's Pick out a Tune or Two_(AH-AB) - Annette Lindsey
 Ever want to play a certain song on the autoharp but couldn't figure out how to do it, come on to this class! We will take a song or two and figure out how to find the chord that goes with it and pick out the tune while playing the chord.</p> |

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Saturday Workshops (concluded)

1:15 pm - 2:15

- Area 1 **“Baurentanz” & “Tom Bigbee Waltz”**^(MD-AB up) - Margaret & Annette
Have fun with Margaret and Annette learning to play two beautiful songs with chords and harmonies!
- Area 2 **“Jimmy Mo Mhíle Stór” using Hand-Independence**^(HD-I) - Scott Reeder
Learn the beautiful traditional Irish love song, “Jimmy Mo Mhíle Stór” (My Beloved Little Jimmy). This arrangement uses piano-style arpeggiated chords, rolled chords and melodic accompaniment runs. Play-along help video will be provided after class.
- Area 3 **Learn “Sail Away Ladies” with Embellishments**^(HD-AB) - David & Dana
One of David and Dana’s favorite old-time songs! Learn the tune and some embellishments to add interest to the song. A very easy song to learn, but full of ways to figure out some neat tricks on the hammered dulcimer.
- Area 4 **Bodhrán for Fun**^(BD-All) - Irma Reeder
The Bodhrán is the Irish frame drum used in Celtic music. This is about the most fun you can have and still be legal! Whether you're playing boxes or a real drum, we'll cover the basics and get you drumming to a few exciting tunes! This class is not intended to present historical technique. Everything you need for this session is provided! Join us for a toe-tapping good time!

2:30 pm - 3:30

- Area 1 **Finger Fun!**^(MD-AB) - Margaret Wright
Fingering patterns in Arkansas Traveler, Old Molly Hare, Green Corn.
- Area 2 **Dust Off Those Fingers**^(MD-I) - David Ellison
Add a few fun and peppy tunes to your repertoire. With a few tricks picked up along the way, you will soon find your fingers dancing up and down the fretboard. Capo needed (loaner capos will be available).
- Area 3 **Hammer and Hand Control and Playing Tricks**^(HD-AB up) - Luke Vanderveer
How to play cleaner and more effective.
- Area 4 **“The Grenadier and the Lady”**^(BP-AB up) - Scott Reeder
Featured in the 1967 epic British film “Far from the Madding Crowd” set in Victorian England, some say this 17th century English folk ballad is one of the most hauntingly beautiful sad songs ever written. Start using bowed psaltery bow slurs to infuse life into the song’s longing melodic phrases. Come if you’re already a psaltery player or want to see what it’s like. If you don’t have your own instrument, plenty of loaners will be available.

3:45 pm - 4:45

- Area 1 **Playing in Parts**^(MD-AB up) - Irma Reeder
Nothing teaches skills like playing in parts! Discover how it helps us learn to listen to others and play in time. Plus, it’s so fun to hear all the versions played together! We’ll review the basics of hand efficiency and smooth playing while playing in 2 or 3 parts. Arrangements are for standard dulcimer, tuned to DAD.
- Area 2 **Learn “Apple Blossom” & “Sarah Armstrong”**^(HD-AB Up) - Luke Vanderveer
Come learn these two great traditional tunes.
- Area 3 **Fun Music Toys**^(All) - David & Dana
Due to excessive noise and hilarious outbursts we will hopefully be outside under the tent! Let Dana show you some fun rhythm instruments and toys that make great noise. You will be able to try all of them while David and Annette play some music for you. Kids and adults alike will have a blast!
- Area 4 **“She Moved Through the Fair”**^(PW-AB up) - Scott Reeder
The beautiful melody to this traditional Irish folk song was written by an unknown Medieval composer. The words that are known today were collected in County Donegal in 1909 by the Irish composer and musicologist, Herbert Hughes, then reworked by the County Longford poet Padraic Colum. They published the song the same year. I’ll show you a few penny whistle techniques and ornaments to really make it sound Irish. For any of the Red River penny whistle classes, bring your own whistle in the key of “D” or buy an inexpensive one from one of the on-site vendors.