

## HD FACULTY



### **CLIFF COLE**

Cliff fell in love with the hammered dulcimer at the Philadelphia Folk Festival three decades ago, and he's been hammering on ever since. He started off as a drummer playing rock, jazz, and blues, and then carried that musical experience and sense of rhythm over to the hammered dulcimer and folk music. He has taught at the Pocono Dulcimer Festival, at French Creek Music Retreat and at the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, and also teaches privately in Bucks County, PA. Cliff plays in the music groups, [Tachyonmetry](#), [Dulcimer Boys](#) and [DayBreak](#) and on many fine recordings.

### **MARYA KATZ**



Marya taught public school music for 33 years before retiring in 2009. She earned National Board Certification in Early/Middle Childhood Music in 2002. Currently, she teaches private dulcimer lessons, directs the adult choir at her church, facilitates an online music appreciation course for a local college, and enjoys performing with the folk group *Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge*. With this group, she has appeared on 5 CDs of an eclectic mix of traditional Appalachian music, Celtic, New Age, Christmas music, and more. She has also produced 9 self-published books encompassing original compositions, basic theory, and arrangements of traditional music for the hammered dulcimer. Several of her original tunes have been featured in *Dulcimer Players News*. Her previous appearances as workshop leader include the Winston-Salem Dulcimer Festival, the Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival, the (now defunct) Cranberry Gathering, several private workshops, and the Pocono Dulcimer Festival. <https://sites.google.com/view/maryakatz-dulcimations/home>



### **MARY LYNN MICHAL**

Mary Lynn has a gift for teaching with a unique approach which combines her experience as a professional symphonic French horn player, her degrees in music education and ten years of mastering the hammered dulcimer. Having made the switch from the highly structured classical music world to a completely different style of traditional music gives Mary Lynn access to a broad range of teaching strategies. Students are drawn to Mary Lynn for her passion for teaching, her belief in her students, and her unique style of individualizing instruction which allows students to reach their potential which is often beyond their wildest dreams. Mary Lynn teaches classes online through her website. Her signature classes Mastering Theory and Sharpen Your Skills have attracted more than 350 hammered dulcimer players from around the world. She teaches nearly 100 private students as well as weekend group retreats at her studio, Sassafras Ridge, in Middletown MD. [www.marylynnmichal.com](http://www.marylynnmichal.com)



### **NATE PULTORAK**

Nate got hooked on hammered dulcimers at an early age and got deeply enough into it to win the 2019 National Hammered Dulcimer Championship. His palette ranges from bluegrass and folk to classical, to pop, classic and progressive rock, and employs a cinematic songwriting style in his own compositions. He seeks to push the boundaries of what the dulcimer can do by incorporating looping, tapping, plucking, and capturing multiple notes with one hammer. Nate lives in the northern reaches of New York State. [www.natepultorak.com](http://www.natepultorak.com)



### **DAVE REBER**

Dave Reber began playing drums and percussion in high school. During that time, he came across the album, *The Strayaway Child*, by Jerry Reed Smith, a notable hammered dulcimer player and builder. He searched coast-to-coast over several years before getting his first James Jones dulcimer. He started with private lessons in the Lehigh Valley, and later attended festivals and workshops throughout the eastern US. More recently, Dave has performed as part of 99Stringz, a duo or trio, at various Lehigh Valley festivals, including those at Burnside Plantation, and the Slainte Irish Festival at Steelstacks. He also plays at senior living communities and local jam sessions as well as gives private lessons. <mailto:grimreber@gmail.com>

### **RUSS RENTLER**



Russ is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist playing original music on traditional American instruments. He won first and second place on mountain and hammered dulcimer in the Deep South Dulcimer Contest in 2019 and has taught workshops at several festivals in Pennsylvania. In 1983, Russ stumbled upon the entrancing performance of Walt Michael at the Waterloo Bluegrass Festival in NJ, and from that moment, learning to play the hammered dulcimer became his passion. Inspired by Celtic and Old-time influences, his tune, "Planxty Fluharty," clinched first place in the Instrumental Category of the Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Contest. Shortly thereafter, he graced the stage of the Hard Rock Cafe in Washington DC, as the sole hammered dulcimer player, armed only with his homemade instrument and heartfelt melodies. From the cobblestone streets of St. Augustine to the picturesque landscapes of Sedona, Russ has shared his passion for music with anyone willing to listen, weaving melodies that resonate with the soul and bring joy to those who pause to listen." Russ is entirely self-taught, and plays by picturing patterns which he then transposes onto the instrument. He has taught here at Pocono, at the Maiden creek Old Time Music Festival, and at the Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering.

<https://www.russrentler.com/>