

WEDNESDAY	
	Wright Hall
3:30 PM	Arrival & Check-in
4:30 PM	Welcome & Orientation
5:50 PM	Meal servers to dining hall
6:00 PM	Dinner
7:15 PM	Staff Intros, Class Overviews, Q&A with instructors
10:00 PM	Quiet Time in Wright Hall Jams use Creevey or Greenhouse

MENUCHA RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER PRESENTS

BLUES

IN THE GORGE

THURSDAY

Class descriptions are here:
www.menucha.org/programs/blues

October 8, 2026

8:00 AM	Breakfast	
Wright Hall		Ballard Hall
9:15 - 10:15 AM Class 1	Vance Gilbert Standards, Covers, & Songs That Ain't Yours - How To Adapt Them To Your Set	Alvin Youngblood Hart The Ground Floor
	Break	
10:45-11:45 AM Class 2	Bill Kirchen Candymen (the two versions: John Hurt and Gary Davis (Level 3)	Mary Flower Jam Class for beginners (Level 1)
12:00 PM	Lunch	
12:45 PM	Individual Guitar Maintenance - with Kerry Char and Ben Bonham	
1:30-2:30 PM Class 3	Mary Flower Dressing Up the Simplest 3 Chord Blues (All levels)	Vance Gilbert Songwriting Through The Eyes Of Performance - And Vice Versa (All levels)
2:30 PM	Break	
3:00-4:00 PM Class 4	Alvin Youngblood Hart The Ground Floor	Bill Kirchen The Deep Blues Roots of Dylan, Iggy Pop, Merle Haggard and Hank Williams (All levels)
4:00 PM	Individual Guitar Maintenance - Kerry Char and Ben Bonham	
6:00 PM	Dinner	
7:30 PM	Playing Well Together All Instructor Presentation	
10:00 PM	Quiet Time in Wright Hall Jams use Creevey or Greenhouse	

Blues in the Gorge

FRIDAY

October 9, 2026

Wright Hall		Ballard Hall
8:00 AM	Breakfast	
9:15 -10:15 AM Class 1	Bill Kirchen Songwriting --“Quieting the critic in your brain” (all levels)	Mary Flower One Song - One Off - "Weeping Willow Blues" (level)
	Break	
10:45-11:45 AM Class 2	Vance Gilbert Acapella Everything - Dear Vance, please help me... (All levels)	Alvin Youngblood Hart The Ground Floor
12:00 PM	Lunch	
12:45 PM	"Upcycling" with Ben Bonham	
1:30 -2:30 PM Class 3	Bill Kirchen Teaching one song, Doc’s version of “Waiting for the Times to Get Better” (Level 2-3)	Vance Gilbert Little Songs Telling Big Stories (Level 1-2)
2:45 PM	Break	
3:00-4:00 PM Class 4	Mary Flower One Song-One Off: “Sit Down on the Banks of the River” (Level 2-3)	Alvin Youngblood Hart The Ground Floor
	Freetime	
6:00 PM	Dinner	
7:30 PM	Student Concert - sign ups at Camp	
10:00 PM	Quiet Time in Wright Hall Jams use Creevey or Greenhouse	

Blues in the Gorge

SATURDAY

October 10, 2026

Wright Hall		Ballard Hall
8:00 AM	Breakfast	
9:15-10:15 AM Class 1	Vance Gilbert I Still Got It - Staying Acoustically Relevant After A Certain Age (All levels)	Alvin Youngblood Hart The Ground Floor
	Break	
10:45-11:45 AM Class 2	Bill Kirchen Boogie Blues and Fancy Licks (level 3)	Mary Flower "Brother Can You Spare a Dime" (Level 3)
12:00 PM	Lunch	
12:50 PM	Group Photo!	
1:30-2:30 PM Class 3	Alvin Youngblood Hart The Ground Floor	Bill Kirchen Tales from the Road: fascinating people Bill has encountered (All Levels)
	Break	
3:00 - 4:00 PM Class 4	Vance Gilbert Vance 202 (All levels)	Mary Flower Exploring Open D Minor Tuning (Level 3)
5:30 PM	Dinner	
7:00 PM Acoustic Blues Concert	Instructors in Concert at Corbett Grange Hall	
10:00 PM	Quiet Time in Wright Hall Jams use Creevey or Greenhouse	

SUNDAY

October 11, 2026

Wright Hall	
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:30 AM	All-Camp Gospel Jubilee
11:00 AM	Depart for Home

Travel safely on your way home.