

Vinland Music Camp 2018

Workshop Descriptions

Accompaniment Guitar 1 (Jean Hewson)

An introduction to pick-style guitar accompaniment focusing on basic chords, strumming techniques, and easy songs.

Accompaniment Guitar 2 (Jean Hewson)

This class is for those who have been playing for a while and have mastered the basics of playing guitar. We'll be learning how to accompany both songs and instrumental dance music (jigs, reels, etc.). We'll cover some advanced strumming techniques, alternate chord voicings, and the basics of creating interesting arrangements for guitar accompaniment.

Accordion 1 (Daniel Payne)

For newcomers to the accordion. In this workshop you'll learn the basics: how to hold the instrument, how to play a simple scale, and how to play your first tune. You'll also learn a bit about the importance of the accordion in Newfoundland and Labrador's music, as well as some basic pointers regarding accordion technique. Note: You will need to have an accordion that plays in the key of D in order to take this class.

Accordion 2 (Daniel Payne)

If you've already got a solid start (1 - 2 years or more) on the accordion, this is the class for you. We'll look at some more challenging aspects of the instrument – playing more difficult tunes, playing in different keys, using the bass, "dressing up" the tunes, etc. Note: You will need to have an accordion that plays in the key of D in order to take this class.

Bass Guitar (Dave Panting)

Private lessons for any level can be arranged on this instrument at no extra cost.

Beginner Harmonica (Gary Green)

An introduction to playing traditional music on the harmonica. Note: You will need a ten-hole diatonic harmonica in the key of C to take this course. If you do not already own a harmonica and you are planning to buy one for camp, [here](#) are a few things to keep in mind.

Bodhran (Daniel Payne)

In this class we'll look at the basics of playing the bodhran to accompany traditional music. We'll learn how to hold the bodhran and tipper, how to play a simple rhythm, and a bit about bodhran etiquette. The camp has a very limited number of bodhrans so this workshop is BYOB!

Dance 1 (Jane Dennison)

This is an introduction to Newfoundland dance for beginners or those who would like to review the basic steps. We'll start from scratch but by the end of the week you'll have a good comfort level with a few simple set dances.

Dance 2 (Jane Dennison)

This is a class for people with some dance experience. Traditional set dances such as Running the Goat, the Swinging Eight, Strip the Willow and others will be taught in this class. Some experience may be helpful.

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Fiddle 1 – Basic Fiddle – (Christina Smith)

Don't know one end of a fiddle from the other? Come and find out how to make one work. We'll learn how to hold the instrument and bow, how to make a good sound (Yes, you can!), how to place your fingers, and we'll learn an easy tune or two.

Fiddle 2 – Elementary Fiddle – (Christina Smith)

This class is for those who have played for a little while and have mastered the basics. We'll work on some Newfoundland tunes, discover the difference between single jigs, double jigs, and step tunes and improve our playing skills.

Fiddle 3 – Advanced Fiddle – (Christina Smith)

In this class we'll learn some fancy tunes, delve into ornamentation, hone our bow technique, and perhaps do some improvising too.

Group Performance – Playing for Dances (Dave Panting and Hugh Scott)

This workshop is designed for more experienced students who would like to learn how to play for traditional dances. You'll learn all about playing in a group, including arranging, soloing, selecting the correct tempo and balancing the sound of the different instruments. We'll discuss selecting material, improving the group's sound, how to rehearse, chord arranging, etc.

Harp (Gayle Tapper)

This class is for beginners as well as experienced players – we'll divide the classes up as necessary. For newcomers there will be an introduction to the instrument and its technique, as well as an easy tune or two. More experienced players will learn solo playing, self accompaniment, and playing in a group. There will be a couple of harps available to practise on. Class size will depend on the number of harps available and the number of people who bring their own.

Instrumental Guitar (Eric West)

If you enjoy playing melodies on the guitar – using a pick or finger style – this is the workshop for you.

