



December 2024 Newsletter and calendar

Season's Greetings to all. The Fiddle & Pick 17th annual Christmas Holiday Concert at the "Garage Mahal" (our Dearie friends Barn nickname) was a big hit. Special thanks to Darrel & Candy our hosts, our Bass player Henry Hartman for accompany the students, Keller for running Sound, Reyna, Rowan & Cat for helping me haul everything from Fiddle & Pick to the "Hall" and to all the students playing such a wonderful show! Special thanks to our instructors, Alan O'Bryant, Jason Bailey, Becca Darling for Playing the show as well. Also special thanks to our instructors, Erinn Peet-Lukes and Stephan Dudash for their wonderful recitals this month. Such a variety of instruments and styles!

Announcements:

The two Irish Music Classes have been going well and the schedule continues into the New Year. NOTE: There is an adjustment to the schedule. The Sat Feb 1 Class has to be rescheduled.

DEC 21 7pm The SPONTANEOUS MOUNTAIN BOYS "Christmas Spectacle"
(Comedy & Bluegrass and other Highlights)
Kingston Springs Methodist Church

Dec 24 Kingston Springs Methodist Church "Bluegrass Christmas Eve Service".

Announcements of Fiddle & Pick Upcoming Events:

Eighth of January Old-time Music Weekend

Jan 10 & 11, 2025 ~Two days~ Fri & Sat Event

See full details scrolling at end of the newsletter

Instructors page

Fri Schedule & Sat Schedules

Page 1 EOJ Event Orientation

Page 2 Tips on Jamming at EOJ Old-Time Music Weekend.

Keep on your radar the Annual Fundraiser event:

CHILI COOK OFF & SILENT AUCTION. (SUNDAY EVENT)

would you like to enter your chili? Don't be shy! Win prizes!!!

Mark your calendar Sun Feb 16, 2025 (Plan B if icy Sun Feb 23, 2025)

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Scroll down the end of the newsletter to see full details on 2 flyers!

Silent Auction Item Drop off dates, Chili entry info, Music and more.

MHC Fiddle & Pick hosts NOTSBA (Nashville Old-Time String Band association) 4th SUNDAY JAM!

Jan 26, 2025 2:00-5:30pm Food at the half. Bring a treat to share
All are welcome to come play old-time tunes with us and spectators
are welcome to come listen!

Current Classes:

Gretchen hosts the following “TWO” IRISH MUSIC CLASSES:

We just started a “NEW TO IRISH MUSIC” Fiddle & Mandolin Class; It is not too late to come on board. Meeting twice a month on Sat 10:30-12:30. The series goes until end of March. See the flyer for details on this new class at the end of this letter. It is not too late to join us. Text 615-812-2192

. **Irish Music Class Happy Hour Class!** This class meets twice a month on Fri Nights 6:30-8:30; For folks already playing Irish; It is a multi-instrument class. A little more advanced than New to Irish class. The new series **Started on Fri Nov 8.** It is not too late to join the class. Text: 615-812-2192 See flyer for the details.

~Jazz Class with Paul Abrams on Tues Nights: Call Paul 615-310-7275

OPEN JAMS:

~**Kids Jam** 1st & 3rd **Mon** 6:15-7:30 (Hosted by Gretchen) see flyer on website

~**Bluegrass Jamming Class** meeting on the 2nd & 4th **Mon** 7:15-9:15 flyer on website
Co-hosted by Erinn Peet Lukes and Gretchen Priest (Multi-Level; not beginner)

NOTE: This is a Class. It is not an open Jam, The class is open to join.

~**Old-time Jam** 1st & 3rd **Tues** 7:15-9:15 Open, spectators welcome! Donations Appreciated.

~ **Irish session** 2nd & 4th **Tues 7:15-9:15**

The session is a MID- TEMPO Session. Spectators welcome. Donations appreciated

OTHER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF NOTE!

ALABAMA FOLK SCHOOL: Learn to “Fiddle from Scratch” with Gretchen Feb 28-Mar 2. Check out the folk school! Ya’ll come to my “New to fiddle” bootcamp. The Campus is amazing, and the folks there are the BEST!

