

Bios

Janita Baker has been playing mountain dulcimer for over 40 years; through her recordings, books and appearances at festivals and workshops across the United States she has become well-known for her teaching skills and Blue Lion Dulcimers, which she builds with her husband Robert. As a solo performer on the mountain dulcimer, Janita presents her audiences with a wide range of musical experiences including classical, traditional, Hawaiian, blues, ragtime, swing and original instrumental pieces. A gifted story teller, Janita delights her listeners with a warm and personal sharing of her music and introduces to her audience and her students the incredible complexity, variety and beauty of the mountain dulcimer. Website: <http://www.bluelioninstruments.com/jb.html>

Ken Bloom of Pilot Mountain, NC, has a long musical history covering studio work in Hollywood to building obscure folk instruments in quiet seclusion. Over the years he has performed at most major folk festivals in the US and Canada both as a solo performer and a backup musician. More recently he has devoted his energies to developing and perfecting a modern version of the bowed dulcimer and seeing what it could do. Website: <http://boweddulcimer.org/>

Gwen Caeli: Working by day in a major West Coast performing arts center, Gwen jumped the fence at night for bluegrass performances, eagerly embracing the heritage of traditional music. She landed in the mountains of western North Carolina teaching dulcimer at festivals, folk schools and with private students. An award-winning player, she authored the *Fresh* series of dulcimer CD/books and recorded

“Hoe the Corn,” featuring Appalachian and old-time instrumentals. Her Youtube video channel features various playing styles and “The Diligent Dulcimer” instructional videos. Emil: gwencaeli@gmail.com Website: www.gwencaeli.com

Joe Collins is a 2007 National Champ, is a popular workshop leader and performer in dulcimer festivals throughout the country. Armed with an easy-going teaching style and excellent materials, Joe makes the dulcimer come alive for participants who venture into his workshops. His performances are a lot of fun too. His repertoire includes hymns, rock-n-roll, Celtic, folk, and a lot of stuff in-between. Website: jcdulcimer.com/

Janet Furman has been playing fiddle and bowed dulcimer with her husband Jeff beautifully for years at the NGFDA Fall Festival concerts and played on multiple recordings. Her fiddling technique has been widely admired, and, in response to requests, she will teach a couple of workshops on traditional fiddling.

Jeff Furman is an award-winning mountain dulcimer player who is known for his smooth and expressive style. And his gentle, humorous, and effective teaching style has made him a popular instructor at numerous mountain dulcimer workshops across the country. Jeff is a multi-instrumentalist who has been playing old-time music since 1980. Primarily a claw hammer banjo player for many years, he developed a rhythmic and melodic style which has heavily influenced his dulcimer playing. He has an extensive repertoire of old-time fiddle music which crosses over to a strong interest in Celtic music. He has a particular fondness for waltzes and Celtic airs on the dulcimer. He has been performing for more than 30 years, and his technical abilities and musical sensitivity have made Jeff a popular choice for playing on multiple recordings, including music from Ireland, Scotland, the Appalachian Mountains, and American folk tunes. Touching someone’s heart with his music is Jeff’s most rewarding goal. He would “rather see a tear fall than a jaw drop.” Jeff describes himself as a

musician with a day job! He lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Website: jeffurman.com/

Guy George, a multi-instrumentalist from northeastern Ohio, is a rhythmic, melodic musician with a definite jazz influence to his playing style. Guy comes from a background in jazz and performance on the saxophone, having studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston, honing his skills while playing with many jazz influenced musicians in the Boston and New York area. He settled outside Cleveland, Ohio and presently plays hammered dulcimer, tenor, alto and soprano saxophones, steel drum, flute, pennywhistle and keyboard. He teaches and performs on the hammered dulcimer, steel drum and pennywhistle at numerous festivals around the U.S. He is an author of over 10 books with tunes from many different genres containing arrangements for pennywhistle, steel drum, hammered dulcimer and other instruments. Guy and his lovely wife Sharrie travel to various festivals throughout the United States in their 32-foot motorhome with their bird “Chip” teaching a variety of instruments. Website: www.islandguymusic.com/

Sharrie George has been playing guitar for over 40 years and has added ukulele to her instrument lineup in the last 5 years. She teaches and plays guitar and ukulele with her husband, Guy. She studied music and fine arts at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. Sharrie and Guy teach and play music together for weddings, private parties and events, and at churches and festivals around the U.S. Sharrie has taught guitar and ukulele at festivals such as Key West Dulcimer Festival, Kentucky Music Week, Common Ground on the Hill in Maryland, Memphis Dulcimer Gathering, Winter Creek Family Reunion in Oklahoma, and John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N.C., as well as co-hosting the Florida Gulf Coast Dulcimer Retreat with Bing Futch and Guy. Website: www.islandguymusic.com/

