

# fiddle & Strings day camps

## WEEK I • July 7-11, 2008

**Fiddle & Strings**  
ages 6-18, all skill levels

## WEEK II • July 14-18, 2008

**Fiddle & Strings**  
adults: novice to intermediate level

**Faculty for Weeks I & II:** Groovemama members Donna Hébert, Jane Rothfield, George Wilson & Max Cohen.

## WEEK III • July 28-Aug 1, 2008

**Fiddling Demystified for Strings**  
intermediate to advanced fiddlers of all ages, string players, string and fiddle teachers.

**Faculty:** Donna Hébert, cellist Renata Bratt, guitarist Max Cohen.

At Fiddle & Strings summer day camps, musicians of all ages acquire efficient ear-training methods to learn fiddling on any stringed instrument. Style is broken down tune-by-tune, with theory lessons embedded in each melody. Harmonies, backup lines and arrangements are created on the fly in class and more informally in jams, with the emphasis on rhythmic improvisation over a core melody.

Weeks I-II are both ASTA Level 2-3; Week III is ASTA Level 3-4. All require at least a basic knowledge of your instrument, with the exception of the *Fiddle/Banjo/Guitar From Scratch* classes in Weeks I-II and *Guitar From Scratch* in Week III.

Camp weeks are held at the air-conditioned **Old Songs Community Arts Center** in the charming village of Voorheesville NY, about 10 miles west of Albany, NY. Each week is limited to 30 participants.

Application available online at  
[www.oldsongs.org/camps.html](http://www.oldsongs.org/camps.html)  
[www.dhebert.com/camps.html](http://www.dhebert.com/camps.html)

more about Week III:  
[www.fiddlingdemystified.com/camp.html](http://www.fiddlingdemystified.com/camp.html)

## Which camp week is best for me?

If you are between the ages of 6-18 and play your instrument at the novice to advanced level, then Week I of Fiddle Camp for Strings from July 7-11 will likely fit your needs. If you are an adult and play at the novice and low-intermediate skill level, then Week II of Fiddle Camp for Strings from July 14-18 will probably be your best fit. If you are an adult, a teacher, a string player or fiddler at the high intermediate to advanced levels, then you'll be most comfortable at Fiddling Demystified for Strings Camp, July 28-Aug. 1. Week I and II offer banjo and bass. Week III offers cello and lesson plan development. All three weeks offer fiddle and guitar.

Fiddle music is an oral tradition and though we will use written music, fiddling style and tunes are taught by ear. All students are strongly encouraged to bring an audio recording device of some kind. Bring your laptop or—our recommendation—a digital voice recorder with a USB connection to download directly to your computer.

## For more Information

General Information:  
Old Songs, Inc. • (518)765-2815/phone • (518)765-4248/fax • [oldsongs@oldsongs.org](mailto:oldsongs@oldsongs.org)  
Program questions:  
Donna Hébert • [info@fiddlingdemystified.com](mailto:info@fiddlingdemystified.com)

## Online Registration

To register and pay online via PayPal, go to [www.oldsongs.org/camps.html](http://www.oldsongs.org/camps.html)  
Registration forms can also be accessed online for printing and mailing or faxing.



Guest musician Bill Spence demonstrates the hammered dulcimer for some of the participants in the 2007 Fiddle & Strings Youth Camp.

**Week I • July 7-11**  
for ages 6-18, all skill levels

**Learn to:**

- find the core melody of a tune
- build style over the melody and tell styles apart
- arrange tunes in medleys
- play 3/4, 2/4 and 6/8 rhythms
- find simple harmonies and chords
- use 5-note scales to compose tunes

# Fiddle & Strings day camps

**Faculty - Weeks I & II:**

Groovemama members  
Donna Hébert, Jane Rothfield,  
George Wilson & Max Cohen.

**Lessons in:** (weeks I & II)

- Beginning thru advanced fiddle, banjo, guitar, bass
- Beginning thru intermediate piano/keyboard
- Ear-training - learn the tune the easy way
- Rhythm - playing with two-bar rhythm motifs
- "Bowing 707" - controlling and maximizing your bow
- Playing in an ensemble
- Finding a common rhythm
- Recovering when you "fall off" a tune
- Improvisation - drumming new rhythms on a core tune

**Week II • July 14-18**  
for novice to intermediate level adults

**Learn to:**

- create good musical tone
- play efficiently with good posture
- find and play harmonies with ease
- create a group rhythm or groove
- design a custom practice routine
- use voice to learn tunes and phrasings
- pick up bowings by ear

## Week III • July 28-Aug 1

### Fiddling Demystified for Strings

Intermediate to advanced fiddlers of all ages,  
string players, string and fiddle teachers.