Introduction to Arranging (Jean Hewson and Christina Smith)

In this class participants will begin to develop a vocabulary of musical devices enabling them to build their own creative arrangements of Newfoundland songs and tunes. The instructors will cover chord progressions, harmony, instrumental riffs and licks, intros, outros, and other tools needed to create musical settings. This is an advanced course for people who are established instrumentalists and singers.

Jam Session/Singalong (Gary Green, Eric West and Gayle Tapper)

An informal session during which participants of all levels can exchange tunes and songs. (Monday to Thursday). Note: This session is not counted as a workshop selection on your registration form.

Making Up Tunes (Daniel Payne)

Have you ever made up a tune? Would you like to? This workshop is open to all students and will explore some ways to create a tune from scratch. Participants should bring an instrument of their choice! (Monday and Tuesday only).

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Mandolin/Tenor Banjo 1 (Dave Panting)

This is a class is for anyone with an interest in starting to play these instruments. The course will include exploring the fingerboard, basic chords, and learning to pick at least two tunes.

Mandolin/Tenor Banjo 2 (Dave Panting)

In this class we will learn more complicated pieces as well as accompaniment strumming techniques. Advanced chord structure and melody/chord playing will also be covered.

Mandolin /Tenor Banjo 3 /(Dave Panting)

A class for advanced players who have mastered the basics.

Songs of Newfoundland and Labrador (Jean Hewson)

In addition to learning a variety of folksongs, participants will be introduced to the basics of traditional singing, harmony singing, and storytelling through song. The workshops will also include some discussion on the history and social context of traditional songs. This session is for singers of all ages and levels.

Songwriting (a & b) (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.

Storytelling 1 (a & b) (Gary Green) An introduction to the art of Newfoundland and Labrador storytelling – including tall tales, ghost stories, recitations and the famous ‘Jack’ tales. This is a great opportunity to learn some new stories and techniques for telling them.

Storytelling 2 (Gary Green)

This workshop is for those who have done Storytelling 1 or have been telling stories for some time. The workshop will focus on improving various aspects of performance such as voice, gesture, audience interaction and story adaptation. Private sessions can be arranged at no extra cost.

Tin Whistle 1 (a & b) (Gerry Strong)

This is a class is for anyone starting to play the instrument. The course explores the fingerings of the G and D scales. You'll learn to hold the tin whistle correctly, and how to make a good sound. You'll also learn to play an easy tune or two. Note: You will need to have a 'D' tin whistle in order to take this class.

Tin Whistle 2 (Gerry Strong)

For those students who already have some experience on the tin whistle, this class will concentrate on building your repertoire and improving technique. We'll be aiming to learn two new tunes and look at some ways to "dress up" tunes with various ornaments. Note: You will need to have a 'D' tin whistle in order to take this class.

Ukulele 1 – Beginner Ukulele (Eric West)

An introduction to playing ukulele, using easy chords and simple melodies.

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Ukulele 2 – Intermediate Ukulele (Eric West)

For those who have been playing ukulele for a while, this workshop will explore more advanced chord accompaniments and melody playing.

Wooden (Irish) Flute (Gerry Strong)

Private lessons for any level can be arranged on this instrument at no extra cost.

Note:

Workshops that are indicated as ‘a’ and ‘b’ – for example Tin Whistle 1(a) and Tin Whistle 1(b) . – are at the same level and are repeated so that there will be fewer scheduling conflicts. Please indicate the letter and number of your selections on your registration form.

Besides workshops every day there will be an evening concert, followed by traditional dancing. Evenings finish with a song circle or music session around the campfire. Thursday night is ‘Kill the Devil’ Night – a fun evening of songs, skits, dances and stories performed by anyone attending camp.

The final participant concert – including storytelling, songwriting and dance performances – will be held on Friday evening, 6:00-9:00PM in the Chapel and Old Dining Hall (dance).