



AFTMD 2025

Morning Core Classes

At the Acadia Festival of Traditional Music & Dance, each day begins with our Core Classes, which are divided by major discipline (i.e. fiddle, piano, dance, community singing, etc.) and organized into groups that focus on different aspects of musicianship and learning (i.e. Moose, Seal, Bear, and Eagle.) For a reminder of what each group focuses on, please flip to the end of this packet, or see the [Program Information](#) on our website (and click on “Music”, “Dance”, or “Singing” according to your choice.) Please plan to attend the Core Class you signed up for in the registration process.

MUSIC PROGRAM

The AFTMD Music Program features two Core Class periods each morning: Period 1 from 9:00-10:15am and Period 2 from 10:45am-12:00pm (with a 30 minute break from 10:15-10:45am.) Classes are divided by discipline, and grouped as follows:

For MOOSE (fiddle & guitar) students:

You will stay with your Core group for both morning periods each day, learning fun tunes and building skills on your instruments! The Moose Fiddle and Moose Guitar classes will meet up periodically to play together, and you might even get a chance to collaborate with the Moose Dancers as well. Since material will be progressive throughout the week, we highly recommend that you plan to stay with this class every morning.

Periods 1 & 2: Fiddle — Anastasia DesRoches (Room 25)
 Guitar — Dan Faiella (Room 24)

For SEAL and BEAR fiddlers, plus EAGLE (any instrument) students:

You will rotate through each instructor in a system we call the “Fiddlers’ Shuffle,” allowing you the chance to explore and develop skills in different styles of traditional music. You will have an entire morning with each instructor (Periods 1 & 2,) and material will be progressive *across both periods*, so in order to make the most of the class, please plan to attend both sessions each day. Here’s the rotation:

The Fiddlers’ Shuffle

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Period 1: 9:00am - 10:15am & Period 2: 10:45am - 12:00pm	FAST-PACED SEALS	Cape Breton Mari Black (Room 1)	Québécois Pascal Gemme (Room 2)	Acadian Devon Léger (Room 3)	Irish Caitlin Warbelow (Room 5)	Old Time Erynn Marshall (Room 4)
	RELAXED SEALS	Old Time Erynn Marshall (Room 4)	Cape Breton Mari Black (Room 1)	Québécois Pascal Gemme (Room 2)	Acadian Devon Léger (Room 3)	Irish Caitlin Warbelow (Room 5)
	NEW-TO-TRAD SEALS	Irish Caitlin Warbelow (Room 5)	Old Time Erynn Marshall (Room 4)	Cape Breton Mari Black (Room 1)	Québécois Pascal Gemme (Room 2)	Acadian Devon Léger (Room 3)
	BEARS	Acadian Devon Léger (Room 3)	Irish Caitlin Warbelow (Room 5)	Old Time Erynn Marshall (Room 4)	Cape Breton Mari Black (Room 1)	Québécois Pascal Gemme (Room 2)
	EAGLES (all instruments and dance)	Québécois Pascal Gemme (Room 2)	Acadian Devon Léger (Room 3)	Irish Caitlin Warbelow (Room 5)	Old Time Erynn Marshall (Room 4)	Cape Breton Mari Black (Room 1)

For SEAL and BEAR students (all instruments **except** fiddle):

You will work with the same instructor in the same class period each day. Your Core Classes will be progressive *throughout the week* with each instructor, so in order to get the most out of your class time, we highly recommend that you plan to attend the same class for each period for the entire week.

Period 1, 9:00-10:15am:

Seal Flute — Nicole Rabata (Room 22)

Bear Flute — Nicholas Williams (Room 18)

Seal Piano — Susan MacLean (Room 17)

Bear Piano — Jake Charron (Room 20)

Seal Guitar — Yann Falquet (Room 15)

Bear Guitar — Isa Burke (Room 14)

Seal Bouzouki — Frances Cunningham (Room 26)

Bear Bouzouki — Adam Hendey (Room 27)

Seal & Bear Mandolin — Noah Fishman (Room 9)

Seal & Bear Harp — Màiri Chaimbeul (Room 10)

Seal & Bear Bodhran — Cara Wildman (Room 19)

Community Singing — Armand Aromin & Ben Gagliardi (Room 6)

Period 2, 10:45am-12:00pm:

Seal Flute — Nicholas Williams (Room 18)

Bear Flute — Nicole Rabata (Room 22)

Seal Piano — Jake Charron (Room 17)

Bear Piano — Susan MacLean (Room 20)

Seal Guitar — Isa Burke (Room 14)

Bear Guitar — Yann Falquet (Room 15)

Seal Bouzouki — Adam Hendey (Room 27)

Bear Bouzouki — Frances Cunningham (Room 26)

Seal & Bear Mandolin — Noah Fishman (Room 9)

Seal & Bear Harp — Màiri Chaimbeul (Room 10)

Seal & Bear Bodhran — Cara Wildman (Room 19)

Community Singing — Armand Aromin & Ben Gagliardi (Room 6)

DANCE PROGRAM

The AFTMD Dance Program features an all-dancer Group Warm-Up from 9:00-9:30am, and then two Core Dance Class periods each morning: Period 1 from 9:45-10:45am, and Period 2 from 11:00am-12:00pm (with 15 minute breaks from 9:30-9:45am and 10:45-11:00am.)

MOOSE students will stay with the same instructor for the entire week, while *SEALS*, and *BEARS* will rotate through two instructors in a system we call the “Dancers’ Shuffle,” which will allow you the chance to explore and develop skills in different percussive dance traditions. Please note that class material will be progressive *with each instructor*, so in order to make the most of your learning experience, we highly recommend that you plan to attend the same class for the entire week.