**Faculty - Week III:**

Donna Hébert (fiddle) , Renata Bratt (cello),  
Max Cohen (guitar)



Uses Donna's  
**Fiddling Demystified for Strings**  
curriculum and method  
and Renata Bratt's **The Fiddling Cellist**

This five-day intermediate to advanced level intensive for only thirty participants demystifies fiddling, showing fiddlers, string players and teachers how to interpret fiddle music in a variety of regional dialects.

Massachusetts fiddler and teacher Donna Hébert and California Alternative Styles cellist Renata Bratt approach each style through its technical requirements, cracking the codes of rhythms, ornaments and improvisation in Irish, Scottish, French-Canadian, New England contradance, Southern Old-Time, Cajun and Swing fiddling.

Donna and Renata also show how to translate fiddle tunes and style for the viola and cello. Guitarist Max Cohen teaches all levels of guitar (bring yours or borrow one!) and will accompany jams and group performances.

Working with Donna Hébert's new instructional materials for violin, viola and cello—*Fiddling Demystified: A Practical Guide for String Players*—

class members learn to interpret and add style to the basic settings found in most fiddle tune collections.

Tunes are taught by ear to aid in hearing rhythms and ornaments, with sheet music available at the end of each class. Fiddlers can learn new methods of self-teaching and evaluation and teachers can learn to write and use fiddling lesson plans for elementary through high school levels. Tell us about your personal goals and we'll do our best to help you meet them at camp.

As chair of the ASTA Alternative String Styles Steering Committee, cellist Renata Bratt is helping to revitalize and reinvent string teaching at every level. At camp, in addition to working from Donna's book and Renata's own Mel Bay publications, Renata demonstrates adding rhythm and chords to a melody and finding and playing counter and rhythm lines under a tune.

Teachers will work with her to develop lesson plans using fiddling, swing and jazz rhythms to create a fertile learning environment in the classroom that also meets the National Standards for Music Educators.

### Daily Schedule - all weeks

**Morning**

- 9:00 ... hall open, supervised jam
- 9:30 ... instrument class
- 10:30 .. theory class
- 11:30 .. instrument class

12:30 .. Lunch

**Afternoon**

- 1:30 ... master class - teacher rotation
- 2:30 ... band practice
- 3:30 ... special event
- Thurs. 3:30: Faculty Concert
- 4:30 ... potluck & jam - family invited

### Tuition

**Week I**, ages 6-18, July 7-11 - \$325

**Week II**, adults July 14-18 - \$375

**Week III**, all ages, July 28-Aug. 1 - \$425

# Faculty Bios



**Donna Hébert** (all three weeks) is adjunct fiddle instructor at Amherst College and has taught fiddling at Wesleyan, The Hartt School, Central CT State, ASTA conferences, summer camps and workshops as well as folk venues nationwide. A well-known Franco-American concert and dance fiddler, Donna directs the Great Groove Band of young musicians at both the Old Songs Festival in Altamont NY, where the program is in its 9th year and at the Philadelphia Folk Festival, now in its third. Donna teaches, performs and records solo and with her teaching partners in five-member

string band Groovemama and with Franco-American heritage quartet Chanterelle. With Beaudoin family members, fiddler George Wilson and the Vermont Folklife Center, Donna co-directs The Beaudoin Project, documenting, preserving and presenting the music of Vermont fiddler Louis Beaudoin and his family. Donna is the director of all three camp weeks and publisher of *Fiddling Demystified for Strings*.

**Jane Rothfield** (Weeks I & II) teaches novice to advanced fiddle and banjo plus tune composition, arranging and Southern Old-Time fiddling, specializing in making the tune accessible to the newest players. Jane easily moves between Appalachian Old Time, Scottish and Irish music while maintaining the essence, rhythm and feel of each fiddle style. She teaches, performs and records solo and with her teaching partners in five-member string band Groovemama as well as in Jane's Gang, Atlantic Bridge, the Sensations and The Pearls. Her tune "Too Late for the Bacon" won the coveted award for Best Non-Traditional Tune at the 2006 Clifftop Appalachian Mountain Music Festival Contest.



