

Winter Harp Media Kit 2017

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

A Christmas masterpiece: Winter Harp returns!
Golden instruments, candles, velvet gowns, and backdrops of cathedrals and snow.
An enchanting experience that transports you deep into the heart of Christmas.

Classical and Celtic harps combine with flutes, violin/fiddle, rare medieval instruments, percussion, poetry and song to wrap you in the warm silken cloak of Christmas. The sound of carols - medieval, rare, and familiar - will make your heart sing.

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

WINTER HARP 2017 MEDIA RELEASE
(Vancouver Area concerts w/ full BC tour schedule)
High resolution images can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Winter Harp

2017 Vancouver & Area Concerts

Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 pm: St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, Vancouver
Tickets at [Tickets Tonight](#)

Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 13 & 14, 7:30 pm: Blue Shore Financial Performing Arts
Centre, Capilano University, North Vancouver

Sunday, Dec. 17: 3:00 & 7:00 pm – The ACT Arts Centre, Maple Ridge

(see full tour schedule below)

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

**"With its medieval instruments, period costumes, and centuries-old melodies,
Winter Harp has the ability to transport audience members to another time and
place." -- Vancouver Sun**

One of this country's most joyous annual traditions returns to Vancouver and area this December as part of a nine-city BC concert schedule. **Winter Harp** performs five times in three local cities to close out their 13-concert 2017 tour.

Known for sold-out houses and standing ovations, the ensemble comes back to **St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church** on **Saturday, Dec. 16**, in addition to performances in North Vancouver **Dec. 13** and **14**, and two shows in Maple Ridge on Sunday, **Dec. 17**.
Full BC tour details are below.

The welcome return of Winter Harp offers a wondrous 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 that

ranges 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*.

Winter Harp concerts have become a must-see event on the Christmas concert calendar, drawing enthusiastic audiences from across BC and beyond.

"We're thrilled to return to Vancouver and BC in 2017," says Winter Harp co-founder and musical director, Lori Pappajohn. "Winter Harp concerts both evoke and create beautiful memories. We remember the Christmas trees we decorated, the joy of spending time with loved ones, the anticipation of Christmas morning. At Winter Harp the carols we perform and the stories and poems we read take people into their memories. And they leave the concert with beautiful new memories. We're looking forward to seeing old friends and new at the concerts."

This year's ensemble of outstanding artists welcomes special guest, **Amy Stephen**. A popular and multi-talented artist, Amy is probably best known for her starring role in the popular Celtic band, Mad Pudding. Also joining Winter Harp for the 2017 tour is virtuoso multi-instrumentalist **Bruce Henczel** and acclaimed harpist **Lani Krantz**. You can view ensemble information [HERE](#).

NEW THIS YEAR!

Winter Harp is pleased to announce the release of their new CD! "Winter's Eve -- Gentle songs of Winter and Christmas" will be available online at winterharp.com and at all concerts.

The 2017 Winter Harp Ensemble artists include:

Lauri Lyster: percussion, vocals

Jeff Pelletier: flute, alto flute, bass flute, piccolo, penny whistle, bass psaltery

Krista Gibbard: voice, bass psaltery

Adam Henderson: narrator, percussion, organistrum

Lani Krantz: classical harp, vocals

Amy Stephen: Celtic harp, vocals, penny whistle, accordion, psaltery

Bruce Henczel: violin/fiddle, viola-cello, nyckelharpa, percussion

Lori Pappajohn: Winter Harp Director

Tickets for Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church:

[Tickets Tonight](#) 604-684-2787, www.ticketstonight.ca.

Other Vancouver area concerts:

Dec. 13 & 14: BlueShore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts at Capilano University: www.capilanou.ca/nscucentre/

Dec. 17: The ACT in Maple Ridge (2 shows): theactmapleridge.org/

Full information at: winterharp.com

Winter Harp 2017 Tour Schedule

Sechelt

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2:00pm

Raven's Cry Theatre

Tickets available online at [Tickets Tonight](http://www.ticketstonight.ca) www.ticketstonight.ca & by phone at 604-684-2787 (service charges apply).

Tickets are also available at Sechelt Visitors Centre and at Laedeli Gifts & Cards in Gibsons.

