The Flavor and Setting of the Singing Hammons Family: This session reflects on the flavor and setting of the singing Hammons Family of the Williams River Wilderness Area in the Allegheny highlands of West Virginia. Michael and Carrie Kline share two songs learned first-hand from Currence Hammons (b. 1895) who grew up there. The first, Bangum and the Wild Boar, dates back over 60 generations to the time of Beowulf in the Ninth Century. It is reckoned to be one of the earliest poems in the English language and resonates with the family’s experience in hunting wild hogs in the wilderness. The song captures that sense of foreboding and danger in the forests of Currence’s childhood, once so deep and desolate that, “They were dark by day and dark by night.” The second song, Take the Wings of the Morning, embodies Currence’s memories of the camp-meeting revivals he attended as a child and recognizes the divine in nature: “We’ll hear the thunders roaring on that great day!” The Hammons Family, whose singing bespeaks their determination.

Michael & Carrie Kline WV Old-Time Week

Basics of country harmony: We’ll drill down to the essentials of American country harmony – how to reliably find harmonies above and below the lead on the fly, so that you can successfully join a singing jam.

Val Mindel Vocal Week

Old-time duets: We'll learn the lead and harmony of a great old-time duet, in the process looking at phrasing, rhythm and other factors to make it sparkle.

Val Mindel & Emily Miller Vocal Week

The Joy of Co-writing: I realize this lesson will be tricky because you are sitting in a room alone as we discuss this option for writing songs due to this COVID-safe option for learning that Augusta Bluegrass Week is providing. What I will be discussing can be applied to future co-writes and as an avid co-writer myself, we are finding ways around the sheltering-in-place hurdles. I will be sharing those new sessions to ALL levels of songwriters so please join us on the journey of shared writing.

Donna Ulisse Bluegrass Week

Inspiration: To write a song you must first have the inspiration to write the song. I believe inspiration can be strengthened through simple and dedicated exercises. By doing daily practices, you will watch your imagination flourish and your songs will jump to the next level. This lesson will be for ALL levels of songwriters. No matter where you find yourself on your writing journey, these powerful tools will add to your songs - they will!

Donna Ulisse Bluegrass Week

Songwriting: 10 rules for writing YOUR best songs: Samuel James will guide you through his 10 rules for writing your very best songs!

Samuel James Blues Week

Story Song Basics (All levels). We'll examine the elements of a good story song and create a roadmap for you to use when writing your own story songs.

Nora Jane Struthers Classic Country Week

More lessons will be announced soon!

Join the Facebook group “Augusta 2020: Learn – Create – Connect” to stay in-the-know about new lessons & real-time online cultural sessions, jams and more in July.

Vocal warm-ups: Charles will lead you through some of his favorite warm-ups.

Charles Williams Vocal Week

Don’t miss Michelle Brown’s Cajun Cooking 101 lessons! You will learn how to make roux, meatball stew with potatoes and carrots, rice, yellow squash dressing and blackberry cobbler.

Charles Williams Vocal Week

Tina Dietz Blues Week

Don’t miss Michelle Brown’s Cajun Cooking 101 lessons! You will learn how to make roux, meatball stew with potatoes and carrots, rice, yellow squash dressing and blackberry cobbler.

Vocal Tips and Advice: Legendary vocal coach Charles Williams gives advice on how to keep your voice healthy and limber throughout your life.

Charles Williams Vocal Week

Vocal warm-ups: Charles will lead you through some of his favorite warm-ups.

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