



WORKSHOPS

In addition to being accomplished performers, April, Cody and Alex are also experienced instructors. April has also authored two books on Canadian fiddling and tunes.

They enjoy sharing their passion for music and dance in workshops, master classes or demonstrations in any setting and for all levels and age. Their ability to collaborate, and keen sense of when to lead and when to follow, makes them a favourite choice for festival workshops and jam sessions.

Topics, suggestions & requests are always welcome!

Canadian Fiddle Styles

There are several different regional styles of fiddling in Canada from coast to coast, including Ottawa Valley, Western Canadian, Metis, Maritime, Cape Breton and French Canadian.

This class will provide an overview of these different styles and explore what makes each of them unique. Participants will learn to play at least one tune distinctive to each style and apply the bowing patterns and ornamentation techniques that correspond to regional Canadian fiddle styles.

Tunes will be taught "by ear", please feel free to bring your recording device and lots of questions, as the class will be tailored to suit your needs and requests. We will be mindful of keeping with the roots of this tradition - getting together to make music and have a great time in a relaxed, social environment!

Ottawa Valley Stepdancing

The Ottawa Valley Stepdance style is unique to that region of Canada. Like the Ottawa Valley fiddle tradition, it is a melting pot of influences; clogging, tap dancing, Irish hardshoe stepdancing to name a few. Hard sole shoes are best, sandals are the worst, but wear what you have and come out and learn a few steps. No dance experience required, just a love of music and for keeping rhythm.

Guitar

This class will cover all things guitar, from flatpicking fiddle tunes and improvising solos to accompaniment and arrangements of bluegrass and old-time music! We will discuss guitar technique and tone, demystifying the fretboard, learning music "by ear", how to improve your musical memory, and provide the tools and inspiration to overcome any plateau.

Clawhammer Banjo

In this workshop participants will explore basic tunings, work on developing right hand clawhammer techniques, chording and backup playing techniques, as well as left hand techniques. Participants will learn new tunes and then practice developing a steady driving rhythm. The use of an audio recorder is recommended as this class will be taught by ear.

Bass

This class will cover topics such as right and left hand technique (how to hold the instrument), how to pull a good tone from your instrument, some basic music theory, the Nashville number system, basic setup for your bass, and some basic slapping technique. We will explore theory and rhythms, in particular we will work on backing up fiddle tunes and creating interesting arrangements. We will also discuss the world of soloing in a band situation.