

Fiddleheads Acoustic Jam Camp Workshop Descriptions 2023

Saturday 8am, 7pm & Sunday 8am

Basic Yoga Stretches with Marsha

Start your day and/or prepare for the Saturday evening concert with some gentle, mindful yoga. The focus will be on stretching and loosening your neck, shoulders, arms and back to help your music playing be more comfortable and relaxed. Yoga mats available.

Saturday 9:15 – 10:30

Beginning Sung Jam

Susie, Darrell & Bruce

All Instruments

Retreat House Main Hall

New to playing and singing or even looking for more practice? Susie, Darrell & Bruce share some easy songs to bring to a jam and how to share them in a jam. They will try some of your song ideas with you in this jam.

Playing Backup Guitar to Your Singing

Celia

Guitar (Beginner/Intermediate)

Retreat House Chapel (downstairs)

Dynamics! Simplicity! Strum Patterns! We'll talk about the best ways to back yourself up on the guitar, making you a local legend.

Constructing Scottish Tune Sets

Katie

Fiddle (Intermediate/Advanced)

AV Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the right)

We'll work on two tunes in this class, talk about how to construct tune sets in the Scottish/Cape Breton style and how smoothly execute the exhilarating transition from strathspey to reel!

Pentatonic Scale and Arpeggio Warm-ups to Help Improvise

Ellen

All Instruments & All Levels

Game Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the left)

An essential part to improvising is to develop your tool box with useful tools. Pentatonic Scales and Arpeggios are essential to becoming a better improviser and musician.

Intro to Travis Fingerpicking on Guitar

Paul

Intermediate

Sun Room North (or Tent North) Retreat House, down main floor hall way toward the 120's

Get started learning the fingerpicking style of Merle Travis, an iconic country singer who learned from some of the greatest blues players and developed his own style of picking.

Soloing on the Melody in a Jam

Scott & Kris

All Instruments (Beginner/Intermediate)

Cabin 1 & 2 Downstairs Room

Having trouble finding a good solo in the midst of a jam? Scott & Kris will jam with you on various styles of music and help you come up with a melody solo in the middle of a jam.

Irish Mandolin

Flynn

Intermediate

Basketball Court (blue turf near cafeteria)

Learn the nuances to playing backup and melodic mandolin to Irish tunes.

Learn a Quebecois Tune

Steve Muise

Fiddle & Mandolin (Intermediate)

Cafeteria

Learn a tune that comes from our friendly neighbors to the North.

Bluegrass Banjo Rolls

Carter

Intermediate

Fire Pit (front lawn)

timt, imtm, mitm -- learn and expand the language of banjo.

Fiddle Chops

Melissa

Fiddle & Cello (Beginner/Intermediate)

Rec Hall (down the road)

Rosin up your frog and we'll explore the chop! We will learn the basic chop and how to incorporate it into rhythmic backup & simple chord progressions.

Saturday 10:45 – 12:00

Bluegrass Harmony Singing

Celia, Ellen & Scott

Retreat House Main Hall

Learn how to stack harmonies and stay in your lane as we sing through some bluegrass classics.

Steve's Favorite Licks and How to Use Them

Steve Roy

All Instruments (Intermediate)

Retreat House Chapel (downstairs)

Get help on your improvising using some licks from our creative Stevo.

Learn Johnson Boys & How to Make it Sound Old-Timey

Melissa

Fiddle (Intermediate/Adv)

AV Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the right)

We will learn our featured Jam Camp tune, Johnson Boys, and add rhythmic patterns, bowings & double stops to make it sound like an authentic old time tune!

Movable Chord Patterns on Mandolin

Shana

Intermediate

Game Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the left)

If you think about patterns, it seems like a LOT less chords to learn.

All Around Techniques for Bowed Strings (Intonation, Tone, Vibrato)

Steve Muise

All String Levels

Cabin 1 & 2 Downstairs Room

Tips for good tone, intonation, shifting vibrato and more for your bowed stringed instruments.

Scottish & Cape Breton Tune Jam

Katie

All Instruments (Intermediate)

Basketball Court (blue turf near cafeteria)

Jam in the Scottish & Cape Breton tune tradition.

Basic Boom Chick Strum Patterns on Guitar

Susie

Beginner

Cafeteria

We will work this classic strum, used for all kinds of music. We will take it through some common song and chord patterns with boom-chuck and boom-chuck variations and learn the bass runs to get us from place to place.

Intro to Slap Bass

Kris & Darrell

Bass (all are welcome)

Fire Pit (front lawn)

Learn this fun and exciting rockabilly style of bass playing and soloing.

