

# Workshop Descriptions *(alphabetical by Instructor first name)*

## **Hanz Araki** (Flute & Whistle):

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### **Whistle Basics**

*BEG – Whistle*

Get the rudiments of one of the more portable instruments in traditional music!

### **Music of West Kerry**

*INT/ADV – All instruments*

Hanz feels very lucky to spend a portion of every year on the Dingle Peninsula. He'll share a few of the tunes he has learned from his time there.

### **The Irish Session: An Open Discussion**

*All levels – All instruments*

There are a lot of ideas of what makes a "perfect" session. Let's talk about leading and/or playing in a session; what works, what doesn't; pet peeves, so-called rules, and when and how to artfully break those rules. Address questions like, "How many bodhrans / guitars are too many?" or, "Songs: What Are They And Do They Belong?" (SPOILER: Yes, they do.) Bring any and all questions you have about this amazing – often maddening – living, breathing entity known as The Sesiún.

### **Lilting**

*All levels – Songs*

Lilting is one of the most tragically under-utilized disciplines you have at your disposal – they don't call it "diddly" music for nothing!

### **The Shakuhachi**

*All levels – All instruments*

The mastery of this instrument has been handed down in Hanz' family for 6 generations. While it may fall outside the parameters of most of the genres covered at Acadia, it did shape his playing of traditional Irish music. This workshop will be more of a discussion and demonstration than a hands-on workshop, so please ask questions about Japanese music, or incorporating other traditions into your playing.

## **Matt Bell** (Bodhran, Technology):

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### **Bodhrán 101**

*BEG – Bodhran*

Have you ever wanted to pick up the bodhran but weren't sure where to start? If so, this is the workshop for you! We'll go over picking a drum and a tipper and how to hold them, the three stick strokes, basic open and closed tones, and fundamental grooves for reels and jigs. We'll also discuss session etiquette and general musical awareness when playing the drum. Bring a drum if you have one, but we'll try to have a few on hand too!

### **“Playing the Tune” on the Bodhrán**

*INT/ADV – Bodhran*

Developing rhythmic and tonal sensitivity is key to making a musical contribution on the bodhran. In this workshop, we'll dive into the idea of “tune roadmaps” which are a way to chart out the rhythmic and tonal contours of a tune and then express them on the bodhran. We'll play through several roadmaps for various tune types, and we'll also do some listening and bodhran part composition for a set of tunes with existing chordal accompaniment.

### **Bodhrán Ornaments**

*INT/ADV – Bodhran*

The bodhran is unique in the world of percussion instruments because of its use of a double-ended stick or tipper. In this workshop, we'll start with the quintessential double-ended roll or “triplet” and its use in reels and jigs. We'll then expand into single-ended rolls in jigs and reels as well as sixteenth-note triplet and 32nd note “single stroke” ideas. Finally, we'll explore extended double-ended roll ideas in order to play more complex contemporary patterns.

### **“Colors”: Expanding your Tonal Palette**

*INT/ADV – Bodhran*

The modern bodhran is capable of amazing sensitivity and tonal flexibility once a player learns how to control it. In this workshop, we'll explore how different tone hand shapes can be used to dramatically change the sound of the drum. We'll learn about pitch bends, octave jumps, run-ups and run downs, and drumset-style patterns. We'll also discover how the use of different tippers can totally alter the feel and tonal space that the bodhran occupies, either solo or within a mix.

### **Technology in Trad Music**

*All levels – All instruments*

In this era of smart phones, tablets, and laptops, musicians have more technology at their fingertips than ever before. We'll explore a variety of apps, digital audio workstations, and video software that can be used to record live sessions, aid in practice, and even record full length projects. We'll go over audio and video fundamentals, microphone selection, ideas for portable recording set-ups, and lighting suggestions. We'll also build an arrangement of a short track and use the Logic Pro Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) to record it.

## **Andrea Beaton** (Fiddle, Piano):

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### **Beginner Cape Breton Stepdancing**

*BEG – Dance*

Learn the basic strathspey, reel and jig steps from Cape Breton Island. No experience necessary!

### **Square Set Workshop with Andrea & Troy**

*All levels – Dance*

We will learn some of our favourite square dance figures and pair them with the appropriate music.

### **Cape Breton Band Lab with Andrea & Troy**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

All instruments, singers and dancers are welcome to join in this class. We will tailor our musical adventure to suit the variety of participants.

