



Asheville, North Carolina-based **Joshua Messick** breathes new life into his hammered dulcimer, an ancient enchanting instrument. Be transported as he weaves cinematic stylings and endless imagination with virtuosic performances. A beautiful and captivating listening experience, Joshua is a composer and innovator influenced by Celtic, World, Renaissance, Folk, and Classical music. He has released seven studio albums and was the featured instrumentalist on the Japanese animated film *Mary and the Witch's Flower*. Joshua shares his talent with others by teaching his art at workshops across the country.

Dana & Hank Gruber first discovered the mountain dulcimer at an Appalachian Festival in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1997. They have been performing as an acoustic instrumental duo ever since. Audiences really enjoy the wide variety of music in their performances and musicians especially enjoy their teaching style at workshops.



Joe Collins fell in love with the mountain dulcimer back in 1978. At the time, he was doing occasional coffeehouses as a college student in eastern North Carolina, and a good friend thought he might be interested in tackling another instrument besides the guitar. He took her little instrument home and she did not get it back for three years! Today, he plays a less guitar and more dulcimer than in those early days.



After competing in several competitions and winning several regional competitions over a ten-year period, he won the National Mountain Dulcimer Championship in 2007 in Winfield, Kansas. Over the past twenty years, he has had the opportunity to teach and play in festivals from California to the east coast, from Florida to Vermont, and a lot of places in between.



Eimear Arkins is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and dancer from Ruan in County Clare, Ireland. She holds eleven solo All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil titles and has competed in all Ireland, European and World Dancing Championships.

She has toured and performed with numerous groups including Cherish The Ladies, The Paul Brock Band, Trinity Irish Dance Ensemble and

Téada. She is a regular teacher at St. Louis Irish Arts and has given workshops at various festivals throughout the world including *Catskills Irish Arts Week*, New York; *Viljandi Pärimusmuusika Festival*, Estonia; *St. Louis Tionól*, St. Louis; *Festival Interceltique de Lorient*, France, *Winnipeg Irish Fest*, Canada and *Canadian Celtic Celebration*, Thunder Bay, Canada.

Eimear released her debut album, *What's Next?* in June 2018 to great acclaim. Most recently she was awarded Newcomer of the Year 2019 by liveIRELAND



Shannon Kelly is a traditional Irish harp player from St. Louis, Missouri where she has been involved in the arts of Irish music and dance for almost 20 years. She began her musical journey under the tutorship of renowned teachers from St. Louis Irish Arts. Throughout the years, Shannon has participated in countless Regional and All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil competitions where she has competed and placed in solo and group competitions. Shannon has also been teaching private lessons on the Irish harp

since her early teens and loves sharing her passion for the Irish arts with her students.

Mary Jo Ward is a multi-instrumentalist teacher and performer. A lifelong pianist, she found the Appalachian music world nineteen years ago. She began with hammered dulcimer, but after a few years discovered the autoharp, which has become the instrument of her heart. She also plays mountain dulcimer, fiddle, mandolin, bass and is working on clawhammer banjo, uke and dobro. She has taught at Buckeye Dulcimer Festival, Dulcimore, Raintree Music Festival, Harmony Harvest, Dulcimer Doins, Southern Strings Dulcimer Festival in Mississippi, Ohio Valley Gathering, Kentucky Music Week, and teaches at McCutcheon Music in Centerville, Ohio.



Martha Richard has been playing the hammered dulcimer both as a solo performer and a member of the Heartland Dulcimer Club for more than 20 years. She enjoys playing the "lovely" tunes as well as the feisty fiddle tunes during festival jam sessions. Martha is a long-time instructor at several festivals in the Midwest. Recent teaching engagements include the Spring Mill Retreat, the Heartland Dulcimer Club Festival, the Evert Funfest, and Kentucky Music Week and Winter Weekend. She has a strong group of hammered dulcimer students who meet on a regular basis in Elizabethtown, Ky. Martha has been the Festival Coordinator for the Ohio Valley Gathering for the past several years.

Performing songs on the mountain dulcimer and Celtic harp, **Lorinda Jones**

remains true to her passion for Kentucky roots music, which has led her to a fulfilling life and career as a music therapist, music educator, performer, and recording artist and publisher. Lorinda is the owner of Music Therapy Services of Central Kentucky, providing music therapy services to children and adults since 1996, and



LosNotes Publications, producing music books and recordings, both self-published and by Mel Bay Publications. She is the artistic director of The Heartland Dulcimer Club and Heartland Harp Ensemble, and member of several performing groups including the Irish Trio, Na Skylark. In addition, she is a long-standing director member of the Kentucky Arts Council, Performing Arts on Tour Directory, VSArts KY, and the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, Arts in Healing Program.

In addition to these artist/instructors, the following members of the Heartland Dulcimer Club will be teaching classes as well.

Mountain Dulcimer-*Ed Briand, Marcia Burklov, Betty Grusy, Carolyn Warren*

Native American Flute-*Debby Couch and Beckie Henry*

Ukulele-*Jim Davis*

Psaltery-*Glenda Patterson and Norma Olivencia*

Banjo-*Heidi Hess-Bynum*

Musical Saw-*Paul Leach*

Harmonica and Mandolin-*Dave VanderMolen*