



Ken Bloom has given solo concerts all over North America since 1974. These have included appearances at many major Folk Festivals and clubs in the U.S. and Canada. In the past he has been a regular performer at the Vancouver, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Owen Sound, Philadelphia, and Mariposa Festivals as well as appearing in major venues across the country and appearances on *A Prairie Home Companion*. More recently, his appearances have been closer to home. His North Carolina presentations include: The Stokes Stomp, Hiddenite Center, Turkey Festival (Raeford), Red Springs Highland Games, Mt. Airy Storytelling Festival, and many others. These programs include the traditional music of this country as well as Celtic and Eastern European selections. He usually uses Concert zither, Northumbrian-smallpipes, guitar, clarinet, bowed dulcimer and Minstrel banjo, but he will often include other instruments and traditions as well. He tries to introduce audiences to unfamiliar sounds in an entertaining way and expand their musical view of our ever-shrinking world. Ken has been a featured instructor in a new venture coordinated by Lois Hornbostel,



Stephen Seifert's teaching and playing has made him a favorite with dulcimer players all over the country since 1991. In that time, he's been a featured performer at hundreds of dulcimer festivals and other music events including Kentucky Music Week in Bardstown, KY, Mountain Dulcimer Week in Cullowhee, NC, the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, WV, the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, NC, the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, AR, Stringalong near Milwaukee, WI, the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, KS and The Tono American Music Festival, in Tono, Japan.

Stephen has been a dulcimer soloist with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, now know as Orchestra Nashville, since 1996 and is featured on their Warner Classical recording of Connie Ellisor and David Schnauffer's *Blackberry Winter*, a concerto for mountain dulcimer and string orchestra. The piece continues to be in regular rotation on many classical stations around the U.S. (The recording album is titled "Conversations in Silence" and can be sampled and purchased on iTunes.) Stephen most recently performed this piece with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the Tucson Symphony Orchestra, and the Montpelier Chamber Orchestra.

Stephen was Adjunct Instructor of Mountain Dulcimer with David Schnauffer at Vanderbilt's Blair School of Music from 1997 to 2001. He also taught, performed, and recorded with Mr. Schnauffer as a duo throughout the country. Stephen has authored ten books, four CDs, and 16 instructional videos.



Mike Anderson is one of the most versatile folk performers in the Midwest. He is best known as an outstanding mountain dulcimer player. Along with playing dulcimer, he tells stories and plays guitar, banjo, jawharp, bones and more. The combination of music, storytelling, and humor has made Anderson one of the most sought after performers, workshop leaders, and speakers in the Midwest. An award-winning educator and author, Mike Anderson has been awarded several honors for his short stories and an award-winning children's television program that he wrote and hosted. Mike is also nationally renowned, appearing at the Nat'l Mt. Music Festival, holding a prestigious position on the faculty of the Mt. Dulcimer Workshops at The Ozark Folk Center, Mt. View, AR, Appalachian State Univ., Boone, NC and West Carolina Univ., NC, as well as presenting workshops and concerts across the US.



Denise Guillory has been playing the Hammered and Mountain Dulcimers for some 20 years, teaching and performing her many talents to include a beautiful clear singing voice that touches the hearts of audiences locally and around the United States. Denise performed with her band "les Amis" for 13 years and now is performing solo or with other musician friends as well as teaching private HD and Mtn. Denise has also stepped into the music director position for the Bayou Dulcimer Club located on the North shore of New Orleans, where she teaches new music and performs with them for community gigs and club events. Denise has a very supportive and driven teaching style that focuses on how the student learns and has had wonderful success with students one on one and groups in workshop settings as well. Her patience is appreciated and her belief that anyone who sets his mind to learn music will someday achieve their dreams of musical success. Over the years, Denise has produced 5 CD's with "les Amis", 2 with her brother, Maurice Trosclair, of New Orleans, and 2 others to include the World of Hope Charity CD. Just recently, Denise has learned that a once lost solo CD (lost due to mechanical failure that she was working on before Katrina) has been recovered. It was almost finished and Denise plans on concentrating her efforts, picking up that project and finishing it with many of everyone's favorites, including a number of her original songs and will feature the Hammered and Mountain Dulcimer. This somehow miracle that the data still lives, will be a wonderful project to get finished for everyone



Anne Lough is a nationally known traditional musician with over thirty-five years experience in performance and teaching. A native of Springfield, Virginia, Anne has been around music all her life and began playing and singing folk music as a young teen. She has continued to share her love of music through the years while raising four daughters and completing a Music Education Degree from Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky, and a Master of Music Education Degree from Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC. She now devotes all her time to festivals, workshops, performances and school residencies.

In addition to being a frequent instructor in mountain and hammered dulcimer at the prestigious in Brasstown, NC. Anne has taught at the Swannanoa Gathering, Western Carolina Dulcimer Week, Augusta Heritage Dulcimer Week and at numerous other festivals and workshops throughout the country. Equally at home on guitar, autoharp, mountain and hammered dulcimer, Anne's mastery is impressive. Her artistic interpretation, sensitive playing style, versatility and skill as an instructor have earned her national acclaim.

