

APRIL VERCH & CODY WALTERS

OUTREACH & EDUCATION



In addition to being accomplished performers, April and Cody are also experienced instructors. April has authored two books on Canadian fiddling and tunes, and release an instructional stepdance DVD.

They enjoy sharing their passion for music and dance in workshops, master classes or demonstrations and school performances, in many settings and for all levels and ages. Their ability to collaborate, and keen sense of when to lead and when to follow, makes them a favourite choice for festival workshops and jam sessions.

Canadian Fiddle Styles (45-75 min)

This class provides an overview of the various regional Canadian fiddle styles, exploring what makes each of them unique. Participants will learn to play at least one tune and apply the bowing patterns and ornamentation techniques that correspond to regional Canadian fiddle styles.

Tunes will be taught "by ear." Please feel free to bring your recording device and lots of questions, as the class will be tailored to suit your needs and requests!

Ottawa Valley Stepdancing (45-60 min)

The Ottawa Valley Stepdance style is unique to that region of Canada. Like the Ottawa Valley fiddle tradition, it is a melting pot of influences; clogging, tap dancing, Irish hardshoe stepdancing to name a few. Hard sole shoes are best, sandals are the worst, but wear what you have and come out and learn a few steps. No dance experience required, just a love of music and for keeping rhythm. This workshop is great, easy exercise for all ages!

Clawhammer Banjo (45-75 min)

Join Cody to explore basic tunings, work on developing right hand clawhammer techniques, chording and backup playing techniques, as well as left hand techniques. Participants will learn a tune and then practice developing a steady driving rhythm. Bring an audio recorder - this class will be taught by ear and you'll want to remember it all when you get home!

Topics, suggestions & requests are always welcome! If you have a program in mind, please feel free to run it by April & Cody. They are enthusiastic educators ready to collaborate with you.



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