March 6-9 Breakin’ Up Winter Old-time Retreat 2025 hosted by NOTSBA

MARCH 10th Monday THE NASHVILLE IRISH TRIO in Concert Erinn, TN at the Historic Methodist Church. Arts Council FREE CONCERT to the public. Hosted Irish Session after the concert.

March 16 Students Irish Music Concert! Featuring Irish music classes and private students.

April 7-12 GREENLEAF OLDTIME Festival in Braggs, OK

Aug 10-16 CO ROOTS CAMP (Gretchen & Tim teaching there)

Aug 24-30 Acoustic ALASKA Camp (Gretchen & Tim teaching there)

Gretchen continues hosting “Fiddle & Pick Picks” on Thurs Nights at the Fillin’ Station in Kingston Springs; Featuring our Fiddle & Pick Affiliates. Ya’ll come! Food & Music! It’s a good hang. Free Parking.

Musically yours, Miss Gretchen “See you on the Funway!”



EIGHTH OF JANUARY

OLD TIME MUSIC WEEKEND

FRI & SAT JAN 10-11, 2025

Two days of workshops for: Fiddle / Guitar / Mandolin / Clawhammer Banjo / Traditional Song.

Also: Instructor Concert / Led Tune Workshop for all Instruments / Buck Dance Workshop / Lots of Scheduled Jamming.

TAUGHT BY



Bob Townsend is considered one of Tennessee's finest living fiddlers. His neighborhood in South Pittsburg was home to a family that played fiddle, banjo, guitar, and mandolin. He was instantly fascinated. He has been playing ever since. Bob honed his knowledge of the South Cumberland's regional repertoires and styles by visiting and watching many older regional fiddlers, as well as from listening closely to rare homemade tapes and commercial albums. His biggest influences was Charles Higgins, who taught him tunes from Grundy County fiddler Oscar Overturf (1900-1988). Bob has performed extensively with the Fiery Gizzard String Band.



Alan O'Bryant Alan's uncles and cousins were all into oldtime music and what they called "string music." Alan picked up the banjo at age 13, and took to it instantly. He learned by listening to records and watching his cousin play. His uncle quickly recognized Alan's potential. "He'd come get me and take me with him to a dance," where they would perform with a group of old-timers and split the earnings. He was a huge fan of Bill Monroe's since he was a kid and got to be a Blue Grass Boy. Monroe was a huge influence on him; their friendship continued until Bill's death. Alan has taught numerous banjo camps, including the Banjo Institute Clinic, and NashCamp. Alan is very rooted in old-time music, playing mandolin, and teaches mandolin, guitar and banjo.



George Guthrie a talented Nashville-based banjo player (both 3-finger bluegrass and old time clawhammer style) and singer. He is best known for his touring and recording with The Wooks, but is also an in-demand sideman with various other bands and projects. He toured as the principal banjoist with the Broadway show written by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. George once played over 150 shows in 8 cities over a 9-month period.



Amy Alvey is an award winning fiddler, singer and songwriter who tours the country as half of the duo Golden Shoals. She's a Berklee graduate who's spent the better part of a decade immersed in the old-time scene, performing and picking into the wee hours at the nation's fiddle gatherings and music festivals. She's won ribbons in traditional fiddling contests such as Clifftop, Mount Airy, Galax, Surrey County, and the Grand Masters Fiddlers Championship. She hosts the weekly Sunday night old-time jam at Fran's Eastside Lounge in Nashville.



Tim May toured with Patty Loveless, Eddie Rabbitt, and Kathy Mattea and played The Grand Old Opry with Mike Snider's band. He was voted Nashville Reader's Poll Best Instrumentalist in Nashville in 2012, and in the Top 3 in 2013. Tim played on Charlie Daniels' 2005 track of 'I'll Fly Away', (nominated for Country Instrumental Grammy). He co-authored *The Flatpicker's Guide to Irish Music*, *The Flatpicker's Guide to Old Time Music*, *The Mandolin Player's Practical Guide to Scales and Arpeggios*, the eight volume series *Flatpicking Essentials*, and is in demand as a roots music teacher including The Swananoa Gathering's Guitar Week and Song Week.