### **Beaton & MacMaster Tunes**

*ADV/MST – All instruments*

A fast paced class for people who would like to learn dance tunes associated with Buddy MacMaster and Kinnon Beaton. A jig commonly played by Buddy and a Reel composed by Kinnon.

### **Accompaniment & harmonization for two fiddles**

*ADV/MST – Fiddle*

Learn some tricks and techniques for creating interesting harmonies, accompanying each other, and creating some truly

special sounds. This class is co-taught with Véronique Plasse.

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## **Mari Black (Fiddle):**

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### **'Comping for Fiddlers**

*ALL - Fiddle*

Ever played in a group or jam session that needed something... well, besides just the melody? Did you look around for a guitarist or piano and discover that there weren't any there?! Oh no, who is going to accompany those tunes? Answer: YOU!! Come learn some fun and hip techniques we fiddlers can use to contribute rich and interesting non-melodic parts to any tune! Topics will include creating rhythmic and melodic accompaniments, finding chords, chopping (tastefully!), constructing harmony lines, and more. Bring your fiddle and be ready to play, play, play!

### **Tunes with a Twist**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

The classics are awesome...but there's something special about those tunes that just do something completely UNexpected! Maybe it's an exceptionally cool rhythm? Maybe it's a chord change you never saw coming? Come learn some of Mari's favorite unusual tunes that are guaranteed to prick up the ears -- and eyebrows! -- of anyone listening! We'll explore the best twists and turns in the repertoire (and maybe even pick up a few ideas to use in your own tune writing and improv!) All instruments welcome!

### **Play Your Own Harmony: Dynamite Doublestops for Celtic and Old Time Tunes**

*INT/ADV/MST – Fiddle*

There's nothing quite so cool as two fiddles playing in harmony together -- but what if you don't have another fiddler handy to play the harmony with you? Why, you do it yourself, of course! This workshop dives into the art of harmonizing your tunes yourself using double stops. We'll look at some of Mari's favorite "double stop moves" including finding different voicings, exploring some delicious chord substitutions, and -- of course -- using some slick tricks and techniques to make the whole thing feel easy and sound awesome. Bring your favorite tunes and a sense of adventure, and let's dive in!

### **Draggin' the Bow...**

*INT/ADV/MST – Fiddle*

Have you ever worried about learning the "right" bowing, had trouble finding a comfortable bowing...or just felt like your bow was draggin' *you*? Bring your questions and curiosities to this all-style bowing workshop, where Mari will explain and simplify right hand complexities. We'll look at the fundamentals of bowing: characteristic slurring patterns in different styles, various cutting and shuffling techniques, and strategies for choosing and improvising bowings that both sound and feel great. And of course, we'll learn some new tunes to show off your bowing skills, too!

### **Create Your Own Snazzy, Jazzy (and probably improvised!) Variations**

*INT/ADV/MST – Fiddle*

You love it when performers take an improvised solo over a traditional tune. Unexpected "spicy" moments in a familiar melody make you whoop with delight. Unusual chords drive you wild, and "out there" melodic variations leave you thinking "Holy cow, where did THAT come from?!" If any of these situations sound familiar, this workshop is for YOU! Come explore how classic fiddle tunes and improvisational jazz ideas can collide to produce some of the coolest-sounding moments in modern traditional music. We'll work on how to both improvise and plan variations inspired by the rich harmonic and rhythmic language

of American jazz, bluegrass, and swing fiddle. Leave with a few super snazzy tricks to spice up your favorite tunes!

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## **Jon Cooper (Fiddle making):**

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The fiddle making class runs 24 hours a day! Hands-on participation is for majors only, but please do stop in and see the progress. Can Jon and his students build a fiddle in 5 days? They did last year!

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## **Timothy Cummings (Whistle, Pipe Tunes):**

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### **Whistle Techniques:**

*INT/ADV – Whistle*

We'll explore new repertoire while learning articulation ideas and patterns from the Scottish piping tradition. We'll be experimenting with such wee beasties as 'leumluaths', 'doublings', and 'throws', all which can be employed as a means of adding more interest, variety, and wit to your arsenal of ornamentation. Sheet music will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring a recording device to capture the essence of things not easily notated.

