Robin Kessinger and Kate Long: workshops with master teachers

Flatpick guitar and Songwriting/creative writing

Sunday afternoon, April 27. Two-hour workshops at 12:15 and 2:45. $40 or $70 for both.

Dusty Strings Music Shop: 3406 Fremont Ave. N. Seattle / Directions at www.dustystrings.com / Pre-registration strongly encouraged. (206) 634-1662 / *See www.robinandkate.com for mp3s and info.*

Flatpicking Guitar, Part 1
Robin Kessinger

Robin Kessinger
www.robinkessinger.com

Learn different twists and harmonies you can use when you play Appalachian, Celtic, and bluegrass tunes. In this workshop, participants will play tunes a flatpicker would be expected to know in a jam. Robin knows a thousand ways to improve your ability to play harmony and fancy rhythms. Tablature/chord sheets will be available for most tunes, but students will learn some material the old fashioned way - by ear - and will watch, listen, and learn, just like Robin did when his dad and uncle taught him Appalachian tunes he still plays. Bring a flatpick, a capo, and a recording device.

Flatpicking Guitar, Part 2
Robin Kessinger

Flatpick in the rhythm and style of mountain banjo and fiddle. Students will learn obscure Appalachian tunes, modal tunes, and crooked tunes. These tunes are fun to play, but definitely play tricks with your head. Some go to odd chords, others lack a beat, and others have too many beats. Students will also learn obscure harmonies and improve their ability to play and think out of a chord. Arrangements will sound like a guitar orchestra when we all play together. Bring a flatpick, a capo and a recording device.

Songwriting Toolbox: The Craft of the Lyric / Kate Long.

Not only has Kate Long written national award-winning songs, she has worked as a professional writing coach for 24 years. This woman really knows how to deliver ready-to-use tools you can use to take your lyrics to the next level and use the rest of your writing life on songs, memoir, fiction, or whatever you write. Her students give her rave reviews. As one Swannanoa Gathering student wrote, "I do not believe there is a writing instructor in the U.S. who can top Kate's ability to bring out the best in students of all levels." Bring a song idea: it will bloom. Class is limited to 12.

Kate Long
www.katelong.com

A cappella singing: Appalachian style to any style /Kate Long.

Learn valuable vocal licks you can use, with or without instruments. Improve your ability to add vocal percussion to a song and use your throat muscles to vary vocal tone. "When you sing a cappella, you learn to listen more closely to what your voice is doing," Kate says. "You become more conscious of your voice as a genuine instrument." Practice hallmarks of Appalachian a cappella singing, then apply elements of that style to jazz standards and other styles. You'll leave with lyrics to a variety of new and old Appalachian songs, and you'll know how to sing them with increased skill and feeling. For singers of any skill level. Class is limited to 15.