Intro to Old-Time Banjo, Two-Finger Style

Kevin

Beginner/Intermediate

Rec Hall (down the road)

Old-time banjo is more than just clawhammer. Learn the basics of one of the many other traditional banjo styles, two-finger thumb lead. This style is beginner-friendly and is particularly suited to accompanying vocal songs.

Saturday 1:00 – 2:00

Band Masterclass – Bakery Band & Raging Rockaholics

Ellen, Paul & Bruce evaluate

Retreat House Main Hall

Campers are welcome to watch as these bands perform a few numbers and the coaches evaluate them on their performance.

Beginner Flatpicking Guitar

Flynn

Beginner

Retreat House Chapel (downstairs)

Just starting out learning how to do something besides strumming? Flynn will help get you started.

Vocal Exercises

Susie

All Levels

AV Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the right)

We'll go through some fun warm-ups and exercises, talk about taking care of our voices through time, sing a few rounds, and maybe do some vocal play games if we have time.

Open Space For Jamming

Game Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the left)

Anyone is welcome to start their own jam to practice in smaller groups.

Music Theory

Scott

All Levels

Sun Room North (or Tent North)

Scott is a middle school band instructor besides great banjo player and fun guy. This is a very un-intimidating approach to music theory.

Rhythmic Grooves for All Instruments

Steve Roy

Cabin 1 & 2 Downstairs Room

A popular workshop here at Fiddleheads – AND an important skill.

Tune Jam

Steve Muise & Carter

All Instruments (Intermediate)

Basketball Court (blue turf near cafeteria)

Jam on your favorite tunes – many styles.

Gypsy Guitar for Guitar & Bass

Brian Killough & Kris

Intermediate/Advanced

Cafeteria

New Hampshire guitar ace will show you some cool but not too hard gypsy jazz chords with some solid jazz bass.

Learn a Simple Cape Breton Jig

Katie

Fiddle & Mandolin (Beginner)

Fire Pit (front lawn)

Learn a simple and satisfying jig in A major, with emphasis on the Cape Breton feel.

Learn a Klezmer Tune

Shana

All instruments (Intermediate)

Rec Hall (down the road)

Klezmer music is an instrumental musical tradition from the Eastern European Ashkenazi Jews. Interesting scales and melodies define this style.

Saturday 2:15 – 3:15

Teen Band Masterclass

Carter & Bruce evaluate

Retreat House Main Hall

Campers are welcome to watch as these bands perform a few numbers and the coaches evaluate them on their performance.

Irish Accompaniment

Flynn

Guitar & Mandolin (Intermediate)

Retreat House Chapel (downstairs)

Learn the nuances to backing up Irish tunes and songs.

Learn the Old-Time Tune Johnson Boys on Clawhammer Banjo

Kevin

Intermediate

AV Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the right)

One of this year's camp tunes, we'll learn Johnson Boys on clawhammer banjo in Double D tuning (aDADE). Tablature will be provided.

Learn a Tune from the Maritime Tradition

Steve Muise

Intermediate

Game Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the left)

We'll choose a tune that is played throughout the Maritimes to learn.

Learn the Song Tennessee Stud

Paul

Guitar (Intermediate)

Sun Room North (or Tent North)

A song about a man and his horse by Jimmy Driftwood. A favorite to know among guitar pickers.

Hawaiian Lu'au

Steve Roy

All Instruments (UKE included)

Cabin 1 & 2 Downstairs Room

Stevo has had a pahty jamming on Hawaiian music here before!

Singing with Soul

Celia

All Levels

Basketball Court (blue turf near the cafeteria)

Singing with soul is so much more than volume! Come explore ways to deliver a potent performance and learn some singing fundamentals.

Double Stops on Fiddle

Melissa & Darrell

Intermediate

Cafeteria

Take your fiddle playing to the next level with double stops! We will explore the various two-note combinations that can be played over common chords and how to use them for backup & solos.

Open Space For Jamming

Fire Pit (front lawn)

Anyone is welcome to start their own jam to practice in smaller groups.

Basic Strumming and Walking on Guitar

Lisa Ferguson

Beginner

Rec Hall (down the road)

Learn to pick the chord runs in "This Land Is Your Land" in the C shape. We will capo up two so that we're singing in the key of D but playing in the key of C. The chord shapes needed to play the song are C, F, and G. We might even throw an Am run in there just for the fun of it if we have time.

Saturday 3:30

FIDDLEHEADS BANDS

All meet in the Main Hall to hear the band choices and locations.

Coaches will offer various band styles. You choose which band you would like to be in & rehearse with them during this time period. All Fiddleheads Bands will perform during the Saturday evening concert.

Sunday 9:15 – 10:15

Country & Bluegrass Slow Jam

Darrell, Bruce & Kris

All Levels

Retreat House Main Hall

Wake up slowly playing the classic slow songs of George Jones, Merle Haggard, Bill Monroe and more.

