North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Dulcimer Fast Track∆

Case 3: But, It Was in Tune When I Bought It!

by Gwen Caeli

If you play music with others, everyone must use the same tuning rules. Electronic tuners are one way to set those rules. When an instrument's strings are plucked, the vibrations create a 'waveform' (looks like a wave) that constantly repeats itself as it vibrates back and forth and slowly fades out. An electronic tuner mathematically captures those vibrations; it does not have ears to 'hear' them. The range of vibrations (soundwaves) is then calculated by our tuners and is measured by 'Hertz' (Hz). Hertz is a unit of frequency in the International System of Units and is defined as one cycle per second. One of its most common uses is for musical tones. So, in 100 Hz you have 100 music cycles per second, in 400 Hz you have 400 music cycles per second, and so on. In 1926, the American music industry reached an informal standard of 440 Hz (the A note above Middle C) and it started being used as the standard by some instrument manufacturers. It was formally adopted by the American Standards Association in 1936, and then was adopted in 1955 by the International Organization for Standards. This is now 'Standard Concert Pitch' in America and the British Isles. Older period instruments in continental Europe often use a 414 Hz, or other pitch as standard. In 1711, tuning forks were invented, but even they had pitch variations. In 1740, Handel's tuning fork was pitched at 422.5 Hz and one in 1780 was pitched at 409 Hz.

Relating this to dulcimer:

- All electronic tuners for dulcimers are preset at 440 Hz. Sometimes, when thrown in our instrument cases, a tuner's Hertz setting button might accidentally be pushed and will reset your Hertz. I have had students call me between sessions not being able to get in tune and that is often the culprit. Some tuners will show '440 Hz' on the start-up screen, others have a separate button to locate it. You may need to check and reset your tuner at times.
- When tuning, strike your string hard enough to create strong vibrations and waveforms that your tuner can calibrate – wimpy will not cut it! You may be out of tune with the person next to you just because your tuner cannot properly calibrate your string's vibrations.
- Make sure you know to which tuning peg your string goeth! If you keep turning a peg and you hear no difference in the pitch as you strike the string – STOP! You are probably turning the

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POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Lynn McCollum**, NGFDA, Inc., PO Box 522, Demorest, GA 30535. You may also contact **Lynn** by e-mail at lynnmccollum50@gmail.com
All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Barbara Joe** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the April issue is **March 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

Dulcimer Fast Track∆

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wrong peg and can pop the string attached to the peg you are turning. ***Constantly*** and ***consistently*** pluck the string you are tuning to listen for changes. Know that if you turn a peg, there will be a change in the pitch of the string.

- Tune from a pitch that is flat (lower) up to the desired pitch. This minimizes the effect of friction in your tuning mechanism. If you tune down from a sharper (higher) pitch, there is a greater tendency for the mechanism to slip after you are finished tuning.
- There are many sources of friction on a dulcimer's string. The slots in the nut at the peghead end may be tight on the string, preventing it from smoothly gliding over the area or through the slot. Try some graphite, or pencil lead, rubbed into the slot to smooth it out.
- Using a capo puts a lot of pressure on strings, pulling them out of tune. Pressure from a capo can also prevent the strings from sliding smoothly if a tuning peg is being turned while the capo is on the fretboard.
- When you pluck a string, the waveform sound will start shallow; grow tall like the crest of a wave, and return to shallow. This is just a natural part of acoustic instruments and has nothing to do with your tuner or instrument. Your tuner may look like it is jumping all over – it is! It can move up 4 or 5¢ (cents) by the end of the plucked tone. (Musical intervals are often expressed in 'cents' – a unit of pitch based on an equal-tempered octave. A whole step, as in going from a D note to an E note is 200¢. A 12-tone/half-step octave is 1200¢). The first two seconds of tuning will be most accurate.
- Your tuner can pick up 'sympathetic vibrations' between two strings that confuse the tuner. The sound vibration of a plucked string creates movement in the air that causes another string to vibrate and slightly sound. It is the same effect where a classically trained opera singer creates resonant frequencies to smash a crystal goblet. It is the transference of sympathetic vibrations. You can mute the strings that are not being tuned or take the best three out of four tuning tries on each string.
- What's the difference between a dulcimer and a tuna fish? You can tune a dulcimer but you can't tuna fish!

