



Harp Songs on CDs

With much urging and encouragement from people close to me, I agreed to record some of the more popular pieces in my repertoire, just to see what happened. The result is *Harp Songs for Family and Friends*, an hour-long CD of solo harp instrumentals - a blend of old and new, traditional Celtic and classical pieces interwoven with several more contemporary compositions - selected to encourage, inspire, and uplift.

Some years later after my mother's passing, I went on to record a second album of similar songs from my repertoire called *A Bouquet from My Mother's Garden*.



Nicole Ferguson accompanies me on several pieces with her marvelous flute.

One of my "fans" has written: "Your CD arrived in this morning's mail, and it's just beautiful! Your skillful handling of each piece is incredible. I felt as if you were in the room playing for us - each piece has such tender phrasing, nuances, and lovely sparkles of sound. Well, it's just fabulous!"



Please Contact Me

Feel free to visit me on the Web and then call or write if you're interested in purchasing a CD, having me play for your special occasion, or learning more about playing the harp yourself. I'll try to get back to you soon!

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***"I will also praise Thee with the
harp for Thy faithfulness,
O my God."***

Psalm 71.22



Welcome to Harpsongs!

I started the adventure of playing the harp as an adult after enjoying the piano for much of my life. It opened up a whole new world of music for me in a remarkable way. The harp so easily becomes a part of you as you play, cradling it in your arms, touching the strings, and sensing every vibration.

As a Christian I soon found that harping became a place of worship and a place to bless others with my music. It gives me great pleasure to play out in the community, whether at a wedding, reception, church, funeral, party in an adult home, or for the terminally ill. I'm often told my music is very relaxing and restful. It is my desire to bring a touch of God's peace and joy to those I play for. I'd love to have an opportunity to play for you soon...

Susan Morehouse



The Harps I Play

I have two Lyon & Healy harps, a Style 85 pedal harp, shown above, and a slightly smaller Prelude lever harp.

Lever or folk harps are so called because the mechanisms used to change keys are levers that are attached to the harp and push against the strings to make them shorter and thus sharpen the string.

Classical or pedal harps, often seen on stage with symphony orchestras, use pedals instead of levers to change keys. The pedal mechanism is fairly complex: pushing the pedals moves discs located at the top of the harp which perform the same function as levers by shortening (sharpening) the strings.



Repertoire

I practice and maintain an active repertoire of nearly 100 songs for the harp, including dozens of Celtic and folk tunes, a wide range of classical pieces, and many spiritual and contemporary melodies suitable for any setting or event.

Special Occasions

Harp music lends itself to many settings either as gentle background music or showcased as a performance and brings a unique atmosphere to any occasion, whether it's a wedding, anniversary, reception, dedication, or dinner party. I enjoy playing in churches, country clubs, and banquet halls as well as adult and

hospice care homes.

Every situation is arranged in advance with your particular needs and desires in mind. For instance, for weddings my services may include any of the following: prelude music as guests are arriving, processional and recessional pieces, a special piece or two during the ceremony itself, postlude music for a receiving line or as guests are departing, and background music at the reception.

I find the harp offers a wonderful opportunity to add something sensitive and beautiful to very special times in people's lives. I count it a privilege and honor to be called upon to play for such personal occasions.

The cost of my services varies somewhat depending on the circumstances but is based on an hourly rate of \$75. Wedding ceremonies, which involve an appointment for selection of music and more preparation, start at \$250 for the entire engagement. There may be additional allowances for extended travel, extra time spent, or the services of accompanying musicians.

Lessons

I also offer lever harp lessons out of my home to beginning and intermediate students for \$15 per half-hour lesson. This is another avenue for sharing the joy of harp with others.