

Turtle Hill Folk Festival 2015 – Workshop Descriptions

Basics of Singing – Maria Gillard

Learn how to get your voice out, make it strong, and keep it that way! Basic singing techniques using relaxation and breathing exercises, good tone production, and other fun things to help you feel confident singing!

Rhythm Techniques – Anthony Taddeo of Hey Mavis

Anthony will lead a workshop on the role of percussion in folk music. He will demonstrate various grooves, talk about how he accompanies Hey Mavis, and talk a little about history. The workshop will be participatory, with hand percussion instruments to try.

Color Chords: A folk musician's approach to "jazz" chords –

Kinloch Nelson Skill level: Intermediate but all are welcome. Beyond the "primary colors" of major, minor and Dominant 7th chords are dozens if not hundreds of embellished and altered chords that add emotion, dimension and interest. Often these chords are already there hiding in plain sight, suggested by the notes in a melody, or emerging from fingerings common in alternate tunings. This workshop will explore these chords and some of the many ways they can enhance the message or intent of a song. Bring a notebook. You may record (audio preferred). Please no video posting. Some printed material will be handed out.

Yoga for Musicians – Ed Caner of Hey Mavis

Ed will demonstrate his own daily practice using a sequence of poses recommended by BKS Iyengar in his famous book *Light on Yoga*. He will also discuss how regular yoga practice can develop an awareness of the body that helps immensely with playing music. Yoga mats are optional (Ed rarely uses one).

Guitar Accompaniment for Singers – Maria Gillard

Learn strumming and picking techniques that enhance your song. Bass runs, picking a melody within a song, and general embellishments to make your song stand out.

Songwriting: The Hows and Whys of Writing on

Purpose – John McCutcheon

Learning to write quickly and clearly is a combination of skill, technique, clarity of purpose, and willingness to do the work. Over a 40+-year career and 37 recordings, John McCutcheon has built up a catalog of songs spanning children's music, love songs, historical pieces, political satire, and even orchestral

works. He does this from a firm foundation of traditional music and mentoring from some of the great writers of our time. Tips, strategies, and exercises for improving and expanding your songwriting.

Joe Hill and the Use of Political Music – John McCutcheon

Here's a look at the path laid out by Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) songwriter Joe Hill, whose death occurred 100 years ago this year. "Political" music covers a lot of ground and serves many purposes. John McCutcheon will review what was done historically and what it teaches us about how to best serve our communities and our concerns today.

Folkal Harmony Singing Workshop – John Kirk & Trish Miller

Come sing old songs in new settings with clever arrangements, humor, clever timing, and dazzling harmony. Participants will learn by ear and share music handouts. The material varies from traditional to contemporary and from gospel choruses to beer hall ballads.

Attaining the Groove – Dana & Susan Robinson

Dana & Susan will demonstrate the relationship between the fiddle, banjo, and guitar in southern old-time string band music.

Banjo Bonanza – John Kirk & Trish Miller

Learn clawhammer banjo tunes and techniques with John & Trish. They will present a lively musical round-robin of old and new tunes featuring the banjo played in a variety of styles. Possibilities include old-time clawhammer, various tunings, two-finger rolls, melodic five-string styles, and tenor Irish picking. The interactive banjo band will tell banjo jokes, play all together and could grow into some dangerous sounding fun.

A Hammer Dulcimer Master Class with John McCutcheon

McCutcheon's approach to the dulcimer is unique; intermediate and advanced players can benefit from attending. Anyone contemplating this workshop should be comfortable with learning new tunes and have some experience in arranging music for the dulcimer.