**George Wilson** (Weeks I & II) teaches intermediate to advanced fiddling, banjo, string bass, harmony and "Bowing 707", as well as Cape Breton fiddling. Also a skilled luthier, he can adjust fiddles to maximize their sound. A mainstay of the Northeast's fiddling community, George plays for dances with many people and performs with Groovemama, The Beaudoin Project, in Fennig's All-Stars with hammered dulcimer legend Bill Spence and in the Whippersnappers with Peter Davis and Frank Orsini. George also plays for school dance programs with caller Paul Rosenberg.

With Beaudoin family members, fiddler Donna Hébert and the Vermont Folklife Center, George co-directs The Beaudoin Project, documenting, preserving and presenting the music of Vermont fiddler Louis Beaudoin and his family.

**Max Cohen** (all three weeks) will teach beginning-advanced guitar for standard and open tunings, flatpick and fingerstyle. Bring your own or borrow a guitar! Max covers the basics of playing for the novice and will also challenge the experienced player with advanced tunings and chord progressions, theory and arranging, accompaniment styles and rhythm patterns. An audio engineer and producer, Max will demonstrate easy digital audio editing, so bring your laptop. A master of many grooves, Max plays for the daily jam sessions and works with small groups throughout the week. Max performs and teaches with Groovemama, singer-songwriter Richard Beriman and with folk singer Priscilla Herdman.



**Renata Bratt** (Week III)  
As 2007 chair of the ASTA Alternative String Styles Steering Committee, Renata is helping to revitalize and reinvent string teaching at every level. Renata is also president of the International Association for Jazz Education String Caucus. In addition to working from Donna's *Fiddling Demystified for Strings* book and Renata's own Mel Bay publications, Renata demonstrates adding rhythm and chords to a melody and finding and playing counter and rhythm lines under a tune. Teachers will work

with her to develop lesson plans using fiddling, swing and jazz rhythms to create a fertile learning environment in the classroom that also meets the National Standards for Music Educators.



# Old Songs Camp Application - 2008

**ALL 3 WEEKS:** Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet and send with your application before June 1, 2008:

1. Please describe yourself musically. What instrument(s) do you play? Do you sing? Perform? Teach? What listening or fiddling have you done? What styles do you enjoy? Please self-assess your skill level (intermediate through advanced).
2. If you're a string teacher, what level do you teach? Have you introduced fiddling to your students or do you want more information about using fiddling in the classroom? Anything in particular?
3. If you are under 18, who are your parents or guardian? They must sign the application.
4. Please list the three things you'd most like to learn at Fiddling Demystified Camp. The teachers will use your goals in refining the curriculum, so please consider this a wish list!

Remember to call 518-765-2815 to confirm available space before sending your application and fee. Space is limited to 30 campers per week.

**I am registering for:** (fill out separate application for each family member - parent must sign for minor child)

- Week I** • July 7-11 - **Fiddle & Strings - youth**  
 **Week II** • July 14-18 - **Fiddle & Strings - adult**  
 **Week III** • July 28-Aug. 1 - **Fiddling Demystified Camp**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE/PROV \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/PC \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE if minor: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Fiddling Demystified Camp only* { Please send \_\_\_ copies of **Fiddling Demystified for Strings** for:  vln  vla  cello  
 \$50 enclosed in pmt.  I already have the book

**PAYMENT:** Registration Fee:

Week I: \$325 per camper x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Week II: \$375 per camper x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Week III: \$425 per camper x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Fiddling Demystified books = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed a check or money order for the total amount made out to Old Songs, Inc.

Please charge my:  Visa  MasterCard \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL APPLICATION AND MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE in U.S. FUNDS TO:

**Old Songs, Inc.,** P.O. Box 466, Voorheesville, NY 12186-0466

OLD SONGS is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization

**Class Times** are M-F, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30-4 pm. The hall opens at 9 am for supervised jamming and warmup. Lunch is between 12:30 and 1:30. Bring a bag lunch or buy lunch from one of several nearby eateries. Thursday afternoon potluck party—families invited—with a short faculty recital. Student recital is Friday afternoon.

## What we provide & what to bring

Course materials include style & theory handouts and sheet music. Please bring your guitar if you have one or a small portable keyboard if you play. We use them to teach backup and theory. There will be two keyboards available at the hall.

