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# RIVER OF THE WEST MANDOLIN CAMP 2022

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To reserve your spot, complete page 7 and snail mail or email it along with your deposit.

## OVERVIEW

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The 13<sup>th</sup> annual River of the West Mandolin Camp is June 9 – 12, 2022, 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**, **Carlo Aonzo**, **Grant Flick** and Camp founder **Brian Oberlin**. 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, open-mic concert, bonfire jam, meals, and lodging. The maximum student capacity is 55 which makes for smaller classes from some of the best mandolin players and teachers in the world. **The Camp will be in-person.** The cost for Campers and commuters is an affordable \$600.

## MANDOLIN INSTRUCTORS

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From Rockford, Michigan, **Brian Oberlin** is an internationally acclaimed mandolin player and educator. During his decades long professional career, Brian has been playing swing, bluegrass, and Italian classical as a solo mandolinist and vocalist. Brian celebrated the release of his 20<sup>th</sup> album in May, 2016; *Troubadour* which features Brian playing solo and singing original music. Along with the myriad of award-winning bands and ensembles he has collaborated with throughout the United States and Europe (Full Cord Bluegrass, Grasshoppah, GER Mandolin Orchestra with Mike Marshall and Twin Mandolin Slingers with Evan J. Marshall), Brian is also the founder and director of the *River of the West Mandolin Camp*, the *Great Lakes Mandolin Camp*, the *Michigan Mandolin Orchestra* and the *Oregon Mandolin Orchestra*. Brian was a top ten finalist at the 2013 Telluride Troubadour Contest, an instructor/performer at the 2012, 2013 and 2017 International Mandolin Academy in Italy, a featured soloist at the 2014 & 2018 EuroFest Plucked String Festival in Bruchsal, Germany, a featured soloist at the 2015 Mandolin Upgrade festival in Berlin, Germany and a featured songwriter at the 2021 IBMA awards. Currently, Brian plays with the star-studded Bluegrass band, *Full Cord Bluegrass* based in Grand Haven, MI. Their music is being recognized around the country and they are playing major festivals. When he is not performing, Brian teaches music to children and adults at art centers, cultural events, festivals, camps, music schools and academies.

Brian's website ([MandOberlin.com](http://MandOberlin.com)) is a great resource for not only his appearances but features FREE content for budding mandolinists on the *Lesson Hub*.

## MANDOLIN INSTRUCTORS, CONTINUED

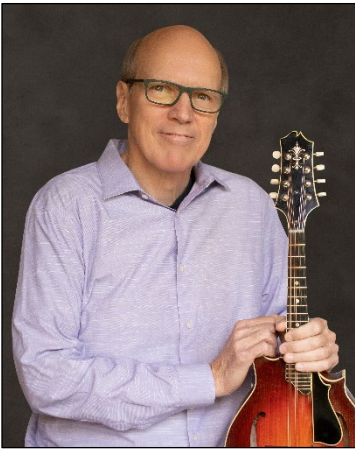
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Teaching his 4<sup>th</sup> ROW Camp, **Carlo Aonzo** is a worldwide known Italian mandolin performer, native of Savona - Italy - where he grew up immersed in music, since his home itself hosted the music school of the "Circolo Mandolinistico G. Verdi".

Graduating with honours from the conservatory in Padua (1993), he has played for several prestigious institutions like the Philharmonic Orchestra of La Scala in Milan (Italy), the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, the Nashville Chamber Orchestra (USA), the McGill Chamber Orchestra in Montreal (Canada), the Philharmonia of San Petersburg (Russia), the Minsk Chamber Soloist (Belarus), Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival (Germany).

Among his several awards are the first prize at the Concorso Internazionale "Pitzianti" in Venice (1993) including the "Vivaldi" special mention, and first prize at the Walnut Valley National Mandolin Contest in Winfield Kansas (1997).



Teaching his 12<sup>th</sup> ROW Camp, **Don Stiernberg** has been a professional musician for nearly 50 years. Along the way he has been involved in performing, writing, recording, producing, and teaching, but is best known for his mandolin playing. His path was set very early on as he grew up north of Chicago. Emulating his older brother, he experimented with playing various stringed instruments, finally landing on the mandolin. Things got serious when an ad played on the radio: "Study Mandolin with the great Jethro Burns"... At his first lesson he discovered what he wanted to do: play the mandolin, be a musician, and try to be as cool as Jethro Burns! Within a few short years he was playing professionally, first in a bluegrass band with his brother, later standing right next to his hero in The Jethro Burns Quartet. There was no turning back, and thanks to encouragement and mentorship from his family and hero he is still out there trying to achieve those early goals.

