

THE MUSIC

We play *Traditional Music*, not “Folk Music” which usually means songs: we play almost only instrumentals, or *tunes*. Also called *Fiddle Tunes* since the fiddle is the primary melody instrument. Also called *Conradance Music* since it is often used to accompany traditional New England contradance.

THE MUSICAL TRADITIONS

Primarily British Isles (England, Ireland, Scotland); also Appalachian, French Canadian, Scandinavian, and modern tunes written in old styles.

THE TUNES

Usually 32-bar tunes (to fit the dance), often in AABB form (lots of repetition) in simple keys, wth simple rhythmic chord accompaniment.

ARE THERE SESSIONS NEAR ME?

Very likely. TheSession.org and TradConnect.com are two great points of information with plenty of insider advice on what’s going on where.

DO YOU PERFORM ANYWHERE ELSE?

- Some of us are members of a local band, Rosin The Beaux—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/812257762226819>
- Sometimes we get invited to play for a ContraDance or other local events.
- Some of us attend a monthly session at the Store at Five Corners in Williamstown, MA <https://storeatfivecorners.com/>

KEEP IN TOUCH

VISIT
MOCAJAM.ORG
FOR MORE INFO

info@mocajam.org



MOCJA JAM

A TRADITIONAL MUSIC SESSION

EVERY SATURDAY FROM
11 AM TO 1 PM AT THE
TICKETY SPLIT CAFE
INSIDE MASS MOCJA.



THE INSTRUMENTS

The Fiddle (a violin played in a traditional style) is the primary **melody** instrument. **Flutes, pennywhistles, mandolins, banjos** and **accordions** of various kinds also play the melodies.

In New England Contradance the **piano** and the **guitar** are the primary rhythm (and chord) instruments. **Accordions** and **mandolins** frequently play chords too. And a **string bass** on the bottom is a huge help.

HOW DOES THIS SESSION WORK?

We each take turns choosing a tune we'd like to play and then we all play along.

When the tune is about to end you'll see one or more of us raising our foot in the air to signal to others we're finishing up (or sometimes someone just says "HUP!").

THE MUSICIANS

We are not a 'band', this is an open 'session' of (mostly) amateur musicians who gather at Mass MoCA every Saturday between 11 AM to 1 PM since the Museum is kind enough to give us a couple of tables to use.

Some of us have been coming for many years, others have joined recently. Some people come every week, others just come when they can.

CAN I JOIN IN?

Yes! Anyone is welcome to join.

If you're interested we have a Facebook group for performers where we share and discuss tunes, other events and plans for future sessions.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/152123178212765/>



THE BOOKS

We use a number of books that contain the music and chords for the tunes we play. Some of our favorites are:

- **The Portland Collection: Contra Dance Music in the Pacific Northwest, Volumes 1, 2 & 3**
<https://theportlandcollection.com>
- **The Fiddler's Fakebook: The Ultimate Sourcebook For The Traditional Fiddler** – David Brody
<https://a.co/d/5Unh47a>
- **New England Fiddler's Repertoire**
Randy Miller and Jack Person
<https://a.co/d/9uYSF9H>
- **The Waltz Book – I, II, III & IV** – Bill Matthiesen
<https://bfv.com/waltz/>
- **The Fiddler's Throne** – Randy Miller
https://www.fiddlecasebooks.com/store/p3/The_Fiddler%27s_Throne.html
- **Along the River** – Susan Conger –
<https://www.alongtheriver.com/>

