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# RIVER OF THE WEST MANDOLIN CAMP

## 2018

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To reserve your spot, print Page 6, complete it, and mail it along with your deposit.

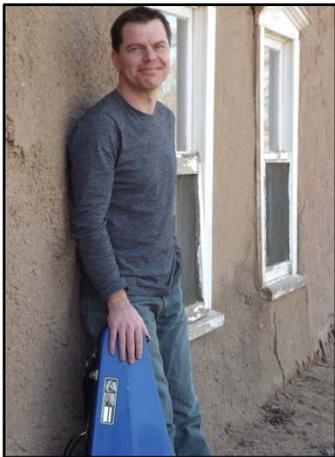
### OVERVIEW

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The 10<sup>th</sup> annual River of the West Mandolin Camp is June 7 – 10, 2018, in Corbett, Oregon, located in the majestic Columbia River Gorge just 20 miles east of Portland, Oregon. The instructors, chosen for their masterful mandolin playing distinction and exceptional teaching abilities, include **Don Stiernberg** (swing and jazz), **Evan Marshall** (classical), **Jordan Ramsey** (bluegrass), and Camp founder **Brian Oberlin** (swing and bluegrass). During the four days of mandolin immersion, each Camper will experience seven – 90 minute workshops from all four teachers, ensemble rehearsals and performance, structured and non-structured jams, faculty concerts, bonfire jams, meals, and lodging. The maximum student capacity is 52 which makes for smaller classes from some of the best mandolin players and teachers in the world.

### MANDOLIN INSTRUCTORS

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**Brian Oberlin**, the creator and director of the River of the West Mandolin Camp, has been performing and teaching mandolin for 18 years. As an educator, Brian teaches nearly one hundred mandolin workshops each year at festivals, arts centers, and academies around the world. Brian was a faculty member in 2012, 2013 and 2017 at the Accademia Internazionale di Mandolino in Italy. Most recently, Brian released his 20th album (and 5th solo album) in 2016 and was inducted into his hometown High School's Hall of Fame in Rockford, Michigan. Brian is the founder and musical director emeritus of the Oregon Mandolin Orchestra and performs as a soloist with other orchestras. Brian has also started another Camp in his home State of Michigan called the Great Lakes Mandolin Camp. The 2nd annual Camp will be held in Grand Rapids in September, 2018.



**Don Stiernberg** learned to play the mandolin from the influential and innovative virtuoso Jethro Burns. Jethro referred to Don as his "graduate student", hired him to play in his band, and guided him into a lifelong career in music. A leading exponent of jazz mandolin style, Don has eight recording projects of his own and appears on many others by a variety of artists in all styles. In addition to touring from coast to coast and abroad with his own trio, he stays busy with freelance performing and recording session work in and around his native Chicago. This is Don's tenth year at the River of the West Mandolin Camp, and he is a regular staff member at the Mandolin Symposium, Kaufman Kamp, Swannanoa, Mando Camp North, Cape Cod Mandolin Camp, Ashokan Swing Week, Accademia Internazionale di Mandolino, European Mandoline Akademy, Momento Rio Bandolim. [www.donstiernberg.com](http://www.donstiernberg.com).

## MANDOLIN INSTRUCTORS, CONTINUED

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This is **Evan Marshall's** third year teaching at the Camp. Evan is a virtuoso mandolinist, prominent as an arranger of classical music pieces for the mandolin and proponent of the duo style of playing. As a performer, he has worked as a featured guest with several symphony orchestras, including the Houston Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, and Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. He is a former member of Billy Hill and the Hillbillies. Marshall played the violin from the time he was 7-years old, playing classical. He was inspired by Chet Atkins and learned about bluegrass music after seeing Atkins play on television. He pursued bluegrass, joining a folk music club, and when he was 14-years old, discovered the mandolin, by way of a club member with a mandolin at home. Marshall plays with what he calls a "musician's slight of hand", the duo style.



