

Spanish Peaks Piping Retreat – 2019

Class Schedule



Note: The following classes and times, as taught by Tim Cummings and Bob Mitchell, are subject to change as additional information becomes available. In addition, Cillian Vallely and Dirk Mewes will be teaching the following classes, times to be determined:

Cillian Vallely - Join Cillian Vallely for lively classes where you'll pick up tips for improving your uilleann piping techniques. Cillian is world-famous for his unique and emotive style of piping. Additionally, he'll be sharing some tunes with you to build your repertoire. Come with your questions and be ready to soak up the knowledge.

Dirk Mewes - Dirk Mewes, Colorado's own (and only) uilleann pipe maker, will be teaching his ever-popular workshop on making uilleann pipe reeds.

Friday 9 am – noon (select 1 from the 2 classes listed)

Appalachian tunes refresher (Tim): For the past two years, Tim has led our Appalachian music partnership with the Spanish Peaks Celtic Harp Retreat. In this class we'll review those tunes in preparation for Playing on the Street with the harpers (Saturday afternoon).

A Reel Good Time (Bob): The goal of this class will be to put together a short set of reels to spice up your repertoire.

Friday 1 pm – 4 pm noon (select 1 from the 2 classes listed)

Play by Ear (Bob): Pipers from the highland tradition are intimidated by the thought of playing by ear. Are you really "tone deaf"? Bob will lead an exercise to explore that question. Learn concepts related to common note groupings, listening to notes and replicating them in your brain and on your instrument. Learn recording and playback tips to build your skills.

Yec'hed Mat! (Tim): An introduction to some of the traditional dance repertoire, and a few of the dances themselves, from Brittany (the celtic region of northwestern France).

Saturday 9 am – noon noon (select 1 from the 2 classes listed)

Six Fun-to-Play Scottish Tunes for Smallpipes (Bob): Brighten up your sets with interesting classic tunes, focusing on the fun of playing. Focus is on building a repertoire of enjoyable music.

What a Wonderful World (Tim): Explore repertoire and stylistic approaches to tunes from beyond the British Isles.

Saturday 1 – 4 pm

Playing with the Harpers! (Tim and Bob): A big hit with our pipe retreat students, give your brain a break and let's take it to the street! We'll focus on the Appalachian repertoire learned at the most recent pipe retreat, mostly from Tim Cummings' book, "An Appalachian Collection". In addition to the harpers, we'll probably have a mandolin and flute joining. Hone your skills of playing with other musicians and their instruments. Highly rated by harpers, pipers and the public!

Assuming the street event doesn't take the full class session, we'll return to our Saturday morning classes.

Saturday evening (time TBD)

Very informal get-together at Circle the Wagons RV Park. Pipe retreat participants are invited to hang with Tim and Bob, play some tunes from the pipe retreat, listen to Bob and Tim play or whatever. Maybe Patrick and Jim will bring their gaitas! Informal fun, maybe a chance to pick up a tip for session playing, maybe just time for a beer! Play if you want, listen if you want, just enjoy some time together.

Sunday 9 am – noon noon (select 1 from the 2 classes listed)

Practice Smarter, Not Harder (Bob): "Woodshedding" is the thoughtful and thorough use of time to make lasting improvements in technique and fluency. Learn to make more time to enjoy the music through constructive practice.

What a Wonderful World (Tim): Explore repertoire and stylistic approaches to tunes from beyond the British Isles