New Westminster

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2:30pm

Massey Theatre

Tickets at [Massey Box Office](http://www.ticketsnw.ca): 604-521-5050 and www.ticketsnw.ca

Courtenay

Thursday, Dec. 7, 7:30pm

Sid Williams Theatre

Tickets at [The Sid Williams Theatre Box Office](http://www.sidwilliamstheatre.com), www.sidwilliamstheatre.com

Victoria

Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30pm

Alix Goolden Performance Hall

Tickets at Munro's Books, Ivy's Bookshop, and Alix Goolden Hall, by phone at 250-386-5311 or 1-888-717-6121, and online at ticketfly.com. Service charge applies to online, phone, and Alix Goolden box office purchases.

Nanaimo

Saturday, Dec. 9, 3:30pm AND

Saturday, Dec. 9, 7:30pm

Tickets at the [Port Theatre Box Office](#)

Duncan

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2:00pm

Cowichan Performing Arts Centre

Tickets at the [Cowichan Performing Arts Centre Ticket Centre](#).

Chilliwack

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7:30pm

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Tickets at the [Chilliwack Cultural Centre Box Office](#)

North Vancouver

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7:30pm AND

Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:30pm

Blue Shore Financial Performing Arts Centre, Capilano University

Tickets at the [Performing Arts Centre Box Office](#).

Vancouver

Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30pm
St. Andrew's-Wesley Church
Tickets at [Tickets Tonight](#)

Maple Ridge

Sunday, Dec. 17, 3:00pm AND
Sunday, Dec. 17, 7:00pm
The ACT Arts Centre
Tickets at [The ACT Box Office](#)

WINTER HARP EVENT LISTING (VANCOUVER)

Winter Harp

One of this country's most beloved annual concert traditions, Winter Harp returns in 2017. Harps, flute, violin/fiddle, medieval instruments, percussion, songs and stories combine for a magical celebration of winter and the Christmas season.

Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30pm
St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church, 1012 Nelson at Burrard Street, Vancouver.
Tickets: [Tickets Tonight](#) 604-684-2787 / www.ticketstonight.ca

The Winter Harp Concert Experience (Short Description)

As eagerly anticipated and popular today as it was when it all began 24 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, song and a bit of magic 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 season.

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. A breathtaking backdrop of cathedral and snow at the theatre venues sets the magical stage for the harps, flutes, violin/fiddle, drums, tambourines, temple bells, and intricately-carved medieval replica instruments. Winter Harp takes audiences on a magical journey deep into the heart of Christmas.

INSTRUMENTS

The ensemble's instrumentation includes: harps, flutes, bass flute, medieval instruments, hand drums, bells, chimes and voice. 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 Vancouver luthier Edward Turner, the five-foot-tall bass psaltery is the only one of its kind in the world.

Organistrum: The organistrum, a 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.

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

2017 marks Winter Harp's 24th year.

It all started in 1993 in a small chapel in Vancouver, and since then has grown at times to include up to a dozen cities in its annual November-December tours of BC and Western Canada.

❓ Winter Harp has had a consistent record of sold-out concerts and standing ovations throughout Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest (USA) since its inception.

❓ The Winter Harp Ensemble was a featured performer at the 2011 World Harp Congress -- the world's largest harp festival. Close to 1,000 people from 40 different countries attended the Congress, which included the world's top international players. Winter Harp director Lori Pappajohn was one of the festival's three key organizers.

❓ Winter Harp director Lori Pappajohn was nominated 2008 BC Touring Artist of the Year for her artistic and performance excellence with Winter Harp.

❓ Winter Harp director Lori Pappajohn was the 2009 recipient of the Bernie Legge Cultural Award for her outstanding contribution to the arts in New Westminster, B.C. over the past two and a half decades.

❓ Festival Vancouver Winter Harp concert broadcast on CBC Radio's "Canada Live" series, 2007.

❓ Live concert broadcast on CBC Radio nationwide, 2005 and 2006.

❓ Featured on CBC Television's Opening Night concert series, 2004.

❓ Studio concert broadcast on CBC Radio's West Coast Performance in 2001. Numerous other broadcasts included BCTV, VTV, Global and CKNW.

❓ CD "A Child's Christmas in Wales" broadcast on CBC Radio's Disc Drive, 2005 & 2007.

❓ Debut CD named in Georgia Straight's Top 10 Christmas Recordings

(Vancouver).

☐ “Avalon” video in rotation on Bravo, 2002.

☐ Eleven CDs over 20+ year history, with international success and two award nominations.

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.”