About The Tablature . . .

There is an old German siren legend about a narrow, dangerous section of the Rhine River. The beautiful Lorelei would sit above the 433 foot cliff and comb her long, golden hair with a golden comb, distracting sailors and luring them to their deaths as they failed to negotiate the rocky shore beneath. In 1837 Friedrich Silcher wrote the music that is tabbed here for dulcimer, to the poem written in 1824 by Heinrich Heine. It is a waltz to be played at a slow and stately pace.

Marianne grew up in Florida but spent every summer on the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is there that she came to love folk craft and mountain music, and was introduced to the mountain dulcimer when her father gave her a dulcimer kit to build for her 19th birthday. She moved to Texas after college to work for Texas Instruments, lived in that state for 20 years, Arkansas for seven years, and has lived in North Georgia now for eight years. She is a member of the Allatooners Satellite Group.

Die Lorelei

German Folk Song

Melody by Friedrich Silcher 1837

MAY 20 -21, 2016
SPRING THING

NGFDA Spring Dulcimer Event

We are absolutely ecstatic that Nina Zanetti will our instructor for Spring Thing this year. Nina is the 2008 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion. She comes to the mountain dulcimer from a diverse musical background, including choral music, violin, viola, piano, and shape note singing. To learn more about Nina, go to ninazanetti.com.

For more details, to pay and register, go to ngfda.org .

Event Location:

Group Shelter
High Falls State Park
Jackson, GA
http://gastateparks.org/HighFalls

Event Schedule:

Friday, 4 PM Song Share/Jam
6 PM – BBQ Dinner
Club provides meat, drinks & paper goods, bring a dish to share
Saturday, 9 AM – Registration
10AM – Morning Workshop
12 PM – Potluck Lunch
2 PM – Afternoon Workshop
4 PM – Open Mike/Performance
6 PM – Potluck Dinner
7PM - Song Share/Jam

Register for Event:

go to ngfda.org

Cost: $20 Members $50 Non-Members

Pay via PayPal(ngfda.org) or Check made payable to NGFDA sent to Barbara Stevens, 114 Oak Leaf Circle, Eatonton, GA 31024

QUESTIONS?
Call Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561

Volunteer to Help:

Call Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561

Fingerstyle

by President, John Shawhan

Wikipedia defines the term "fingerstyle" as something of a misnomer, since it is present in several different genres and styles of music—but mostly, because it involves a completely different technique, not just a "style" of playing, especially for the musician's picking/plucking hand. The term is often used synonymously with fingerpicking, although fingerpicking can also refer to a specific tradition of folk, blues and country music.

Janita Baker taught a class on Fingerpicking at Unicoi a couple years ago. She described the right hand technique as an important element of performance with the right hand controlling the dynamics of the song.

Sue Carpenter has a great article titled, *Fingerpicking 'til Your Heart's Content*. She describes picking patterns, tablature examples, Bass Patterns, Rolls and alternating double finger styles of fingerpicking.

Nina Zanetti, in her 12 episode lesson set establishes the foundation for playing expressively. She prefers to fingerpick with bare fingers.

The Scruggs banjo basics book describes the three finger style of playing. Earl used several variations of cadence to produce the pleasing tones from the banjo. Earl used multiple elements of hammering on, pulling off, chords, arpeggios and artificial harmonics to create his Bluegrass Banjo technique.

Fingerpicking for me is a cadence. A repetitive pattern based on a melody line with the thumb holding the rhythm and the other fingers filling in the gaps between melody notes. I have tried using the thumb, index and middle finger while using my pinkie to anchor my hand on the fretboard. I have also tried anchoring my thumb on the fretboard and using the index, middle and ring finger to pick the notes.

