

**HANDMADE MUSIC SCHOOL & SOUTHERN MOUNTAIN MELODIES WORKSHOP
RHYTHM AND REPERTOIRE WEEKEND
MAY 4-7, 2017**

INFORMATION / FAQ'S

Workshop Description:

The May workshop will focus on rhythm and repertoire as you learn to play Blue Ridge-style dance music in a place where dancing to old time music has naturally occurred for generations, Floyd County Virginia! Learn to play some of the tried and true mountain dance tunes in a rhythmic style that is full of tradition and excitement!

Where is the Workshop?

The Southern Mountain Melodies Workshops take place at both the home of our instructors, Mac & Jenny Traynham (in Willis VA) and at [The Floyd Country Store](#) in downtown Floyd, VA. Students will be responsible for a short commute between the two locations (about 20 minutes)

How much does it cost?

The cost per person is \$360.00 or \$330.00 for early bird registration. This includes all the workshops and lessons, 3 lunches and 2 suppers and admission to events at the Floyd Country Store on Friday and Saturday night. Students are responsible for lodging, breakfast and transportation between locations.

Is lodging included?

Lodging is NOT included in the fee, however here are some great options for some of our favorite lodging partners:

- **Hotels & Bed & Breakfasts**
 - [Mac & Jenny's House](http://southernmtnmelodies.com/accommodations/) - http://southernmtnmelodies.com/accommodations/
 - [Pine Tavern Lodge](http://www.thepinetavern.com/) - http://www.thepinetavern.com/
 - [Hotel Floyd](http://www.hotelfloyd.com/) - http://www.hotelfloyd.com/
 - [The Cottage](http://www.floydcountrystore.com) at The Floyd Country Store - http://www.floydcountrystore.com
- **Cabins & Campgrounds:**
 - [Chantilly Farm](http://chantillyfarm.com/wp/camping/) - http://chantillyfarm.com/wp/camping/
 - [Daddy Rabbits](http://daddyrabbitscampground.com/) - http://daddyrabbitscampground.com/
 - [Floyd EcoVillage](http://www.floydecovillage.com/campground.html) - http://www.floydecovillage.com/campground.html

Are meals included? What if I have dietary restrictions?

We are excited to provide and share the many wholesome tastes of Floyd County, Virginia. From home cooked meals to The Floyd Country Store Café, students will be treated to great food while at the workshop. For the weekend workshops we will provide lunch Friday, Saturday and a brunch on Sunday at Mac & Jenny's, supper on Thursday & Friday nights at The Floyd Country Store. Saturday you are encouraged to find a meal at one of Floyd's other incredible eateries. Here are some suggestions: [Mickey G's](#), [Oddfellas](#) or [Dogtown Roadhouse](#). Students

are also encouraged to find breakfast each morning before camp starts, here are some suggestions: [Blue Ridge Restaurant](#) or [Blackwater Loft](#), (and some of the hotels provide breakfast as well.)

* If you have dietary restrictions or preferences, please let us know in advance so we can be helpful.

*Please note that meals are provided for registered students only. We are happy to provide meals for spouses and/or guests for an additional fee, please request additional meals for your guest in advance.

Can I bring a spouse or guest?

Absolutely! However, the complimentary meals and free tickets to Floyd Country Store events are not extended to your spouse/guest. We are happy to provide meals with the group for an additional fee and are happy to provide discounted tickets to Floyd Country Store events for your spouse/guest. If you plan on coming with your spouse and/or a guest, please let us know in advance so we can add them to our plans and we can work out everything in advance.

What is the schedule of activities for the weekend?

Here is a tentative schedule for the weekend. Please remember we are running on Floyd time!

Thursday:

5:30 PM: Meet & Greet / Supper / Jam Session at the Floyd Country Store

Friday:

Breakfast on your own

9:30 AM: Class #1 (at Mac & Jennys)

11:30 AM: Lunch Break (Lunch provided at Mac & Jenny's)

12:30 PM: Practice/Jam Sessions/Individual time

2:00 PM: Class #2 (at Floyd Country Store)

5:00 PM: Supper provided (upstairs at The Floyd Country Store)

6:30 PM: Jam Session on the streets

8:45 PM: 30 minute set on Floyd Country Store stage

Saturday:

Breakfast on your own

9:30 AM: Class #3 (at Mac & Jennys)

11:30 AM: Lunch Break (Lunch provided at Mac & Jenny's)

12:30 PM: Practice/Jam Sessions/Individual time

1:30 PM: Afternoon activity / Free time

4:00 PM: Supper on your own (see option for dining below)

7:30 PM: The Floyd Radio Show

Sunday:

9:00 AM: Class #4 (at Mac & Jennys)

11:30 AM: Brunch (brunch provided at Mac & Jennys)

12:30 PM: Gather belongings and head to Floyd Country Store for Old Time Jam

1:30 PM: Old Time Jam at the Floyd Country Store

Directions to Floyd:

