

Winter Harp Media Kit 2023

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This kit includes:

- Press release
- Link to photos
- Tour dates & places
- Short event listing
- Interview Ideas
- Rare medieval instruments
- Accolades

Winter Harp embarks on its 30th Anniversary tour this December taking audiences deep into the heart of Christmas and deep into the heart of Winter. Glorious music and song combine with festive stories to wrap you snugly in the Christmas spirit.

Standing ovations and sold-out concerts are the hallmarks of this acclaimed ensemble.

**Don't miss this magical journey.
Winter Harp -- Christmas begins here.**

In celebration of our 30th Anniversary we have:

- Commissioned another reading about the Christmas musings of our highly popular character,
Oscar the Cat.
 - Had our magical story The Caribou illustrated
- Sponsored a harp competition featuring Lori Pappajohn's (Winter Harp's founder) recently-composed modern romantic piece On Gossamer Wings.
You can hear it [here](#).
 - Are being featured in *Harp Column*, a prestigious international harp magazine.
 - Added yet another strange instrument to our arsenal -- where do we find these things?!! You'll just have to come to our concert to hear what a melodica sounds like -
-and to catch up with the wanderings of Oscar the Cat.

Winter Harp 2023 Media Release

High resolution images can be downloaded at

<http://www.winterharp.com/photos>

Winter Harp

"Winter Harp has the ability to transport audience members to another time and place." -- Vancouver Sun

This December, Winter Harp returns to stages across BC on its 30th Anniversary Tour, with 15 performances on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

During this tour, expect to hear some of Winter Harp's best-loved stories and carols from its three decades of performances.

This acclaimed ensemble is renowned for delivering beautiful, soul-stirring presentations. Concerts are "must-see" events on holiday calendars, with many audience members returning year after year – passing the Winter Harp tradition on to new generations. What has audiences returning again and again is the sheer wonder of the concert experience that captures the joyful spirit of the season.

Winter Harp's musicians, clad in gorgeous medieval attire, perform a collection of music ranging from familiar carols to Celtic and medieval carols. The hauntingly-beautiful music features a fascinating combination of harps, drums, temple bells, flutes, bass flute, viola and an assortment of rare medieval instruments. These include the bass psaltery, organistrum, hurdy-gurdy and nyckelharpa.

Winter Harp features Lauri Lyster (percussion, vocals), Jeff Pelletier (flute, bass flute, hurdy-gurdy, concertina, vocals), Lani Krantz (classical harp, bass psaltery, vocals), Hayley Farenholtz (Celtic harp, melodica, penny whistle, psaltery, vocals), Bruce Henczel (nyckelharpa, viola, fiddle, percussion, vocals), Sabrielle McCurdy-Foreman (vocals) and Adam Henderson (narrator, percussion, organistrum).

Full ensemble biographical information is [HERE](#)

Winter Harp 2023 Full Tour Schedule

Sechelt Saturday, Dec 2, 2:30 pm
Raven's Cry Theatre

New Westminster Sunday, Dec. 3, 2:30 pm
Massey Theatre
with the Vancouver Welshmen's Choir

Courtenay Thursday Dec. 7, 7:30 pm
Sid Williams Theatre

Victoria Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 pm
Alix Goolden Performance Hall

Nanaimo Saturday, Dec. 9, 3:30 pm
Port Theatre

Duncan Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:00 pm
Cowichan Performing Arts Centre

Chilliwack Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7:30 pm
Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Vancouver Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 pm
East Cultural Centre, Historic Theatre

Burnaby Saturday, Dec. 16, 3:00 & 7:30 pm
Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

Maple Ridge Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 & 7 pm
The ACT

North Vancouver
Monday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 pm & Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 pm
BlueShore Financial Performance Arts Centre

Downtown Vancouver Thursday, Dec. 21, 7:30 pm
St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

For ticket details click here: <https://www.winterharp.com/concerts.php>

Lower Mainland concerts

Dec. 12 at 7:30 pm Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Dec. 13 at 7:30 pm East Cultural Centre Historic Theatre, Vancouver

Dec. 16 at 3pm & 7:30pm James Cowan Theatre, Shadbolt Centre for the
Arts, Burnaby

Dec. 17 at 3pm & 7pm The ACT

Dec. 18 & 19 at 7:30pm BlueShore Financial Performance Centre, North Van.

