

Beginning Balalaika / *Youth Balalaika / Rhythmic* *Accompaniment*

Judy Sherman



BEGINNING BALALAIKA/YOUTH BALALAIKA: This class will focus on the very basic techniques of balalaika playing: correct playing position, correct usage of the pick and finger. Positioning of the left hand on the fret board, and some basics of music reading. This class will apply to all prima and alto balalaika players. We'll also learn some simple songs.

RHYTHMIC ACCOMPANIMENT: (Alto and Prima Balalaika players) Electrify the world of rhythmic accompaniment beyond traditional off beats. Expand your repertoire of pick and non-pick right-hand styles and left-hand chord positions. Discuss remedies for finger pain. Learn to play while standing! Learn to grimace and make the audience think your parts are incredibly difficult! Although this class's focus will be on experienced players, it will not emphasize written music. There will be guest instructors who will take what you know and turn you into a pro.

JUDY SHERMAN: Judy Sherman began her balalaika career in the UCLA Balalaika Orchestra, and went on to sing, play balalaika, record, and tour with the Los-Angeles-based Odessa Balalaikas for seven years. She has directed the Penn Balalaika Orchestra at the University of Pennsylvania, and was also a member of the Gypsy Balalaikas of Philadelphia. On numerous occasions, Judy was featured vocalist with various groups such as the Detroit Balalaika Orchestra and the Atlanta Balalaika Society. She currently brings her 30 years of experience to the Big Rock Balalaikas, directing this group that brings the sound of Russian folk instruments and singing to the Central Coast of California. She has been teaching special education for over 20 years and is now retired.