

List of Artists and Workshops 2017

Isabeau Corriveau

Touch and Tones (offered in English)

This is a technique that will help you improve the quality of your sound while staying relaxed. We will develop maximum efficiency for minimal effort. The first half of the workshop will include exercises to rehearse the movements. The second half will apply this technique to a short piece.

Beginner to Intermediate

Touch and Tones (repeat; offered in French)

This is a technique that will help you improve the quality of your sound while staying relaxed. We will develop maximum efficiency for minimal effort. The first half of the workshop will include exercises to rehearse the movements. The second half will apply this technique to a short piece.

Beginner to Intermediate

Duo, Not Duel (offered in French)

Isabeau will help you learn a piece in a duet formation. This will be a great listening, style and teamwork exercise.

Intermediate to Advanced

Harper Tasche

Folk Harp Boot Camp II: Chord Calisthenics

Most everybody has an idea what chords are, and can play chords of some sort on the harp, but what is really making your chord choices – you, or your technical limitations? We'll start by learning to really hear what our chords sound like, then chuckle our way through two hours of play designed to limber up and strengthen our ability to make chords sound however we want.

All levels

Spontaneous Ensembles

If you don't have written-out parts, how can you all play together? Here's a hands-on approach to learn the process of creating a group arrangement, no matter how many people are present or what instruments they have.

All levels

Every Day Harping for Everyday Harpers

Do you feel guilty that you don't practice as much as you think you should? Are you frustrated to find yourself working on the same things over and over again? This session can help! Learn some of Harper's favorite exercises to cram a lot of skill-building into a few minutes, and learn ways to help manage your harp time so you can keep developing technically and musically -- whether you practice for an hour every day, or can only manage 15-20 minutes of harp time every so often.

All levels

Folk Harp Boot Camp I: Flying Fingers

When you pluck a harp string, what are your fingers actually doing? How intricately, quickly, and accurately can they move, and how relaxed can they be? Jump-start or revitalize your technique with two (often humorous) hours getting your fingers and hands to work independently and together. Come laugh your way to better playing with some of Harper's favorite finger exercises!

All levels

Diana Rowan

Playing with Creativity & Expression

Beyond techniques, devices, and songs, how do we actually play with feeling and keep creativity alive? After embarking on a massive months-long project interviewing dozens of professional harpists on these burning questions, Diana brings you the 3 big core elements that keep Expression and Creativity strong.

All levels

Performance Mastery

Many great performers started out a bundle of nerves. Now they love performing in public and sharing their message. Learn the Overarching Concept for confident, joyful performing, and the 3 Pillars that hold it up. You can do it!

All levels

Therapeutic World Music

Brighten up your therapeutic harp repertoire with world music from all continents. More and more, our healing harp audience reflects a global origin. This workshop gives you the tools to add world music elements to your repertoire, whether that be new songs or simply new arranging and improv techniques.

All levels

Frank Voltz

Frank Voltz will deliver a series of workshops that will culminate in the creation of an original composition. These three workshops build upon one another and help the participants gather the tools they need in their musical toolbox to create their own music. The workshops are listed in order below. It is advantageous, although not a strict requirement, that they all be taken, in sequence.

First:

Cool Chords (You Can Use)

Whether you are a beginner, intermediate, or advanced harpist, you can learn to play chords that will ring in your listeners' ears and that you will enjoy hearing yourself. Triads are baby steps; let's mambo! Without any knowledge of theory, we will explore how to create chords that will give our music more life, more flair, more sophistication, and more excitement. First, we will learn how to build the chords, and then we will learn how to use them and apply them to a piece of music. This workshop is very interactive, completely hands-on, and totally fun. As time permits, attendees will pick their favorite songs and together, we will apply these cool chords and experience the new sounds we've created from small nuances to amazing musical colors. Let's take the music you play, the music you create, and kick it up a notch!

Intermediate to Advanced

Second:

From Start to Finish (Introductions, Interludes, and Endings)

Whether you are playing a song, playing a hymn in church, accompanying a singer (or yourself), improvising for the fun of it, or composing an original composition, you need an introduction and an ending. If a vocalist is involved, you will probably need an interlude so she (or you) can catch her breath. There are so many ways to create these parts within a piece of music. Every piece of music is different, so we need to decide on the style and length, and whether to incorporate the melody of the piece itself. This workshop is interactive and fun, and attendees will grasp an understanding of how, when, and why to use introductions, interludes, and endings in music.

Intermediate to Advanced

Third:

Inspired Composing for the Harp

The participants will start with the ingredients of music (pick a key, pick major/minor, select a tempo, select a style/theme, select a time signature, etc.), and then we'll create a composition for harp using the "recipe" that Frank uses when composing a piece of music for the harp. Once we have selected our musical ingredients, we will compose a piece of music for the harp together. Think of it as "composing by committee." At the conclusion of the class, Frank will take our "masterpiece" home and transcribe it and send it via email to all the attendees so they can see the finished composition. It will be fun and totally unpredictable.

Intermediate to Advanced

Ian Hepburn

VIBROACOUSTIC HARP THERAPY: New frontiers in the use of the healing harp

Vibro-acoustic Harp Therapy, as created by its originator Sarajane Williams, has been used to alleviate conditions ranging from chronic pain (fibromyalgia, back pain, etc.) to insomnia; MS to stress. Several practitioners now use VAHT to help children cope with learning and behavioral difficulties. Ian Hepburn will talk about the application of VAHT at Hawkesbury & District General Hospital and in local elementary and high schools. A detailed description of the new VAHT Home Study Training Course will be given.

