

Winter Harp Media Kit 2024

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This kit includes:

- Event listings
- Press release
- Link to photos
- Tour dates & places
- Rare medieval instruments
- Accolades

The Winter Harp Concert Experience (Event Descriptions)

Celebrate Christmas and the holiday season with the Winter Harp Ensemble. Glorious music and song combine with festive stories to warm your heart and wrap you in the Christmas spirit.

Winter Harp is a Christmas masterpiece. Velvet gowns, golden instruments, candles, and backdrops of cathedrals and snow combine to transport you to another time and place. Classical and Celtic harps, flutes and rare medieval instruments, percussion, poetry and song envelop you in the silken cloak of Christmas. Familiar carols, along with songs ancient and rare, celebrate the season and set your heart singing. Don't miss this journey of pure magic! Winter Harp -- Christmas begins here.

In its 31st year, and as popular today as ever, one of this country's most joyous annual traditions returns to BC this December 1-22, 2024, as part of a 9-city tour. Known for sold-out houses and standing ovations, this ensemble is a "must-see" ticket on the holiday calendar. Winter Harp is a magical concert experience that has captured the spirit of the season, and audience's hearts, for more than three decades. On stage, Winter Harp's outstanding musicians and singers, clad in beautiful medieval attire, perform a collection of music that ranges from familiar carols to Celtic, medieval and world tunes. At the theatre performances, magical backdrops of cathedral and snow set a stage for the golden Celtic and classical harps, drums, tambourines, temple bells, flutes, and an assortment of beautiful, ancient and rare instruments, including the ethereal-sounding bass psaltery (the only one like it in the world), the organistrum (an early form of the hurdy-gurdy) and the Swedish nyckelharpa. Don't miss this journey of pure magic! Winter Harp -- Christmas begins here

WINTER HARP 2024 MEDIA RELEASE

(Vancouver Area concerts w/full BC tour schedule)

High resolution images can be downloaded at

<https://www.winterharp.com/images/media/hires/Winter-Harp-2023.jpg>

Winter Harp

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

This December 2024, Winter Harp returns to stage across BC on its ten-city concert tour, with eight performances in the Lower Mainland.

Over the decades since its first moving performances, 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 **Lauri Lyster** (percussion, vocals), **Jeff Pelletier** (flute, bass flute, hurdy-gurdy, vocals), **Lani Krantz** (classical harp, vocals), **Hayley Farenholtz** (Celtic harp, vocals), **Bruce Henczel** (nyckelharpa, viola, bass psaltery, percussion, vocals), **Sabrielle McCurdy-Foreman** (vocalist) and **Adam Henderson** (narrator, percussion, organistrum).

Full ensemble biographical information can be found [HERE](#)

Winter Harp 2024 Full Tour Schedule

New Westminster

Sunday, Dec. 1, 2:30 pm

Massey Theatre with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Sechelt

Saturday, Dec 7, 2:30 pm

Raven's Cry Theatre

Chilliwack

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 pm

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Downtown Vancouver

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 pm

St. Andrew's-Wesley

Victoria (2 shows)

Friday, Dec. 13, 3pm & 7:30 pm

Alix Golden Performance Hall

Nanaimo

Saturday, Dec. 14, 3:30 pm

Port Theatre

Duncan

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2:00 pm

Cowichan Performing Arts Centre

Courtenay

Monday Dec 16, 7:30 pm

Sid Williams Theatre

North Vancouver (2 shows)

Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 pm & Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 pm

BlueShore Financial Performance Arts Centre

Vancouver (2 shows)

Friday, Dec. 20, 3pm & 7:30 pm

East Cultural Centre, Historic Theatre

Maple Ridge (2 shows)

Saturday Dec 21 3pm & Sunday, Dec. 22 at 3pm
The ACT

Lower Mainland Concerts

Dec. 10 at 7:30 pm Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Dec. 11 at 7:30 pm St. Andrew's-Wesley United, Vancouver

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

Dec. 20 at 3pm and 7:30pm Historic Theatre, The Cultch, Vancouver

Dec. 21 & 22 at 3pm The ACT, Maple Ridge

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

WINTER HARP EVENT LISTING (VANCOUVER)

One of this province's most beloved annual concert traditions will return to stage this December 2024. 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. 10 at Chilliwack Cultural Centre, Dec. 11 at St. Andrew's-Wesley United, Vancouver, Dec. 18 & 19 at Blueshore Financial Performing Arts Centre, Dec 20th at the Cultch, Dec. 21 & 22 at The ACT, Maple Ridge.

Medieval Instruments

Winter Harp features a number of 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 Ottawa'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.”