Jodi Harbin is a career musician who teaches mandolin, guitar, banjo and bass. She was the founder of the Colorado bluegrass band, Lonesome Traveler, and has continued her involvement in the bluegrass community after moving to the Knoxville area. She now performs with several groups including the Museum of Appalachia Band, Evie Andrus Band, and with her husband Tim Harbin. Working with Steve Kaufman at his camp every summer and teaching camps throughout the US has exposed her to a wide range of teachers and teaching materials on all the bluegrass instruments.



Hillary Klug, also known as the Dancing Fiddler, has been quietly making a name for herself over the past several years online. By quietly, I mean outside the traditional channels for achieving notoriety in music, as the volume of her impact on social media has been anything but quiescent." - John Lawless of *Bluegrass Today*



Erinn Peet Lukes has a pure, angelic voice and bluegrass-inspired sensibilities. She makes music that crosses genres with melodies that are fun and memorable. After years touring with her bluegrass band Thunder and Rain, she moved to Nashville. In her decade long career, Erinn has shared the stage with great songwriters such as Jennifer Knapp and John Paul White of the Civil Wars. Her songwriting has gotten her placed in the Kerrville New Folk Competition (2018) and the Merlefest Chris Austin Songwriting Competition (2021). In 2021 she graced the stage of the world famous Station Inn in Nashville, TN. Her band, Thunder and Rain, has a brand new release and currently touring.



Gretchen Priest is founder, & director of the Musical Heritage Center, aka Fiddle & Pick. She teaches Old-time, Irish, Bluegrass fiddle and other styles through private lessons, classes and hosts inclusive Traditional music jams/sessions. She recently released a new record, "Roadside Distraction", with mandolinist Emily Wilson (Old-time, Irish & wacky modern tunes). She also currently plays with The Nashville Irish Trio (Eamonn Dillon, Robert Johnson), Erinn Peet-Lukes, and also her long-time band, PLAIDGRASS. She has been on staff at many music camps, toured with Ceili Rain, Crucial Smith, played the Grand Ole Opry, and for many Nashville Artists; and played for the Pope!

FRIDAY EOJ Schedule Jan 10, 2025

CHECK IN!

~9:00-9:45am~ Doors Open at Fiddle & Pick (PCC opens 9am too... coffee!)

1. Read and Sign the Safety Form (Read essential Orientation & Jamming info)

2. Admission \$25 for Friday; (\$25 on Sat)

\$25 fee per class *to reserve Fri classes only. (purchase Sat classes on Sat)*

3. Get your essential Name Badge (Print your Name clearly) **Wear at ALL times!**

Note: WS are first come, first served; Class sizes are limited. **Accept: Cash, Check, Venmo.**

FRI classes start 10:00am Get there, Tune Up; Be Ready! Have Fun!

10-11:15	Fiddle II Intermediate	Bob T	F&P Great Rm
10-11:15	Fiddle I Newer players (not total beginner)	Amy A	F&P Rm #1
10-11:15	Mandolin II Intermediate	Tim M	Church Rm
10-11:15	Mandolin I Newer players (not total beginner) ...	Alan O	Church Rm
10-11:15	Guitar I Newer players (not total beginner) ...	Erinn P-L	Church Rm
10-11:15	Clawhammer Banjo I Newer players	George G.	F&P Rm 9
10-11:15	Traditional Song Circle All Level! Hosted by ...	Jodi H	Church Sanctuary

10:00-11:15am ~Mid to Faster Multi-Level ~OLDTIME JAM~ PCC

11:30am ~ Lunch Break ~NO lunch provided; if you have a sack lunch or carry out, Dine at PCC ~

1:00-2:30pm ~ Slow/Mid Tempo ~OLDTIME JAM ~ PCC

2:30-3:45pm ~ Mid/Faster Tempo ~OLDTIME JAM ~ PCC

Fri Afternoon classes start 1:30pm:

1:30-2:45pm	Fiddle III Intermediate-Advanced	Amy A	F&P Great Rm
1:30-2:45pm	Mandolin II Intermediate	Alan O	Church Rm
1:30-2:45pm	Mandolin III Advanced	Jodi H	Church Sanctuary
1:30-2:45pm	Guitar II & III Intermediate-Advanced	Tim M	Church Rm
1:30-2:45pm	Clawhammer Banjo II & III Intermed-Adv ...	George G.	F&P Rm 9

4:00-5:15pm~All Instrument Tune WS Bob Townsend & Andy Smith F&P Great rm

Reminder: When you go to supper, *please* be sure to clear the Great Rm of your personal items. **This will help us with getting the evening jam set up! Thanks!**

5:30 ~ Supper Break ~

Bring an item to share! Potluck Central at Pegram Station (aka... PCC)

Friday evening 7:15pm ~ Old-Time Jam at FIDDLE & PICK

*****Be sure to WEAR YOUR Name Badge at All Times*****

This year's Eighth of January Old-Time Music Weekend is just \$25 per day Admission!

