

Winston-Salem Dulcimer Festival Level Descriptions

Level 1 – Rank Beginner (All Day Class)

This is the first step in learning to play the mountain dulcimer. You will focus on a bit of history of the dulcimer, how to care for and tune your dulcimer, strumming, fretting, and learning to play your very first songs! There will be a few loaner dulcimers in case you do not have one yet.

Level 2 – Beyond Beginner/Lower Intermediate

This level can play melody and a few basic chords. You are ready to explore more right and left-hand technique, three-finger chords, and start applying embellishments as well as improving your tab reading, using the capo, exploring various rhythms and playing multiple styles up and down the fretboard.

Level 3 – Upper Intermediate

This level plays more advanced tunes and applies embellishments, but is ready for comfort in playing a variety of tempos and rhythms, alternate tunings, playing with more expression, hearing chord changes, and playing more by ear. Also, this level is ready to use the capo at various locations and play a tune more creatively.

Level 4 – Advanced

This level is for the more experienced player who is comfortable playing various rhythms and tempos, and applying dynamics for better expression to your music. In this level, you will focus on musicality, rearranging basic tunes, exploring a wide variety of music styles and genres, efficient and consistent fingering, and playing in different keys while tuned to DAd. You are also ready to learn performance skills, memorization techniques, and ornamentation tips, tricks, and twists.