The Dancers’ Shuffle

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Warm-Up: 9:00am - 9:30am	ALL GROUPS	All Dancers Warm Up Kieran & Kara (Room 8)	All Dancers Warm Up Kieran & Kara (Room 8)	All Dancers Warm Up Kieran & Kara (Room 8)	All Dancers Warm Up Kieran & Kara (Room 8)	All Dancers Warm Up Kieran & Kara (Room 8)
Period 1: 9:45am - 10:45am	MOOSE	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)
	SEALS	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)
	BEARS	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)
Period 2: 11:00am - 12:00pm	MOOSE	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)	Old Time Sophie Wellington (Room 12)
	SEALS	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)	Québécois Step Dance Marie-Soleil Pilette (Room 7)
	BEARS	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)	Irish Step Dance Kevin Doyle (Room 8)

(*Eagle dancers, please follow the “Eagles” section in the “Fiddlers’ Shuffle” above.)

CORE CLASS GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

For more detailed descriptions of each group, please visit [our website](#)! In particular, dancers will want to read the descriptions that are [specific to the dance program](#) and singers will want to read the description of our [community singing class](#). You can also check out our [YouTube playlist](#) where there are videos explaining our programming and class groups, and more!

MOOSE - From the Ground Up

This class is designed specifically for folks who are relatively new to their discipline, returning from a hiatus, or simply wanting to focus on strengthening their foundations in their craft. You can expect a gently-paced class in a fun, supportive environment, with lots of personalized attention from your teachers. You'll get a clear break-down of tunes or steps, plenty of repetition, slower tempos, and some historical and cultural context for the traditional material you're exploring.

SEALS - Skill Building

This group is a full-immersion experience where your instructors will help you develop your core technique in your discipline, all while learning some fun traditional material! You'll expand your repertoire *and* your skill set, work towards more fluent tempos, and develop your comfort level with learning tunes by ear (for musicians), or remembering and connecting steps (for dancers). You can expect to learn a wealth of new material at a reasonable pace, with plenty of repetition to get things feeling comfortable.

Note for fiddlers: "Relaxed" Seals will be a more moderate pace, with more in-class repetition to get comfortable with the material and time dedicated to mastering specific technical skills needed for the tunes you're learning. The "Fast-Paced" Seals class will be noticeably more intensive, with fewer repetitions, more diverse skills and stylistic nuance, and pushing towards full dance tempos. The "New-to-Trad" Seals class will be tailored for folks who already play the instrument fluently in other note-reading styles (i.e. classical), and will focus on how to learn by ear more comfortably, recognize forms / bowings / ornamentation that are commonly found in trad fiddle styles, and build core repertoire that you'll be able to use right away in jam sessions and ensembles.

BEARS - Nuance and Detail

This group is an intensive, fast-paced experience that will cover a LOT of material and delve into the essence of what makes each style of traditional music or dance distinct and unique in its own right. Expect quick tempos and fewer in-class repetitions to make Room for deeper explorations of stylistic nuance, including things like artistic decision-making, creating variations, improvisation, and other fun creative concepts appropriate to the style you're working on. You'll have the best experience in this group if you are already comfortable learning quickly and fluently "by ear" (for musicians) or picking up, connecting, and improvising steps (for dancers).

Note for all disciplines: It's totally okay if you don't have prior exposure to a specific style that's being taught! As long as you can easily and comfortably navigate the complete technical range of your instrument/feet, you'll be fine.

EAGLES - Intensive Artistic Development

This group is a multi-instrumental cohort that is focused on helping students develop the skills they need to become the next generation of "musical ambassadors" in traditional music and dance! In addition to pushing into new repertoire and musical ideas, you can expect to engage in collaborative artistic pursuits such as performing for your colleagues, exchanging thoughtful feedback, workshopping ensemble and

arranging ideas, honing your skills of how to communicate effectively with audiences (both musically and verbally), deepening your understanding of the historical context of each style, developing musical leadership skills, and more.

It's important to note that the Eagles are not “more advanced” than the Bears! The difference is that students in the Bears class are working on honing their own individual playing or dancing, while students in the Eagles classes are exploring how their playing or dancing can contribute to the larger world of trad. If you want to focus on YOU and YOUR playing/dancing, you're a Bear. If you want to focus on how you can be of service in Trad, you're an Eagle.

All Animal Groups Combined – offered for Community Singing

This class is open to everyone, regardless of previous vocal experience, and will explore the joys of singing traditional songs together!

A NOTE ON ATTENDING CORE CLASSES FOR MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES:

Classes at AFTMD are self-selective and you are always free to choose whatever class you want to attend each period. This includes changing classes mid-week if you feel a different group would be a better fit for your personal pace/experience level, taking classes on different instruments, or switching out of the Core Class you have selected in order to focus on a specific style or teacher. However, please keep in mind that:

- Instructors will teach each class at the pace/experience level appropriate for the scheduled group
- Morning class material will be progressive throughout the week, with material building in each class
- Some instructors may use the same tunes/steps/material in different classes

For students wishing to explore more than one discipline while at camp, we highly recommend choosing one to focus on as your “major discipline” in the morning Core Classes, and exploring the other during the afternoon in our various workshops, sessions, and ensembles. This is because morning class schedule structures differ depending on discipline and therefore you would end up missing important material in one class while attending another. That said — *you* are the architect of your own camp experience, and if you see a way to successfully “double major” in two disciplines for your morning classes within the schedules above, please feel free to explore as you see fit!