Currently Don is regarded as a leading exponent of jazz mandolin style, and a respected teacher. In June of 2020 his tenth recording project, "Straight Ahead" by The Don Stiernberg Quartet, was released and quickly garnered praise in The Chicago Tribune as one of the "Best Jazz Recordings of 2020". There are four online instructional courses for mandolinists available at Soundslice.com, and the book "Jazz Mandolin Appetizers" is available from Mel Bay. In person, Don teaches at mandolin-focused camps and events from coast to coast and abroad, and covers the same territory performing at clubs, festivals, and concert halls with his own group. On the horizon is more of the same: a dedicated pursuit of 'the good notes' to share with audiences, listeners, and students.

## MANDOLIN INSTRUCTORS, CONTINUED

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Teaching his 1<sup>st</sup> ROW Camp, **Grant Flick** is a performer, recording artist, composer, and educator currently based in Ann Arbor, MI. He plays many instruments including violin, mandolin, tenor guitar, nyckelharpa, tenor banjo, and viola. Primarily, his interests are new acoustic music, jazz manouche, jazz/swing, bluegrass, and American old-time. His current original music projects, Westbound Situation, Warren & Flick, and Hannah O'Brien and Grant Flick solo explore the fusion of chamber music with the influences listed above. In these groups, he writes pieces influenced from many styles that feature the collective spontaneity and imagination of the fellow improvisatory musicians with whom he collaborates. Grant has been selected as a two-time participant (2015 and 2016) of the Acoustic Music Seminar held at the Savannah Music Festival in Savannah, Georgia. He has taught workshops at the Tenor Guitar Gathering (Astoria, Oregon), Falling Waters Music Camp (Ithaca, New York), and Augusta Bluegrass Week (Elkins, West Virginia). Grant also tours and performs regularly, including his standard role as the fiddle player with Full Cord Bluegrass (with Brian Oberlin) and he has shared the stage with luminaries Frank Vignola, Mike Marshall, Julian Lage, and Darol Anger. Grant recently graduated from University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in jazz studies.

## 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 7.

## CAMP SCHEDULE

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- Thursday** ..... 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** ..... Campers will spend the day taking workshops and rehearsing with their ensembles. After dinner, there will be structured (and non-structured) jams.
- Saturday** ..... Campers will spend the day taking workshops and rehearsing with their ensembles. There will be a faculty concert in the evening.
- Sunday** ..... 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.
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# STUDENT LEVEL AND CAPACITY

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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 25% beginners, 50% intermediate, and 25% 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.

**Ballard Hall:** There are two interior meeting areas in Ballard, both on the main floor. The largest accommodates 40 persons and is carpeted. It has a fireplace (wood provided), and a baby grand piano. There is a smaller lounge which seats 10 persons. A full-size refrigerator is provided for group use. Coffee, tea, and cocoa are always provided in the building and are always available. 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. 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 \$600**. This amount includes all activities, housing, linens and all meals beginning with lunch on Thursday, June 9, 2022 and ending with breakfast on Sunday, June 12, 2022. **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 \$600**, which includes all meals and activities.

## HOW AND WHEN TO PAY

**A deposit of \$300 AND a submitted application (page 7)** are required to hold your spot at the Camp. The three payment methods are:

1. **Venmo** - @BrianOberlinMandolin \*(last four digits of phone number are 8673)
2. **PayPal** - brian(at)mandoberlin(dot)com
3. **Snail mail check** payments (payable to Brian Oberlin) mailed to:

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

**The remaining balance of \$300 is due May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

## CANCELLATION POLICY

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- Cancellations made on or before **April 13, 2022** will receive their deposit minus a \$25 fee.
- Cancellations made April 14 – **May 11, 2022** will receive their deposit minus a \$100 fee.
- Cancellations on or after **May 12, 2022** will not receive a refund.
- Should Covid or any other virus render the Camp inoperative for ALL attendees, everyone will receive a full refund.



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



# RIVER OF THE WEST MANDOLIN CAMP 2022 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.✱

<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 check your ensemble preference:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Brian's</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Carlo's</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Don's</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Grant'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 check one of the following that best describes your mandolin-playing ability. DON'T BE SHY!:</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>