

Winter Harp Media Kit 2018

**Immerse yourself in the joy of Christmas with Winter Harp!
Glorious music and song, festive stories and the warmth of the holidays
combine to capture your heart and wrap you in the Christmas spirit.**

A Christmas masterpiece: Winter Harp returns for its 25th year!
Golden instruments, rich velvet gowns, and backdrops of cathedral and snow
create an enchanting experience that will transport you deep into the heart of
Christmas.

Classical and Celtic harps, flutes, violin/fiddle, rare medieval instruments,
percussion, poetry and song come together in an unforgettable performance
that will enfold you in the silken cloak of Christmas. The sound of carols –
medieval, rare, and familiar – will make your heart sing.

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

WINTER HARP 2018 MEDIA RELEASE
(Vancouver Area concerts w/ full BC tour schedule)
High resolution images can be downloaded [HERE](#).

25th Anniversary Tour

Winter Harp

Vancouver & Area Concerts

Saturday, Dec. 15, 7:30 pm: St. Andrew's–Wesley United Church, Vancouver
Tickets at [Tickets Tonight](#)

Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 12 & 13 at 7:30 pm
Blue Shore Financial Performing Arts Centre, Capilano University, North Van

Sunday, Dec. 16, 3:00 & 7:00 pm
The ACT Arts Centre, Maple Ridge
(see full tour schedule below)
<http://www.winterharp.com/>

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

Celebrating its 25th year of bringing the joy of the Christmas spirit to BC audiences, Winter Harp returns to Vancouver and area this December as part of an 11 city BC concert tour, with six performances in four Lower Mainland cities.

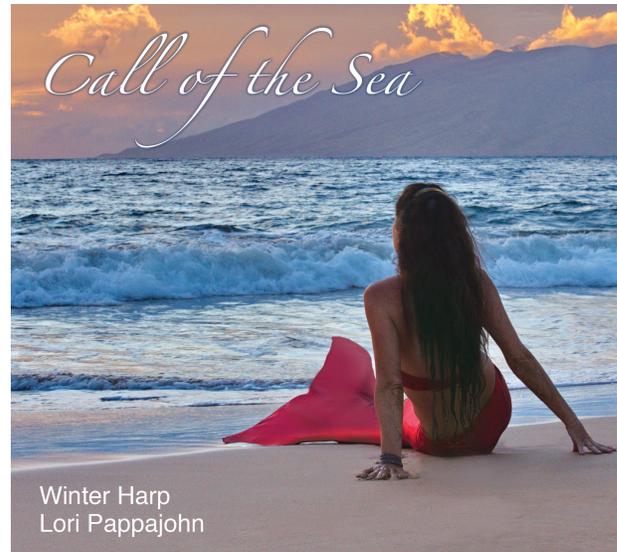
For 25 years, the Winter Harp ensemble has become renowned for delivering jaw-dropping performances in sold-out houses to standing ovations. Concerts are "must-see" events on holiday calendars, with many audiences returning year after year – passing the Winter Harp tradition on to new generations. What has them 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 breath-taking medieval attire, perform a collection of music ranging from familiar carols to Celtic and medieval music. At theatre performances, magical backdrops of cathedral and snow set the stage for golden Celtic and classical harps, drums, temple bells, flutes, violin/fiddle 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.

Co-founder and musical director, Lori Pappajohn says, "Winter Harp traces its roots back to 1984 when, as a young reporter, I was told to write a feature on New Westminster Public Library's chief librarian, Alan Woodland. I wasn't thrilled at first, but within minutes of talking to Alan I was entranced by his love of books – and even more taken when we discovered a shared love of poetry, stories & music." She goes on, "We started by doing a small library Christmas show together, Alan's poetry and stories and my music. That was the kernel of what was to become Winter Harp. I'm thrilled to be sharing our 25th year of Christmas-times performance with old friends and new!"

This year's ensemble of outstanding artists includes **Roger Helfrick** (lead vocals, harp, recorder), **Lauri Lyster** (percussion, vocals), **Jeff Pelletier** (flute, bass flute, penny whistle, hurdy-gurdy, vocals), **Lani Krantz** (classical harp, vocals), **Amy Stephen** (Celtic harp, vocals, penny whistle, accordion, psaltery), **Bruce Henczel** (nyckelharpa, violin/fiddle, viola, bass psaltery, percussion, vocals) and **Adam Henderson** (narrator, percussion, organistrum). **Lori Pappajohn** is the ensemble's director. Full ensemble biographical information is [HERE](#).

