

Workshops



- **Renaissance Courtly Dances**
Dance the elegant *pavane*, jolly *branle*, and fiery *canario* as well as play the music on the harp. Renaissance improvisation and music sources are covered.
- **Golden Age of Spanish Harp**
Spanish music from the 16th - 18th century has spicy, seductive rhythms and dramatic chords. Explore the exotic dance music in the *Luz y Norte* of Ruiz de Ribayaz (1677) and the sublime harmonies of Venegas de Henestrosa (1557), some of the first pieces ever published for harp. In the period style, we'll go beyond the notes and improvise.
- **Colorful Cantigas!**
These delightful songs from 13th century Spain combine western harmonies with middle-eastern rhythms. We'll learn several cantigas and explore easy accompaniments for these delicious tunes.
- **The Ring of Harps**
Playing in a harp ensemble is *bliss*, especially with Nancy's multi-level arrangements, so everyone can join in, from beginner to experienced. We'll play together and try out some practical ideas on how to *stay* together, prepare for performance and be even more expressive.
- **Jink & diddle Scottish Tunes**
A look at Scottish music sources includes vocal songs and dance tunes traditionally played by bagpipes and fiddles. Often with a distinctive *snap*, we'll learn two tunes by ear, adding ornaments and accompaniments.
- **Bunting's Ancient Music of Ireland**
Edward Bunting preserved a wealth of ancient harp tunes and timeless melodies by Turlough O'Carolan in his *Ancient Music of Ireland* collections from the early 19th century. Play the tunes and hear the story of the Irish harp, the national symbol and the invention of the Celtic harp.
- **Add Variety and Spice to your Gigbook!**
Who knew that classical, popular, Latin, jazz, Celtic, medieval and Renaissance music all sounds great on the harp? From Nancy's experience as harpist for Tea at the Ritz in Boston for five years, here's the info you need on playable arrangements, survival tips on the job, and how to spice up your harp playing!

Lectures (PowerPoint slides)

- **History of the Harp**
Throughout time, cultures around the world have embraced harps in many forms, and this slide lecture explores the versatile harp, from ancient African bow to modern electric harps. The journey into the past looks at harp iconography, portraits of harpists and the surviving harps, with stories by Nancy ('the Harp Detective') of getting to see rare harps stored in museum basements. Recorded musical examples from around the globe illustrate this unique talk.
- **Dear Harp of My Country**
The story of the harp in Ireland echoes of bards, traveling harpers and iconic political symbols. In the early 1800s Dublin harp maker John Egan invented the 'Portable Irish Harp', the ancestor of today's Celtic harp. Powerpoint slides illustrate Nancy's adventures traveling to castles and museums in Ireland and Britain in search of harps, from royal harps to the discarded "dumpster Egan harp" found in New York City!
- **A Boston Harpist in 1900**
Raymah Dowse's 1895 Erard harp (Boston MFA collection), music, and memorabilia provide an interesting window into her life. The Empire model harp revolutionized harp making and ushered in a new style of bold, chromatic harp music, quite different from the pieces played in Marie Antoinette's salon. The famous players in the 1900s-Salzedo, Sassoli and Grandjany are all part of Raymah's Boston story, as well as the ever present gender issues of one hundred years ago.