### **Scottish pipe tunes**

*INT/ADV – All instruments*

Delectable Scottish pipe tunes are on the menu, with added discussion on how pipers approach music differently (and why). We'll examine the role of the ever-present drone, how it affects the way we tune (hint: not equal tempered), how it influences the way pipe tunes are written, and how we pipers experience music differently than most other musicians. We'll also look at the rich, quirky, and wholly unique world of Scottish pipe embellishments, why they are completely necessary in our music, and how they serve multiple purposes. Sheet music will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring a recording device to capture the essence of things not easily notated.

### **Triple-time hornpipes from the Lowland & Border tradition**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

If you've not encountered this tune genre before, prepare to face a new addiction in your life. A handful of choice Lowland & Border triple-time hornpipes (with a time signature of 3/2) are on offer, taught by a piper for all instruments. We'll start by learning these by ear, but sheet music will be made available for those in need.

### **Slip jigs**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

We'll explore both traditional and recently-composed slip jigs from the Scottish tradition, with an emphasis on capturing the alluring rhythmic quality that makes the slip jig so infectious. We'll start by learning these tunes by ear, but sheet music will be made available for those in need. Participants are encouraged to bring a recording device to capture the essence of things not easily notated.

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## **Anastasia DesRoches (Fiddle, Dance):**

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### **Rollo Bay and the Prince County Connection**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

Rollo Bay has traditionally been a yearly gathering place for the different chapters of the PEI Fiddler's Society. In the past, "chapters" or groups were represented by county but more recently there is a broader participation with the Acadian Fiddlers group being recognized also. We will explore some of the

tunes that are played in the Western part of the Island and some tunes common to many which are shared at Rollo Bay.

### **PEI Acadian compositions**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

There are many Acadian composers on PEI, easily 40 or more. We will explore the lifestyle and motivation of these players and learn a few tunes that are rarely heard elsewhere.

### **Acadian Session Tunes**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

There are most definitely some favorite tunes when playing in an Acadian jam. In this workshop, we'll learn a few that are sure to be part of any session where Acadian players are present. Some of the tunes are local tunes that have gained notoriety and some are borrowed from other cultures and places.

### **Acadian step dancing I**

*BEG – Dance*

If you've never tried step dancing before but are curious, this is the workshop for you. We'll start with the very basic movements that will get you on your way to first steps. We will also explore the concept of podorythmie common to Acadian fiddle players.

### **Acadian step dancing II**

*INT/ADV - Dance*

Acadian step dancing, like other styles of step dancing is largely rhythm based. In this workshop, we'll learn some steps that have been created by Island dancers and some that have become an integral part of the Acadian dance repertoire. Dancers should have a good basic knowledge of step dancing.

## **Kevin Doyle (Dance):**

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### **Fundamentals of American Tap**

*BEG – Dance*

Come and learn to dance the basic terminology of American Tap Dance. We will start with some beginning rhythms of tap and put them together as we dance to some fun pieces of music. Very relaxed and loose as we move through the different ways our bodies respond to the beat of the feet!! Hard or leather soled shoes, dance sneakers or tap shoes work well for this class.

### **The Waltz Clog**

*BEG/INT – Dance*

Today we will go way back to what many call the baby of Tap Dance, the Waltz Clog. We will learn the basic time step and talk about the structure of this style of dance. Learning how to shift our weight from side to side will be the key to having some fun with waltz clogs. Leather or hard soled shoes, dance sneakers or tap shoes all work for this class. Beginner and intermediate can enjoy this class.

### **Soft Shoe Dance**

*BEG/INT – Dance*

Today we will learn about the evolution of tap dance as we discover the soft shoe. Made famous with the many hoofers from Vaudeville Era, it became a Hollywood favorite. We will learn an old time classic known as Tea for Two!! Leather or hard soled shoes, dance sneakers or tap shoes are fine. Beginner and intermediate appropriate.

### **The Shim Sham**

*BEG/INT – Dance*

Learn to dance what is referred to as the National Anthem of Tap Dance, The Shim Sham!! This dance was created by Leonard Reed, a tap dancer in the 1920's and 30's with a little help from his dance partner Willie Bryant. This dance is performed around

the world with tap dancers making it a universal language. Leather or hard soled shoes, dance sneakers or tap shoes work!

### **Tap Dance Review**

*BEG/INT – Dance*

Back to the basics today with a review of tap dance terminology. We'll use the language of tap as we dance different combinations to various fun filled pieces of music. Come and get loose and enjoy the beat!! Leather or hard soled shoes, dance sneakers or tap shoes will work nicely for this class. Beginner is fine as well as anyone else that wants to explore a little of the tap world.