Anne is well known as an instructor and performer of traditional singing, storytelling, folklore, folk dance and the shaped-note tradition, but her repertoire ranges from classical music to old standards, show tunes and sacred music. Her programs have delighted and inspired all ages from day-care and pre-school children to Elderhostelers. Active in schools as a Visiting Artist, Anne is also on for the North Carolina Arts Council.

Anne's music can be heard on a number of recordings, Smoky Mountain educational videos, public radio and a recent PBS Christmas Special. She has also published several collections of arrangements for the mountain and hammered dulcimer.



Since 1994, **Margaret Wright** has become extensively involved in Traditional American Music and teaches mountain dulcimer and Sacred Harp Singing at many folk festivals across the South. Margaret, her husband, Jerry and their family are the organizers of the popular Palestine Old Time Music and Dulcimer Festival held the last weekend in March in Palestine, Texas. “Old Pal,” as it is often called is about to hold its 8th annual event. She will once again be the dulcimer instructor at the esteemed Blue Ridge Old Time Music Week held each June in Mars Hill, N.C.

Margaret’s family also includes son Hollis, all-round great guy as well as great mandolin, autoharp and bass player. Son Lloyd Wright (former dulcimer National Champion, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist) and his wife, April (vocalist and guitarist,) are vital in the family music performance as well as performing on their own as “Evergreen.” Lloyd is also an experienced dulcimer instructor.

The family has eight recordings released to this date. Margaret has also penned the “Twelve Tune Song Book” series which is so popular with dulcimer players for its old time tunes tabbed for dulcimer with such clean simplicity.

Margaret Wright has been in Public School Music for 21 years. Eleven of those years were in the Houston I.S.D but she also taught in Crockett and is currently in the Kennard District. She retired from full time teaching in May 2009 and is busier now than ever with festivals, workshops and fun stuff!!



Craig Harrel is the celebrated winner of the 2008 International Autoharp Championship (Winfield) as well as the 2008 Mountain Laurel Autoharp Championship (i.e. the two most prestigious autoharp contests in the world). By winning both competitions in the same calendar year, he became only the third person to ever accomplish such a challenging feat.

Craig's musical experiences began at an early age . . . singing in his church, taking piano lessons, and listening to classic rock & roll (primarily the Beatles). Growing up, he was also a member of The Singing Boys of Houston (TX) – now known as the Houston Boychoir – where, at the age of 12, he performed with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. He also played clarinet and alto clarinet as a teenager in Oak Ridge, TN.

When Craig first began playing the autoharp, he was fortunate enough to receive world-class instruction, early on, from Charles Whitmer (member of the Autoharp Hall of Fame) – and later Lucille Reilly (a former Winfield and Mountain Laurel champion, herself). Craig credits these two autoharp legends with contributing the most to his development as a musician.

Craig has been an autoharp instructor himself at the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering in Newport, PA; the Walnut Valley Festival's "Autoharp Junction" in Winfield, KS; the North Harris County Dulcimer Society in Houston, TX; the Palestine Old Time Music & Dulcimer Festival in Palestine, TX; and the Bayou City Old Time Music & Dulcimer Festival in Houston, TX.

In early 2009, Craig released his critically acclaimed debut CD titled "*Red Haired Boy*" – a distinctive mix of Celtic, old-time, gospel, and classical music. He produced and arranged the recording himself.

In her review of Craig's CD for the liner notes, Mary Ann Johnston of Autoharp Quarterly magazine commented, "I'm sure you will agree, on hearing this exceptional album, that Craig Harrel's playing is extraordinary. His superb musicianship and robust performance style offer listeners a rare opportunity to fully experience, appreciate, and enjoy the unparalleled versatility and power of the unique instrument he commands. He is truly an autoharp wizard



Debbie Porter: I grew up singing the songs I learned from my grandmother in Northeast Texas. I began playing the songs of the rural South on ukulele at age 11. When I was 16 my mother saved up all her Green Stamps and ordered a Kay banjo for me which I quickly re-tuned to sound like a ukulele. I worked my way through college playing and teaching music. In 1971, I moved to Austin and had a chance to play at the Checquered Flag with some of the great Texas songwriters like Alan Damron, Rusty Weir, and Shake Russell. In 1974 the love of my life was injured with a brain trauma, and our lives were deeply affected. A few years later I discovered the healing qualities of

the fretted dulcimer. This instrument has helped restore us both emotionally and musically.

I helped found a dulcimer club called the "Northeast Texas Community Chorus". Still today, this welcoming club meets monthly to encourage its members to play and learn the fretted dulcimer.

Ukulele has also been a rewarding part of my musical life. A wonderful instrument builder named Fred Alsworth built a lovely ukulele for me from the original Martin Tenor plans. It's a great joy to make new friends who organize ukulele festivals and play for fun.