This is **Jordan Ramsey's** third year at the ROW Camp. A native of East Tennessee, Jordan lives and teaches mandolin in the Front Range area of Colorado. He graduated the Bluegrass and Country Music Program at East Tennessee State University and played with the school's premiere bluegrass ensemble from 2005 – 2007. He's had the opportunity to share the stage with Porter Wagoner, Ralph Stanley, Curly Seckler, Tater Tate, Alison Krauss, Dan Tyminski, and Adam Steffey. Jordan won the 2016 Winfield National Mandolin Championship and the 2008 RockyGrass Mandolin Championship. He tours the US and Europe with several prominent bluegrass bands.

## WORKSHOPS (CLASSES) AND ENSEMBLES

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Each student will attend the same number of workshops at the ROW Camp; totaling seven – 90 minute workshops from all four teachers. This makes for a wide variety of learning and is one of the unique aspects of ROW. However, each student can self-assign to an ensemble of their choice. During the Camp, there will be several rehearsals for the ensembles and the music played is arranged and/or written by the specific teacher. Students can sign up for their preferred ensemble on page 6.

# CAMP SCHEDULE

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- Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** Campers should arrive at Menucha at 10:00 a.m. for check-in and room assignments. At 11:00 a.m., the Camp will begin with an opening ceremony. Lunch will be served at 12:00 p.m. After lunch, workshops and ensemble rehearsals will commence.
- Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** Campers will spend the day taking workshops and rehearsing with their ensembles. After dinner, there will be structured (and non-structured) jams.
- Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>** Campers will spend the day taking workshops and rehearsing with their ensembles. There will be a faculty concert in the evening.
- Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>** After breakfast, Campers will have an opportunity to pack up their gear. At 10:00 a.m., there will be a student concert (open to the public). The Camp will end at noon.

## STUDENT LEVEL AND CAPACITY

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The maximum capacity of the River of the West Mandolin Camp is 52 students (ages 14 and older). Although the Camp is intended for **all levels of mandolinists**, absolute beginners (people who have no idea how to play anything on the mandolin) are encouraged to take private lessons before attending the Camp. **In other words, an attendee at the Camp is someone who can, at least, play an open G, C, and D chord, keep a rhythm, and have basic knowledge of how to read tablature or music notation.** Traditionally, there are about 10 beginners, 25 intermediate, and 10 advanced players attending the Camp. The instructors teach their classes accordingly. Most of the materials and concepts are playable and accessible to any level player, while a small portion is challenging for even the most advanced players. The ROW Camp philosophy is to ensure that every student is learning and engaged throughout the Camp. This mission is successful because the instructors are primarily excellent teachers, as well as top-notch players.

## LODGING

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↳ **Private rooms are NOT available, and tent-camping is not permitted at Menucha.**

**Wright Hall** accommodates 50 people in bunk bedrooms with 6 beds in most rooms. There are several meeting spaces in the building including the Great Hall, which is comfortable for 90 persons on the main floor and up to 30 persons in the Balcony. The Conference Room on the main floor and the Meeting Room in the basement each have space for approximately 15 people. The Great Hall has a huge stone fireplace. The basement of Wright also contains a small meeting/playing room with an espresso bar. Bedding and linens are provided, but campers should bring a pillow/sleeping bag/extra bedding if they so desire.

**The Habitat** includes two very large dormitory-style rooms, each sleeping up to 8 people, with two showers, two toilets, and three sinks, each in separate areas. Bedding and linens are provided, but campers should bring a pillow/sleeping bag/extra bedding if they so desire.

**Visit the Menucha Retreat Center website ([www.menucha.org](http://www.menucha.org))  
for more details about their facilities.**

## MEALS

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Menucha accommodates vegetarian, as well as omnivorous diets. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner include a salad, juice, fruit, coffee, and dessert bar. **If you have any special dietary requirements (e.g., vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, etc.), please note them on your application form.** Students should bring snacks and beverages for in between meals, as there are no vending machines. There is an espresso bar in Wright Hall which is open in the morning and afternoon. There is a general store located a couple of miles away in the town of Corbett.