## **Dan Faiella (Guitar) & Liz Faiella (Fiddle)**

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### **Tragic Song Singalong**

*All levels – Songs*

Murder. Drowning. War. Unfaithful lovers. Add to your repertoire of the cathartically depressing Irish and Scottish traditional songs in this all-comers singalong. Got a favorite song of Celtic misery? Bring it along to share!

### **Recently Written Tunes in the Irish Tradition**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

Play along with popular, recently-written tunes that have made it into the Irish session scene - and bring your favorites! Tunes could include compositions by Liz Carroll, Niall Vallely, Michael McGoldrick, Brian Finnegan and others.

### **Irish Polka Party!**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

You're invited to a polka party! We'll delve into the treasure trove of Irish polkas old and new, learn a few, and share tips on playing and accompanying these upbeat, energetic melodies. BYO polkas too, if you have them! There are never too many polkas.

### **Making Medleys: Beginnings, Transitions, and Endings**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

The art of arranging beautiful, memorable medleys of traditional tunes - demystified! We'll learn, arrange, and play a medley of traditional tunes together, focusing on how beginnings, endings, and transitions can take an arrangement to a higher level.

### **It's a Jig in D! Accompaniment for Tunes You've Never Heard Before**

*INT/ADV/MST – All accompaniment instruments*

"It's a jig in D!" someone shouts, over the hubbub at your local session. Learn tips and tricks for accompanying new tunes on the spot, while you're hearing them for the first time.

## **Samuel Foucher (Accordion):**

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### **New England Contradance Tunes**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

There is a rich tradition of contradance in New England. Come learn a few of the popular regional tunes to bring back home – and to play at the Student Dance on Friday evening!

## **Nikolai Fox (Fiddle):**

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### **Old-time Tunes**

*All Levels – All Instruments*

Nikolai has been playing old-time fiddle music for more than fifteen years with bands and informal sessions. In this workshop, he'll introduce you to what is referred to most commonly as 'old-

time' or more specifically; the rural fiddle music of the south eastern region of the United States. The group will learn a few of his favorite, simple tunes slowly by ear. Old-time fiddle 'vernacular' will be discussed and incorporated as well as chording and alternative fiddle tunings. References for tune sources will be provided. This class will primarily be geared toward intermediate and above fiddlers and guitarists but all are welcome to attend.

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## **Maeve Gilchrist (Harp, Songs):**

### **Rhythm**

*All levels – All instruments*

This workshop is for anyone who just wants to work on strengthening their sense of time. Bring your instruments and we'll explore fundamental downbeats and offbeats before getting deeper into demystifying syncopation!

### **Insta-Band**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

Come bring your instrument and let's make music. Maeve will teach a simple tune, arrange it on the spot and create an insta-band for this workshop utilizing whoever turns up.

### **Traditional Singalong (with Eamon O'Leary):**

*All levels – Songs*

Maeve and Eamon will share songs from their extensive repertoires of mostly Irish traditional material. Join in (sometimes in harmony) as we sing timeless stories of the sea, of love and courtship, of work and ritual, of emigration, of war, and the many other subjects these songs describe. A welcoming and informal class, open to all ages and abilities—no prior singing experience is necessary. Members of the class will also be able to contribute songs of their own choosing and basic guidelines for accompaniment will be provided for those who play an instrument. Pop in for a relaxing afternoon sing along!

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## **Marie Hamilton (Harp):**

### **Tools for Improvising on the Harp**

*INT/ADV – Harp*

Explore some creative tricks for improvisation on the harp. Marie will share some ways of approaching the instrument, and setting up the levers in ways that offer some really interesting and helpful options.

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## **Matt Heaton (Guitar, Bouzouki):**

### **What Chord is That? (Just Enough) Theory for Trad Players**

*All levels – All instruments*

Demystifying keys, chords, modes and other theoretical ideas. We will break down some of the structural ideas behind practical music theory. Music reading is NOT required, but do bring your instrument. Open to both melody and chordal players.

### **Playing Tunes on the Guitar**

*INT/ADV – Guitar*

We'll learn one or two trad Irish tunes which fit well on the guitar (standard or dropped D tuning), including some ideas about ornamentation. Class will be taught by ear.

### **Fingerstyle Guitar Techniques**

*INT/ADV – Guitar*

Concentrating on picking hand technique, this class will introduce how to use fingers as opposed to a plectrum. We'll

cover various patterns and approaches to both accompaniment and solo guitar playing.

