

ENSEMBLE MUSIC WITH APPALACHIAN DULCIMER

NUTMEG DULCIMER FESTIVAL

October 23, 2015

NORTHEAST DULCIMER ORCHESTRA

Mack Johnston, Music Director

Melanie Johnston, Executive Director

Members of the Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra

Today's Session

5 min	Welcome
20 min	<i>He Leadeth Me</i> 19 th c.: Gilmore and Bradbury Arr. Linda Brockinton; used with permission
20 min	<i>Coleman's March</i> Trad. Arr. Ron Zuckerman; used with permission; http://www.creeksideplayers.com
If time / takehome	<i>Jefferson</i> Tennessee Harmony (1818); Sacred Harp 148
5 min	Closing

Joys of Playing in Ensemble

- Community: the whole trumps the sum of the parts; everyone is important
- Hear the music – complexity promotes beauty of the piece - harmony, melody, countermelody, infrastructure/rhythm
- Interplay between parts; range of delicacy to power
- A new community or circle of those with similar interests, sensibilities, desires to explore and grow

Foundations for Ensemble Playing

- A consistent group committed to making music with each other
- Careful music selection
 - ▣ Choose beautiful and rewarding pieces whose complexity matches skill level
 - ▣ Appreciate the diatonic basis for the Appalachian Dulcimer: *increased complexity is not required*, but will require half frets, capos, retuning,
 - ▣ Address tablature requirements

FAQs

- **How large a group is needed?** 2, 3, 4, 8, more
- **Do you need a conductor?** *helpful, especially for more than 4 players, unless the group is experienced at ensemble playing.*
- **Why a conductor?** *To keep the group together rhythmically; for performances, to set the vision for the piece, and to blend the individuals into a group.*
- **What musical background is needed in the players?** *The understanding of timing; commitment to “together time”*
- **What’s the most important of all the requirements?** *A collegial and collaborative nature, listening to and sharing with each other*

Rehearsals

- **Technique:** *members enter rehearsals well practiced, with identified trouble spots and questions*
- **Phrasing and expression:** *dynamics, tone, articulation, rhythm*
- **Communication:** *“play well with others:” breathing, eye contact, cue-ing, and smiles*
- **Teamwork:** *aware of the role of one’s individual part, aware at all times of others in group, and aware of conductor’s direction*

Contacts

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- Connecticut Mountain Dulcimer Gathering (includes link to Northeast Dulcimer Orchestra)
<http://www.ctmtdulcimer.com>