~There is a \$25 fee per person, per class.

~We require a **"one class minimum"** for each day of attendance.

* Attending more classes is preferred because this is how we can pay all our wonderful Instructors! It also helps the class & Jam levels for everyone!

~Admission Fee includes access to "All Instruments Tune WS" with Bob Townsend & Andy Smith, a "Buck Dance WS" with National Champion Hillary Klug, the informal Instructor Concert and access to all the Old-Time Jams!

*Donations to the Musical Heritage Center are much appreciated help us with this event. (Donation Jar or Venmo).

SATURDAY EOJ Schedule Jan 11, 2025

CHECK IN! 9:00-9:45am Doors Open at Fiddle & Pick (PCC opens 9am too...coffee!)

1. Read and Sign the Safety Form (Read essential Orientation & Jamming info)

2. Admission Fee \$25 per day (\$25 on Sat) (\$25 Friday)

\$25 fee per class *to reserve Sat classes on Sat, (Fri classes on Fri).*

3. Get your essential Name Badge (Print your Name clearly) **Wear at ALL times!**

Note: WS are first come, first served; Class sizes are limited. **Accept: Cash, Check, Venmo.**

Sat classes start 10:00am Get there, Tune Up; Be Ready!

10-11:15 **Fiddle II & III** Intermediate-Advanced..... **Bob T** **F&P Great Rm**

10-11:15 **Mandolin II & III** Intermediate-Advanced **Alan O** **Church Rm**

10-11:15 **Guitar II & III** Intermediate-Advanced **Tim M.** **Church Rm**

10-11:15 **Clawhammer Banjo II & III** Intermediate-Adv... **George G**..... **F&P Rm 9**

10-11:15 **Traditional Song Circle** All Levels! Hosted by ... **Jodi H** **Church Sanctuary**

10:00-11:15am ~ Slower/Mid-Tempo OLDTIME JAM ~ Hosted by Gretchen

11:30am ~ Lunch Break ~ NO Lunch provided; if you have a sack lunch or carry out, Dine at PCC

1:00pm-3:45pm ~Mid-Faster Tempo OLDTIME JAM ~ PCC

Sat afternoon classes:

1:00-2:15 **Fiddle I & II** Newer Players-Intermediate **Amy A** **F&P Great Rm**

1:00-2:15 **Mandolin II** Intermediate **Alan O** **Church Rm**

1:00-2:15 **Mandolin I** Newer players (not total beginner) ...**Jodi H** **Church Sanctuary**

1:00-2:15 **Guitar II** Intermediate **Tim M** **Church Rm**

1:00-2:15 **Guitar I** Newer players (not total beginner) **Erinn P-L** **Church Rm**

1:00-2:15 **Clawhammer Banjo I** Newer players**George G**..... **F&P Rm 9**

2:30-3:30 Buck dance WS with Hillary Klug F&P Great Rm

Multi-Level ... All are Welcome!

Note: Right after Buck Dance class: Please clear the space; We encourage everyone to join the Jam at Pegram Station. Instructors need some time to focus on their concert selections, a set order and a Quick PA & audience seating set up.

4:30 ~ Instructor Concert ~ Fiddle & Pick Great Rm

**After the concert, Please be sure to Clear the Great Rm and head over to the PCC for supper. You can leave your instruments in F&P while we set up!*

5:45 ~ Supper~ Bring an item to share; Potluck Central at Pegram Station!

7:15-? OLD-TIME JAM & PARTY at the Fiddle & Pick!

This year's Eighth of January Old-Time Music Weekend is just \$25 per day Admission.

~There is a \$25 fee per person, per class.

~We require a **"one class minimum"** for each day of attendance. Attending more classes is preferred because this is how we pay our wonderful Instructors! It also helps out the class & Jam levels for everyone! *Donations to the Musical Heritage Center are much appreciated to help us out with this event. (There is a Donation Jar or Venmo).