### **It's a Bouzouki, not a Bazooka!**

*BEG/INT – Bouzouki*

Octave mandolin, cittern, bouzouki—whatever you want to call it, it's a great instrument for accompanying Irish tunes. This will be an introduction to the instrument for the "souk-curious." We'll be using GDAD tuning.

### **DADGAD & Beyond: Alternate tunings**

*INT/ADV – Guitar*

This workshop will explore some alternate tunings for guitar; open G, DADGAD, open D, and who knows what else! How to find useful chords, and when it's worthwhile to retune!

### **Tuning up & plugging in: a beginner's guide to effects pedals**

*INT/ADV – ALL Instruments*

In this workshop will untangle some of the myriad sound shaping options via effects pedals. Loopers, EQ, delay, reverb...maybe even distortion. Open to ALL instruments.

### **Music for kids; and the adults who brought them**

*INT/ADV – ALL Instruments*

Playing music for the younger audience can be a great and rewarding way to work on your own chops and develop a whole new audience. This workshop will discuss some of the necessities for a career in kids' music.

### **Arranging for stage and pleasure**

*INT/ADV – ALL Instruments*

What makes a song or set of tunes worth taking to the stage? Often, it's the arrangement behind it. This workshop will discuss some of the tricks of the trade in arranging both songs and tunes.

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## **Shannon Heaton (Flute & Whistle):**

### **Trad songs for American singers**

*All levels – songs*

Love Irish songs but don't have an Irish accent? Authenticity is about using your own voice and accessing traditional songs deeply and honestly. This workshop will explore ways for Stateside singers to approach trad songs and Irish style.

### **Building sets of tunes**

*INT/ADV/MST – all instruments*

Ever fall apart when switching from one tune to the next? Don't know which tunes 'go together?' In this workshop we'll focus on making changes and starting tunes, with or without a strong group behind you.

### **Fine-tune your session engine**

*All levels – all instruments*

It doesn't matter what you play, it's how you play it. Explore ways to build comfort and confidence in a session setting—musically and socially. And learn how to 'practice' for sessions, and how to contribute in a way that is right for you

### **How to Learn by Ear**

*All levels – all instruments*

Want to get better, faster, and more comfortable picking up tunes? Learn sure-fire strategies for aural learning, and will explore a few of the common psychological pitfalls of learning in public settings.

## **Irish Music Stories Live!**

*All levels – all instruments*

Shannon Heaton offers a tour of traditional music! Weaving together live tunes and songs with pre-recorded stories from some of Irish music's leading lights, Shannon celebrates the tradition and the much bigger stories behind it. *Note: this workshop will be a lecture/demo/performance rather than a participatory class.*

## **Seán Heely (Fiddle):**

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### **Slow Airs**

*INT/ADV/MST – Fiddle*

The beauty of the slow air can be unforgettable and the possibilities for self-expression are often boundless! We will study two slow airs: One from Scotland and the other from Ireland. You will take away practice strategies for phrasing your tune, control over dynamics, and all the tools to make your slow air interpretation legendary!

### **Highland Pipe Tunes on Fiddle**

*INT/ADV/MST – Fiddle*

Take a journey to the Scottish Highlands with pipe marches, strathspeys and reels. Learn different types of pipe ornaments, droning, how to blend and how not to blend with the pipes.

### **Learn to sing and play a *Puirt a Beul***

*All levels - Songs*

When there weren't any instruments around, the Scots would often have a singer who would replicate the tune with mouth music. Open to all instruments. First, we will learn how to sing a lively *Puirt a beul* in Scottish Gaelic (no prior Gaelic experience required) and then we will learn to play the tune.

### **The Driving Music of Donegal**

*INT/ADV/MST – Fiddle*

The fiddling of Donegal has long been known for its powerful bow strokes and lively tunes. Scottish influenced but still very Irish in its nature. Seán will guide you through the history of this style, we will study the sound and style of a few famous Donegal fiddlers and we will take away 1 or 2 tunes.

### **Practice Tips to Play Tunes Faster**

*INT/ADV – Fiddle*

Having trouble keeping up in the session? Getting totally worn out after a few lively reels? We will take common jigs/reels and explore tips and techniques to practice effectively to get you on the track to playing your best.