NEW THIS YEAR! Winter Harp is pleased to announce the release of its new CD, *Call of the Sea: of Sailors, Sirens and Sea Maidens*. The recording is a stunningly-beautiful collection of Celtic-styled songs inspired by Lori Pappajohn's underwater mermaid wanderings and the words of poets Thomas Moor, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Shakespeare, and Walter de la Mare. The new CD will be available for sale at all performances.



Winter Harp 2018 Tour Schedule

Sechelt SOLD OUT

Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2:30pm

Raven's Cry Theatre

Tickets: Laedeli Gifts & Cards in Gibsons, the Sechelt Visitor Centre & [HERE](#)

New Westminster

Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2:30pm

Massey Theatre

www.ticketsnw.ca or 604-521-5050

Courtenay

Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7:30pm

Sid Williams Theatre

250-338-2430 & www.sidwilliamstheatre.com/events/winter-harp/

Victoria

Friday, Dec. 7 at 7:30pm

Alix Goolden Performance Hall

Tickets: Munro's Books, Ivy's Books, Heritage Cat Clinic, Stampers in the Saanich Centre, and Alix Goolden Box office, 800 Johnson St. & www.ticketfly.com

Nanaimo

SOME BALCONY SEATS STILL LEFT

Saturday, Dec. 8 at 3:30pm

Port Theatre

250-754-8550 &

tickets.porttheatre.com/TheatreManager/175/online?performance=3990

Duncan

Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2:00pm
Cowichan Performing Arts Centre
250-748-7529 & cowichanpac.ca/event/winter-harp-0

Chilliwack:**CLOSE TO SOLD OUT**

Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 7:30pm
Chilliwack Cultural Centre
604-397-7469 & www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca/event/winter-harp/#.W47ey4VRncM

North Vancouver

Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 7:30pm **CLOSE TO SOLD OUT**
BlueShore Financial Performance Arts Centre
604-990-7810 &
tickets.capilanou.ca/TheatreManager/1/online?performance=1822

North Vancouver: Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7:30pm
BlueShore Financial Performance Arts Centre
604-990-7810 &
tickets.capilanou.ca/TheatreManager/1/online?performance=1822

Vancouver: Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7:30pm
St. Andrew's-Wesley Church
Tickets: <https://ticketstonight.ticketforce.com/ordertickets.asp?p=30818&src=default>

Maple Ridge: Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3 & 7 pm **3 p.m. is SOLD OUT**
7 p.m. is almost sold out

The ACT
604-476-2787 &
www.theactmapleridge.org/act-presents/act-presents-series/winter-harp/

WINTER HARP EVENT LISTING (VANCOUVER)

One of this province's most beloved annual concert traditions, Winter Harp returns to celebrate its 25th year of sold out performances and standing ovations. Harps, flute, violin/fiddle, medieval instruments, percussion, songs and stories combine for a magical celebration of winter and the Christmas spirit. Saturday, Dec. 15, 7:30pm at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, 1012 Nelson at Burrard Street, Vancouver. Tickets: Tickets Tonight <https://ticketstonight.ticketforce.com/ordertickets.asp?p=30818&src=default>

THE WINTER HARP CONCERT EXPERIENCE (Short Description)

As eagerly anticipated and popular today as it was when it all began 25 years ago, audiences across BC can again look forward to the beauty and joy of Winter Harp. This extraordinary concert experience features harps, medieval instruments, flute, violin/fiddle, percussion, poetry and song to create special memories that last all year long. Join the ensemble for a concert of heartwarming carols, songs and stories in celebration of winter and the Christmas spirit.

The musicians, singers and narrator, garbed in gorgeous medieval attire, perform a collection of music and songs ranging from well-known carols to Celtic and medieval music. Breathtaking backdrops of cathedral and snow at the theatre venues set the stage for a magical journey deep into the heart of Christmas.

