

# Southern Wisconsin Dulcimer Festival

## April 18, 2026 Workshop Registration

### Contact Information:

First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Festival Location: First Lutheran Church, 612 N Randall Ave, Janesville WI 53545**

### **Session Information:**

Select ALL of the sessions that you plan to attend. You may only select one session in each time slot.

#### **Session 1 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mike Anderson (MD): "Folk Scare"**- Popular Folk Songs of the 60's and 70's. (Advanced Beginner to Intermediate).

\_\_\_\_\_ **Bing Futch (MD): A Simple Way to Play D, G and A: Mountain Dulcimer Magic!** - Bring your capo and learn a sweet trick that will get you playing hundreds of tunes easily in three different keys! Then, once we practice using familiar tunes, we discover the source of the magic using scales to figure out options for melody and harmony. (Intermediate)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dona Benkert (HD): Dulcimer Dexterity: Find the Flow!** - Stop struggling! Learn practical tips to play the hammered dulcimer with less effort and more enjoyment. How to find and exploit efficient patterns in the notes, use duplicated notes and then apply these skills as we learn a new tune. (All Levels)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will not attend Session 1**

## **Session 2 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mike Anderson (MD): - Bass and middle string walks** - Like those nifty bass walks guitar players do? Here's a chance to do the same on the mountain dulcimer. (Intermediate)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Bing Futch (MD): How to create Complementary strums for the Tunes You Play** - Every tune that we play has its own rhythmic fingerprint that gives it a unique musical identity. Learn how to recognize and match this rhythm to create strums that support, propel and energize the song. I'll show you what to listen for, where songs need the most assistance and how to make what you hear in your head come out through your strum. We'll play through a variety of tunes to try out our tricks! (All Levels)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dona Benkert (HD): Mastering Irish Rhythms** - Master the "Crazy 8's" (6/8, 9/8, 12/8) of Irish music. Learn to hear and play the distinct rhythms and accents of the Single Jig, Double Jig, Slip Jig, and Slide, plus the freedom of Irish Airs. We'll learn a new tune to put these skills into practice! (All Levels)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will not attend Session 2**

## **Session 3 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mike Anderson (MD): Basic Mountain Dulcimer Picking Patterns** - How to use picking patterns (not to be confused with flat-picking) in a song. Will include bass walks. (All levels)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Bing Futch (MD): The Classical Mountain Dulcimer** - We'll take some of the music from great composers like Beethoven, Mozart, Pachelbel, Haydn and an original piece by Bing, we'll assign parts to different sections and then, together, we'll make a joyful noise in triumphant harmony! (Intermediate)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dona Benkert (HD & MD): Beyond the Basics: The Art of Musical Variation** - Unlock your unique musical voice! Quickly learn a foundational melody, then dive into practical techniques to add variations and embellishments that make your music sound fresh and spontaneous every time. (Advanced Beg. - Intermediate Advanced)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will not attend Session 3**

**Session 4 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mike Anderson (MD): Making It Smooth** - We'll work through a couple of songs thinking about hand position above the fingerboard to play smoothly, and seemingly, effortlessly. (Intermediate)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Bing Futch (MD): Primal Mountain Dulcimer** - Or, as Bill Schilling calls it, "mountain dulcimer Zen." This workshop is about getting spirit, mind and body ready to work together for a simple approach to playing mountain dulcimer. Relaxation and breathing techniques, visualizations and affirmations will be introduced to help conquer fear of public playing as well as develop good playing and practicing habits. You'll learn rhythm basics and how to create your own grooves using phonetics. We'll also make improvisation (making melodies up on-the-fly) easy to understand and less scary. Getting out of the way of the music is the key here, and there's always plenty of smiles and laughter during this wildly refreshing session! (Beginners - Advanced).

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dona Benkert (HD): The Elegant Waltz: Rhythm, Emotion, and Embellishment** - Unlock the elegance and charm of the waltz! We'll study the lilting rhythms and subtle accents that create their unique flow. Learn to incorporate beautiful embellishments and interesting chord changes to add depth and color, all while learning a beautiful new waltz. (All Levels)

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will not attend Session 4**

**There will be a break for lunch during the workshop. Four catered box lunch options are available.**

**Each lunch includes a cookie and a choice of chips or side salad. Cost of lunch is \$15.**

**Select a lunch option:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Turkey Club** :: sliced turkey, bacon, lettuce, tomato on hoagie roll

\_\_\_\_\_ **Ham & Swiss** :: sliced ham, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato on brioche bun

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chicken Croissant** :: fruity chicken salad, lettuce, tomato and buttery croissant

\_\_\_\_\_ **Falafel Salad** :: Falafel tomato, onions, croutons on a bed of romaine lettuce

\_\_\_\_\_ **I will bring my own lunch**

**Select a lunch side:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chips** \_\_\_\_\_ **Salad**

**Payment Information:**

**Amount included in check**

**Early bird registration rates, valid through April 4, 2025:**

Southern Wisconsin Dulcimer club members: \$65 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members: \$75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration rates after April 4, 2025:**

Southern Wisconsin Dulcimer club members: \$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members: \$80 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Box Lunch:** \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Send a check payable to Southern Wisconsin Dulcimer Club to:** Southern Wisconsin Dulcimer Club, 1140 Blaine Avenue, Janesville, WI 53545

**To cancel your registration and request a refund, email us at [swdulcimerclub@gmail.com](mailto:swdulcimerclub@gmail.com). Fees will be refunded in full if requested by April 9, 2025 and 50% thereafter.**