

## EARLY HARP WORKSHOPS

### Medieval Harp

Alleluya! Medieval Sacred Music.

The soaring, mystical music of Hildegard von Bingen (1098-1179) written a thousand years ago has special resonance in today's complex world. Learn how to improvise a meaningful accompaniment shadowing Hildegard's timeless vocal lines. Create harp accompaniments for ancient hymns from the 14<sup>th</sup> century *Laudario di Firenze*, with their catchy melodies and interesting rhythmic patterns. All harp levels and singers welcome.

### Renaissance Harp

Renaissance Gems from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century

The sublime harmonies and fleeting dissonances in music of the great Renaissance composers Josquin des Prez (1450-1521) and Luis de Narváez (1490-1547) represent early music at its best. Join our Renaissance class consort to play multi-level parts in an ensemble. Advanced beginners and intermediate level; sight-reading is necessary.

Renaissance Courtly Dances. Experience the pulse and tempo of the stately *pavane*, jolly *branle*, and fiery *canario* by dancing the steps as well as playing the music. Improvisation, style and sources are included. Advanced beginners and intermediate level; sight-reading is necessary.

### Spanish Baroque

Sizzling Spanish Dances

Harp music from 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> century Spain has spicy, seductive rhythms and dramatic chords. Explore the exotic dance music in the *Luz y Norte* of Ruiz de Ribayaz (1677), the memorable tunes of Toledo harpist Diego Fernández de Huete (1702), and learn to dance the *canario*. We'll go beyond the notes and improvise, in the style of the 1700s harpist. Intermediate to Advanced, dancers welcome.

### Regency Harp Music

Regency Age Harping to *lure* Mr. Darcy!

The novelist Jane Austen wrote, "A young woman, pretty, lively, with a harp as elegant as herself... was enough to catch any man's heart." In the refined Regency age, harp music was the main entertainment in London drawing rooms and in the great houses of Ireland. Experience the period style of music from 1800s harp books and explore the manuals of conduct for ladies, with advice on harp playing to attract an eligible suitor. Advanced beginners and intermediate level; sight-reading is necessary.

### Traditional Irish & Scottish

Harpers Play Hurrell

Come to a harp ensemble 'play-in' of arrangements from Nancy's books. We'll play through as many ensembles as time allows, by request. All levels of playing are welcome and encouraged in this hands-on session. Bring your books; spare copies of music will be available.

## SELECT LECTURES

### The Egan Irish Harps: *New-Strung Harp Tales*

Nancy Hurrell reveals the hidden stories behind her new book *The Egan Irish Harps: Tradition, patrons and players*. Research trips to discover rare historical harps took her to Irish castles, museum storerooms, splendid private estates, and the President of Ireland's House. Surprise findings in 200-year-old newspapers, to a mysterious lock of hair in an Oxford University archive, to a curious hand-written letter in Princess Augusta's harp book – were all part of uncovering the remarkable history of Egan Irish harps and the harpists who played them.

### LECTURE: *Striking Harps in Castles and Museums*

As a harp consultant at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Nancy Hurrell was granted special access to historical harps in museum storage facilities in the US and abroad. In this PowerPoint lecture, rare surviving harps normally hidden from public view are uncovered, revealing exquisite decoration, innovative designs and special historical significance. Museum collections include the National Museum of Ireland (Dublin), Fitzwilliam Museum (Cambridge), Dean Castle (Scotland) and London's V&A, Horniman Museum and Royal Academy of Music Museum, as well as several private castles in Ireland.

### History of the Irish Harp via *Travels of a Harp Detective*

This PowerPoint lecture recounts the remarkable story of Ireland's national symbol, the harp. Poets, politics, travelling harpers, the king's patronage, and *Signor Carrollini* are all part of the narrative. In her quest to find and document surviving historical harps, Nancy was granted rare access to several museum storage sites, including London's Victoria & Albert Museum and the Horniman Museum. A harp historian's life is never dull, for her research trips even led to staying in an Irish castle and playing the family's two hundred year old harp in concert.