Winter Harp Media Kit 2026

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This kit includes:

- Event listings
- Press release
- One of the most haunting carols
- Link to photos
- Tour dates & places
- Rare medieval instruments
- Accolades

The Winter Harp Concert Experience (Event Descriptions)

Short Description

One of BC's most beloved holiday concerts, Winter Harp takes you on a magical journey you will never forget. Harps, singers, medieval instruments, flutes, violin and percussion combine for a hauntingly-beautiful concert of pure Christmas magic. The tour includes 11 BC cities Dec.4-22.

Longer Description

In its 33rd year, and as popular today as ever, this beloved holiday ensemble performs Dec.4 to 22 in 11 BC cities. Known for sold-out houses and standing ovations, Winter Harp is a "must-see" ticket on the holiday calendar.

Join this world-class ensemble of singers, harps, flute, violin, medieval instruments and percussion for a concert of heartwarming carols and stories in celebration of Christmas. The musicians, in rich medieval attire, perform on a stage set with magnificent backdrops of cathedral and snow that will whisk you to a land of pure magic.

Rare instruments include the ethereal-sounding bass psaltery (the only one like it in the world), the organistrum (12th century Spain replica) and the Swedish nyckelharpa.

Winter Harp — Christmas begins here

WINTER HARP 2026 MEDIA RELEASE

(Vancouver Area concerts w/full BC tour schedule)

Winter Harp

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

This December 2026, Winter Harp returns to stage across BC on its eleven-city concert tour, with eight performances in the Lower Mainland.

Since its first moving performances, decades ago, this acclaimed ensemble has become 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.

On stage, Winter Harp’s outstanding musicians and singers, clad in colorful 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*.

This year's ensemble of outstanding artists includes **Jeff Pelletier** (flute, bass flute, hurdy-gurdy, nyckelharpa, concertina & vocals), **Doug Gorkoff** (cello & vocals), **Lani Krantz** (classical harp, vocals, recorder, psaltery, percussion), **Hayley Farenholtz** (Celtic harp, psaltery, vocals), **Bruce Henczel** (nyckelharpa, bass psaltery, percussion, vocals), **Sabrielle McCurdy-Foreman** (vocalist, organistrum) and **Adam Henderson** (narrator, percussion, organistrum).

Don't miss this journey of pure magic! Winter Harp — Christmas begins here.

Full ensemble biographical information can be found HERE

High resolution images can be downloaded at
https://www.winterharp.com/mediaphotos.htm

This year's carols — some haunting, others laughter-filled

by Winter Harp Artistic Director Lori Pappajohn

I've had fun choosing songs and stories for this year's show. We've had many laughs rehearsing the hilarious *Miss Fogarty's Christmas Cake* about guests being served a cake so hard that a hatchet was needed to cut it and the crust was nailed on with glue.

We are also performing the haunting and spine-tingling *Down in Yon Forest* which we last performed in 2010.



Each verse of this 500-year-old song tells the story in a series of what might well be pictures painted on wood — a mysterious hall set in a dark forest; a knight lying on a scarlet bed; water, blood, a stone and Mary. In medieval times, a king's arm was cut so that his royal blood could flow onto the black soil — a Winter Solstice ritual to ensure the earth's fertility and the abundance of crops. Through the ages, the song's pagan origins have melded with the Christian story -- so the two intertwine in this mystical and seldom-heard carol.

In arranging this piece, I wanted to bring out its hauntingly dark beauty coupled with the joy and mystery of distant bells and a sky filled with glorious angels. I want you to shiver in the cold of that dark forest and see, hear, and feel this ancient story.

Lastly, for the first time ever, we have a piece that features two nyckelharpas. Our percussionist and string player Bruce Henczel composed this lively medieval styled piece for himself and Jeff Pelletier. It also features our cellist, Doug Gorkoff.



Winter Harp 2026 Full Tour Schedule

East Vancouver (2 shows), The Cultch, Historic Theatre
Friday Dec 4, at 3pm & 7:30 pm

Sechelt, Raven's Cry Theatre
Saturday Dec 5, 2:30 pm

New Westminster, Massey Theatre with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir
Sunday Dec 6, 3:30 pm

Chilliwack. HUB Theatre, Chilliwack Cultural Centre
Tuesday Dec 8, 7:30 pm

Victoria (2 shows), Alix Goolden Performance Hall
Friday Dec 11, 3pm & 7:30 pm

Nanaimo, Port Theatre
Saturday Dec 12, 3:30 pm

Duncan, Cowichan Performing Arts Centre
Sunday Dec 13, 2:00 pm

Courtenay, Sid Williams Theatre
Monday Dec 14, 7:30 pm

Mission, Clark Theatre
Friday, Dec 19 at 3:00 pm

Maple Ridge (2 shows), The ACT Arts Centre
Sunday Dec 20 at 3pm & 7:00pm

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

North Vancouver (2 shows), BlueShore Financial Arts Centre
Tuesday, Dec 22 at 3:00 pm & 7:30 pm

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

Winter Harp Event Listing (VANCOUVER)

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. Dec 4 at The Cultch East Vancouver, Dec 8 at Chilliwack Cultural Centre, Dec 19 at the Clark Theatre, Mission, Dec 20 at The ACT, Maple Ridge, Dec 21 at St. Andrew's-Wesley United, Vancouver and Dec 22 at Blueshore Financial Performing Arts Centre.

Medieval Instruments

Winter Harp features unique instruments made especially for the ensemble.

Bass psaltery: Built by former Vancouver luthier Edward Turner, the five-foot-tall bass psaltery is the only one of its kind in the world.

Organistrum: a large, guitar-shaped instrument that requires two people to play, is the great grandfather of the hurdy-gurdy. The ornately carved instrument, dating back to 12th Century Spain, produces deep, resonant drones. Another like it can be seen in Quebec City's Museum of Civilization, also crafted by luthier Edward Turner.

Hurdy-gurdy: has its origins in the organistrum which was eventually made smaller and more versatile. The hurdy-gurdy was popular throughout Europe during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

Nyckelharpa: A Swedish medieval keyed violin, the nyckelharpa is a cross between a hurdy-gurdy and a violin. It has a series of keys similar to a hurdy-gurdy, but is bowed, like a fiddle, and has a rich, wistful sound.

More information on these instruments can be found by clicking HERE.

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.”

“I saw you last night for the first time and it was a magical beautiful evening. Although you may have done this show countless times it felt so fresh and genuine with several moments that blew me away. The drum battle, the call and answer between your singer and the flautist and all those unique instruments. Next year I'm coming very early and getting a front row seat. Thank you for a wonderful experience.”