

# Melissa Weaver Dunning Weaving Classes

**Melissa Weaver Dunning** is a singer of traditional ballads specializing in the music of England, Ireland and Scotland. Melissa's powerful and clear unaccompanied singing brings the old story songs to life and weaves vibrant pictures of life in another age. Melissa is also a traditional hand-weaver working on antique equipment to produce 18th and 19th century style textiles. She has had the great good fortune to study with Scottish master weaver and singer Norman Kennedy since 1980. She is dedicated to carrying on some of the wealth of tradition gleaned from this apprenticeship both in weaving and in music.

Melissa is an avid tartan & linen weaver, a compulsive knitter, and likes to mess around with beads and thread and bits of cloth. She loves to teach people how to unleash their creativity and make cool things. Melissa lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with her husband Peter, where they run the Bluemont Concert Series, an award-winning regional arts organization. They have three daughters and one Welsh corgi.

## Scottish Tartans

The timeless beauty of traditional Scottish tartans are so appealing, and weaving tartan patterns is great fun. Each student will weave a traditional woman's twill dance stole or a scarf in fine wool and finish with a twisted fringe. We will also engage in discussion of Tartan history and instruction in translating tartan setts into warp plans. Tartans chosen by instructor: specific tartans available for \$20 each sett.

**2 or 3 day class:** with prepared looms: planning a tartan warp, weaving tartan, finishing, intriguing history!

Maximum # of students – 12

Student Materials Fee of approx. \$45 - \$60

**Tartan class variations** –these are best as **3 day classes** with prepared looms. **Round Robin Tartan Sampler** - students will weave up to 12 different tartan samples. Or **Round Robin Tartan Sampler & Scarf** class with larger samples, student weave samples in class and then take their looms home to weave a scarf on the same warp. **Tartans 101** – a group of tartan setts showing the history and development of tartan patterns. **Tartan Throws** – students weave a pair of lap robe blankets in heavier yarns (materials \$80-120)

## Tweeds & District Checks

Tweed cloth has been woven in Scotland for centuries, using natural sheep colors and local plant dyes that imitate the colors of the heather hills. The earliest simple patterned cloth was the Shepherd's check, from which many simple variations have been created. All the great houses of England's Borderlands and the Lowlands of Scotland had woven tweeds or checks that were woven in quantity to clothe their groundsmen, grooms, and foresters. In this class we will sample these patterns and discuss their history, traditional finishing techniques and their possibilities for modern weavers. A mini-waulking can be held at the end of class!

**2 day class:** with prepared looms: weaving samples, finishing, history.

Maximum # of students – 12

Student Materials Fee of approx. \$45 - \$60

## Scottish Weaving Sampler

Experience a little bit of several Scottish weaving traditions while you sample Tweeds, District Checks and traditional Tartan patterns. This round robin class will produce a book of samples for future independent exploration.

**2 or 3 day class:** with prepared looms: weaving samples, finishing, history.

Maximum # of students – 12

Student Materials Fee of approx. \$45 - \$60