## **Cathy Jordan (Songs, Bodhran):**

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### **Songs of Unrequited Love**

*All levels – Songs*

So many beautiful heart wrenching love songs exist in the tradition, unfortunately not all of them have happy endings, this perhaps is why they leave their mark on our hearts. In this class we'll be learning some of our most wonderful unrequited love songs.

### **Songs of Emigration**

*All levels – Songs*

Emigration is a regular topic of conversation these days and so much world upheaval, conflict and famine has caused a new wave

of emigration around the world. Ireland is no stranger to emigration through the centuries for one reason or another and we have a wealth of amazing songs on the subject. In this class we will examine and sing some of our absolute best.

### **Beginner Bodhran**

*BEG – Bodhran*

Bring along your drum and sticks and see if we can get our rhythm synchronized. We'll look at all the basics and the end of the class we'll hopefully be able to accompany ourselves on a simple song. Bang on!

### **Night Visiting (with Eamon O'Leary)**

*All levels – Songs*

The subject of nocturnal travel is a common one in traditional songs. In some cases, these songs relate to the practice of 'bundling', where courting couples were allowed to bed together provided sacks were tied around them to prevent consummation of their love. Perhaps not the best family planning method! Sometimes the lover visits from beyond the grave and returns as the cock crows in the morning.

### **Songs with a Chorus in English and Easy Irish**

*All levels – Songs*

It's always great to be able to join in on the chorus and even to have a song or two in your repertoire to encourage a sing along. Many traditional songs don't have a chorus, but in this class we will concentrate on the ones that do. Fun for all.

## **Kieran Jordan (Dance):**

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### **Dance and the Creative Process for Healing**

*All levels – All Instruments*

In this workshop, Kieran will facilitate a discussion around music, dance, and other forms of art as healing practices. Participants will be invited to share personal experiences, or to just listen, in a safe and supported space. The class will include a short, guided meditation and an opportunity to create a mini song, dance, tune, poem, drawing etc. All are welcome.

## **Liz Knowles (Fiddle):**

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### **The Long and Short of It**

*All levels – Fiddle, Cello*

A detailed and fun exploration of articulations, bowing techniques and sound production.

### **By the Book**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

How to put style and interpretation and personal expression into tunes from books as well as using them for technique building in your practice. Must be able to read music to get the most from this class.

### **Making a Human Metronome**

*All levels – All instruments*

Using the body to understand and (quite literally!) embody rhythm and how to apply that to playing Irish tunes.

### **Color and Texture and Music**

*All levels – All instruments*

A visual approach to arranging music.

### **The 5+5 in Irish music**

*All levels – Fiddle (others welcome)*

An introduction to the 5+5, violin maker Salve Hakedal's modern hardanger, what it sounds like, what it can teach us about our own fiddles and the sounds we make.

## **Jeremiah McLane (Accordion):**

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### **Repertoire for French Bal Folk**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

We'll cover a variety of tunes in this class, including a bourée (3 & 2 count), schottisch, mazurka, polka piquée, marche, 3/4 waltz, 5/4 waltz (well, maybe not ALL of them!).

### **Repertoire for Breton Fest-Noz**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

Tunes include gavotte, plinn, laridé, hanter dro, an dro, ronds, suite pourlet.

### **Piano accompaniment**

*INT/ADV – Piano*

New England/Celtic style piano accompaniment for jigs, reels, and more!

### **Québécois Dance Tunes**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

Tunes from the fiddle and accordion traditions of Quebec.

### **Improvisation**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

Modal, melodic & chordal approach to improvisation.

## **Troy MacGillivray (Fiddle, Piano):**

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### **Wilfred Gillis & Jerry Holland Tunes**

*INT/ADV/MST – Fiddle*

Jigs and reels from these two composers.

### **Square Set Workshop with Andrea & Troy**

*All levels – Dance*

We will learn some of our favourite square dance figures and pair them with the appropriate music.

### **Cape Breton Band Lab with Andrea & Troy**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

All instruments, singers and dancers are welcome to join in this class. We'll tailor our adventure to suit the variety of participants.

### **Iconic Medleys**

*INT/ADV/MST – Fiddle*

Troy will show a few iconic tunes that are known intrinsically, medleys that are part of the flora and fauna of the music. Tunes that “just go together” like King George IV and King's Reel, Southern Melodies, and Golden Rod/Andy DeJarlis Jig.