Floyd is:

- 35 minutes from Blacksburg/Virginia Tech
- 45 minutes to Roanoke
- Less than 2 hours from Greensboro and Winston-Salem
- 2.5 hours from Charlotte
- About 4.5 hours to Northern Virginia

Directions to Floyd:

- From Interstate 81: Exit 114 and follow Route 8 (South) to Floyd (approximately 20 miles)
- From Interstate 77: Exit 14 and follow 221(North) to Floyd (approximately 30 miles)
- From Roanoke: Follow 221 (South) to Floyd (approximately 40 miles)
- From the Blue Ridge Parkway: The Blue Ridge Parkway follows the entire southern border of Floyd County so there are several access points to Floyd County. From the Tuggles Gap area, take Route 8 north to the Town of Floyd. From the Rocky Knob area, take scenic Black Ridge Road to 221.

How to prepare/What to bring:

Whether you are coming learn banjo, guitar or fiddle, bring your instrument and all additional necessities such as tuners, strings, straps, capos etc. Plus it is a great idea to bring a small recording device to record some of the lessons, jams and stories so you can remember when you get home.

As far as preparation for learning the music, here is what this camp will offer for each instrument:

Clawhammer Banjo:

The goal will be on improving a student's playing style by focusing upon both right hand and left hand techniques used to play typical mountain dance tunes. Emphasis will be on learning tunes and variations based on the playing styles of Mac's influences, the old masters from the Southwest Virginia area. Rhythm, timing, and emphasis will be stressed as one learns to play the basic melody of our local dance tunes.

Guitar:

For students who have mastered chords and chord changes, can easily play along in a slow jam and are ready for something new. Tasteful runs will be incorporated into the tunes while emphasizing the importance of strong rhythm. This class will put students well on the road to becoming an accomplished guitar player.

Fiddle:

This course will focus on improving one's playing of mountain dance tunes using common bowing patterns that complement the traditional clawhammer banjo rhythm. Tunes in the keys of D,A, and G, will be taught using standard as well as traditional non standard tunings used by old masters of Southwest Virginia. Rhythm and timing will be stressed as tunes are played up to dance tempo.

Other suggestions: cameras, hiking shoes, note books, ?

What if I don't have an instrument?

If a student wants to attend but doesn't have an instrument yet, we have a few available to use during the weekend, but will need to know in advance.

Can you tell us more about Floyd County, Virginia?

Please visit www.visitfloydva.com for best information. Here is a short description of our wonderful county of Floyd Virginia!

Running on Floyd time... Floyd is as much a state of mind as it is a destination.

Located atop the magnificent Blue Ridge Plateau in southwestern Virginia, Floyd is a haven of natural beauty renowned for our hospitality and for a vibrant culture of music, arts, local foods and wines, and outdoor recreation.

Floyd, Virginia is a key stop on [The Crooked Road, Virginia's heritage music trail](#) – with our famous Friday Night Jamboree at the Floyd Country Store and County Sales, home of the world's largest collection of traditional bluegrass and old-time music.

It is the richness and complexity of our culture that makes Floyd, Virginia such a desirable and superb visitor destination. So, bring your dancing shoes, appetite and desire to experience a diverse and true hometown community!

About the Floyd Country Store:**Friday Night Jamboree**

The Floyd Country Store is renowned as a place to experience authentic Appalachian music, and is home to a group of musicians, flatfoot dancers, and cloggers who are carrying on the tradition of their families who'd pass the time playing music and dancing together. Everywhere they could these folks would gather with their friends and families from their front porch to the neighbor's kitchen. In the 1980's Folks in Floyd took to coming out to the General Store and began the Friday Night Jamboree tradition that continues today.

Floyd Radio Show

The Floyd Radio Show is an old-timey variety show with original radio plays, comedy bits, ads, jingles, music and more, hosted by a series of guest hosts. Celebrating old time and traditional music with people and communities where music is played and enjoyed in its authentic and purest forms.

MEET THE TEACHERS:

Mac Traynham is an accomplished fiddler and banjo player as well as a fine guitar player and singer. Influenced by well known and obscure musicians of the past, Mac has developed a hard-driving style of playing which keeps the rhythm going strongly and delights dancers! He teaches at numerous music camps and has won many ribbons from various Fiddler's Conventions.

Jenny Traynham plays clawhammer banjo with a strong sense of rhythm as well as solid old time back-up guitar. She and Mac have played tunes and sung old songs together for over 30 years. Jenny has also taught at music camps and she and Mac have performed for many concerts, benefits, and other community and church functions.



The Traynhams will provide in-depth instruction in a comfortable, relaxed environment, and students will be able to experience a getaway weekend in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Friday nights will include a visit to the Floyd Country Store where local musicians play for flat footers inside, and numerous jams occur on the street when the weather permits.

Students will also have access to a large collection of old time music on CD's and cassettes which the Traynhams have collected and drawn inspiration from.