

Thursday, July 17, 2025

**4:45-
5:45pm**

Learn a Tune Refresher, All Levels, Main Rm

Mimi Geibel and Steve Akerman

Let's get the party rolling with a review of tunes that have been taught at NWAG over the years! Play along with the music provided and get yourself in fine playing shape for the weekend's upcoming jams.

New Player Orientation, Beginners, Chromatic, Chapel

Denise Humphreys

Welcome to the Autoharp world! This is a friendly bunch of people. In this hour we'll answer questions, cover some basic tips, and get you up and playing a few simple tunes so you can make the most of the weekend.

6:45pm

Opening Showcase, Everyone, Main Rm

Guest performers will give a preview of the techniques and skills they'll present in each workshop.

**Post-
Showcase**

Playing and Performing Opportunities

1) Guided Beginner Jam: All Levels; Chromatic, Kathy Harris, Chapel

In this "slow" or beginner friendly jam/singalong we will discuss the differences between jams, sing-alongs, and song circles; along with the basic etiquette for each. We will spend the majority of our time jamming to songs with only a few chords and easy to play tunes.

2) Intermediate/Advanced Jam: Mimi Geibel and Steve Akerman, Main Rm

3) Song Circle: All Levels, Paul Ranney, Sun Rm

Players of all levels are invited to perform a song of their choice—listener's welcome.

Friday, July 18, 2025

9-10am Defying Conventions, Int/Adv, C and G, Main Rm

Adam Miller

My approach to the autoharp is admittedly unorthodox. I play without fingerpicks or lock bars. I use open chording and diminished 7th chords on the chromatic autoharp. I prefer an internal pickup for amplification. In this unconventional workshop, I'll share my techniques for playing White Christmas, Scott Joplin's The Entertainer, the Nutcracker Suite march, and Old MacDonald. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite. Bring a guitar flatpick to this

Humming and Strumming Part I, Beginner/All Levels, D, Chapel

Bay Allen

If you can hum it...you can strum it! This class is designed with the beginner in mind, offering a direct path to playing whatever comes your way! You'll learn how to accompany the human voice or a lead instrument.

10:15- Undiminished Returns, Int, Chromatic, Main Rm

11:15am Karla Armstrong

One way of overcoming the natural limitations of the (chromatic) autoharp is to incorporate the use of diminished 7th chords. We'll go through issues such as basic theory (what are they?), installation (how do I put them on, and where do they go?), and usage guidelines (what do I do with them)?

Humming and Strumming Part II, All levels, Key of D, Chapel

Bay Allen

Beginners will continue on in the journey learning to take a lead yourself—moving the melody you hum into the strings, instead of merely accompanying someone else. Intermediate/Advanced players welcome to join in on Part II, but we won't be backtracking.

11:30am- Autoharp Mechanics, All levels, Sun Rm

12:30pm Pete D'Aigle

Learn how to maintain your autoharp and make simple fixes and improvements from our own NW luthier. All questions welcome!

11:30am-12:30pm Getting REAL Music from a FAKE Book, Int, Chromatic, Main Rm

Karla Armstrong

A springboard Into Chromatic Song Arrangement, this workshop focuses on how to exploit Fake book and similar anthology music (usually expressed in lead sheet or single-note melody) for autoharp use. The process from Square One is illustrated in various examples.

Highly Chromatic Melodies, Beg/Int, Chromatic, G and Dm, Chapel

Adam Miller

A lot of the melodies we play only use a few of the 21 chords available on most chromatic autoharps. This hands-on workshop focuses on familiar, highly chromatic tunes like House of the Rising sun, Sunrise Sunset, Dock of a Bay, and Go Down Moses—tunes that literally take your left hand from one end of the chord bar assembly to the other. Learn tips and tricks to develop accuracy and confidence negotiating unusual chord progressions. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite.