A couple of useful patterns are: Thumb (T), Index (I) and Middle (M) as a T M I pattern that repeats. T M I, T M I, T M I; or a reverse, I M T, I M T, I,M T; or an alternating, T M I, T I M, T M I, T I M.

Here are three great teachers, Janita Baker, Sue Carpenter and Nina Zanetti and their internet sites for additional information:

http://www.folkcraft.com/1310023.html

http://archive.dulcimersessions.com/feb06/fingerpickin.html

http://www.dulcimercrossing.com/md_ex/fstyle/dc_fstyle_pre.html

Spotlight on Satellites

Gold Country Players

The newly-formed group is up to speed and already enjoying 2016. With a lot of collaboration a Dropbox was created containing beginner information, the new playout list and the start of a GCP Jam Book. New members can now access all the information needed to participate in the group.

Tull Glazener's "Tin Pan Alley" and "The Three String Choir" are providing some challenging new tunes to focus on (probably for the next few years!).

The scheduled timing of the group continues to be weekly; however, the 'Focus on the Basics' session has been changed to 12:45-1:15. This is open to anyone who wants to improve on basic skills. The rest of the jam and new tunes sections are at 1:30-3:30.

A new Facebook page provides general information about the group and will help to attract more new members. www.facebook.com/ goldcountryplayers.

Hilltop Strummers

Several Hilltop Strummers attended the Central Florida Dulcimer and Autoharp festival in Mt Dora. Everyone had a great time meeting old friends and making new ones. The festival hosted a wonderful slate of teachers who not only kept us busy in classes all day learning new songs and techniques but performed outstanding concerts on Friday and Saturday evenings. Where do they get all of that energy?

The Hilltop Strummers are busy with the new summer playlist and playouts. New members are improving on a weekly basis and the combined group leadership is doing an outstanding job.

The Hilltop Hammers will be starting back to their regular Thursday morning class schedule beginning March 17. New songs are scheduled to be learned as well as continuing music theory. A review of previously learned tunes is an ongoing scheduled item that everyone benefits from.

The Hilltop Strummers welcome visitors and new members, so please check www.hilltopstrummers.com for additional information and meeting times.

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Spotlight on Satellites

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Dulcimer Troupers

This past Christmas season the Dulcimer Troupers were blessed with the gift of playing for the area nursing homes, Lions Club and the Presbyterian Women. Led by Ann Wilder, 27 Troupers were playing mountain dulcimers, guitar, harp, steel drum, and psaltery.

Dulcimer Troupers continue to grow. Beginning lessons are offered on Tuesdays, followed by JV (Junior Varsity) lessons with regular Dulcimer Trouper practice on Thursdays. Troupers are now busy getting ready to play for the area nursing homes, Azalea Storytelling Festival and West Georgia Hospice. Pictures above show Carolyn Stephens giving a nursing home resident a close up view of the mountain dulcimer and the Dulcimer Troupers playing for the Presbyterian Women.

Upcoming Events

Mountain Dulcimer Workshop. Long time mountain dulcimer player and instructor Charlie Mink will be at the Wildflower all weekend to provide instruction on playing the mountain dulcimer. Friday night will consist of an introduction/meet-and-greet with finger foods, sweets, and drinks provided. On Saturday, Charlie will play for breakfast before providing group and individual instruction. In the afternoon, the group will take a tour of the McSpadden dulcimer shop, led by owner and dulcimer maker Jim Wood. There will be a final session on Sunday before you leave. Available for beginners and intermediate players.

Brand new? Just want to try it out? A dulcimer will be provided for you during the workshop.

Times/hours/schedule: All weekend

Cost: $100 plus room rate

Website: http://thewildflowerbandb.com/event-specials/#dulcimer

Contact: Wildflower Bed & Breakfast On the Square. Call: (870) 269-4383

Email: innkeeper@thewildflowerbandb.com

April 21-24, 2016

LEE COUNTY GATHERING 2016

The event location is at Pioneer Park 6500 Stage Road, Loachapoka, AL (5 miles west of Auburn, AL). Hosted by the NGFDA satellite group, Whistle Stop Pickers.