Tull Glazener from Indianapolis, IN, has been sharing the music of the mountain dulcimer through performances and workshops at festivals throughout the country since 1986. He enjoys adapting all kinds of music to the mountain dulcimer, including aires and waltzes, rag-time, traditional/old-time, contemporary, classical, and jazz. He has produced 5 recordings, is the author of 4 instruction books, and has produced a series of “learn-at-home” teaching CDs. He has served as a columnist for *Dulcimer Players News* and has been included on 2 of the “Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer” recordings produced by Susan Trump. In addition to the mountain dulcimer, Tull also plays hammered dulcimer and button accordion, and is a member of the “Family Reunion String Band” as well as the “Half Way Home” trio, both based in central Indiana. Website: tullglazener.com/

Anne Lough is a nationally known traditional musician, highly acclaimed for her skill as a performer and educator. Anne has a Music Education Degree from Murray State University, Murray, Ky and a Master of Music Education Degree from Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC. Dedicated to the preservation of traditional music, stories and folklore, she now devotes her time to festivals, Road Scholar classes, workshops, performances and school residencies. Her artistic interpretation, sensitive playing style, versatility, creative arranging and skill as an instructor have given her opportunities to share the music and inspire students in major venues of the dulcimer community. In addition to being a regular instructor of mountain and hammered dulcimer at the prestigious John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC, Anne has taught at the Swannanoa Gathering, Western Carolina Dulcimer Week, Augusta Heritage Dulcimer Week, Kentucky Music Week, Ozark. Website: www.annelough.com/

Madeline MacNeil; After hearing Peter, Paul and Mary in a concert, Madeline MacNeil knew she had another life’s journey. She retired from teaching school in her mid-twenties and became a guitar-playing folksinger. Not long afterwards she lived and performed in Shenandoah National Park for six years and met the mountain and hammered dulcimers. The journey continues. Her performances include many concerts and workshops, and recordings. She has written books independently and for

Mel Bay Publications, and published *Dulcimer Players News* from 1978-2006. Website: madelinemacneil.com

Don Pedi plays Traditional Old-Time Music in a truly original way. He's known for developing a playing style for the fretted mountain dulcimer that can match a fiddle, note for note, all the while maintaining the rhythms and characteristics of traditional music. Over the decades, he's been recognized and honored for collecting, preserving and performing Traditional Mountain music. He shares songs, tunes and stories in a warm, often humorous and always entertaining manner. Since 1985 Don has championed both traditional and more contemporary folk music as an on air host at WCQS 88.1 in Asheville, North Carolina and has appeared in the motion pictures "The Song Catcher" and "The Journey of August King", as well as a number of documentaries and music specials. Website: www.donpedi.com

Rick Thum: Ranked as the most influential dulcimer player of the last decade by readers of *Dulcimer Player News*, Rick Thum has made his mark on every aspect of the hammered dulcimer world. Rick is perhaps best known from his latest album, "Down the Old Dirt Road," and his festival performances, which have regularly earned him the "most popular performer" title at the largest national dulcimer festival. He brings a combination of passion and friendly accessibility to his teaching that makes his workshops and master classes favorites at festivals across the country, and has tapped this teaching experience to produce the best-selling instructional CD series for hammered dulcimer, the "Original Song of the Month Club". Rick is also the designer of the highly-regarded line of hammered dulcimers bearing his name. Yet for all his time in the studio, onstage, in the classroom, and in the luthier's shop, Rick is most at home at a late-night jam session, where you might even find him playing an instrument other than the dulcimer from time to time. Website: rthum.com

Coleen Walters, who plays bass and sings harmony in Doofus, is a nationally known artist in her own right. She was an active quilter for over 30 years and, prior to the move to Greencastle, was a member of FiberWorks, a cooperative studio located at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA. Her teaching credits include the International Quilt Festival, Quilt Surface Design Symposium, NQA Annual Shows, and Quilter's Heritage Celebration, as well as numerous guilds and stores. Her work has been featured in several national quilt magazines and her quilts and clothing have been in exhibits in many states and countries. She operates her own art-to-wear design business, [Coverings](http://Coverings.basementmusicstudio.com/coverings/). basementmusicstudio.com/coverings/

Neal Walters has been playing stringed instruments and performing for more than 40 years. He loves to sing and typically accompanies himself on the mountain dulcimer, guitar and autoharp but he also plays fiddle, banjo, mandolin, and bass. He was a member of the Mill Run Dulcimer Band for over 20 years and recorded eight albums with that band. Currently he is a member of Doofus, joining his wife, Coleen, and Connecticut residents John and Heidi Cerrigione. Doofus has released four albums Website: basementmusicstudio.com/.