

# Alberta Society of Fiddlers Summer Camp August 17 - 22, 2025

## Instructors



**Dean Bernier Prince Albert SK** - Dean received his B Mus. (Mus. Ed) degree from the U of S and has remained in Saskatchewan in order to develop string programs in his province. Although he has taught clinics/workshops throughout western Canada and in the USA, Saskatchewan will always be home. After founding Bernier Music (since 1990), teaching for the extension division at the U of S (1990-1993), conducting/director of the Prince Albert Strings Orchestra (since 1995), he also wrote and taught the string orchestra curriculum (2003-2017) for Rivier Academy School. Dean was founding instructor for the fiddle program at Riverside School (2018-2021), as well as eight of his summers were spent teaching violin or guitar for the Dream Brokers program in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. Working in several weekend bands, Dean is always willing to do studio work or freelance, whenever called upon. Some accolades include: three time Royal Conservatory of Music silver medalist, 1990 Saskatchewan Grand Champion Fiddler, ten time Saskatchewan Country Music Association award winner (including 2003 Humanitarian of the Year recipient), 2010 Saskatchewan Music Educators Association Outstanding Achievement Award, 2014 Saskatchewan Orchestral Association Orchestral Development Award recipient.

Currently, Dean is teaching in Prince Albert at St. Francis School, the after school orchestra program (Firebird North Sistema) at King George School, private music students at Bernier Music, fiddle and mandolin workshops for the Alberta Society of Fiddlers (since 1994), and has been performing most weekends either as soloist or back up artist for other performers.



**Melanie Smith-Doderai, Fort Saskatchewan AB** - Melanie holds a B.A, B.Ed and M.Ed. Melanie is an active member of the Alberta Registered Music Teachers Association, holds an Advanced Specialist Certification from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Canada and has published ten theory books for string instruments through Mel Bay Publications. Melanie has been awarded the 2009 Excellence in Music Teaching Award as well as the CMFTA Award for Recognition of Professional Achievement from 2010 to present. Melanie is proud to have the title of being Canada's first aerial silk violinist and was recently featured on Canada's Got Talent. You can find out more about her at [silksandstrings.ca](http://silksandstrings.ca)

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**Tasha Zboya-Keith, Grande Prairie AB** Tasha started playing violin at the age of three. She studied the Suzuki method until switching to the Royal Conservatory stream. While learning classical, Tasha attended fiddle camps, jamborees and fiddle contests with her parents from the age of 7. Tasha comes from a musical family and the importance of a strong music background has been very important in her life. Tasha has participated in the ASF fiddle camps both winter and summer for many years. She enjoys being a part of the fiddle music community. Tasha has been a part of many music groups throughout her school and adult life. She has toured the world with the Calgary Fiddlers to places such as South Korea and the United Kingdom. Tasha has a Music Degree from the University of Calgary and a Music Education degree from the University of Lethbridge. She has also been a member of the June Bugs folk group. Tasha has taught classroom music and Orchestra in the public school system for over ten years. Tasha is honoured to teach fiddle at Deer Valley Meadows this year!



**Blaine Lutwick, Lacombe County AB** - Blaine has been knocking out chords on the piano for fiddlers for the past 60 years. He has been a key figure in the Alberta fiddle community for many years, playing for dances, jamborees contests, concerts and teaching piano at numerous camps and workshops. Blaine has been the camp director for the ASF winter fiddle camp for over 25 years and finds ample time not only to fill his passion, but compose the occasional fiddle tune. Blaine is looking forward to accompanying fiddlers in the new Jam class at this year's camp. May the Music never end.



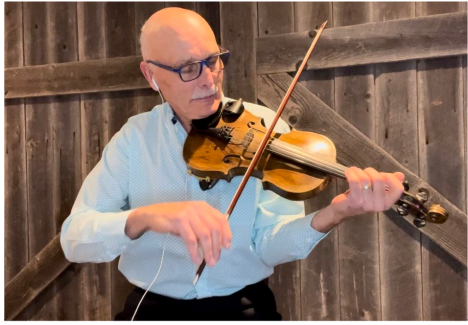
**Deanna Dolstra, Cold Lake AB** - Born in Oshawa Ontario, Deanna has been playing fiddle/piano for over 30 years and is trained in Ottawa Valley Step Dance. She competed in fiddle and step dance in the Ontario Contest Circuit for many years, retiring in 2000. She has trained with various instructors across Ontario and also attended the Ceilidh Trail of Celtic Music in Cape Breton.

Deanna released her own independent album in 2002. She played for over a decade with the band "Celtic Powerhouse" with fiddle, step dance, keys, and back up vocals. She has been a guest performer and has appeared on recordings with various other artists and groups. She performs all over Canada during the year, often seen with the Metis Ensemble Nicely Put Together Band since 2017.

Deanna currently teaches predominantly group lessons of all ages, and has over 100 students across East Central Alberta. Deanna is looking forward to teaching the piano class this year at summer camp.

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**Randy Jones, High River AB** - Randy was born and raised in Tofield, Alberta. He began playing the violin/fiddle at the age of 9 and has thoroughly enjoyed being able to play old-time music through the years. Randy has been an instructor at music camps and workshops in British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Being involved with Shivering Strings Alberta and Calgary's Prairie Mountain Fiddlers, playing for old-time dances, judging contests and organizing fiddle jamborees have given Randy many opportunities to play the musical style he loves so much. Randy has been actively involved with the Alberta Society of Fiddlers since the 1990's. He is the lead singer of a barbershop quartet in High River called the Highwoodshedders who "sing a little, play a little and tell really dumb jokes!" Retired from his carpentry instructor position at SAIT, Randy looks forward to more musical adventures, and

will continue to support and enjoy the world of fiddle music wherever he goes. Randy is pleased to be asked back as an instructor at the ASF camp this summer.



**Braden Gates, Edmonton, AB** - Braden is a multi-instrumentalist and singer-songwriter from Edmonton, Alberta. He started fiddling at the age of five and has attended many contests, camps and jamborees over the years. He is a past winner of the Alberta Open and a two time finalist at the Canadian Grand Masters. Music has taken him to places all over the world including Red Deer, Edmonton, Mission, Vegreville, and Regina. His latest album, 'Kitchen Days' won a 2022 Canadian Folk Music Award for Traditional Album of the Year. Braden is looking forward to instructing guitar at camp this summer!



**Laurie Maetche, Lacombe County AB** - Laurie started teaching music privately as a teenager and has been able to mentor hundreds of students over her ongoing career of more than 35 years. Laurie's first student was a neighbour who wanted to learn the violin and it has continued from there with Laurie gaining the skills to teach multiple instruments (violin, viola, cello piano and guitar) and offer group opportunities of a classical orchestra and different levels of fiddle groups. Laurie loves teaching and promoting enthusiasm for music. She encourages others to reach for their potential, and this ensures she has a full teaching studio throughout the year. Having attained a Bachelor of Arts in 2011 with a focus on violin and viola performance, she is now challenging herself to finish her piano performance. Laurie is a **Red Deer & District 2020 Woman of Excellence** winner in the arts, culture and heritage category. Laurie won the honours for her many achievements, contributing to the community, and finally how she is a role model for other women.

Collaborating with other teachers at different camps and workshops keeps Laurie motivated to do more for her community, her students and herself. She looks forward to instructing at Deer Valley Meadows this summer.