Gathering instructor/performers include: Don Pedi, Joe Collins, Danny & Dottie Shepherd, Gary & Toni Sager, Guy and Sharrie George, Ann and Jeff Norris, Amber Rogers, Bill Hogan, Ernestine Robinson, Bob Taunton, Tom Spicer.

Lessons in Acoustic Instruments: Mountain Dulcimer, Hammer Dulcimer, Ukulele, Percussion, Penny Whistle, Autoharp, Harmonica, Bass, Banjo, Fiddle, Mandolin

Genres of Music Represented: Old-time & American Folksongs, Appalachian, Jimmie Rodgers, Hymns, Bluegrass, African-American Spirituals, Sacred Harp, Island or Caribbean

Participants will enjoy five formal concerts, children's concert, and open microphone opportunities, 2 ½ days of instruction, including children's classes in all areas, and 2 ½ days of "jamming" for all age levels.

For more information visit: www.leecountyhistoricalsociety.org and click on: Lee County Gathering link.

Sponsored in part by the Lee County Historical Society and Alabama State Council on Arts.

Dulcimer Workshop

Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club

19 March 2016

Instructor Joe Collins

9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Classic Hymns
10:15 AM	10:30 AM	Break
10:30 AM	11:45 PM	Hot Licks
11:45 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	2:45 PM	Slow Celtic
2:45 AM	3:00 PM	Break
3:00 PM	4:15 PM	Round and Round
4:15 PM	6:00 PM	Dinner
6:00 PM	7:00 PM	Concert

Joe Collins

Charge is $15 for one workshop. $25 for two workshops . $30 for three workshops. If you buy three the fourth workshop free of charge.

Location: Centerville* United *Methodist Church
600 North Houston Lake Blvd, *Centerville, GA* 31028