Orientation page !: for Eighth Of January Old-Time Music Weekend
Essential things to know and Questions Answered:

The Layout of the grounds; There are three buildings for the event:

1. Fiddle & Pick, aka... The Musical Heritage Center (**only enter front door**)
2. Pegram Community Club "PCC", aka... Pegram Station (**across the Street**)
3. First Baptist Church of Pegram (**Enter at Church carport entrance**) It is located *behind the residence, behind Fiddle & Pick*; It is less than a 5 min walk; the long driveway takes you directly to the carport entrance. Plenty of parking front & back
~All three buildings are in walking distance. You can drive if you want; but no need to...We have a volunteer shuttle Shepherd. A simple text gets you and your instruments to and fro!

~ **All three buildings have 2 bathrooms and parking.** The Church and PCC have more parking than Fiddle & Pick.

NOTE: **We try not to use the next-door neighbor's business parking lot; When they are open. The Mud Puddle Pottery and art studios need their lot. Use if they are closed.**

~ We recommend you use the bathroom at the PCC or the Church *before you head over to Fiddle & Pick* to prevent long bathroom lines at Fiddle & Pick.

What does EOJ OT Weekend cost to attend?

This year's EOJ Old-Time Music Weekend is \$25 admission for each day (Fri \$25; Sat \$25)
*Your admission includes: The All Instruments Tune WS with Bob, A Buckdance WS with Hilary, an informal Instructors Concert, and access to all the Jams. **Wear Name Badge at All Times!***

Other classes offered: \$25 fee per person for each class; a "one class minimum" per day.
Fiddle, Guitar, Mandolin, Clawhammer Banjo, Traditional Song Circle are offered both days.

How we accommodate Class Levels:

~Higher Level Classes (Intermediate-Advanced) are taking place while the Slower/Mid-Tempo Jams are taking place.

~ Lower Level Classes (Newer Players/Intermediate) are taking place while the faster jams are taking place.

~ *unfortunately, there are NO classes for total beginners because we don't have enough rooms.*

~*Make note that we do teach all levels and ages year-round at the center including total beginners!*

~*We try our best to accommodate lots of jamming!*

~ *Traditional Song Circle and the Buckdancing class is "all levels"no experience needed.*

Also all are welcome to try or observe The ALL Instruments Tune WS.

FOOD? Drink?~Fiddle & Pick has light concessions (snacks & beverages \$1).

~For **Lunch time** you can go into Bellevue (15 min drive) where there is a variety of restaurants. There is a food truck on the way there. Bring a sack lunch and dine at PCC. You may store items in the PCC Fridge (across the street from Fiddle & Pick). There is an oven with a stove top and a microwave. Lots of tables, chairs and restrooms. ~Whether you have carry-out food, or a sack lunch; **PLEASE eat all meals at PCC, instead of Fiddle & Pick.** After all, Mealtime is a goodtime hang out! Enjoy!

~ **Supper Time on both Fri & Sat: Potluck Central at the Pegram Station!**

If possible, bring an item to share.~ We will provide Coffee, Tea, Water, plates, bowls, cups, plastic ware & Naps, and good vibes at PCC! See you on the funway!

What you should know about Jam Etiquette at EOJ Old-Time Weekend.
Page 2 Great tips that are helpful to everyone!

~**Tune your instrument** before you enter any Jam. (Its good to have a tuner and an instrument that will tune up). Sometimes new strings are needed.

~**Play in one key for awhile before switching keys.**(There are reasons for this).

~**Don't play loud all the time.** Vary your volume in tunes. "Beating & sawing" approach is not desirable but there are times when its racous .

~**We recommend taking turns picking out a tune for all to play;** This way everyone gets a chance to pick a tune. Review a tune you learned in class. NOTE: It is good idea to "**say the name of the tune out loud**" that you are about to start, **especially at a large jam! Sharing the name is so helpful!** Everyone is learning. It is hard to hear the start; folks far away from you will really appreciate knowing what tune you are launching!

~ **When the jam is playing a tune that you don't know yet; LISTEN** to it a round *before* trying to play it. This is good for everyone. After listening for a time, start to play it softly and keep listening while picking up more of it.

