

Thursday, July 16, 2026

4:45- **Learn a Tune Refresher, All Levels, Main Rm**

5:45pm 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 shape for the weekend's upcoming jams.

Newbie Orientation, Beginners/NWAG 1st-timers, Chromatic, Chapel

Denise Humphreys

If you are new to either NWAG or the Autoharp world, welcome! In this hour we'll answer questions about NWAG, 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- **Playing and Performing Opportunities**
Showcase

Bluegrass Play-Along: All Levels, Denise Humphreys, Sun Rm

Interested in seeing what bluegrass is all about? You'll learn some easy tunes and be introduced to amazing learning resources, courtesy of Idaho's Bluegrass Association.

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

Guided Beginner Jam: All Levels; Chromatic, Susanne Eide, 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.

Friday, July 17, 2026

9-10am **Introduction to Irish Music, Intermediate/Advanced, Key of D, Main Rm**

Mike Herr

From slip jigs to reels, Mike will demonstrate and teach multiple forms of Irish dance music.

Boom and Chuck, Beginner, Keys of G and D, Chapel

Cindy Harris

Come meet Boom and Chuck, the Rhythm Pigs, and discover how learning to play strong rhythm can help you become the most popular musician in any jam you attend.

10:15- **National Park Tune: Twilight On the Sangre de Cristos (a slow air)**

11:15am **Intermediate, Key of G, Sun Rm**

Arlene Porteous

“Twilight on the Sanger de Cristos” is a beautiful tune written by Peter Ostroushko in 1995 and used in the 2009 Ken Burns National Parks special. We will be working on clarity of the melody and opportunities to “open chord” certain portions of the score. Not required, but bring your diatonic G/D autoharp if you have one.

Learn to Play Right Away, Beginner, Chromatic, Main Rm

Tina Louise Barr

Easy rhythm strums and chord progressions. Bring a tuned harp, thumbpick and two fingerpicks.

Quirky Fiddle Tunes, Int/Adv, G and D, Diatonic preferred, Chapel

Cindy Harris

Not all fiddle tunes are square! Come delve into the realm of "crooked" tunes and learn a few that are popular in jams.

11:30am-12:30pm **Intermediate Finger Picking, Intermediate, Chromatic, Main Rm**
Tina Louise Barr

Build effective melody skills.

Right Hand Meet the Left Hand, Beginner, C and G, Chapel
Mike Herr

Each hand does something different in playing the instrument, and various techniques will be used to become more familiar with what each hand does.

1:45-2:45pm **Autoharp Mechanics, All Levels, Sun Rm**
Pete D'Aigle

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

Writing Lyrics, All Levels, Main Rm
Susan Wickett-Ford

Create the draft of a song that feels like you.

Learn a Tune (Flowers of Edinburgh), All Levels, Key of G, Chapel
Mimi Geibel and Steve Akerman

Start (or continue) building your NWAG repertoire by learning “Flowers of Edinburgh” with Mimi and Steve. This is for those who can strum well and or play melody notes ok. We go slow and repeat measures often. By learning just one jam favorite, you’ll be ready to participate when it’s your turn to call a tune.

3-4pm **Finger Picking Basics, Beginner/Intermediate, Chromatic, Chapel**
Tina Louise Barr

Introduction to melody playing. Bring a thumb and two finger picks.

3-4:30pm **Double Trouble/Playing duets, All Levels, G and D, Main Rm**

Cindy Harris and Mike Herr

Have you ever wondered how two autoharpers can sit down and improvise duets on the spot? This workshop will give you some insights into the mystery and some techniques you can use to improvise your own duets as Mike and Cindy pair up and present 2-3 of their favorite tunes.

4:45- **I've Got Rhythm, Beginner, Chromatic, Chapel**

5:45pm Susanne Eide

You can jazz up a lot of songs just by changing up the strum pattern. In this workshop we'll take songs with simple chording and perk them up with some different strum techniques.

Ask a Sage, All Levels, Deck

Tina Louise Barr

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.

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

Enjoy the musical stylings of Susan Wickett-Ford and Mike Herr.

Post-
Concerts

Playing and Performing Opportunities

- 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 18, 2026

9-10am **The Magical Music Theory Machine, All Levels, G and D, Main Rm**

Cindy Harris

Do your eyes cross when someone starts talking about majors, minors and diminished 7ths? Does mention of the circle of 5ths cause dizzy spells? Discover how your autoharp can teach you everything you'll ever need to know about how music theory works.

The Purposeful Thumb, Intermediate, G and D, Chapel

Mike Herr

Learn to enhance the overall sound of your melodies by using the thumb of your right hand to include more notes, purposefully.

10:15-11:15am **Physics of the Autoharp Sound, All Levels, Sun Rm**

Pete D'Aigle

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

Let's Drive, All Levels, G and D, Main Rm

Cindy Harris

It's not all boom and chuck if you're an autoharper! Let's discover how the "thumb lead" can help make your melody playing more connected and interesting.

Italian Love Songs, Intermediate, Chromatic, Chapel

Tina Louise Barr

Capture the poetic beauty of Italian melodies! Bring a thumb and three fingerpicks.

11:30am-12:30pm **Beginner Check-in, Chromatic, Sun Rm**

We imagine your fingers will be tired and your brains will be a-buzzing at this point. Take advantage of this opportunity to ask for help, pose follow-up questions, request a demonstration of something you've seen or heard thus far, etc.

11:30am-12:30pm **Country-Style Finger Picking, Advanced, Chromatic, Main Rm**

Tina Louise Barr

Cont

Discover a very adaptive method on the autoharp.

Swedish Polskas, Beginner/Intermediate, Key of D, Chapel

Mimi Geibel and Steve Akerman

Polskas are fun, up-tempo tunes; not quite waltzes, not quite polkas. These two are particularly autoharp friendly and will have your feet a-tapping.

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 **Ask a Sage, All Levels, Deck**

Cindy Harris

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.

Honor the Gap, Adv Beginner/Intermediate, Key of D, Main Rm

Mike Herr

After learning to play melodies, emphasis is put on getting rid of strumming with the thumb for every count.

Two TV Themes, Intermediate/Advanced, Chromatic, Chapel

Mary Proudfoot

Learn two TV show theme songs—Get Smart and Northern Exposure

4:15-5:15pm **Ask a Sage, All Levels, Deck**

Mike Herr

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.

**4:15-
5:15pm
Cont**

A Pick to Rule Them all, All Levels, Main Rm

Gary Taylor

Are you looking for your “precious?” Come and let’s talk about picks, shape, materials, sound, fit, playing style, keeping them on, etc. etc. Bring the picks you found lacking and participate in a pick exchange—one person’s disappointment just might be another’s gold!

Melody with Your Ring Finger, All Levels, Key of D, Chapel

George Weisenborn

If you can pat your head and rub your tummy at the same time, this is for you. Learn a wonderful traditional Scottish folk song by playing the melody with your right hand’s ring finger and rhythm with your thumb and other fingers.

5:30pm

Group Photo, Everyone

Meet at 5:30 sharp in the grassy area just off the back deck!

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 19, 2026

9:00- Island-Style Jam, All Levels, Chromatic, Main Rm

10:00am Tina Louise Barr

Easy jam with the breeze of a tropical paradise.

10:15- Style Showcase, Everyone, Main Rm

11:30am 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.