Dec. 21 at 7:30 pm St. Andrew's-Wesley United, Vancouver

For ticket details click here: <https://www.winterharp.com/concerts.php>

WINTER HARP EVENT LISTING

One of this province's most beloved annual concert traditions will return to stage this December 2023. Winter Harp is known for its sold-out performances and standing ovations. Harps, flute, fiddle, medieval instruments, percussion, stories and song combine for a magical celebration of winter and Christmas. Dec.12 at Chilliwack Cultural Centre. Dec. 13, Historic Theatre, East Cultch, Vancouver. Dec. 16, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, Burnaby. Dec. 17 at The ACT, Maple Ridge. Dec. 18 & 19 at BlueShore Financial Performance Centre, North Van. Dec. 21 at St. Andrew's-Wesley United, Vancouver.

THE WINTER HARP CONCERT EXPERIENCE (Short Description)

One of the Lower Mainland's most beloved holiday concerts, Winter Harp takes you on a magical journey you will never forget.

Join this world-class ensemble of harps, flutes, rare medieval instruments, percussion and singing for a heartwarming concert in celebration of winter and Christmas. The musicians, in rich medieval attire, perform a hauntingly-beautiful selection of music on a stage set with gorgeous backdrops of cathedral and snow.

This is a journey into the heart of Christmas. Winter Harp – Christmas begins here.

Medieval Instruments

Winter Harp features a number of unique instruments made especially for the ensemble: bass psaltery, organistrum, nyckelharpa, hurdy-gurdy and, although not medieval, just as unique -- the melodica.

Photos and more info of these instruments [HERE](#).

Interview Ideas

- * The humorous way co-founders Lori Pappajohn and Alan Woodland (now 92) met.
- * How Alan Woodland would travel to London to research Christmas and winter in the British Library -- in the days before Google. And not just anyone was allowed into that revered institution.
- * The 7-member ensemble features more than 23 instruments plus an array of bells, shakers and chimes.
- * Lori Pappajohn pulls her hair out arranging music for all these diverse instruments -- as you certainly can't buy music already arranged for such an unlikely collection.
- * Highlights over the years include a nationwide Christmas special on CBC TV, an hour special on CBC Radio, a video on BravoTV, more than a dozen CDs.
- * When she was six years old, Hayley Farenholtz heard Winter Harp for the first time and knew right then and there she wanted to play the harp and be in Winter Harp. Dreams do come true. She has been with Winter Harp since 2019.
- * Winter Harp has close to 200 strings on stage that need to be tuned before the concert and at intermission.
- * Director Lori Pappajohn's first CD -- Celtic Harp for Christmas -- 30 years later still remains the top selling album for its record company and was sold in stores around the world. It was the top selling Christmas album in Vancouver at Sikora's Records, HMV and The Magic Flute -- back in the days when there were records stores!
- * Over its 30 years Winter Harp was played to tens of thousands of people in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Washington state.

Accolades

Media previews and reviews (excerpts)

" . . . the West Coast's answer to Loreena McKennitt." -- Boulevard Magazine

" ...an enrapturing event that plucks at your heart strings." -- The Province (Vancouver)

"Winter Harp's annual Christmas concerts are a treat." -- CBC Radio

"And Winter Harp ... is definitely magical. Under the direction of acclaimed composer/arranger/harpist Lori Pappajohn, Winter Harp's estimable players -- who specialize in Celtic, medieval and classical music -- make one feel as though they've stepped into a pre-Raphaelite painting. Candlelight flickers off golden harps played by angelic musicians clad in velvet gowns, their ethereal music shining like a silvery moon in the darkest nights of December. Flute, percussion, medieval instruments, vocals and readings complete the experience." -- Winnipeg Free Press

From Fans

"This year I saw 80 performances in Vancouver -- dance, theatre, musicals and choral. Many were splendid and exciting, but there are none to match the magic of Winter Harp."

"I've been to Christmas concerts all over Europe. None are as profound as yours."

"Your performance brings the spirit of the season to life. Thank you."

"The music, the instruments, the beautiful voices, including the narrator's voice, the little touches of humour, your costumes, the way the concert unfolds -- it's like gently unwrapping a very special Christmas gift -- layer by layer, and always a lovely surprise awaits."