

Wedding bells

Nutmeg Dulcimer Festival November, 2026

23-Wedding Bells - Cliff Cole (ADV) Fri 3:15
In this workshop we will explore two tunes that are popular for weddings: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, by J.S. Bach and Canon in D by Pachelbel. We will also discuss what you need to know about playing in a wedding, and how to prepare for what can be a stressful but rewarding gig.

Access Cliff's Nutmeg 2026 Workshops from this Google Drive:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dhk5fAZ0bdkWHRSBYmnOiogzrAV1OVRF?usp=drive_link

Also available on Cliff's Hammered Dulcimer page on the DayBreakfolk Website:
https://daybreakfolk.com/cliffs-hammered-dulcimer/

Where Dulcimer Work In Weddings

Weddings can be rewarding gigs that pay well

- They also can be stressful and hard to manage
- Dulcimer music works well in the wedding service
  - Solo is fine or you can work with a duo or small ensemble
- Dulcimer music is great background music during the "happy hour" between the service and the party
  - Note: It can be hard to play when people seem not to be listening (but they are listening…)
  - The atmosphere you are creating is important and it is enjoyed…
- Contra Dance music can be great fun for a wedding party
  - You have to have a good "caller"

Things To Know About Playing in Weddings

- Communications are important!
  - I usually meet with the bride and groom well before the wedding
- A contract is a must!
  - Spelling out details in an email is OK, but I usually have a signed contract
  - Make a contract template (An example is shown below)
- Figuring out a fair price for your service can be tricky
  - People do expect to pay for quality services for a wedding
  - There are a number of variables that go into the formula to charge
    - How much music and the type of service you are offering?
    - Travel time?
    - Do you need a PA system?
    - Number of musicians?
  - Come up with starting numbers for all situations
    - Start high and negotiate down…
- Be your own soundperson; You are “selling” quality sound
  - Approach your PA equipment as another instrument
  - Practice with it like you practice your instrument

Sample Event Contract

From: Dulcy Player; 555-222-2121-H; myemail@gmail.com

Type of Event: Wedding – Annie and Brad
Event Date: Saturday July 3rd, 2010
Time: 3:30

Location:
Deep Lakes Country Club
123 Country Road
AnyTown, Pa 99999

Band Configuration: Solo Hammered Dulcimer

Music Sets:
Set 1: Prelude music (15-20min); Processional Music in service (Cannon in D, Pachelbel) –
PA Required: Yes
Note: The band will bring a small PA system
Agreed Fee: $250 – ALREADY PAID
Travel Fee: Waived
Deposit Requested: PAID IN FULL
Contact:
Annie McBride Cell: 555-215-1212
Event Contact:
The event coordinator is:
Cordy Nater
555-454-1122
Note: I require access to the event location two hours prior to the service
Other: Please designate a communication person and make a clear signal when to start the processional. A power receptacle needs to be in close proximity to the performance location. I require a shady place to play. (Event will be inside in the case of inclement weather.)

Signatures:
DayBreak (Clifford B. Cole):
Annie McBride::

Wedding Music



These are some tunes that I often play in weddings:

We will focus on these: Music, MP3 files and Midi files will be available

- Give Me Your Hand – Rory Dall O'Cahan
  - Rory Dall was a harper from the 17th century who preceded of Turlough O'Carolan
  - https://thesession.org/tunes/454
- Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desire – J. S. Bach
- Cannon in D – Pachelbel

Others Great Tunes for Weddings

- Shebeg Shemore (Sí Bheag Sí Mhór)
  - Turlough O'Carolan
  - https://thesession.org/tunes/449
- Brother James Air – Traditional Irish air
- Simple Gifts - Shaker Hymn
- Haste to the Wedding – Irish Jig (Great Postlude)
- The Joys of Wedlock – Irish Jig (Play as a set with Haste…)
- Blarney Pilgrim – Traditional Irish jig
- Lord Inchiquin – Turlough O'Carolan
- Wedding Bells – Cliff Cole (Original piece – MP3 in Folder)

Tuning Chart and String Gauges

James Jones - Custom Performance

3/16/18/7 Four Octave Electric Hammer Dulcimer



Treble 2	Treble 1	Bass 1	Bass 2
4 F6	E6 A#5 (Bb) 5	D#5 6	A#3(Bb) 10
5 D#6	D6 G#5 5	C#5 6	F3 .030W
5 C#6	C6 F5 6	A#4(Bb) 7	C3 .036
	B5 E5 7	A4 7	G2 .040
	A5 D5 7	G4 8	F#2 .040
	G5 C5 7	F4 8	E2 .042
	F#5 B4 8	E4 9	D2 .042
	E5 A4 8	D4 9	
	D5 G4 8	Middle C4 9	
	C#5 F#4 9	B3 10	
	B4 E4 9	A3 10	
	A4 D4 9	G3 .028W	
	G#4 C#4 9	F#3 .030	
	F#4 B3 10	E3 .032	
	E4 A3 10	D3 .036	
	D#4 G#3 10	C#3 .038	
		B2 .038	
		A2 .040	

Flight of the Heron

https://www.jamesjonesinstruments.com/

This material and other workshops Cliff has presented are on "Cliff's Dulcimer Page"

http://daybreakfolk.com/cliffs-hammered-dulcimer/

cliffcole@daybreakfolk.com

Also, Please Visit: **Tachyonmetry.com**



Our Latest: Album: Pile-O-Tunes