

Wernick Method Bluegrass Jam Classes

Gilles Rézard, France, on his first Wernick Method Bluegrass Jam Class in France

We got back home late last night, after six hours of driving. Tired but happy! All I can tell is that the Wernick Method of teaching bluegrass jamming now has some more great fans and friends here! This weekend was fantastic for everyone. The place and the surrounding atmosphere were particularly fine.

One student said (translating): "Wernick Method is very first class! We will talk about that for a long time!" Another one told me that what I had been teaching during this weekend is the faithful reflection of all the pre-class material (jam skill etc...) sent out to students. I was very happy to hear that.

I was surprised to see how quickly everyone's progress was. We took a moment to talk about vocal harmonies on Sunday morning, and I gave some examples for that so they could try during about one hour on some songs. The two ladies that came here only to sing were overjoyed.

It was also big fun for me to see my son playing guitar with his new friend, the 10 year old fiddler that made a very big discovery, very first time when he was really "playing" fiddle. Usually he "works" with a classical violin teacher. I sent him an easy score of Old Joe Clark some weeks before the class. He had been playing that many times. And he was so happy to learn how to play long bow notes and chops to backup songs, carefully following the guitar player chords!

For many students, that was the first time they jammed. For them, leading

a song was quite difficult, and some had not tried, because they were too much of beginners on their instrument and in bluegrass. Some had almost never heard bluegrass before. And some didn't speak English at all. But we tried French songs, easy ones, and it was fun. I think it will be essential in the future to have some bluegrass songs translated (or re-written) in French.

Almost everyone tried to make placeholder solos, and it was great to see how the student's self-confidence increased! The chord number system was new for some, and they were very interested when I gave them some short explanations, as well as giving tips for transposing.

It is my guess that everyone hopes for other jam classes to be offered soon, and I will work on this. I was already convinced that it was the right way to learn bluegrass music, but now that I have this beautiful experience I will do all I can to develop the Pete Wernick Method Jam Classes in France.

Thanks!
Gilles Rézard

The Wernick Method Bluegrass Jam teaching is spreading in Europe, Petr Brandejs and Peter Ruby in the Czech Republic are both certified Wernick Method teachers, and at the recent Bluegrass Camp Munich our own Angelika Torrie (also a Wernick Method certified teacher) made experiences similar to Gilles Rézard's – so, make sure to find out, where the next Wernick Method Jam Class or Camp is happening near you and visit BGjam.com for more information.