All levels

YOUR HARP AS COMMUNITY BUILDER

In his harp-work at Hawkesbury & District General Hospital for the past 12 years; the O P E N S P A C E S Project (Mindfulness- with- harp) work in elementary and high schools for the past 4 years; harp instructor in the Vankleek Hill Music & Arts Summer Camp for 17 years; and harp & drum sessions in seniors residences and group homes for the past 2 years, Ian Hepburn has collected experiences and stories to share about how you can use the harp in your community to make peoples' lives better. And have fun along the way.

All levels

Timothy Habinski

Buzzes and Bumps and Strings, Oh My! - Maintenance tips and tricks for your lever harp

Broken strings at inconvenient moments, mystery buzzes that drive you crazy, long zigzag tracks from the time your nephew explored your soundboard with a toy car – these moments when a harpist will need to do minor maintenance and repairs on their own harps are as inevitable as death and taxes. This workshop will show you how to do that maintenance with confidence. We'll be discussing:

- How to put together a simple harp-care tool kit
- How to re-tie and replace strings quickly and easily
- The ABC's of tracking down and eliminating mysterious buzzes
- How to minimize the appearance of surface abrasions and bumps
- How to re-settle slipping tuning pins
- How and where to install pickups for clear amplification.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their harps (with or without minor ailments) to this workshop.

All levels

Rules and Regulations - How to maintain and adjust your levers for smooth action and perfect intonation

Semi-tone levers are essential equipment for most harpists, but they can on occasion drive you crazy. Fortunately, the difference between a lever that deadens a string and misses true pitch and one that sounds perfect every time is often as simple as a quarter turn with the right screwdriver.

In this workshop, attendees will be introduced to the major brands of harp levers, the basic principles of how they work, what tools you need to adjust them, and where those tools are available. Then we'll get to the fun bit – actually regulating our harps! Attendees will receive practical, hands on instruction in how to adjust levers for accuracy and smooth action.

Please bring your harps and roll up your sleeves!

All levels

Ray Pool

Clever Levers

The ultimate in diatonic harmony. A study of seventh chords continues into a discussion of chord tones of the 9th, 11th, and 13th. "The Common Glissando" is illustrated for pedal and lever harp simultaneously. Includes performance of a lead sheet melody in three keys with modulation interludes included.

Intermediate to Advanced

Improvisation/Modulation Workshop

Patterns of improvisation on three chord progressions which include I – IV – V – I, I – VI – II – V, and I – IV – VII – III – VI – II – V – I. Also includes information on modulation among six keys playable on lever harp and pedal harp simultaneously.

All levels

The Treble Harpist (Book)

Designed for entry level students of music on the harp. Note reading, rhythm exercises and arrangements at five levels of increasing complexity. All work is done on a single staff in the treble clef. The complete range of notes includes the F below middle C (three ledger lines below the staff) to the soprano high C (two ledger lines above the staff.) Fifty melodies are arranged in increasing order of difficulty. Repertoire is drawn from folk tunes, hymn tunes, Hebrew melodies, vintage American standards and songs of Stephen Foster.

Beginner

Joanne Griffin

Let's Just Play! *and* How to Choose New Music Wisely

In this workshop we will actively build repertoire by looking at a variety of accessible pieces. We'll also review a checklist that is designed to help you out when you're looking to buy new harp music.

All levels

Máire Ní Chathasaigh

Style, Rhythm, Arranging, & Ornamentation in Irish Dance Music

description to be posted later

Intermediate to Advanced

Authentic O'Carolan

description to be posted later

All levels

Irish Slow Airs and how to play slow pieces

description to be posted later

All levels

Optional Full Day with award winning Irish Harpist Máire Ní Chathasaigh

For this full-day mini-conference, we will explore the wide repertoire of the Irish tradition - that is, the music of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century harpers, the "slow airs", songs and dance tunes - with particular reference to the special rhythms and phrasing characteristic of the tradition and the approaches to harmony and accompaniment that are most appropriate.

And we'll learn some pretty tunes!

Particular attention will be paid to the specific fingering techniques necessary to create the ornaments that are integral to a stylistically authentic performance.

The rhythms of Irish music are difficult to represent accurately in written form, so in order to avoid having to negotiate impossibly complex notation the established convention is to provide a simplified version only. Written music will be available as you learn, which you'll be shown how to interpret, but you will primarily learn the melody line by ear and by imitation. This allows you to get the authentic nuances that make this music so beautiful. Do bring a recording device, too!

During the day we'll also explore strategies to release personal creativity and increase the joy of playing. Topics include: listening with your 'inner ear'; getting to the soul of a tune; phrasing and melodic line; musical 'giving' and the power of heartfelt performance.

So much music-making happens in your head. We'll talk about concentration, thinking ahead and effective practicing.

We'll discuss the physical aspects of harping too. Topics will include:

- solutions to postural issues and common problems;
- learning to relax and the relationship of relaxation with tone;
- warm-ups and exercises - what's the difference?;
- technical development as a means of achieving transparency of musical intention.

It will be a great day for fun and learning!

All levels

Limited registration
