

**“Strolling through the Bluegrass”
With Vernon and Kitty McIntyre**

An Opportunity to Learn, Hear and Try-out Bluegrass Instruments

Bluegrass music is a uniquely American music created from the wide variety of styles, instruments, and rhythms brought to the US by the early settlers. The lively sound of the music has recently been brought into the national spotlight by the hit movie, **Oh Brother, Where Art Thou**.

Vernon McIntyre is uniquely suited to take someone **Strolling through the Bluegrass**. He is a walking history of the music. He has traveled the road as a performer since the early 1960s and has played at innumerable venues across the US and Canada. He has played on stage with most of the founding artists and talked backstage with them personally. His knowledge of the history and lore of the music and its instruments is encyclopedic; every performance conveys his fascination with the music and the instruments.



Vernon's wife, **Kitty McIntyre**, entered the bluegrass arena as a fiddler in the early 1980s. Her training was in classical violin, but the sound of the bluegrass fiddle caught her interest. Kitty has studied the fiddling of the original bluegrass artists, especially Scot Stoneman and Kenny Baker. She has traveled & performed with Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass since 1982. She teaches a large number of weekly private students and has conducted workshops and seminars at various festivals. Kitty and her fiddling polecat, Rody LaPew, add a touch of humor to the program with their trick fiddling grande finale.

Strolling through the Bluegrass is a comfortable conversation with Vernon and Kitty about the typical bluegrass instruments, fiddle, banjo, guitar, and mandolin. Dulcimers, lutes, piccolo banjos, parlor guitars, a double neck guitar, various tipples and ukeleles, plus other oddities are also on display and part of the conversation. Vernon and Kitty demonstrate each of the typical instruments during the discussion.

People often enjoy the chance to see and feel an object in addition to just hearing about it. As part of the Strolling through the Bluegrass program, one of each of the typical bluegrass instruments is passed through the audience so each person gets a chance to see it up close, feel it, and actually try to play it. A cut-away violin and cut-away guitar are also passed through the audience. These are actual instruments sawed in half to reveal the internal workings of the instruments.

Program Details: Strolling through the Bluegrass can be tailored to the audience age group. For 4th and 5th graders, about 60 minutes works well. We do require adult supervision with student groups. For adults, the program runs about 90 minutes.



Examples of the unique instruments presented during Strolling through the Bluegrass

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