### **Intro to Cape Breton Piano**

*INT/ADV – Piano*

Come learn some basic rhythms for jigs and reels for piano backup of traditional Cape Breton tunes.

## **Lisa Maloney (Dance):**

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### **Sean-nós Dance for Musicians – Reels!**

*BEG – Dance*

Sean-nós (“old style”) Irish dance features footwork danced close-to-the-floor, a relaxed upper body, and a playful dialogue between the dance and music. This class, designed specifically for musicians, will shed light on how a dancer hears, counts, and creates steps to accompany Irish reels. Musicians in this class will

have the opportunity to make percussive music with their feet, while learning a 32-bar sequence of basic steps, as well as take-home tools for improvising and creating steps of their own. Please wear comfortable shoes with a smooth hard sole (leather or hard rubber soles preferred), and bring water, a notebook, and a recording device.

### **Irish Set and Céilí Dancing for All**

*All levels – Dance*

Get your body moving to the joyful rhythms of Irish polkas, jigs, and reels. This class will introduce easy social dances from the Irish set and céilí dancing traditions. All levels welcome, no partner necessary. Please wear comfortable shoes with a smooth hard sole.

## **Eamon O'Leary (Songs & Accompaniment):**

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### **Traditional Singalong** (w Maeve Gilchrist): *All levels – Songs*

Maeve and Eamon will share songs from their extensive repertoires of mostly Irish traditional material. All participants will be encouraged to join in (sometimes in harmony) as we sing timeless stories of the sea, of love and courtship, of work and ritual, of emigration, of war, and the many other subjects these songs describe. A welcoming and informal class, open to all ages and abilities-no prior singing experience is necessary. Participants will also be able to contribute songs of their own choosing and basic guidelines for accompaniment will be provided for those who play an instrument. Pop in for a relaxing afternoon sing along!

### **Hop Jigs**

*INT/ADV – All instruments*

Come and learn a couple of these unusual, and under-appreciated, Irish tunes.

### **Night Visiting** (with Cathy Jordan)

*All levels – Songs*

The subject of nocturnal travel is a common one in traditional songs. In some cases, these songs relate to the practice of ‘bundling’, where courting couples were allowed to bed together provided sacks were tied around them to prevent consummation of their love. Perhaps not the best family planning method! Sometimes the lover visits from beyond the grave and returns as the cock crows in the morning.

### **Irish Tunes for Picked Instruments**

*INT/ADV – All instruments*

In this workshop, we'll learn some melodies from Irish dance tunes along with ideas for accompaniment. Special emphasis will be placed on techniques for picked instruments - mandolins, banjos, bouzoukis, guitars etc. but all are welcome.

## **Malcom Parson (Cello & Bass):**

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### **Beginning Improvisation**

*BEG/INT – All instruments*

This class will focus on the beginning phases of learning how to improvise. Using our minds, ears, and the environment around us, come ready to explore different concepts.

### **Taking A Solo?**

*INT/ADV – All instruments*

We will focus on how to ensure that we are making the chord changes through various exercises and concepts. The class will mostly be geared towards beginner and intermediate students. Come ready to learn and receive practice handouts.

### **The Art of Creating Walking Bass Lines**

*INT/ADV – Cello, Bass*

For cellists and bassists who are interested in playing a key role in accompanying fellow musicians and colleagues, we will focus on creating successful basslines. Come ready to explore pizzicato techniques, constructing bass lines, and the beginning phases of improvising a cohesive solo. Have you ever wanted to be able to read chord symbols too? This is the session for you!

### **Composing a Tune?**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

Whether it's oldtime, bluegrass, or jazz, the process of composing a piece is never different. Come ready to learn a few ways to compose an original tune.

### **Chopping In All Styles**

*BEG/INT – Fiddle, Cello, Bass*

This class will explore the beginning stages of learning the chop. Using different exercises and rhythms, we will utilize the chop not only as a rhythmic device but to play chords as well. Come ready to learn and to receive practice handouts.

## **Véronique Plasse (Fiddle, Songs):**

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### **Traditional Québécois Songs**

*All levels – Songs*

Listen and respond together to rich songs with French and Acadian roots, and the great creativity of Québec. We will focus on the songs of the Lanaudière region, where the vitality of the Québécois song tradition in families is still an important social link. You do not need to speak French!

### **Turluttés**

*All levels – Songs*

In the repertoire of Québec there are some magnificent sung tunes called Turluttés. Take a moment to learn a few and to have fun singing them in unison and in harmony. No need to speak French!

