

**Hammer Dulcimer Rendezvous 2022**  
**Suggestions & Feedback**  
**What went well? What could be improved?**

*\*\*\*Please know that we're the only two who'll read your comments, no one else.*

**1- Facilities —**

**2- Size of Event (This is the only item with really long exposition!)—**

**Up until 2019 we had larger events. This year we made the choice to limit the size of the event.**

**We used to cap the number of students at 50 (people taking workshops, that is).**

**We would have 5 concurrent workshops. We would have up to 8, 9 or even 10 instructors. Some for the whole weekend, some just swooping in. We had more guests on site. So that at meal times we might have almost 80 people in the Lodge at long rectangular tables, remember?**

**This year we ended up with fewer than 30 students, and topped out at 37 people at meal times.**

**In the end, this year we did not have any “drop in” instructors, so as to limit the number of folks on site.**

**Since we wanted fewer folks on site, and because the budget would be smaller, I decided to take on more of the instructional load.**

**(There are many years I don't lead any workshops; with the larger group, I'm usually busy putting out fires!) We didn't get to enjoy our friends Carolyn Cruso, Carl Thor, Marina Alberro, Simon Chrisman, Hossein Salehi or any other west coast heroes who've pitched in the “before times” larger Rendezvous.**

**As the pandemic goes endemic and the COVID virus continues to evolve, I hope we can do another ‘Vous next year, and suspect it will be another case of “Small is Beautiful.”**

**As the guy doing what might be called “organizing” (you can give me feedback on that job, too!) I enjoyed the smaller size of the group. It gave us more space in the workshops as well as the dining hall. I also enjoyed being small enough to do performances, panels and open mic in Morgan Hall, so we didn’t have to be in Lodge and use a PA system to compete with kitchen noise and the sheer size of the group. (And, as a bonus, getting lovely weather on Saturday to use the Picnic Shelter for Karen & Mark’s beautiful performance!)**

**I’ll always prefer music presented without amplification — as long as it is in an intimate and acoustically suitable space, it is so much more pleasant and present!**

**Despite my leading comments and clear bias, how did YOU like the group size this year?**

**If there were no COVID, would you prefer this smaller group, the “before times” larger group, or something in between?**

### **3- Workshops / Instructors –**

**For the Advanced groups we introduced the Dots & Solids concept. It wasn’t 100% either way, of course, but there was a clear “lean.” Was the option helpful?**

**For the Novice/Intermediate group in the Dorm we had a bit of theme. When Karen suggested her “Surviving a Jam Session” workshop as one she could do, I decided to put that first in the line up, and then to have the rest of us keep working with the group on chording, back up and ensemble play ideas. Did this work as a successful concept?**

**Do you have constructive feedback that we could provide to our instructors? -- Anonymously, of course, except in my case. (I can take it, though, with no hard feelings, so let me know any ways I might be more helpful, as well.)**

- **Karen Alley**

- **Mark Alan Wade**

- **Jim Wells**

- **Rick Fogel**

- **Mick Doherty**

**4- Panel Discussions/Demo — traveling with/shipping the HD – Let us know if you attended, and if you found this useful, etc...**

**What Panel Discussion topics, if any, would you like to see revisited?**

**What Panel Discussion topics would you like to see introduced?**

## **5- Jams...**

**This year we again did not assign “Jam Leaders.” Nonetheless, Mark assumed that role on Saturday night, tinkling the ivories with great aplomb, and making sure to circle the room so everyone got to suggest tunes. Jim Wells volunteered and did a great job leading and coaching a jam in the Dorm Lobby for the N/I group. Many thanks, Mark & Jim!**

**Did you participate in jams? Comments?**

## **6- Meals –**

**General meal comments –**

**Specialty diet thoughts/comments –** *(We’re hoping that we can do this next year in some form, and Chef Chris Botcheos will be up for cooking for us!)*

## **7- Performances/Open Mic —**

**We had a generous “pop up” concert on Thursday by Barbara Calm and Jason Foy, as well as our scheduled Saturday “Import Instructors” concert by Karen and Mark, and the Open Mic (without a mic!) on Friday night.**

**Comments/Suggestions?**

**8- Schedule – Let me know what you thought about the schedule, the length of sessions, the amount of free time, types of activities, etc.**

**9- Likes/changes/additions –**

**What was the one thing you liked the most?**

**What one thing would you change or add?**

**What would you tell someone who was thinking about coming to a (hopeful, we are) 2023 HD ‘Vous’?**

**10 - Future instructors --**

**Which instructor(s) would you like to see at future Rendezvous?**

Thanks again,  
Mick

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