I now reside in beautiful Austin, Texas, teaching both dulcimer and ukulele through workshops and concerts around the country. I have several innovative instructional techniques and materials that help people learn these traditional instruments, even when they don't have access to other teachers or players. Lyric's Mama Music, a subsidiary of Access Grants, Inc., offers my catalog of seven music CDs, three instructional DVDs, and a tablature book (with accompanying CD) on the Carter Family's music.



Steve Bing, from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is a recognized musician and experienced full-time music teacher on the fiddle, Cajun accordion, guitar, mandolin, and bass. His Cajun band "Steve Bing & the Bayou Hot Shots", www.myspace.com/bayouhotshots, play Cajun dances and venues in Louisiana and across the gulf south from Texas to Florida. The band's CD was nominated by the Cajun French Music Association of Louisiana for the 2009 Music Awards in the category for "Best First CD". His Louisiana Cajun and Creole experiences come from performing on stage with many great musicians including Luderin Darbone, Goldman Thibodeaux, Ed Poullard, Corey Ledet, Charles Thibodeaux, Lee Benoit, Sammy Naquin, Cedric Watson, and others. His CD with Goldman Thibodeaux, legendary Creole accordion player from Lawtell, LA, entitled "French Creole House Dance" was considered for a Grammy nomination in 2008. Steve plays fiddle and Cajun accordion with the Lafayette-based group "Renaissance Cadienne", www.renaissancecadienne.org, a Cajun folklore dance troupe and will be touring France in the summer of 2010. Steve toured nationally with the famous folk singer/musician Glenn Yarbrough in 2005 playing six different instruments in Glenn's "back-up" band. Besides Cajun & Creole fiddle, Steve's fiddling styles include Texas Swing and Old-Time. Steve has been calling old-time Southern squares and contra dances since 1980 and currently has an old-time string band "Laughing Lizards", www.laughinglizardsband.com. In 1985 he was featured playing the fiddle and calling dances in a nationally broadcast made-for-TV documentary entitled "Hoedown - the History of American Folk Dancing". Having also lived in southern Kentucky, Steve was commissioned an honorary "Kentucky Colonel" in 1990 for his work with creating entertainment programs for World War II Pearl Harbor survivors and military veterans.



Jak Stallings has played and sung music most of his life. He found the dulcimer when he and Tina passed by the Cripple Creek Dulcimer Shop in Manitou Springs while vacationing in Colorado in 1982. Never one to pass by a music store, they went inside and emerged hours later with a new dulcimer, a couple of song books and some basic playing instruction from Donna Ford. Jak continued to play and learn after returning home to the Texas Panhandle and eventually played with friends (none of whom had any idea what that dulcimer thing was!). Jak and Tina moved to Louisiana in 1999 and attended the first Lagniappe Fete after Tina saw an article in the newspaper. At the Fete they saw more dulcimers than they knew existed and Jerry Wright introduced Jak to the Pickin' Stick. They continued to attend the annual Fetes and Jak eventually joined the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society where he tries to cause as much trouble as possible while having fun "just a pickin' and a grinnin'!" Jak has taught at the last three Lagniappe Fetes.

Jak never ceases to be amazed that Tina has put up with him for over 28 years. He is also proud of their three grown children who followed their mother's lead and became really good people. Jak supports his music addiction and other vices as an Economics and Planning Engineer at Marathon Petroleum Company's refinery in Garyville, LA.



Lloyd Wright 1994 was the turning point in the lives of the Wright Family. It is now a famous quote made by Margaret at the Dulcimer Shoppe in Mountain View- 'We are not going to buy a dulcimer!'. The rest is pretty much history. Lloyd was introduced to the dulcimer that day in Mountain View. With the coaching of his mom, the encouragement of his dad and the admiration of his brother Hollis, Lloyd has moved very rapidly forward in the dulcimer world. In May of 1997, Lloyd entered the Glen Rose, TX dulcimer contest and made it to the top 5. Then in September of 2000, Lloyd won the National Mountain Dulcimer championship at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas. He is a fine musician and teacher and has mastered other instruments including the banjo, guitar, and mandolin.



Bob Frazier As a member of the Lagniappe Dulcimer Society, Bob plays both mountain dulcimer and harmonica, with a smattering of banjo on the side. He grew up in the mountains of West Virginia and learned the mountain dulcimer by ear. He has researched the harmonica and has a wealth of information to share at his Beginning Harmonica workshops. He has taught this class for several



Bill Taylor has been a valuable presence on the mountain dulcimer scene for almost 20 years. Before that for many years he performed at Dollywood, appearing at the Grand Ole Opry as a guitar player and singer. His music styles range from bluegrass and old-time to jazz and rock, enhanced by his expressive vocals. Bill's teaching is inspired, organized and supportive. He also happens to be one of the most respected builders of quality mountain

dulcimers, and his instruments can be found in the hands of many satisfied players. During the school year, Bill teaches environmental science to sixth graders and fourth graders at the Eugene W. Huskey Environmental Center in Pittman Center, TN.