



Lisa Ornstein & Dan Compton

Music from Québec, Appalachia & Beyond

Lisa and Dan are well versed in giving inspiring and informative workshops in traditional music. Workshops can either be instrument-specific or open to the variety of instruments commonly used in traditional music. What follows is a sample of some of the workshops Lisa and Dan offer. They are also both available to teach individual lessons.

Workshop Themes

Round Peak Old-time fiddle tunes

Cross-Tuned Fiddle Tunes (old-time and Quebecois)

Fiddle Bio-Mechanics (how to play with more nimbleness and ease)

French-Canadian tunes for contra dance players (for all melody instruments)

Waltzes for all melody instruments)

Learning by ear (for all melody instruments)

Introduction to French-Canadian back-up piano

French-Canadian foot-tapping and fiddling

Get that Fiddle Sound (for classical players)

Accompanying fiddle tunes on the guitar

Arranging traditional tunes for fingerstyle guitar

Alternative guitar tunings: DADGAD and the rest of it...

Basic music theory for the guitarist

Improvising harmony and other party tricks

What Workshop Participants and Students are Saying

"I have to say it was probably one of the most organized and well prepared classes I have ever attended. I enjoyed it and got a lot out of it."

"Your teaching style is relaxed, yet packed with information. Just right!"

"The workshop was very good. Seriously, I know I learned more in that two hours than in any other similar workshop. It was very 'left brain' oriented but at the same time very holistic in its approach."

"You workshop was helpful, informative, and hope-engendering."

"Your instruction has been absolutely superb and enjoyable (one part poetic eloquence, one part earthy pragmatism), and I am so thankful that you are teaching here in Portland!"

"You are such an incredible, amazing teacher. Every class was just filled to the brim!! I so appreciated all of the history you gave us of the tunes, their origins, and styles. You are a wellspring of knowledge and expertise and your willingness to share it all and to do it in such a way as to even make it possible for a struggler like me to understand and improve, is just beyond compare."

"Lisa Ornstein has the rare gift of being both a passionate player and insightful scholar of old-time mountain music, and shares her experiences freely and with real excitement. Her sheer virtuosity on the fiddle allows her to reveal the beauty and excitement of the music for students at every level." Brucy Molsky