Songwriting

Celia

All Levels

Retreat House Chapel (downstairs)

Come ask your burning songwriting questions and partake in a fun exercise to get the songwriting wheels rolling.

Swing Guitar

Liza Constable

All Levels

AV Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the right)

Liza actually taught at Fiddleheads Camp 20+ years ago. She now plays in a band with Ellen. Learn a few of the most common progressions in the swing/jazz repertoire. Moveable chord shapes. You: Be comfortable making barre chords and feel mostly alright about chords moving up the neck, based on the 5th and 6th strings. We are not using a capo! Together we can learn a few songs and talk about how you might accompany them, different chord voicings, right hand percussive technique, and other miscellaneous and unnecessarily fun things. Any or all of that. Bring your ideas and I will bring mine.

Basic Mandolin Chords & Chops

Flynn

Beginner

Game Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the left)

The mandolin acts as the drums when there aren't drums - but with harmonic abilities. Bring your mando playing to a new level.

Learn a Slow Scottish Air with a Focus on Bowing Techniques

Katie

Intermediate

Sun Room North (or Tent North)

In this class we'll learn a slow air from the Scottish repertoire and use it as a vehicle to talk about bow control/technique.

Tips & Tricks to Improvise Over the Bluegrass Genre

Steve Muise

All Instruments (Intermediate)

Basketball Court (blue turf near cafeteria)

Learn some tricks to help you improvise on a bluegrass song – these ideas can also be applied to country, blues and other styles.

Intro to Fingerpicking Guitar in the Piedmont Style

Shana

Intermediate

Cabin 1 & 2 Downstairs Room

We'll explore the Piedmont Style of fingerpicking, as played by influential guitarists Elizabeth Cotton, Mississippi John Hurt, etc.

Bluegrass Banjo Topics

Scott

All Levels

Cafeteria

Learn how to apply ideas like 7th chords, moving up the neck, different kinds of rolls and other important banjo ideas.

Harmonica

Paul

Fire Pit (front lawn)

Bring a harmonica to learn how to play or to expand your playing. (E & A harmonicas)

Sunday Morning Rising Songs

Susie & Steve Roy

Chapel Down the Road (Past the Cafeteria & Rec Hall)

Come raise your voices and raise the roof (or the sky) with us!! This is always a fun and inspiring time.

Sunday 10:30 – 11:30

Slow Jam – Music from Fiddleheads Song/Tune List (chord charts available)

Carter & Shana

All Levels

Retreat House Main Hall

Jam on the songs from the list that we sent you in advance.

Making the Blues Scale Work for You

Steve Muise

All Instruments (Intermediate)

Retreat House Chapel (downstairs)

We will explore the blues scale, go over the basic blues form and play the changes, with some space to improvise. And we'll work on applying that bluesy sound to your own solos.

Learn a Cape Breton Strathspey

Katie

Intermediate

AV Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the right)

Learn a Cape Breton strathspey, focusing on groove, style, and bowing.

Upright & Electric Bass

Kris & Darrell

All Levels

Game Room (Retreat House, downstairs and to the left)

For all who ever wanted to try out the bass - you'll always have a gig!

Learn the Spanish Fandango on Guitar

Paul

Intermediate/Advanced

Sun Room North (or Tent North)

Learn how to play a Spanish Fandango in standard tuning, instead of the typical open G.

Duet Harmony Singing

Celia & Susie

All Levels

Cabin 1 & 2 Downstairs Room

This is just what it says - singing some good songs together with two parts! You can be more free with your choices with just two voices than you can with three or more. We will all take turns singing both melody and harmony.

Swing Violin with Hot Skillet Club

Ellen, Liza & Val

Beginner/Intermediate

Basketball Court (blue turf near cafeteria)

Take a simple country song or bluegrass song and add a few cool notes and licks to swing it up. Guitar players will learn some standard easy guitar chords to help get the swing sound.

Bluegrass Jam

Melissa, Scott & Bruce

Beginner/Intermediate

Cafeteria

Bring your bluegrass chops and we'll have fun at this intermediate level jam!

Flatpicking Irish Music

Flynn

Intermediate/Advanced

Fire Pit (front lawn)

Play some cool Irish tunes with Flynn, a super-duper guitar player.

Tips for Figuring Out Chords on the Fly in a Jam

Steve Roy

Beginner/Intermediate

Rec Hall (down the road)

Your jamming, the chords are flying by – what to do?

Sunday 11:30 – 12:30

OPEN MIC

Sign-up sheet will go up Saturday evening. Limited slots available. Coach critique is available upon request. Come hear what your fellow campers can do and support them.

Sunday 12:30 – 1:00

FINAL GROUP JAM

All come together in the Retreat House Maine Hall to play a few final tunes.