

Coda:

We gathered from as far away as Vermont this time, and had a wonderful afternoon of playing and planning. There were medieval-sounding tunes in D-A-C, as well as more fiddle tunes. Special thanks to M and J for a knowledgeable and steady rhythm section. We played from tab and then traded tunes by ear and eye, the way tunes have been passed down for generations. It's such a joy to be part of that tradition of listening, trying, watching, jumping in, and finally making a tune our own, a part of our own ears and hands. More experienced players sat with the less experienced, watching and being watched, helping through tricky spots and simply encouraging. Many questions were asked and answered all around. Our differences are starting to come out too - about how many times to play a tune, getting on the same page at the counting in, finding the balance between the speed demons and the lyrical players, but hey, that's the folk in folk music, to our way of thinking. It's how the Gathering continues to take shape as people come and lend their ideas and talents, share their tips and tunes.

At the break over coffee and a big bag of yummy treats from Trader Joe's (thanks Northern contingent) we talked about bringing in area teachers for some Saturday mini-workshops. We have already approached a couple of the teachers mentioned and will follow up at the Dulcimer Fest in Latham next month. Details will follow as we work things out.

We laid out the budget and agreed that folks will chip in a few bucks each month in lieu of dues this year. We are on track to have a large enough group to make that workable. We collected \$45. No dues means less administrative work, so thanks everyone!

One of the main reasons for our group is to allow communication between and among our members. This was voiced as a top priority for those at the Gathering as well. Instead of sending around our mailing list, we have created a Group on the Everything Dulcimer website where people can post questions, comments, and exchange information. To find us, go to [www.everythingdulcimer.com](http://www.everythingdulcimer.com). There is a LOT available on this site in general. You'll have to join to post in our Group. Under the "Applications" tab you'll find "Groups" then scroll down 'til you see CTMT Dulcimer. There is already one discussion started. We encourage everyone to join up, speak up, and explore the site in general. There is nothing I can think of that hasn't been addressed in the forums already, and some of the best players and teachers post there. We will continue to post Gathering-specific information at [www.ctmtdulcimer.com](http://www.ctmtdulcimer.com) website - music, time and locations, etc. Think of the ED site as the place where all those side discussions and connections can take place. Let us know how it works.

For all of you going to New York next month, can't wait to see you there. The rest of you, we'll have lots of tunes and ideas to share when we return for the March Gathering.

The sky was light this morning when I went out to start John's car. Spring is on the horizon. Soon the garden will be competing for our attention. The new music is posted. Play those dulcimers while the days are still short!