

Vinland Music Online Camp 2020

Workshop Descriptions

Newfoundland Fiddle (Christina Smith)

Learn some Newfoundland Tunes! We'll cover a single, a double, a triple and a waltz, incorporating tunes from Rufus Guinchard, Emile Benoit, Mrs. Belle Fennelly and Minnie White.

Fiddle & Cello Masterclasses (Christina Smith)

Get some individual instruction on your playing and observe others' lessons. Open to all fiddlers and cellists.

Tin Whistle for Beginners (Gerry Strong)

In this class we'll learn the basics of the whistle – how to hold it, how to get the right sound from it – and play a few very simple tunes. This workshop is for rank beginners; if you already know how to play the tin whistle a little you should register for tin whistle intermediate/advanced.

Tin Whistle – Intermediate/Advanced (Gerry Strong)

In this class we'll learn some more advanced tunes to expand your repertoire. I'll also be teaching various techniques to liven up the tunes such as variations and ornamentation.

Wooden Flute (Gerry Strong)

Gerry will be happy to teach flute on an individual basis, tailoring each class to the ability of the participant.

Songwriting (Hugh Scott)

In this class you will learn song construction, techniques in finding subject matter, and how to write the right melody to fit your lyrics. We also discuss arranging songs and how to get your songs played publicly. And of course, you will write a song.

Mandolin/Tenor Banjo (Dave Panting)

This workshop will focus on melody and rhythm techniques centered for the most part around Newfoundland music. Topics such as chording, picking, strumming and tremolo will be addressed. We'll learn some of the well known Newfoundland tunes, using them to illustrate various rhythms, such as jigs, reels, hornpipes, singles and waltzes. Participants in this class should already have a working knowledge of the mandolin.

Mixed Instrument Workshop (Dave Panting)

Open to all instruments, in this class we will be exploring tunes from different sources including some of Dave's original compositions written in the traditional style. We will also cover ornamentation and various accompaniment options.

Folk Songs of Newfoundland and Labrador (Jean Hewson)

In this class participants will be introduced to a variety of folk songs styles from our province. Some of the topics covered will include background history, sources and singing styles, societal context – and singing of course! Instructor Jean Hewson will do her best to create a fun and relaxed environment in which participants will learn a selection of much-loved and lesser known folk songs. Experienced and not-so-experienced singers are both welcome. The only requirements are an interest in song and a willingness to give it a go.

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Accompaniment Guitar (Jean Hewson)

Instructor Jean Hewson will show guitarists the basics of accompanying traditional songs and instrumental tunes. Participants will learn the differences between the different styles of songs and tunes (eg. Ballads, waltzes, jigs and reels) and will be given strumming patterns to accompany a variety of rhythms. Other topics will include chord progressions, alternate chord voicings, dynamics, and simple, effective ways to create interesting and expressive accompaniments. This is not a beginners course. Participants should know basic chords and strumming patterns.

Introduction to Recitation (Gary Green)

Recitation, the art of telling stories in rhyme, often times with a humorous bent, are usually hits with an audience. Through instruction and exercises, participants will be introduced to the basics of rhyming and story construction leading to participants creating their own recitation for performance. Links to online resources will be provided. No previous experience in storytelling or recitation is required.

Introduction to Storytelling (Gary Green)

Participants will be introduced to the art of telling various types of stories including folktales, tall tales, ghost stories and the famous 'Jack' tales. Through instruction and exercises participants will learn the basics of how to select, learn and perform stories. Participants will work with a story of their own choosing for performance. Links to online resources and materials for exercises (PDF) will be provided.

The Newfoundland Ukulele (Eric West)

This class is for those who would like to learn some traditional songs and tunes on the ukulele. We will be exploring chord accompaniments, finger patterns, scales, adding introductions and melody playing. The C6 tuning (g-c-e-a) will be used for this workshop – preferably with a low 'g', though this isn't essential. As this isn't a class for beginners, you should already know the basic chords and some simple strums.

Instrumental Guitar (Eric West)

This is a workshop for those who enjoy playing melodies on the guitar – using a pick or finger style. We'll cover scales, finger style playing and accompaniment. Players should already be able to pick a few tunes.

Let's Dance! (Jane Dennison)

In one or possibly more sessions during the Camp, Jane will do a talk and share video footage to dance you through the origins and evolution of set dancing in Newfoundland and Labrador. We'll look at aspects of the European dance styles that are the forerunners to set dance, the types of dances that early immigrants to the province did, regional variations and how step dance is featured in the dance style. Today, set dancing is not as popular as it was in the mid 20th century and Jane will share with you some of the theories behind that cultural shift. Jane has been collecting video footage of set dance for years and this will be a chance to see a few gems that are well-hidden online. We'll finish up with a Q&A.