## VENUE

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The Menucha Retreat Center overlooks the spectacular Columbia River Gorge, just 20 miles east of Portland, Oregon. The Columbia River (formerly known as “The River of the West”) is the largest volume river flowing into the Pacific Ocean from North America. It travels an impressive 1,234 miles from its headwaters in British Columbia, cutting through the Gorge, before it empties into the Pacific Ocean. The Gorge, which is 4,000 feet deep in some places, stretches for 80 miles and contains some of the world’s most beautiful scenery, as well as the greatest concentration of waterfalls in the Pacific Northwest - just right for playing mandolin. The Menucha Retreat Center offers a pool, walking trails, and stunning views.

## WHAT TO BRING

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Campers are welcome to bring any instrument, but all instruction will be focused on mandolin. The necessities are a **portable music stand and writing utensils**. Optional items include snacks, beverages (with a cooler), and small audio-recording devices. If you intend on buying any merchandise that the instructors will be selling, please bring cash or checks.

## COST AND DEPOSIT

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The cost of the River of the West Mandolin Camp is **\$550**. This amount includes all activities, housing, linens and all meals beginning with lunch on Thursday, June 7, 2018 and ending with breakfast on Sunday, June 10, 2018. The Camp is open to commuters. Commuters will find several Bed and Breakfast lodgings around Corbett and several hotels in Troutdale. The cost for **commuters is \$550** which includes all meals and activities.

### HOW AND WHEN TO PAY:

To secure your spot at the Camp as a camper or commuter, a **\$250 deposit with your completed application must be mailed to the address on Page 6.**

If you would like to pay by using PAYPAL, please submit your payment to [brian@mandoberlin.com](mailto:brian@mandoberlin.com) and email a PDF of your application to the same address.

**The balance of the tuition (\$300) is due by May 7, 2018.**

## COST AND DEPOSIT, Cont.

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### CANCELLATION POLICY

- Cancellations made before April 12, 2018 will be charged a \$25 fee
- Cancellations made April 13 – May 7, 2018 will be charged 75% of tuition paid.
- Cancellations made May 8, 2018 or after will not receive a refund.

If you have any questions, e-mail Brian Oberlin ([brian@mandoberlin.com](mailto:brian@mandoberlin.com)).

## DIRECTIONS TO THE CAMP

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### FROM PORTLAND

Take I-84 east to Exit 22 (Corbett). Drive up Corbett Hill Road to the East Historic Columbia River Highway (Scenic Highway). Turn left and drive 1.25 miles east to the gate at Menucha (North/left side of road). The driveway winds down to the Retreat Center. Once you are on campus, follow the signs to Wright Hall and look for the “Mandolin Camp” sign.

Menucha Retreat Center  
38711 East Historic Columbia River Highway  
Corbett, Oregon 97019  
(503) 695-2243



# RIVER OF THE WEST MANDOLIN CAMP 2018 APPLICATION



Please send the application and write check payments to:

**Brian Oberlin  
P.O. Box 272  
Rockford, MI 49341**

\*Checks written to River of the West Mandolin Camp CANNOT be processed. Write all checks payable to: Brian Oberlin.\*

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

<b>Full name of registrant</b>		
<b>Mailing address:</b>		
<b>Home phone:</b>	<b>Cell phone:</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>		
<b>Gender:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	<b>Age:</b> (Um...beg your pardon!)	<b>Please check one:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Camper <input type="checkbox"/> Commuter

If under the age of 18, please provide the contact information of a parent or legal guardian:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Relationship to you:</b>	<b>Phone:</b>
<b>Mailing address:</b>		

All registrants, please provide an emergency contact:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Relationship to you:</b>
<b>Home phone:</b>	<b>Cell phone:</b>

## CAMP PREFERENCES:

<b>Special dietary requirements:</b>
<b>Please circle or check your ensemble preference:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Brian's</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Evan's</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Don's</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Jordan's</i>
<b>Do you have any specific roommate request(s)?</b>
<b>How would you like your name (first name only) to appear on your name tag?</b>
<b>Please circle or check one of the following that best describes your mandolin-playing ability:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Beginner</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Beginner/Intermediate</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Intermediate</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Intermediate/Advanced</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Advanced</i>