**Week III only:** Campers also purchase a copy of *Fiddling Demystified for String Players*. Please specify violin, viola or cello when registering and include \$50 for materials.

## Where can I stay in the area?

Voorheesville is about 30 minutes west of Albany NY. When you register, Old Songs will send you a list of motels, campgrounds and B&Bs in the area. If you are under 18 and are looking for possible family hosting for Week I, please email Old Songs at [oldsongs@oldsongs.org](mailto:oldsongs@oldsongs.org) for more information.

# Fiddle & Strings day camps

JULY, 2008

## Fiddle & Strings

Week I - July 7-11 - Youth  
Week II - July 14-18 - Novice Adults

## Fiddling Demystified for Strings

Week III - July 28 - Aug. 1  
Teachers, String Players, Fiddlers, Guitarists

for fiddle, violin, viola,  
cello, guitar, banjo, bass,  
piano/keyboard

**OLDSONGS**

[www.oldsongs.org](http://www.oldsongs.org)

## Fiddle & Strings day camps

July, 2008

Old Songs, Inc.  
37 South Main St.  
PO Box 466  
Voorheesville, NY 12186  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

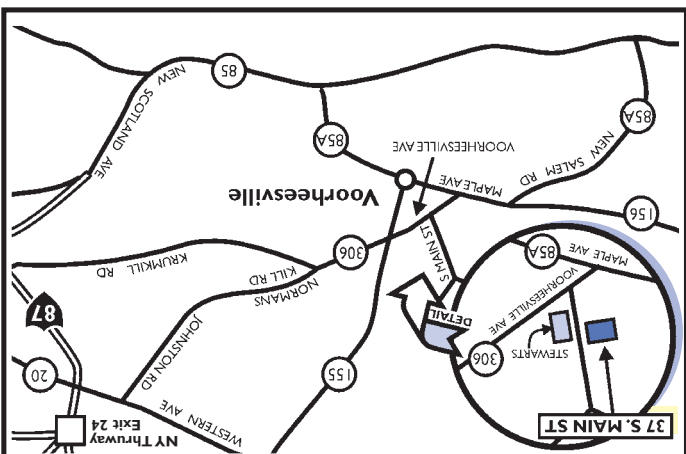
Three five-day summer intensives!  
**Fiddle & Strings** • Youth, July 7-11  
**Fiddle & Strings** • Novice Adults, July 14-18  
**Fiddling Demystified for Strings**  
 • Teachers, String Players, Fiddlers, Guitarists, July 28-Aug. 1

### WHERE IS CAMP?

Fiddle & Strings summer day camps are held at the Old Songs Community Arts Center, 37 Main Street, in the center of the village of Voorheesville NY, about 10 miles southwest of Albany, NY. This is our first year in their beautiful air-conditioned hall, home of Old Songs Festival offices and the Old Songs Concert Series.

**From the NYS Thruway, Exit 24, Albany:**  
 After the toll booth, follow signs to Rt. 20/WESTERN AVE. (It's the first exit, immediately after the toll booth).  
 Turn RIGHT (west) on Rt. 20/WESTERN AVE. Follow Rt. 20 2.4 miles to Rt. 155. Turn LEFT on Rt. 155 towards Voorheesville. Go 3.2 miles.  
 Turn RIGHT on Rt. 306/VOORHEESVILLE AVE. Go .07 miles  
 turn RIGHT on S. Main St. (look for Stewarts Shop at that corner).  
 37 S. Main is across from Stewarts.

**From the EAST on I-90:**  
 Take I-90 to Exit B-1. Follow this non-Thruway section of I-90 to the Fuller Rd./State University Exit.  
 Turn LEFT on Fuller Rd. and continue to the next traffic light (Washington Ave.).  
 Turn RIGHT (west) on Washington and go 2.9 miles until it ends at Rt. 155.  
 Turn LEFT on Rt. 155. Go 4.6 miles. Follow from ★ above.



**From NORTH via Rt. 87/Adirondack Northway:**  
 Take I-87 south to Albany. DO NOT take Exit One for I-90/I-87 NY Thruway. • Stay in the LEFT LANE and continue to Rt. 20/WESTERN AVE. Turn RIGHT (west) on Rt. 20/WESTERN AVE. • Follow Rt. 20 2.4 miles to Rt. 155. Turn LEFT on Rt. 155 towards Voorheesville. Go 3.2 miles.  
 Follow from ★ above left.

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