Contact for additional information: John Shawhan – 478-542-0495

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SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 2nd Mon.	6:30-9:00	First United Lutheran Church of Kennesaw 3481 Campus Loop Rd (formerly Frey Lake Rd.)	Peggy Martin 678-478-2456 martin.pb@comcast.net www.allatooners.org Satellite Scribe: Diana (DeeDee) Nash muffyqnash@yahoo.com
AlphaFretters					Not Currently Meeting
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	Monthly, 4th Thurs.	2:30-4:30	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off Cove Road.	Carol Lesley 770-893-2019 Carol.Lesley@tds.net
Blue Ridge	Blue Ridge, GA	Bimonthly 1st & 3rd Mondays	1:00-3:00	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Hwy. 515 at Forge Mill Road	Anne Bailey 706-632-3854 Teri Godfirnon terig@windstream.net
Dalton Dulcimers	Dalton, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	2:30	First United Methodist Church 500 S. Thornton Ave.	Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256 jspatts@windstream.net
Dixieland Dulcimers	Griffin, GA	Weekly-Mondays	10:00	Crestview Baptist Church fellowship hall, Griffin, GA	Donna Harpe 770-228-5597 phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net John Garret 770-223-8405 jgsped@yahoo.com Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	WeeklyMon.	6:00-8:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogosbill@aol.com
Gold Country Players	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs. Beginners Everyone	 12:45- 1:15 1:30-3:30	First Baptist Church Room 208, 751 Green Street, N.W. Room 235	Ro Johnson goldcountryplayers@gmail.com
Gwinnoters	Lawrenceville, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sun.	1:30-4:30	Fairview Presbyterian 857 Duluth Hwy. (Hwy. 120)	Gwen Caeli 678-863-4342 gwencaeli@gmail.com Linda Depkin suzie.d@mindspring.com
Hammered Dulcimer	Support Group for Hammered Dulcimer Inquiries				Agene Parsons 423-718-5730 ageneparsons@gmail.com
Hart String-Strummers	Hartwell, GA	Monthly – 1st Mon. Monthly – 3rd Sat.	12:30 12:30	Member's Home Hartwell Art Center	Call Mary Alice Ray at 706-371-0176 for directions to the Monday meeting or for more information
Hilltop Strummers	Woodstock-Canton, GA	Weekly – Tues.	1:30-3:30	Canton First UMC 930 Lower Scott Mill Road, Canton, GA Exit 16 at I-575	Bob & Sandra Hange 770-265-5308 bhange65@gmail.com
In Town Down Home	Atlanta, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sat.	2:00	Tenth Street United Methodist Church 425 Tenth Street, NW	Cathy Watts 770-377-8734 chwatts@mindspring.com Rudine Davis H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179
LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers	LaGrange, GA	Weekly, Thurs. mornings Weekly, Tues.	10:45- 12:15 11:30	First United Methodist Church for jamming & prac. Beginning classes	Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027 perrylwilder@bellsouth.net
Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players	Brevard & vicinity, NC	1st, 2nd & 3rd Wed.-Practice 4th Wed.-Playouts	1:00-2:30	St Philip's Episcopal Church 256 East Main St Brevard, NC	Mary Sherwood 828-966-9628 sherwood@comporium.net Ann Brown 828-877-5506
Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club	Macon, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sat.	1:00 Lesson 2:00-4:00 Jam	Young America School of Music 6361 Zebulon Road	Barbara Stevens 478-457-6539 gbs468@aol.com Karen Stewart 478-954-6759 galadybug53@gmail.com
Mountain Sounds	Blairsville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Tues.	1:30-3:30	Senior Center	Roxanne Gill roxannegill47@gmail.com
Oconee Belles & Beaus	Salem, SC	Bimonthly, 2nd Thurs. 4th Tues.	2:00-4:00 1:00-3:00	Keowee Key (Routes 130 & 183 So. of Salem, SC) Activity Center, Whitewater Room	Joan Krech 864-944-7094 joankrech@bellsouth.net Bonnie Lamarand 864-888-3328 lmrnd@att.net
Peach Pickers	Sharpsburg, GA	Monthly, 2nd. Sun.	3:00-5:00	Trinity Church 8817 Highway 54 W Sharpsburg, GA	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.com
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	Weekly, Thurs.	6:00-6:30 Lesson 7:15-Jam	1st United Methodist Church 600 N. Houston Lake Rd.	Laneah Maddox 912-687-3621 laneahmaddox@yahoo.com http://wrmusic.tripod.com/sonicsoundsdulcimerclub
Whistle Stop Pickers	East Alabama/ West Georgia (Auburn-Opelika area)	Weekly, Sat.	1:00-3:00	Lee County Historical Society Museum 6500 Stage Road (Hwy 14) Loachapoka, AL	Allen & Deborah McCord 334-821-1301 334-703-3646 (cell) mccord0304@gmail.com
Yonah Pickers	Cleveland, GA Clarkesville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun. Bimonthly-Beginners 1st & 3rd Mon. Bimonthly-Everyone 1st & 3rd Mon.	2:00-4:00 1:00-1:45 2:00-4:00	First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 Lynnmccollum50@gmail.com Email lynnmccollum50@gmail.com for details.

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures. Last Updated 02/19/2016

NGFDA Membership Form

Please start/renew my membership in NGFDA, including a subscription to the monthly *Foothills Footnotes* newsletter. Tab books available to members only, one copy per member at a cost of $10 (if mailed, add $2 mailing fee). Individual membership: $20. Family membership: $30. Please make checks payable to NGFDA. Dues, according to NGFDA bylaws, are renewable each November regardless of when you join.

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Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone_____ E-mail address*:_____

Membership Status (check one): ☐ New ☐ Renewing

Playing Level (check one): ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

***Members can automatically access our monthly newsletter at www.ngfda.org by clicking "newsletter" and entering your email address as *listed above*. The newsletter is posted around the 25th of each month.**

I wish to get my newsletter ☐ on the NGFDA website ☐ by email ☐ by mail

Do you want to order a Tab Book? (check one) ☐ Yes / ☐ No

Please add $12.00 for Tab Book and postage

Tab Book $_____

Membership Fee $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

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