

Linda Brockinton started playing flute at age eleven and has played flute and piccolo previously with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. As a music major in college, she won First Chair in several regional orchestras. Linda began playing mountain dulcimer in 1988. She started teaching dulcimer lessons in 1990. Four years later she formed the Heartstrings with some of her music students. Linda also plays harp, guitar, hammered dulcimer, and bodhran with the group. Linda continues to teach private dulcimer and flute lessons as well as teaching at numerous venues across the country

Relatively new to the Folk Music family, Linda has already been adopted by all who meet her and learn to know her. Her classical guitar-like style on the dulcimer lends itself well to her quiet, relaxing concerts and her workshops generate many positive comments:

"Course was taught as described in catalog. Instructor was absolutely fabulous/wonderful/ incredible. Tutor was terrific. Linda is an EXCELLENT teacher - caring, patient very focused, excellent demonstrations."

"Instructor great! Tutor very helpful. Linda's inspiring, fun and cares very much how we do."

"Course was taught as described in catalog. Instructor excellent - she was warm, funny and very talented. Tutor wonderful. Linda is great teacher. If you have her back next year I will come. You left this class being able to play songs well even if you did not play well when you came."

"Instructor wonderful. Tutor great - she was always there when I needed her. Linda is a true teacher-worth every minute."

Since Linda began playing the dulcimer, she has won numerous awards. In 1999, she won the Southern Regional Mountain Dulcimer Contest at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas. In that same year she was a finalist in the National Mountain Dulcimer Championships. In 2000 she went back to Winfield, Kansas and placed 3rd in the Nationals. In 2001 she won the National Mountain Dulcimer Championships, the only woman in 30 years to ever accomplish this. Linda has always loved McSpadden dulcimers. She says, "Their builders are the best. George is a genius. I have a Cherry Custom that I bought, then I won a Walnut Standard, a Cherry/Redwood top baritone, a Cherry/Spruce top Ginger, a Maple/Spruce top custom and a beautiful Koa Custom that I won at Nationals. I just love McSpadden instruments and they have been so good to me." When McSpadden was contacted about Linda they said, "We appreciate that Linda choose to play a McSpadden dulcimer for these competitions and wish her well."

Linda has performed at many concerts and festivals throughout the United States: Southern Ohio Dulcimer Festival; SAMFest; The Logon Cafe-A Unique Internet Coffeehouse; Ozark Folk Center Dulcimer Week; Heartland Dulcimer Club; Cullowhee Mountain Dulcimer Week; Dulcimer Chautauqua On the Wabash; Prairie Walnut Valley Festival; Arkansas Dulcimer Getaway, Kentucky Music Week, Backstage Cafe; & more; Check her website for a current schedule: www.LindaBrockinton.com

