



Workshops

Arrangements for 2 Voices & 2 Instruments

Join TSG as they talk about and give examples of their arrangements for two voices and two instruments. They will explore how they choose harmony parts and how their instrumentation serves their vocals and the song.

Harmony Singing

Come experience for yourself the fun and unique qualities of singing with others in harmony and learn how to capture the essence of a song with your voice. You will learn listening techniques, how to recognize chordal relationships, how harmony fits into a melodic landscape, how to sing better lines while picking up some vocal techniques and exercises along the way. Join us for a fun and empowering experience! Everything is taught by ear and learned as a group.

Clawhammer Banjo

Geared for the beginner/post-beginner clawhammer banjo player, we'll tackle how to make our banjos sing! From learning the basic clawhammer style and using the drop-thumb technique, to playing tunes that help us incorporate these techniques and utilizing different tunings (open G, sawmill, and double C). Most importantly we'll learn how to use our banjo as an accompaniment instrument while singing songs, writing songs, and taking part in jam sessions with others (use of chords and a capo!).

School of Rock for Folkies

With voices and instruments working together in a group context, participants will acquire the "tools" necessary for bringing a song to life. Does that sound like fun or what!? Come prepared to rock out folk-style (i.e. taking rock songs and folkin' them up!). If you sing (untrained more or less) and/or play an instrument (beyond the beginner stage), then this class is for you. Some of those "tools" mentioned will include: how to learn and arrange a song as a group, dynamics within a song, blending instruments, listening to each other, knowing when to play simply and when to step it up, how to play in support of the vocalist or soloist, and how to get out of the way and let the song speak. We will also explore how to do tasteful fills, how to sing in harmony, and performance techniques. Any acoustic instrument is welcome (guitar, bass, dobro, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, ukulele, bodhran, accordion, etc etc), and don't forget about the voice! Come prepared to have fun!

Song Editing

Oftentimes the songs we write can benefit greatly from an outside caring perspective and some extra attention to detail, no matter how great or small. Maybe the key needs to change to suit what works best with our vocal range, or the tempo, or maybe the bridge could use that extra lift by going to a minor chord as opposed to the major. Or perhaps the words could be tightened up and we can actually say more with less. And sometimes we just need to explore other options to make sure we are truly satisfied with where a song is at. We'll look at some examples of songs pre-edit and post-edit, and then take a stab at editing some songs on the spot.