



## INTERNATIONAL LA ROCHE BLUEGRASS WORKSHOP

LA ROCHE SUR FORON, July 31 - August 2, 2017

*La Roche Bluegrass Workshop is open to non-beginner musicians wanting to play Bluegrass music in a band or in a jam with a basic singing or playing level on one of the instruments taught at the workshop in Bluegrass or any other genre (see level table on next page)*

**The workshop will be divided into 5 parts:**

- **3 teaching sections**
- **2 practice sections**

Teaching #1: Instrument (Guitar, Fiddle, Banjo, Mandolin, Bass, Dobro, Singing)

Teaching #2: Option: Instrument part 2 / Singing With My Instrument / Kids class

Teaching #3: Playing accompaniment for singers and soloists

Practice #1: Structured jam sessions - accompanied by at least 1 tutor

Practice #2: Band labs (including at least one Kids band) – accompanied by tutors

### PROGRAMME

| Time       | Monday   | Tuesday                            | Wednesday                          | Thursday                  |
|------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 8 - 9 am   |  | Breakfast                          | Breakfast                          | Breakfast                 |
| 9:15-12:30 |  | Teaching #1: Instrument            | Teaching #1: Instrument            | Teaching #1: Instrument   |
| 12:30      |  | Lunch - Free                       | Lunch - Free                       | Lunch - Free              |
| 1:45 pm    |  | Briefing meeting                   | Briefing Meeting                   | Briefing Meeting          |
| 2 - 3      |  | Teaching #2: Option                | Teaching #2: Option                | Practice #2: Band Labs    |
| 3:15-4:15  | Arrivals & Registration  | Practice #1: Structured jam        | Practice #1: Structured jam        | 4:00 Transfer to festival |
| 4:30-5:30  | 7 pm <u>Welcome &amp; Dinner</u>   | Teaching #3: Playing accompaniment | Teaching #3: Playing accompaniment |                           |
| 5:45-6:45  | 9:15 <i>plenary meeting (15 mins) and 1 instrument meeting (15 mins)</i> | Practice #2: Band Labs             | Practice #2: Band Labs             | Festival starts           |
| 7 - 8 pm   |  | Dinner                             | Dinner on a tray                   |                           |
| 8:30 - ... | Free or Structured jam   | Free or Structured jam             | Street festival                    |                           |

*All participants are expected to attend the briefing meetings after dinner on the first day and after lunch. Schedules and instructions for the workshop and for the individual instrument classes will be given out.*

*Classes are formed based on level homogeneity and order of signing up (first come first served)!*

*In some cases, 2 instrument levels may be grouped into one class*

*Organisers reserve the right to refuse students in class if level is not homogenous with others*

*12 participants per tutor where possible*

**INSTRUMENT PLAYING LEVEL**  
*Indicate your level on the registration form*

| LEVEL            | DEFINITION   |
|------------------|--|
| 0 Total beginner | Not admitted in workshop   |
| 1 Basic          | <u>Minimum requirement for instrument workshop</u><br>Knows the main major and minor chords, knows some songs (preferably Bluegrass), has some (even limited) experience playing with others and lacks confidence in jams  |
| 2 Intermediate   | Plays confidently in the basic song formations (rhythm and some solos), has some experience playing with others in a band or jam context and lacks confidence to improvise on unknown songs and unfamiliar chord sequences |
| 3 Proficient     | Is comfortable playing rhythm or singing on most standard songs with unknown players and wants to build confidence taking breaks on unfamiliar songs   |
| 4 Accomplished   | Standard playing on the instrument is mastered, even on unfamiliar songs and unfamiliar chord shapes, and wants to take personal knowledge into new directions in order to enhance personal playing                        |
| 5 Rapidgrass     |  |

*State your playing when signing up. Half points are possible (e.g. 1.5)*

### TEACHING SECTIONS

**TEACHING #1: PRIMARY INSTRUMENT** (3¼ hours scheduled all three mornings = 9¾ hours class)

Classes focus on playing the instrument in jam situations with an emphasis on improvising without having to follow tablature or musical notation.

Guitar: Mark Morris (USA), Philippe Checa, Jimmy Josse  
 Banjo: Andy Thorn (USA), Pierre-Yves Lechat  
 Mandolin: Alex Hargreaves (USA), Dorian Ricaux  
 Fiddle: Coleman Smith (USA), Raphael Maillet  
 Bass: Carl Meineke (USA), Gerard Vandestoke  
 Dobro: Billy Cardine (USA), Pierre Bastide  
 Singing: Mary Reynaud, Mathilde Cousin

*Students sign up before the workshop stating their instrument and level*

**TEACHING #2: OPTIONS** (1 hour scheduled on 2 afternoons = 2 hours class)

Students choose one of the following *for both sessions*.