### **Tounes croches (Crooked Tunes)**

*ADV/MST – All instruments*

Crooked tunes are tunes with irregular measures that can you'll often hear at performances and in jam sessions. They are one of the great peculiarities of the Québec repertoire. Come learn a few to take home. Caution: These might make your brain overheat!

### **Valses du Québec**

*INT/ADV/MST – All instruments*

The traditional Québécois repertoire contains some of the most beautiful waltzes in the world. Come learn a few that will make your heart sing — and get your guests dancing!

### **Accompaniment & harmonization for two fiddles**

*ADV/MST – Fiddle*

Learn some tricks and techniques for creating interesting harmonies, accompanying each other, and creating some truly special sounds. This class is co-taught with Andrea Beaton.

## **Mitch Reed (Fiddle):**

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### **Introduction to Cajun Fiddle**

*INT/ADV – Fiddle*

In this class folks will learn a few standard Cajun tunes, and put together the low second parts and the high melody parts, while exploring the rhythm of the genre and gaining an understanding of the nuances that give Cajun music its signature sound.

### **The Origins of Cajun Fiddle**

*All levels – All instruments*

An explanation of how Acadian and Celtic fiddle was influenced by African rhythms from the Caribbean Islands, and infused with New Orleans jazz, Southern blues, and East Texas fiddling, and how it all came together to form Cajun music's unique style. We will break down tunes, talk about styles, and tell stories.

## **Will Roboski (Dance):**

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### **Sean-nós Dance for Musicians – Jigs!**

*BEG – Dance*

Sean-nós ("old style") Irish dance features footwork danced close-to-the-floor, a relaxed upper body, and a playful dialogue between the dance and music. This class, designed specifically for musicians, will shed light on how a dancer hears, counts, and creates steps to accompany Irish jigs. Musicians in this class will have the opportunity to make percussive music with their feet, while learning a 32-bar sequence of basic steps, as well as take-home tools for improvising and creating steps of their own. Please wear comfortable shoes with a smooth hard sole (leather or hard rubber soles preferred), and bring water, a notebook, and a recording device.

### **Mindful Movement / Breathe and Stretch**

*All levels – Dance*

Take a breath, get grounded, and give some time and attention to your own well-being. This class will include deep breathing, gentle flowing movements and static stretches to soften, refresh, and relax the body/mind. All levels welcome. Please wear comfortable clothing, socks or bare feet, and bring a yoga mat or towel if possible.

## **Heather Swanson (All Instruments)**

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### **Playing By Ear**

*All levels – All instruments*

This workshop focuses on tips for playing by ear. What to listen for and how to practice new tunes. Visual learners CAN strengthen their aural skills. Let's work through the 5 steps of playing by ear together and learn a few new tunes.

## **Jam Sessions Descriptions** *(see schedule for session leaders)*

**Old-Time Jam Session** | *INT, ADV, MST - All Instruments & Dance:* This session will feature some of the best tunes and songs in the Old-Time and Appalachian repertoire! Open to all students, all instruments. Come and play, or just listen and pick up new tunes!

**Fast Irish Jam Session** | *INT, ADV, MST - All Instruments & Dance:* This session will focus on all the faster tunes from the Irish tradition. Primarily for Intermediate-Master level players, this open jam session will go at moderate to break-neck speeds. Come play, offer a tune or two, or just sit and listen.

**Laid-Back Irish Jam Session** | *ALL LEVELS – All Instruments & Dance:* Geared primarily toward beginner and intermediate level players but open to all, this open jam session will go at a slower, relaxed pace.

**Québécois & Acadian Jam Session** | *INT, ADV, MST - All Instruments & Dance:* This session will feature some of the best tunes in the Québécois and Acadian repertoire! Open to all students, all instruments. Come and play, or listen and pick up new tunes!

**Scottish & Cape Breton Jam Session** | *INT, ADV, MST - All Instruments & Dance:* This session will feature some of the best tunes in the Scottish and Cape Breton repertoire! Open to all students, all instruments. Come and play, or listen and pick up new tunes!

**Singing Session** | *All levels – Songs:* Join us in raising the rafters with harmony and good cheer. While there is a preference for songs led from memory with easily joined-in choruses, all songs and singing types are welcome: be it pub songs, work songs, sea shanties, rounds or any other traditional song styles. Come listen, sing along, and lead a song or two if you're feeling bold.