~**Do Not clutter the Jam Area with your instrument cases.** Just bring your instrument in the jam. **Use the tables for cases.** Consolidate your personal items by putting things in your case like keys, wallet, purse, books, coat, gloves, etc...that easily get lost at an event.

~ Please don't move chairs that are set up to accommodate a large jam. **Chairs are set up to maximize seating space for a jam.** Always, more folks will arrive. Remember this: The undesirable, "one wide circle" makes it impossible for a large group to stay together on the beat. Rhythm is King.

"The onion, or "layered circles" work best for a large group to play together. Smaller jams are welcome to spring up in other rooms.

Musical Heritage Center aka... a building called...."Fiddle & Pick":

~ **Keep it tidy!**

~Drinks go on the little tables, instead of the floor where they get kicked.

~When you leave the jamming area, *Please* take all of your items with you (including your trash & drinks)

NEVER pick up someone's instrument and play it without asking them first. Also don't be shocked if they say "No". They have the right to say No.

When in classes, please keep conversation short and no noodling! Get more out or the session. Play Nice. Enjoy! Hope these tips are helpful. Sending this with Love, not meant mean spirited or unkind tone.



FIDDLE & PICK

THE MUSICAL HERITAGE CENTER OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE, EST 2008



Annual

CHILI COOK-OFF & SILENT AUCTION

FUNDRAISER

FEB 16, 2025 | 10 AM - 4 PM

Note: If the roads are ICY, Rescheduled date Feb, 23, 2025

Event Held @ Pegram Community Club | 456 Thompson Rd. Pegram, TN



CHILI COOK-OFF

How to Compete: \$25 Registration (Door fee waived)

Fill out Registration form in person or email by **Feb 9th, 2025**

Email: picknfriends@gmail.com

Drop off Chili at 10am the day of event

Tasting begins at 11am-1ish, **Winner announced around 1:15ish**



SILENT AUCTION

We need Donations of Goods & Services!

Drop off items at Fiddle & Pick

Text 615.812.2192 for any Large Donated items

Bring your silent auction donations to Fiddle&Pick Fri eve Jan 24 / Sat am Jan 25 / Sun Jan 26

on any of these drop off dates: **Mon-Wed Jan 27, 28, 29**

Mon Feb 3 & 10

Tue Feb 4 & 11



JAM SESSIONS & EVENT SCHEDULE

Old Time Jam 10am-11:45am

Chili Tasting 11am-1pm or until gone

Silent Auction Bidding 11am-3pm

Irish Session 12pm-2pm

Bluegrass Jam 2:15pm-4pm



DOOR FEE

\$15 per attendee (under 12 Free)

- Access to Jams, Silent Auction items & Chili

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interested in Volunteering? Contact picknfriends@gmail.com

www.Fiddleandpick.com



FIDDLE & PICK

THE MUSICAL HERITAGE CENTER OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE, EST 2008



Annual CHILI COOK-OFF

»»» FUNDRAISER ««« ENTRY FORM

4 Winning Categories

Email All Questions: Picknfriends@gmail.com

Email your entry form early or Drop it off with your Chili the morning of the event

Name:	_____
Phone #:	_____
Name of Chili: <i>(A Catchy name can help you win)</i>	_____ _____
Drop off Chili at the Pegram Community Center 453 Thompson Rd (across the Fiddle& Pick)	
Ingredients <i>(Optional)</i>	_____ _____



CHILI COOK-OFF

How to Compete: \$25 Registration (Door fee waived)
 Fill out Registration form in person or email by **Feb 9th, 2025**
Email: picknfriends@gmail.com
Drop off Chili in crock pot at 9:45-10:15 the day of event with \$25 Fee and completed form.
 Tasting begins at 11am-1ish, **Winner announced around 1:15ish**

CHILI COOK-OFF FAQ

How much is the entry Fee? \$25 Registration (Door fee waived)
Do I have to be there the whole event? NOPE! We have volunteers that will make sure your chili stays warmed and stirred.
What are the 4 Winning categories? Best Over All (1st Place Trophy & Prizes)
 Best Vegetarian (Prize)
 Best Most Unusual (Prize)
 Everyone that Pays admission can vote for Peoples' Choice
 Anyone can buy more votes for \$1/ticket

Good Luck!