

Workshops with Members of

Maivish

Dance Band Immersion - *w/ Maivish*

A workshop designed to refine ensemble skills and explore connections between music and dance choreography.

Composing and Arranging Tunes - *w/ Maivish*

Here is an opportunity to explore music composition embodying traditional characteristics, both for dancing and performance. Once we have some fine new tunes to work with, we will delve into arrangement techniques and spend time with our instruments trying ideas, playing in ensembles, and developing our creations!

[This workshop is designed to span several days to a week.]

Give and Take - *w/ Maivish*

For musicians, callers and dancers who are interested in what goes into creating dance nirvana. This workshop explores aspects of the contra dance experience from the perspective of the caller, the band, and the dancers, with a focus on building the necessary communication skills and levels of awareness to create a truly satisfying dance experience for everyone. It involves dancing, matching music with the dance choreography, and time for Q & A.

Please note:

- This workshop requires a dance floor.
- We often team up with a featured caller when presenting this workshop.

Exploring DADGAD Guitar – *w/ Adam Broome*

Through the demonstration and application of melody and harmonic construction we will discover scale and chord relationships specific to DADGAD tuning. With this foundation we will move on to exploring techniques that develop solid rhythmic and lyrical playing for accompaniment. Open to all levels.

Songs from the English Tradition – *w/ Adam Broome*

Come join the circle and sing folk songs from the English-speaking world. We will learn material both familiar and obscure with a strong emphasis on songs of rural life. Learn by ear and sing from the heart!

Finding Your Own Voice:

English Traditional Solo Singing – w/ Adam Broome

The object of this class is to prepare and develop solo singing skills. We will learn some traditional English songs, evolve group and partner exercises to build ease and confidence, identify obstacles, and explore skills to memorize and ‘embody’ text and melody. Our goal will be to find and free our own unique voices, enabling us to sing aloud in public, or simply alone for our own enjoyment.

[This workshop is designed to span several days to a week. A condensed version is available for shorter workshop applications]

Fiddle Technique - with Ease and Accuracy – w/ Jaige Trudel

Get the most for your effort when you pick up your fiddle. This workshop delves into technique and positioning with the individual musician in mind; we will examine the fundamentals to producing clear, graceful sounds with ease that will benefit any fiddle tradition. All levels welcome.

Alexander Technique for Dancers and Musicians – w/ Jaige Trudel

This workshop presents an opportunity to explore habitual movement and response patterns in a fun and enlightening way... learn how to undo unnecessary tension and encourage a lightness of being that allows movement to happen without the effort, fatigue or pain we so commonly become accustomed to. Discover a graceful ease of mobility and experience greater freedom.

Introduction to Astrology - w/ Jaige Trudel

This is an invitation to discover the mystery and satisfaction of deciphering your own birth chart, applying the information therein to your daily life. This workshop is a hands-on, participatory experience. [Arrangements are made before the course for those wishing to attend to provide their birth data to Jaige so their charts can be provided to them at the workshop.]

Flute & Pennywhistle - w/ Matthew Olwell

Students will learn technique and repertoire with an emphasis on embodied musicality and good communication skills. While wooden flute technique from the Irish tradition will serve as our foundation, other styles and repertoire such as New England and Quebecois dance music can also be explored. We will emphasize music as a way of communicating, and the quality of our listening as the measure of our ability to communicate.

Flatfooting & Clogging - *w/ Matthew Olwell*

A close cousin of American tap dance, Appalachian percussive dance is a blend of Irish, West African, and Native American Indian dances. While tap is often associated with swing and jazz, clogging and flatfooting have close ties to Appalachian old time music. Exploring the highly improvisational nature of these traditions, we will draw from both clogging and flatfooting vocabulary and examine the places where these forms intersect and overlap. We will explore phrasing, musicality and economy of motion to acquire a solid foundation of rhythmic building blocks. A great class for students of any level; from beginners who want fast-paced steps and improv drills, to advanced dancers who want to hone their technique, facility and repertoire. No previous experience necessary. Leather-soled shoes are recommended but not required.

BodyRhythm - *w/ Matthew Olwell*

Many vernacular dance forms have a tradition in which the human body is the primary instrument. Matthew's style of body percussion is inspired by hambone, new "body music" ensembles like Stomp and Brazil-based Barbatuques, African-American stepping and other dance traditions. Students will explore polyrhythmic patterns of clapping, snapping, and stepping, in which a focus on musicality makes for a delicious musical movement-experience. A great class for students of any level from beginners to advanced dancers.

Bodhran - *w/ Matthew Olwell*

This class will address the fundamentals of playing the bodhran, including basic care and feeding of the instrument, good hand and body position, and techniques for reels and jigs. The class will emphasize playing by ear, musical sensitivity, and finding the rhythms hidden within the tunes. We will examine the similarities and differences between percussion in Irish music and other styles, with a focus on intuitive listening and "ear development." Beginners are welcome, as are players who want to brush up on the basics or re-evaluate their technique.