



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 & 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> 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 Tu-We-Th 09:15 - 12:30	Lesson #2 Tu-We 2-3 pm	Lesson #3 Tu-We 4:30-5:30	Practice #1 Tu-We 3:15-4:15	Practice #2 Tu-We 5:45-6:45 Th 14:00-15:30
<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Options</i>	<i>Accompaniment</i>	<i>Structured Jam</i>	<i>Band Lab</i>
Guitar Banjo Mandolin Fiddle Dobro Bass Singing	Instrument Part 2 Or Sing With Instrument Or Kids Class	Exploring Rhythm And Back-Up Playing For Singers And Soloists	Slow Jam Fiddle Jam Bluegras Trad Jam Bluegrass Modern Jam Singing Jam Newgrass Jam	Prepare 2 songs for performance on festival stage Accompanied by 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>