*Tutors will be designated after groups are formed*

- Instrument 1 (for students who want to only focus on their primary instrument)  
 “Part 2” explores different aspects of playing the instrument from Teaching 1 and interactions with other musical genres such as blues, jazz, rock’n’roll, so as will not to penalise students who take a different afternoon workshop  
*All instruments available, including singing*
- Singing with your instrument (for those who want to sing while playing their primary instrument)  
 The workshop will focus on singing technique while exploring aspects of rhythm playing
- Kids Programme Ages 12 - 17  
 Special workshop for kids to discover playing and singing bluegrass in a group context  
 Taught by musicians with experience teaching kids. This group may also work as a “band lab”

**TEACHING #3: PLAYING ACCOMPANIMENT** (1 hour scheduled on 2 afternoons = 2 hours class)

How to play rhythm and back up for solo players and singers in different contexts and musical genres.

The class will be organised both by instrument for those who wish to back themselves or one other partner, and with all instruments together for those wishing to play in band formation.

Non instrument-playing singers will take part in this group to understand the dynamics of rhythm playing and how to work with the instruments in a “live” context

**PLEASE NOTE**

***To avoid disruption for the tutors and for the groups, it will not be possible to change class during the workshop unless specifically agreed to by all tutors concerned!***

## PRACTICE SECTIONS

### **PRACTICE #1: STRUCTURED JAMS** (Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon x 1 hour = 2 hours)

The following jams are scheduled:

- Slow jam: For levels 1-2 to start to feel comfortable playing standards in a jam context with no pressure
- Fiddle tune jam: playing well known standard fiddle tunes
- Bluegrass standard jam: playing traditional, well known Monroe style songs — may include instrumentals that are not classified as fiddle tunes
- Contemporary jam: playing new songs by new bands that remain essentially traditional in structure and feel — may include instrumentals
- Singing jam: for students with no instrument to improvise harmonies on songs (accompanied by instruments)
- Newgrass and jazz jam: no limits!

One or more tutors are allocated to each jam (not always the same tutors in the same jam each time)

Students are free to join any jam and to move to a different jam at will.

If there are too many students for one jam, jams may be split.

3 songs will be played systematically to start each jam session.

They will be sent out BEFORE the workshop so students can learn them before attending.

Otherwise, song selection is free.

***Depending on room availability and demand, structure jams may also be organised on Monday and Tuesday after dinner.***

### **PRACTICE #2: BAND LABS** (1 hour x 2 and & 1½ hours = 3½ hours))

90 minutes are available to workshop students to open the festival from 6pm to 7:30 on Thursday

This should allow for 20 songs including personnel movement and changes

The stage will be set up the same for all bands: 6 instrument mics and 6 vocal mics + back line for bass

***No microphone changes will be accepted***

Bands will be drawn from hats on Tuesday lunchtime (one hat per instrument + singing) and will have 3 x 90 minutes to prepare 2 songs. There will be at least one Kids Band Lab.

Bands will have 3½ hours with a tutor to prepare one or two songs to play on stage.

Singing tutors will be available for all band labs, as required.

***Performing on stage is not obligatory, but all students are invited to work in a band lab***

## WORKSHOP PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

| Lesson #1<br>Tu-We-Th 09:15 - 12:30                               | Lesson #2<br>Tu-We 2-3 pm   | Lesson #3<br>Tu-We 4:30-5:30  | Practice #1<br>Tu-We 3:15-4:15  | Practice #2<br>Tu-We 5:45-6:45<br>Th 14:00-15:30                                    |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b><i>Instrument</i></b>  | <b><i>Options</i></b>   | <b><i>Accompaniment</i></b>   | <b><i>Structured Jam</i></b>  | <b><i>Band Lab</i></b>  |
| Guitar<br>Banjo<br>Mandolin<br>Fiddle<br>Dobro<br>Bass<br>Singing | Instrument Part 2<br>Or<br>Sing With Instrument<br>Or<br>Kids Class | Exploring Rhythm And<br>Back-Up Playing For<br>Singers And Soloists | Slow Jam<br>Fiddle Jam<br>Bluegras Trad Jam<br>Bluegrass Modern<br>Jam<br>Singing Jam<br>Newgrass Jam | Prepare 2 songs for<br>performance on<br>festival stage<br>Accompanied by<br>tutors |
| <i>Students choose one instrument for the 3 days</i>              | <i>Students sign up for ONE of these classes for 2 days</i>         | <i>By instrument or by band formations</i>                          | <i>Students are free to join any of the jams and to change at any time</i>                            | <i>Bands drawn from hats on Tuesday</i>   |