

2:15-3:30 PM

Main Theater

Publicity and Raising Profile of Chapters Workshop I (Office A)

Use of social media, etc. How to work with and attract the media
(Kari Estrin and Skip & Linda Johns)

Intermediate Mandolin: Tuning, Chopping, Cross Picking, and Improvising (Office D with Isaac May)

Be part of a Jam Circle!

Slow Jam led by Perry and Diana Brake
(Office B)

Bluegrass Jam Led by
Skip Johns and James Talbert

SongFarmer Chapter Jam led by
Stacey Farris
(SF Chapter of London, KY)

Bring your instrument and a lawn chair, join any jam/circle you want. Learn, play, sing and be part of the community building a "front porch around the World!" Have you seen the national TV broadcast of the SongFarmers film? Thank you to our partners for making this film possible. And thank you to Berea College for being such a wonderful host for the 2019 National Gathering of SongFarmers!



3:45-4:45 PM

Main Theater

“So, You Started a SongFarmers Chapter, now what?” Workshop I (Office A)

Round table about what different groups are doing now, how they are growing, and what is their hope for the future. (Rik Palieri)

Intermediate Guitar: Fingerpicking Styles (Office C with Skip Johns) Six string heaven!

Be part of a Jam Circle!

Slow Jam (led by Perry and Diana Brake
(Office B)

Bluegrass Jam led by
Skip & Linda Johns and James Talbert

SongFarmer Chapter Jam
“Four Chords and the Truth”
led by Ellen Mershon SF of NE Cincinnati, OH

4:00-5:00 PM

Main Theater

See the film: “SongFarmers: Building a Front Porch ‘round the World” Documentary with Q&A Michael Johnathon

Workshop I (Office A) “Guidelines for Chapter Leaders” Skip & Linda Johns

5:00-6:30 PM

DINNER Informal Community Meal

(meals with suggested donations)
Entertainment provided by several invited area college/university traditional music ensembles

6:30-9:00 PM

Main Tent

SongFarmer Concert FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Plus non-stop Jam Circles



The WoodSongs
Front Porch Association
presents the 5th annual

Gathering of SongFarmers

BEREA ARENA THEATRE 1835 Big Hill Rd, Berea, KY 40403

Friday, Oct 18, 2019

Join a Jam - non-stop playing all weekend!

Bluegrass Jams are coordinated by
Skip & Linda Johns, Jim Talbert & Cassandra Adams

Slow Jams are coordinated by
Perry and Diana Brake

SongFarmer Chapter Jams are
coordinated by Bryan Klausing

Old Time Jams are coordinated
by Ron Pen

All workshops and song jams
are FREE to WFPA members

12:00-12:45 PM
Registration Table Opens

1:00-2:00 PM

Main Theater

Introductory Reception and Orientation
Michael Johnathon & Josh Dunson



Jam Buddies

If you are looking for someone to play with look for someone with a "Jam Buddy" badge or Lanyard. They will be happy to play with you. Can't promise they will know every song you want to play but they will surely sit with you and play something. If you want someone to play with you at the open mic just ask them. If a crowded stage or jam is not something you are looking for a Jam Buddy can help you find a quiet place to play. They are ready to be your Jam Buddy!

“Slow Jam”

The slow jam can also be called a turtle jam or a chestnut jam. Several names for the same type of jam. Its Slow. No fear of complicated fast songs. The tempo (speed) will not exceed 90 beats per minute (bpm) nor will there be more than 4 chords in a song. Hopefully most songs will have only three basic chords, sometimes the relative minor for the Key. The slow jam is not genre specific. We expect folk, gospel, country, bluegrass and anything else the group wants to try as long as it fits in the description of the Slow Jam. There will be copies of songbooks available to choose songs from. Bring an instrument, a capo (except basses) and your singing voice. We will be singing. Basic jam instruction will interspersed throughout the slow jam. Song selection will rotate around the slow jam circle. Bring some of your favorite songs to share. The Slow jam will be moderated to keep the songs going. The slow jam will be open to all at all times except for designated meal times. PS - if you have a favorite chair bring it. Chairs with arms are a challenge to some players.

Bluegrass Jam

Intermediate level bluegrass jam style sessions will be hosted by SongFarmers Chapter Leaders, Jim Talbert, Cassandra Adams and Skip Johns throughout the event, Friday and Saturday, at times noted in the conference schedule and posted at the Bluegrass Tent. Instruments will include guitar, banjo, bass, resonator guitar, fiddle and others. Participants are asked to bring and share their favorite, familiar-to-most- pickers bluegrass style songs for general group bluegrass “breakdown” style jamming, both instrumentals and vocals.

