

For Fans of the

# Dulcimer and Ukulele and Autoharp

## Organizations & Retail Stores

California Bluegrass Association	<a href="http://www.cbaontheweb.org">www.cbaontheweb.org</a>
Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse (Berkeley)	<a href="http://www.thefreight.org">www.thefreight.org</a>
River City Dulcimers	<a href="http://www.rivercitydulcimers.com">www.rivercitydulcimers.com</a>
San Francisco Folk Music Club	<a href="http://www.sffmc.org">www.sffmc.org</a>
Santa Clara Valley Fiddlers Association	<a href="http://www.fiddlers.org">www.fiddlers.org</a> or <a href="http://www.scvfa.org">www.scvfa.org</a>
Sonoma County Folk Society	<a href="http://www.socofoso.com">www.socofoso.com</a>
Southern California Dulcimer Heritage	<a href="http://www.scdh.org">www.scdh.org</a>
The Strum Shop (Roseville)	<a href="http://www.thestrumshop.com">www.thestrumshop.com</a>
Tiki King's Ukuleles (Felton)	<a href="http://www.tikiking.com">www.tikiking.com</a> or <a href="http://www.ukulelesoffelton.com">www.ukulelesoffelton.com</a>
Traditional American Music Project (TRAMP)	<a href="http://www.sierratramp.org">www.sierratramp.org</a>
Ukulele Club of Santa Cruz	<a href="http://www.ukuleleclub.com">www.ukuleleclub.com</a>
Ukulele Club of Silicon Valley	<a href="https://sites.google.com/site/ukuleleclubsiliconvalley">https://sites.google.com/site/ukuleleclubsiliconvalley</a>
Wallowa Valley Music Alliance (Oregon)	<a href="http://www.wvmusicalliance.org">www.wvmusicalliance.org</a>

## Music Festivals / Concert Series / Instructional Camps

*Events are listed in "month order" not precise chronological order; for web-links and details, search online or within event calendars*

San Francisco Bluegrass and Old-Time Festival (at multiple venues in/near San Francisco in Feb.)  
Sonoma County Bluegrass & Folk Festival (Sebastopol in February/March)  
Seabright String Festival (Santa Cruz in April)  
Berkeley Dulcimer Gathering (Berkeley in May)  
Ramona Bluegrass & Old West Fest (Ramona [San Diego County] in May)  
Redwood Mountain Faire (Felton in May)  
California Autoharp Gathering (Dunlap [east of Fresno])  
Strawberry Spring Music Festival (Location "TBA"; in May)  
Columbia River Gorge Dulcimer Festival (Corbett, OR [northern OR] in late May / early June)  
Route 66 Festival (Victorville [San Bernardino County] in June)  
Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering (Newport, PA in June)  
Live Oak Music Festival (Santa Barbara in June)  
San Francisco Free Folk Festival (San Francisco in June; *free admission*)  
Kate Wolf Memorial Music Festival (Laytonville [Mendocino County] in June/July)  
Dulcimer Week in the Wallows (in Joseph OR [NE corner of OR] in July)  
Kindred Gathering (its West Coast location and July/August dates vary annually)  
Americana Festival (Virginia City, NV in July)  
California Coast Music Camp (near Auburn in July)  
High Sierra Music Festival (Quincy in July)  
Redwood Ramble (Mendocino in July)  
Santa Cruz Mountain Sol Festival (Felton in July)  
Lark Camp (Mendocino in July / Aug)  
Redwood Dulcimer Day (Boulder Creek or Aptos [Santa Cruz County] in August)

Golden Old-Time Campout (at Lake Sonoma in August)  
Berkeley Old-Time Music Convention (multiple venues in/near Berkeley in September)  
Harvest Festival of Dulcimers (Culver City in September)  
Humboldt Hills Hoedown (Redway [Humboldt County] in September)  
SFFMC Labor Day Campout (Boulder Creek in September)  
Strawberry Fall Music Festival (Location "TBA"; in September)  
Mountain Music Day (Yucaipa [San Bernardino County] in October)

## Event Calendars / Other Resources

American Folk Music Festivals Calendar	<a href="http://folkatfestival.com/AFMF.html">http://folkatfestival.com/AFMF.html</a>
California Arts Council's Festivals List	<a href="http://www.cac.ca.gov/resources/festivals.php">www.cac.ca.gov/resources/festivals.php</a>
<i>Huge numbers of events, musical and otherwise</i>	
Dulcimer Players News	<a href="http://www.dpnews.com">www.dpnews.com</a>
<i>A quarterly magazine-and-CD combo, for both mountain and hammered dulcimer</i>	
Everything Dulcimer	<a href="http://www.everythingdulcimer.com/event_display.php">www.everythingdulcimer.com/event_display.php</a>
FestivalTrek	<a href="http://www.festivaltrek.com">www.festivaltrek.com</a>
<i>Numerous festivals, musical and otherwise, in US, Canada, and Europe; searchable with multiple criteria</i>	
Friends of the Mountain Dulcimer	<a href="http://www.mountaindulcimer.ning.com">www.mountaindulcimer.ning.com</a>
Hearts of the Dulcimer	<a href="http://www.dulcimuse.com">www.dulcimuse.com</a>
<i>A documentary by S.F. Bay Area film-makers and dulcimer players. It described the history of the instrument, its migration to the West Coast, its role in the Folk Music Revival, and its status today.</i>	
RailGrass dot Info	<a href="http://www.RailGrass.info">www.RailGrass.info</a>
<i>This is my personal website. It has several resources, including an event calendar. Help yourself; enjoy!</i>	
South Bay Folks (San Jose area)	<a href="http://www.southbayfolks.org/calendars/giglist.html">www.southbayfolks.org/calendars/giglist.html</a>

## The Story Behind this List (and its Editor)

I observed that quite a few of my bluegrass musician friends chose the **mountain dulcimer** or the **ukulele** as a "change of pace" instrument. (As a banjo player, I was given my dulcimer as a gift; while initially I was not impressed, I came to enjoy it very much.) Perhaps this is because these are small, lightweight, and relatively inexpensive instruments. They are still stringed instruments, yet they offer a decidedly-different experience than a fiddle or banjo or guitar. The ukulele and dulcimer are great first instruments for kids, while advanced players can still derive fun from them.

The **autoharp** isn't "small, light, and easy" and is not a bluegrass instrument, but it is used in other folk music styles. This is partly due to music pioneers such as Maybelle Carter and Kilby Snow; as well as music preservationists such as Mike Seeger and John, Alan, and Bess Lomax.

For those who have an interest in other types of stringed instruments, I have a very extensive list, focused on bluegrass and folk music, which includes house concerts, open mic events, museums, etc. It can be downloaded from [www.RailGrass.info](http://www.RailGrass.info). The site also has occasional updates to **this** list.

I am a staff accountant and financial analyst, and am currently unemployed. If you're **an office worker in the southern San Francisco Bay Area**, feel free to connect with me on LinkedIn. Request my résumé via e-mail at [AFrench123@comcast.net](mailto:AFrench123@comcast.net) or download it from the website. You might not know me personally, but you already know that I'm a detailed-oriented list-maker and an acoustic stringed instruments music fan!

This material is provided as a free public service by the author, who accepts no responsibility for its accuracy; it is **your responsibility** to verify dates and details! I will gladly correct or remove listings if requested by an event host or website representative.

### **Compiled by Allan French; updated 2016-02**

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