1:45-2:45pm Singing With the Autoharp, All levels, Sun Rm

Paul Ranney

You'll learn some methods and tricks for effectively accompanying your own (or another's) singing, as well as how to provide true backup for soloists and groups of all sizes - including choirs!

A Swedish Waltz, Adv Beginner, Key of G, Main Rm

Arlene Porteous

Anna's Visa is a great piece to practice moving from chords to a clean, crisp melody.

Learn a Tune (Farewell to Glassgow), All levels, Chapel

Mimi Geibel and Steve Akerman

Start (or continue) building your NWAG repertoire by learning "Farewell to Glassgow" with Mimi and Steve. Next year, you'll be ahead of the game when this song is added to NWAG's "Learn a Tune Refresher" repertoire.

3-4pm Blues In Your Fingers, Int/Adv, Key of D, Main Rm

Bay Allen

Learn to express yourself through the blues; the rhythms, notes, and turnarounds that make this genre so revered! We will not only learn to play the blues, but write a blues song of our very own!

3-4pm Just the Right Touch—the accompanying autoharp, All levels, Chapel

Karla Armstrong

We'll focus on playing well with others—including considerations in the decision-making process, recognizing and accommodating limitations as well as strengths, recovering from mistakes, and more.

4:15- Ask a Sage, All levels, Deck

5:15pm Karla Armstrong

This is your chance to get advice, encouragement and up-close skills demonstration from one of the greats in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. All questions are welcome.

Autoharps on Stage, All levels, Main Rm

Wyatt Moretti-Dobo

Our talented sound technician will share info about microphones and amplification systems. Learn how to enhance your sound in different playing situations.

French Songs, All levels, Keys F and C, Chapel

Lynda Joy Cohen

We will learn to sing and play a few French and French-Canadian folk songs that are accessible to all levels of playing. Venez vous divertir en musique avec nous! (Come have some musical fun!)

6:45pm Concert, Everyone, Main Rm

Enjoy the musical stylings of Arlene Porteous and Adam Miller.

Post- Playing and Performing Opportunities

Concerts

- 1) Tea house:** All levels are invited to come listen and/or perform, Chapel NWAG's tea house tradition continues with another opportunity to shine a light on individual talent. Twinkly lights and refreshments amid a twilight atmosphere create a warm and supportive environment
- 2)** The Sun Rm and Main Rm are available for pick-up jams.

Saturday, July 19, 2025

9-10am Arranging Songs for the Autoharp, All levels, Main Rm

Karla Armstrong

Examines elements of arrangement as well as the peculiar strengths of the autoharp with application to specific songs.

Playing the Melody in Waltz Time, Beg/Int, Chromatic, C and G, Chapel

Adam Miller

Can you really learn to play a recognizable autoharp melody in a single 45-minute workshop? Yes, you can! Waltz your way through easy arrangements of well-known Rodgers and Hammerstein tunes like Oh, What a Beautiful Morning, My Favorite Things, and Edelweiss. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite.

10:15- Physics of the Autoharp Sound, All levels, Sun Rm

11:15am Pete D'Aigle

Come see the destroyed tops/soundboards and hear about what Pete learned during the 2012 destructive testing at d'Aigle Autoharps.

The Healing Harp, All levels, Chromatic, Main Rm

Bay Allen

Learn how you can use the Autoharp in hospice, visitation, worship, etc.

Western Folksongs, Beg/Int, Chromatic/ C and G, Chapel

Adam Miller

American cowboy ballads never seem to go out of style. Learn to play traditional western folksongs like The Streets of Laredo, Home on the Range, Get Along Little Dogies, and Red River Valley. This hands-on workshop addresses vocal accompaniment, picking techniques, and, for emotional impactful arrangement, the use of "color chords." The ability to read music is not a prerequisite.

11:30am-12:30pm **Making It Your own, Intermediate, Chromatic or D, Main Rm**

Bay Allen

Learn exciting techniques and tricks of the trade to spruce up any song. Take the ordinary into the extraordinary! If you bring a song you like to play, you'll have time to explore it and see how to approach it in a different way.