Old Time Jam

This old time jam embraces all levels of participants, from novice through accomplished musicians. Traditional dance tunes and songs include music from the “golden era” of early recorded sound, such as the Carter Family and the Skillet Lickers and fiddle tunes inherited from people such as the Hammons Family of West Virginia and Hiram & Art Stamper of East Kentucky. Mike Seeger called this “music from the true vine,” and it represents the family porch and square dance music that eventually was transformed into bluegrass and country. There is a wealth of more recent old time music as well, ranging from the New Lost City Ramblers through the Hollow Rock String Band to the Foghorn String Band. The usual instruments in this style include fiddle, clawhammer or two finger style banjo, guitar, mandolin, and bass, but other instruments are also welcomed into the circle. Everyone is invited to request or lead a tune or song. Old time jams are the purest form of democracy in which musical harmony forges social harmony.

SongFarmer Chapter Jam

Different SongFarmer Chapters will host a jam according to their choice of style and format. Leaders and formats will include “Four Chords and the Truth” (led by Ellen Mershon SF of North East Cincinnati, OH), “What Do You Play When You Don’t Know the Tune” (led by Bryan Klausning, SF of Lexington, KY), “Jamming with Ukuleles!” (led by Erich Sylvester, SF San Francisco, CA), Stacey Farris (SF of London, KY), and “SongFarmers: The Next Generation” A jam led by SongFarmer youth from various chapters

Intermediate Banjo (Part of Bluegrass Jam sessions) Led by Skip & Linda Johns and James Talbert

“A Bluegrass Breakdown: Essential Form, Technique, and Skills”

This workshop explains and demonstrates the basic patterns and form characteristic of traditional bluegrass, including instrumentals and vocals.

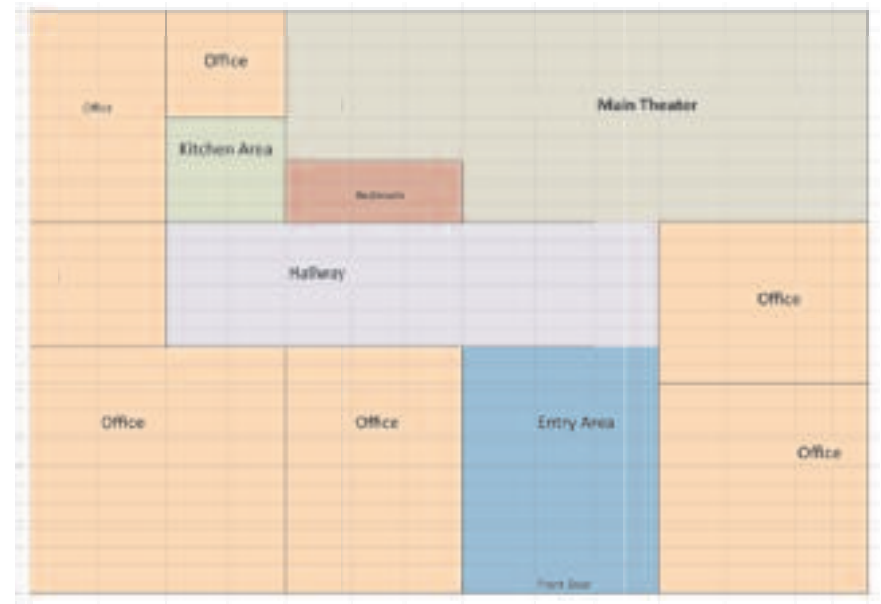
The goal is to provide the participant knowledge and skills of basic-to-intermediate skill level bluegrass form and technique, including examples of basic, traditional bluegrass material, song forms, tempo, playing leads vs. playing “back-up”, improvisation, vocal harmony (how instruments and vocals work together) and finally blending it all together in a song(s). The session will be presented in a standard bluegrass jam format with explanations, demonstrations and practice of skills discussed and, finally, jammed as a group. Unless you plan to observe the class only, please bring your own instrument. Standard bluegrass instruments typically include guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, resonator guitar, and bass.

Intermediate Mandolin with Isaac May

FRI 2:15-3:30 PM

Workshop II (Office D)

Tuning, Chopping, Cross Picking, and Improvising



Intermediate Guitar with Skip Johns

FRI 3:45-4:45 PM

Workshop II (Office D)

“A Brief Look at Fingerstyle Guitar”

This workshop will explain and demonstrate the history, development, and basic patterns associated with several styles/genres of fingerstyle guitar. It will provide participants with the opportunity to learn and practice specific songs and techniques, including blues, country, “Travis” style picking, and others. Intended for intermediate level players, participants will gain knowledge and skills in guitar forms and techniques associated with fingerstyle guitar, and gain a basic understanding of the performance of these genres. This is a “hands-on” workshop featuring demonstration, participation, and group interaction for observing, learning and practicing the various techniques. Unless you plan to observe the class only, please bring your own instrument.

Four Chords and the Truth

FRI 3:45-4:45 PM

SongFarmer Chapter Choice Jam

Harlan Howard said country music was three chords and the truth, but let’s add another for good measure. Bring a song to share (yours or someone else’s) and if we find another chord or two, well that’s alright too. ” Led by Ellen Mershon SF of North East Cincinnati, OH.