

# QDF DULCIMER WORKSHOP LEVELS

**HAMMERED**

**MOUNTAIN**

## LEVEL 1. ABSOLUTE BEGINNER

New to the instrument before this weekend / Does not really know the note names or understand the layout yet

Needs help finding a proper playing position & Ready to learn how to practice effectively

Needs introduction to hammer grip and striking technique / pick hold and basic strumming technique

## LEVEL 2. NOVICE

Still learning their way around the instrument & working on basic concepts like how to find the notes in tempo

Developing hammer/pick technique & Learning to play with a steady beat

Possibly has played for some time but needs direction in learning or needs more time to learn new tunes fluently

Would benefit from more experience with basic concepts/ not harmonizing yet

May not have a system of hammering/dominant hand lead in place yet

Basic knowledge of the common 1 & 2 finger chords & working towards smooth transitions between chords

## LEVEL 3. INTERMEDIATE

Understands the general layout of the instrument & knows most or all note names on the instrument

Able to play tunes, but ready to do more with them musically & with early facets of arranging

Has a general system for hammering patterns

Ready for more intricate strumming and picking patterns

Able to play major & minor chords and scales & ready to add harmonies/accompaniment to melodies

Developing consistency of fingering & able to transition up and down the fretboard

Ready to develop more hand independence & hammering techniques, like multiple bounce strokes and rolls

Ready for three finger chords & their various positions on the fretboard & ready for an introduction to hammer-ons, pull-offs and slides

## LEVEL 4. UPPER INTERMEDIATE

Continually refining mechanics in an effort to eliminate bad habits and eliminate unnecessary movement

Hears chord changes & is improving ability to play by ear And/Or advancing in ability to read music fluently

Working towards smoothing out your playing - playing more expressively and dynamically

Able to embellish basic tunes to create a more interesting arrangement

Developing more sophisticated hand independence

Ready to use hammer-ons, pull-offs, & slides to facilitate speed and fluidity - Learning where and why to use them

Developing damper technique but needing direction in coordination and in effective use

Understands the use of the capo at various locations on the dulcimer fretboard

Has a growing vocabulary of chords and modes

Refining fretting hand techniques and ornaments

Able to play in compound meters like 6/8 and 9/8

Ready to play more extensively above the seventh fret

## LEVEL 5. ADVANCED

Ready for more sophisticated arrangements, tunes, rhythmic and harmonic ideas

Able to read music or TAB And/Or plays by ear efficiently in a wide variety of music styles and genres

Developing musicality and expressive playing. Consciously applies dynamics for musicality

Has more varied choices in adding accompaniments to melodies

Able to play with fluency and steady pulse

Has facility with hammer technique, ready to refine work on rolls, and/or dampers, etc.

Ready to explore playing in alternate tunings and able to play in different keys while tuned DAD

Has some experience with improvising rhythmically, melodically, and harmonically within a tune

## NON-LEVEL SPECIFIC

These classes are offered on general topics that do not specifically apply to one level of student

# QDF AUTOHARP WORKSHOP LEVELS

## LEVEL 1. ABSOLUTE BEGINNER

Totally new to the autoharp

No previous skills required

Starting at the very beginning with little to no experience

## LEVEL 2. NOVICE

Still learning their way around the instrument & working on basic concepts

Confident with chords within the key on simple songs

Possibly has played for some time but needs further direction or needs more time to learn new tunes fluently

Familiar with the instrument and knows how to tune it

Experimenting with playing melodies and can play some at a basic level

Knows how to play basic rhythm strums for accompaniment

## LEVEL 3. INTERMEDIATE

Ready for more intricate strumming and picking patterns

Ready for introduction to autoharp-related chord theory and to play songs with more complex chording patterns including minor

Ready to learn how to add strums & fills to melody arrangements.

Can play a variety of different strum patterns for accompaniment

Has learned the basics of playing melody either by reading autoharp tablature, lead sheets or by ear.

Open to learning and experimenting with open noting melody playing technique (Diatonic Autoharps only)

Has worked up a repertoire of several songs or tunes that can be played comfortably

Open to learning melodies in more than one way: by-ear and with tablature

## LEVEL 4. UPPER INTERMEDIATE

Can play clear melodies with ease

Able to hear chord changes

Working towards playing more expressively and dynamically

Able to embellish basic tunes to create more interesting song arrangements

Regularly using open noting melody playing technique and ready to further refine existing skills in this area (Diatonic Autoharps only)

Beginning to hear and play variations on the melodies

Able to utilize a wide range of accompaniments in a variety of music styles

Comfortable playing a variety of instrumental tune types and styles (i.e.-waltzes, fiddle tunes, slow airs, etc.)

Able to comfortably play music with others

Able to play some without sheet music

Able to play in compound meters such as 6/8

Understands chord theory as it relates to autoharp

## LEVEL 5. ADVANCED

Ready for more sophisticated arrangements, tunes, rhythmic and harmonic ideas

Should know the basics of autoharp-related chord theory (music/TAB readers & non-readers alike)

Ready to develop musicality and expressive playing by arranging tunes with dynamics and creativity

Has many varied choices in adding accompaniments to melodies

Able to fully utilize open noting melody playing technique (Diatonic Autoharps only)

Able to play with fluency and steady pulse at a wide variety of tempos on songs that use more than 3 or 4 chords

Able to read music or TAB and/or plays by-ear efficiently in a wide variety of music styles and genres

Has some experience with improvising rhythmically, melodically, and harmonically within a tune

## NON-LEVEL SPECIFIC

These classes are offered on general topics that do not specifically apply to one particular playing level