
RIVER OF THE WEST MANDOLIN CAMP 2020

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

OVERVIEW

The 12th annual River of the West Mandolin Camp is June 11 – 14, 2020, 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 **Simon Mayor** (Irish and folk), **Don Stiernberg** (swing and jazz), **Paul Glasse** (swing and jazz), and Camp founder **Brian Oberlin** (classical, swing & bluegrass). During the four days of mandolin immersion, each Camper will experience many workshops from all four teachers, ensemble rehearsals and performance, structured and non-structured jams, faculty concerts, open-mic concert, bonfire jam, meals, and lodging. This year's edition features the UK's finest, Simon Mayor and his long-awaited return to the US, and the first ever appearance of swing mandolin giants, Don Stiernberg and Paul Glasse in the same venue for an extended time!! The maximum student capacity is 55 which makes for smaller classes from some of the best mandolin players and teachers in the world.

MANDOLIN INSTRUCTORS



Brian Oberlin, the creator and director of the River of the West Mandolin Camp, has been performing and teaching mandolin for 20 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. He tours around the Mid-West with the stellar five piece band, **Full Cord Bluegrass** and performs as a soloist. Brian is the musical director and founder of the newly formed **Michigan Mandolin Orchestra** and is director emeritus of the Oregon Mandolin Orchestra. Brian is also the founder of the **Great Lakes Mandolin Camp** based in Chicago.



Teaching his second year at the River of the West Mandolin Camp, **Paul Glasse** is a Texas-based mandolinist with years of experience in a wide variety of styles. Best known in the mandolin community for his jazz influenced original recordings, he has performed in jazz, western swing, Latin, bluegrass, and other genres. As a young man he won a number of contests, including the (Winfield) National Mandolin Championship. Along the way he studied with Johnny Gimble, Tiny Moore, and Jethro Burns. He has appeared on the Tonight Show and multiple times on Austin City Limits. He has performed or recorded with Lyle Lovett, Shawn Colvin, Hal Michael Ketchum, and countless members of the Texas Playboys. Paul loves to teach and is a sought-after clinician at music camps throughout the country.

MANDOLIN INSTRUCTORS, CONTINUED



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 11th year at the River of the West Mandolin Camp, and he is a regular staff member at the Great Lakes Mandolin Camp, 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.



Teaching at ROW for the first time, **Simon Mayor** is a natural musician (and comic), who is self-taught, starting with a guitar manual which he was presented with on his 11th birthday. After hearing Irish music for the first time he also taught himself to play fiddle.

At Reading University (where he studied Russian!) he joined a variety of bands and played a broad range of music, from rock to ceilidh dance. It set the tone for a musical eclecticism that has been his calling card ever since. He teamed up with the singer Hilary James and they won a national folk competition in Windsor in the mid-'70s.

In the 80s he formed the band Slim Panatella & The Mellow Virginians, an amazing feel-good acoustic band concentrating on old-time American and western swing music, again demonstrating Mayor's versatility with some top-notch country swing fiddle and bluegrass mandolin.

He went on to form The Mandolinquents with Gerald Garcia, Richard Collins, and, of course, Hilary James, tearing up the rule books and instruction manuals and once more playing everything from ragtime and swing to Celtic music, Chinese and Brazilian folk tunes, Irving Berlin, Mozart, Ravel and Tchaikovsky.

WORKSHOPS (CLASSES) AND ENSEMBLES

Each student will attend the same number of workshops at the ROW Camp; totaling seven – 90 minute workshops from all four teachers. (subject to minimal change) 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

Thursday, June 11th 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 12th Campers will spend the day taking workshops and rehearsing with their ensembles. After dinner, there will be structured (and non-structured) jams.

Saturday, June 13th Campers will spend the day taking workshops and rehearsing with their ensembles. There will be a faculty concert in the evening.

Sunday, June 14th 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

The maximum capacity of the River of the West Mandolin Camp is 55 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, 30 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

↳ **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.

Ballard Hall has a fireplace (wood provided), and a baby grand piano, large meeting/teaching room and a covered front porch. There are five dormitory rooms on two levels (each with its own bathroom) for 36 persons, and one semi-private room with a twin bed and private bath. One bedroom on the main floor has a handicap accessible bathroom.

**Visit the Menucha Retreat Center website (www.menucha.org)
for more details about their facilities.**

MEALS

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

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

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

The cost of the River of the West Mandolin Camp is **\$575**. This amount includes all activities, housing, linens and all meals beginning with lunch on Thursday, June 11, 2020 and ending with breakfast on Sunday, June 14, 2020. 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 \$575**, 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 and email a PDF of your application to the same address.

The balance of the tuition (\$325) is due by May 8, 2020.

COST AND DEPOSIT, Cont.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellations made before April 10, 2020 will be charged a \$25 fee

Cancellations made April 11 – May 7, 2020 will be charged 75% of tuition paid.

Cancellations made May 8, 2020 or after will not receive a refund.

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

DIRECTIONS TO THE CAMP

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 2020 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

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

Name:	Relationship to you:	Phone:
Mailing address:		

All registrants, please provide an emergency contact:

Name:	Relationship to you:
Home phone:	Cell phone:

CAMP PREFERENCES

Special dietary requirements:
Please check your ensemble preference: <input type="checkbox"/> Brian's <input type="checkbox"/> Paul's <input type="checkbox"/> Don's <input type="checkbox"/> Simon's
Do you have any specific roommate request(s)?
How would you like your name (first name only) to appear on your name tag?
Please check one of the following that best describes your mandolin-playing ability. DON'T BE SHY!:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner/Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate/Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced