



Dulcimer Workshop

Learning & Playing

*These 30-60 Minute Workshops & Performances
Are Ideal for Schools & Libraries*

Ish is delighted to share his knowledge about the **Dulcimer** so that Children and Adults alike can learn about the roots of the dulcimer from its early beginnings in Europe to modern day North American dulcimers.

Ish explains the roots of the dulcimer. How it took on local characteristics of each European culture it was found in and the various shapes and forms it took on.

It is believed that the word dulcimer was derived from the Greek word “dulce” which means sweet and the Latin word “melos” which means song.



Otto Malmberg & his Humle, 1917



When **Ish** began his career as a Musical Clown, his instrument of choice was the Appalachian Dulcimer. Although **Ish** plays several instruments; guitar, banjo, mandolin and dulcimer, his focus for this workshop is the Appalachian dulcimer.

Ish's workshops are age appropriate; the content of each workshop is modified to suit each age group and consists of a brief history about this instrument including photographs, diagrams and the many ways it can be strung, including learning about tablature and the different modes and scales it can be tuned in. As well as the different positions you can play in, from on your lap and/or underneath like a guitar.

My deepest Thanks to the following authors whose works contributed to this compilation.

Mountain Dulcimer for Children, Mary Catherine McSpadden; Make & Play the Dulcimer, John Pearse; The Dulcimer Book & The Dulcimer People, Jean Ritchie; Dulcimer Song Book, Neal Hellman



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30 - 60 minutes

Frets On A Dulcimer

The frets on a dulcimer are arranged that they are in a diatonic scale and has no traditional concert pitch and is pitched, tuned to suit his/her particular voice range and or musical instrument you choose to jam with: fiddles, mandolins, banjos etc.

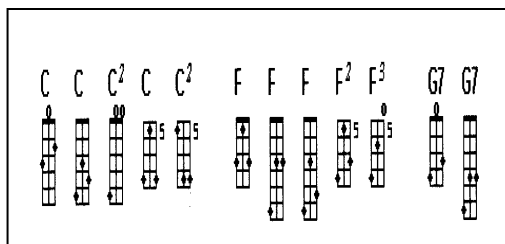
It can be played in the traditional fashion by fretting the first two unison strings and using the other two as drones to follow the melody or adapt the dulcimer to modern tunes by playing chords on it. You can learn by having your musical friend play it phrase by phrase or by tablature. It is much easier to read and understand than ordinary music notation.

Changing Modes & Keys

Modes are scales which resemble the familiar major and minor scale except that they possess only 7 tones or notes, hence the name diatonic scales. There are seven different modes to which you can tune your dulcimer, and within each of these modes there are several ways to tune your dulcimer.

Playing the Chords

Each chord has 1, 2, or 3 suggested fingerings. The illustration below will enable you to understand the suggested fingerings that make up a chord. Don't fret' different modes enable you to make different chords because it is in an open tuning and constantly changes depending what mode you are in.



**FOR A MORE COMPLEX
DESCRIPTION OF THIS
WORKSHOP,
THE BOOKLET IS AVAILABLE
UPON REQUEST.**

