

Hammer Dulcimer Rendezvous 2023
Suggestions & Feedback, Followed by “Save the Dates!”
What went well? What could be improved?

1- Facilities — Monica, executive director of Hull Foundation and Learning Center, tells me that they’ve secured a grant to buy new beds and do other improvements in the dorms, hopefully before next May.

If anyone knows of any corporations, endowments or wealthy individuals looking to help out the Hull Foundation and Learning Center, they’d love to get a grant to build a couple of class rooms on the property. (Not to be too self-interested, but a couple quiet classrooms would be great for our event – getting workshops away from kitchen noise would be a lovely thing!)

Also, if you’d just like to make a tax deductible donation on your own, their website is being revamped as I type and should be up and running in the next day or two:

<http://hullflc.org>

If their website is still under construction, you can reach Monica directly:

Monica Butler • Executive Director, Hull Foundation and Learning Center

503-668-6195

monica@hullFLC.org

• Comments

2- Size of Event — Up until 2019 we had larger events. In 2022 we made the choice to limit the size of the event. This year we did the same, keeping it to roughly 30 registrants verses the “before times” 50. So at our peak (Saturday Concert and Dinner/Raffle) counting players, guests and instructors we had 44 people. (In the old days we got upwards of 75, which made that Saturday meal pretty dang crowded!)

Thanks to all doing the “Test to Attend” routine, we seem to have again avoided being a super-spreader. At least I haven’t heard from anyone who’s come down with Covid.

Given the smaller group we're able to do three workshops as opposed to the before-times 5. This means we don't have to cram a group into the office, and Hull Park staff gets to keep working on Thursday and Friday.

- **Comments**

3- Workshops / Instructors –

For the Advanced groups we continued with the Dots & Solids concept. It wasn't 100% either way, of course, but there was a clear "lean." Was the option helpful? Should we continue with the "leaning"?

For the Novice/Intermediate group in the Dorm we had a variety of themes. There were a few repertoire classes -- Karen got folk's hammers bouncing with a Flemish March, Paul introduced some easy-peasy English tunes, Carl brought the Swedish Polska. Carl and Jim both did some "game theory" workshops with "Hammerdoku" and Jim's "Zirkel (did I spell that right?) Zither Power" games. Simon wrapped it up with some rhythmic warmups.

**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 Ashbrook**

- **Paul Oorts**

- **Simon Chrisman**

- **Carl Thor**

- **Jim Wells**

- **Mick Doherty**

4- Special Sessions/Panel Discussions/Demo — We had two this year. If you have feedback, here's your chance:

Karen Ashbrook -- a discussion on Music for Healing and Transition in Morgan Hall.

Simon Chrisman -- two Ear Training sessions in the Picnic Shelter

What Special Sessions/Panels/Discussion Topics, if any, would you like to see revisited?

What Special Sessions/Panels/Discussion Topics would you like to see introduced?

5- Jams -- Jim Wells volunteered to lead and a jam on Saturday night in the Dorm Lobby for the N/I group.

Many thanks to Paul, Simon, Carl, Rick, Jim (and to Karen, who would play until she got sleepy!) who pitched in on the jam sessions. It was great having Chuck with his concertina and Dan & Mike with their fiddles.

Did you participate in jams?

- **Comments**

6- Meals – We're hoping that Chef Chris Botcheos will be up for cooking for us again. He said a couple times, "Even if I don't cook for you next year, I'll bring some smoked salmon for the raffle." That made me nervous... If you'd like to send comments directed to Chris, I'll gladly pass them on!

General meal comments –

Specialty diet thoughts/comments –

7- Performances/Open Mic —

**Rick Fogel kindly organized 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) 2024 HD ‘Vous?

10 - Future instructors --

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

11 - Save the Dates!– May 16-19, 2024 are reserved at Hull Park --

Several people said, “Put me down for next year!” We haven’t been doing that. We used to do an advance deposit on Registration, which people would send in in the fall of the year. However, we ended up having to mail ‘em back to folks who had to cancel, which made more work. There’s enough to do, already! (Those who were signed up in 2020 will remember that I requested

\$50 – for those that could afford it -- from the refunds to help cover the costs at the point when the dang Covid reared up.)

I'll make that official for 2024, for reservations: a non-refundable deposit (unless, heaven forbid, we get another pandemic, at which point it would again be an “if you can afford it” deal like 2020.)

If you're sure you're “in” I'll accept a \$50 “hold my spot” deposit for the first 30 Registrants. If you are committed to coming and can save the dates in your calendar, this would save your spot prior to the actual start of the Registration period, which since Covid has been in January or February. Then, when get around to the official Registration, your \$50 is credited towards the final bill.

If on the other hand, you've taken up the bassoon and decided that tuned percussion is not as refined, or have simply made other plans, you instantly become a patron of the Vous, and we let folks know another spot has opened up.

**Thanks again,
Mick**

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