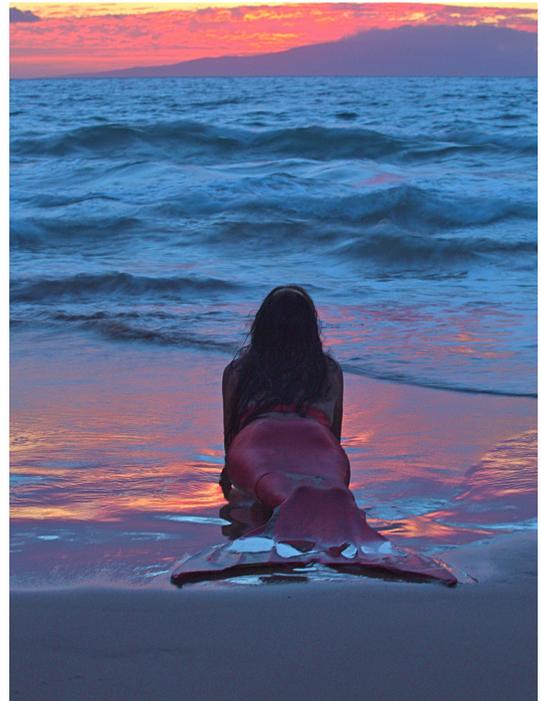
Winter Harp's NEW CD: Call of the Sea: of Sailors, Sirens and Sea Maidens.

Call of the Sea is a stunningly-beautiful collection of songs inspired by Lori Pappajohn's underwater mermaid wanderings.

Pappajohn says, "Mermaids, with their beauty and mystique, represent our longing for wonder and enchantment. They represent a portal to a world we sense but don't see. I sought to capture that illusive world with this CD."

Lori also took inspiration from poets Thomas Moor, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Shakespeare, and Walter de la Mare in creating the lyrics for her Celtic-styled songs.

Harps, flutes, fiddle, cello, percussion and guitar combine with her exquisite singing in this must-have recording. Some of her sailors and sea maidens are whimsical and fun; others are treacherous and haunting. This is a seductive journey into the watery-blue world of the mysterious rolling sea.



WINTER HARP'S INSTRUMENTS

The ensemble's instrumentation includes: harps, flutes, bass flute, penny whistle, recorder, medieval instruments, hand drums, bells, chimes and singing. Some 300 strings must be tuned before each performance and during intermission.

Winter Harp features a number of unique instruments made especially for the ensemble.

Medieval Instruments

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, becoming the hurdy-gurdy. 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](#).

HISTORY & ACHIEVEMENTS

2018 marks Winter Harp's 25th year!

Winter Harp traces its roots back to 1984 when reporter Lori Pappajohn was told to write a feature on New Westminster Public Library's chief librarian Alan Woodland. "Ug," thought Lori, a cub reporter at the time. "How boring. I'd rather interview an astronaut or an Arctic explorer or someone who lives with man-eating crocodiles -- anyone but a librarian."

But within minutes of talking to Alan she was entranced. "The library," he assured her, "is anything but boring. It is full of books about daring pursuits, about emotions raw and tender, about the ravages of war, the world of antiquity, the world of the inner soul." Instantly a friendship was struck and both laughed when they discovered that Alan was a poet and Lori a musician. That Christmas the duo performed a small concert in the library; the next year they added a few other small venues. Alan wrote stories and poems for the concerts while Lori wrote and arranged carols. That was the kernel that grew into Winter Harp that has garnered standing ovations from tens of thousands of people in sold-out concerts each December for 25 years.

In 2007 Alan retired from performing, but continued writing beautiful narrations for the show. In 2015, he came out of retirement to perform with the ensemble in the historical and beautiful Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Westminster. There were some audience members there who had been coming to Winter Harp shows since 1993, a real insight into why the show is still thriving 25 years later.

Highlights over the years include more than a dozen CDs, a Bravo TV music video, a Christmas special on CBC TV, another on CBC Radio – and hundreds of performances to thousands of enthusiastic fans across Western Canada.

The ensemble thanks you for coming to their concerts and enjoying their stories and songs. Here's to more years together -- more Christmases to turn into magical memories!

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 audiences

“One of the most beautiful concerts I have ever been to.”

“Christmas would not be complete without Winter Harp.”

“I was mesmerized.”

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

“I’ve been to Christmas concerts all over Europe. None are as profound as yours.”