Precision Playing, Beginner/Int, Chromatic, Chapel

Karla Armstrong

In this workshop you'll cultivate "hand/EAR" coordination by exercising each hand individually: encouraging right-handed accuracy (clean picking) as well as left-handed accuracy (clean chording).

1:45-2:45pm **Open Stage, Everyone, Main Rm**

Come support your fellow attendees and hear a myriad of playing styles. (Sign up in the lobby prior to noon if you wish to perform)

3-4pm **Bulgarian Song in 7/8, All Levels, G, Sun Rm**

Mary Proudfoot

A song new to NWAG this year from the Pirin Mountains of Bulgaria. We will learn through listening, clapping, moving, playing chords in rhythm, and learning the melody. Chords needed: G-C-D

Ask a Sage, All levels, Deck

Bay Allen

This is your chance to get advice, encouragement and up-close skills demonstration from one of the greats in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. All questions are welcome.

Beatles Songs, Beg/Int, Chromatic, D and G <location>

Adam Miller

Paul McCartney and John Lennon wrote some of the most well-known popular songs of our time. Many of their tunes are surprisingly autoharp-friendly. In this hands-on workshop we'll learn to play familiar Beatles songs like Norwegian Wood, In My Life, I Will, and Michelle. The ability to read music is not a prerequisite.

3-4pm Let's Play Classical, Intermediate, Keys D, G, C and F, Chapel

Robert Grappel

The autoharp isn't just for accompanying basic folk songs anymore! I was the staff writer in "Autoharp Quarterly" (AQ) for almost a decade writing the "Simply Classic" column. This workshop will show you how to play several 'sort-of' well-known classical melodies from my AQ articles on your autoharp. They are shown written in the keys of D, G, C, and F -- so you'll need a chromatic instrument to play all of them. I provide sheet music and chords. None of them are too difficult – an intermediate-level player should have no trouble playing along, and a beginner might be inspired to work on them.

4:15- Lullabies for All, All levels, Chromatic, Keys D, G, C, F, and Am, Sun Rm

5:15pm Courtney Linkous and Jennie Carroll

Need help relaxing or putting a loved one to sleep? Come check out our unique collection of lullabies. We promise not to put YOU to sleep.

Ask a Sage, All levels, Deck

Adam Miller

This is your chance to get advice, encouragement and up-close skills demonstration from one of the greats in a relaxed and casual atmosphere. All questions are welcome.

Beyond Melody and Chords, All levels, Main Rm

Waterbound: Mimi Geibel and Steve Akerman

New tricks to add variety to your playing with others in duos and groups.

The Mallard Island Hymn (Ken Burns), Int/Adv, Key of D w/F#m bar, Chapel

Arlene Porteous

Let's improve our melody playing together as we learn another one of Ken Burns' National Parks Soundtrack pieces.

5:30pm Group Photo, Everyone

Meet at 5:30 sharp in the grassy area near the canopy!

6:45pm **Concert, Everyone, Main Rm**

Savor music as interpreted by two more of the greats—Karla Armstrong and Bay Allen.

**Post-
Concerts** **Playing and Performing Opportunities**

All rooms are available for pick-up jams. Grab some friends, start playing—and welcome any other players who want to join!

Sunday, July 20, 2025

**9:00-
10:00am** **Gospel Slow Jam, Everyone, Chromatic, Main Rm**

Karla Armstrong

Raising our voices together in harmony is an NWAG cherished tradition. This year Karla has agreed to lead a gospel music slow jam--so bring your autoharp and be prepared for a joyous experience.

**10:15-
11:45am** **Style Showcase, Everyone, Main Rm**

Panel Discussion with Guest Performers.

Each year our NWAG guest performers take on the challenge of learning a “new” song so they can relive--and then share their personal approaches and techniques for bringing a new song to life.