

Coda:

You just had to be there. I can't tell you how much fun it was to play in a dulcimer orchestra of 18 instruments: in three parts, in rounds, strumming rhythms, clapping rhythms, getting it wrong, working it out, stopping on a dime together sometimes and crashing to a halt at others. Changing <gasp> out of DAD tuning to the exotic DGD, where some dulcimers haven't gone before. What a difference a whole step makes! Breaking into a runaway rendition of 'June Apple' just because we could. Having new players step up to share music and keep us on the beat. Thanks P for the lovely finger-picked Ashokan Farewell. If you knew it already, you knew she did a great job. If you didn't know it already, now you know why that lovely tune is a standard on Planet Dulcimer. B, thanks for stepping up, and welcome to your new position as Chief of Rhythm Police – Beat Cop, if you will. Who knew I would forget how to count to three? Thanks J and M for bringing and suggesting music for next time. And MB, for bringing a friend AND cookies. To R., who came with nothing but curiosity and a good attitude, hope you had a good experience and will come again. Email us, we can let you know where to get a dulcimer of your own. And to all of the rest of you who made our beginning such a success – keep playing and see you in February!

And now, business:

Because the Church needs to be locked, please plan to arrive between 12:45 and 1:10 for the beginner group. We'll be watching the door then. Once we start playing about 1:10 after everyone gets in and tuned it will be catch as can until we break about 2:15. If you want to join us for the latter part of the Gathering, doors will open at 2:15 until 2:30 or so. Otherwise you can try my cell – 860-212-6711 – but after 1:10 the priority is to be playing music, not doorman. You might have to wait until we get to the end of a tune, and it was co-old last Saturday and not likely to be warmer before June. I'm working on a better plan for this. Anyone have a kid or spouse who will sit by the door with a good book?

Copies of the book and music that was handed out will be available at the February meeting. \$3.00 for the book, handouts free.

Refreshments:

are going to be ad hoc. I'm not organized enough for snacks plus music and Mel also has music plus web-duties. (And we continue to get great comments on our site.) We're all busy. So we'll just trust that the Spirit will move someone to bring something, put coffee on for the break, whatever, or not. We're good with that. Any questions about the kitchen, etc. email me.

Budget:

There will be a *brief* informational outline of the budget at the February meeting.