

Nancy Hurrell, *Harpist*

Nancy Hurrell is a well-known harpist who is equally at home performing for a corporate event, a concert with a choir, or a recital featuring historical harps. She has mastered a diverse range of musical styles, playing classical, popular, jazz standards, Renaissance and Irish music. Classically trained, she has a Masters Degree in Harp Performance and the noteworthy experience as Harpist for Tea at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Boston, playing daily for five years. Nancy has performed for royalty and dignitaries at gala openings at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and she also enjoys playing concerts at outdoor Scottish and Irish festivals across the country.

She's widely known for her early music performances and recordings, both solo and with the ensembles Exsultemus, Musicians of the Old Post Road, Ensemble Trinitas and Renaissonics, with whom she recorded *Carols for Dancing*, a disc produced by WGBH radio for the *Sound & Spirit* program broadcast nationally on Public Radio International. Audiences from Montreal to Tennessee have enjoyed Nancy's ***Harp Tapestry*** concerts, featuring a diverse array of historically accurate harps with music from ancient to modern times. She has appeared at numerous festivals including: *Boston Early Music Festival*, *Amherst Early Music Festival*, *ICONS* (Irish Connections), *UK Harp Festival* and *Somerset Harp Festivals*.

In Boston, Nancy is a harp consultant at the Museum of Fine Arts, presenting gallery talks and recording soundfiles on harps in the collection. One of America's leading harp historians, Nancy promotes her passion through lectures and articles published in the *American Harp Journal*, *History Ireland* magazine, and the *Grove Dictionary of Musical Instruments*. She is a frequent lecturer on the Irish harp and maker, John Egan, with presentations at the Royal Irish Academy (Dublin, Ireland), the 'First International Conference on Irish Music' (Durham, England) and the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York). She was guest curator for a major harp exhibition, "The Harp - A Global Story of Man, Music and Medicine" at the Museum of Making Music in California (2013).

Nancy is a member of the harp faculty at the Boston Conservatory, where she teaches early harp repertoire and she initiated the first Renaissance Consort class. She leads harp workshops at conferences in the US, Canada and Britain, and her books of harp arrangements are popular with players around the world. Through her performances, lectures and recordings, Nancy continues to be a pioneering force in promoting the versatile harp and its music.