

Swing Mandolin Workshop **taught by Jean-Pierre Woos (Goldrush)**

Required level

You have reached a good level and practical knowledge of your instrument in classical, folk or bluegrass style and you want to move onto more complex, "jazzy" harmonies and to develop your own personal style.



Stage 1

Study of the basic principles of harmony and specific approaches to the mandolin itself.

You will learn to build the six chord families and their development through a logical, coherent and specific method for the mandoline.

This work will end up by building a chart, given to participants, in the form of a plastic document in colour.

Stage 2

Study of the main harmonic cycles and their voicings; starting melodic improvisation on these cycles.

By using the chart from stage 1, you will learn, without knowing about theory, using an essentially "visual" method to build different voicings for increasingly complex harmonic cycles.

Meanwhile, we will look at and experiment with the principles of melodic improvisation.

This stage can go on for ever depending on time available and the level of participants, using chords substitutions and exploring harmonic cycles with more creativity and subtlety.

Stage 3

Putting these different elements together on some standard tunes.

Working on rhythm, building a song, structure, ...

Ideally, this stage will be done with stage 2 as it represents the practical application, in standard swing numbers, of the elements learned in a more analytical and segmented fashion in the previous stages.

We will look at playing in a band, listening, exchanging breaks, taking solos, backing up and what not to do ...