

VSO School of Music

Harp Masterclass

Dates Jan 25th - Mar 8th 2021

(there will be no class on Family Day, February 15th)

Time 7pm-8pm

Instructors

Elizabeth Volpé Bligh (weeks 1, 3 & 5)

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Lani Krantz (weeks 2, 4 & 6)

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Course Overview

Thank you for joining us in the Vancouver Symphony School of Music Adult Harp Class! We hope that over the six weeks you will learn much about your technique and body shape and how it works with your instrument, a number of different styles of music and how they present through the harp. We'll aim to build confidence and strength in your approach to rhythm, reading music, improvising and practice technique. Above all, we wish for you to have fun and to feel inspired and uplifted through these hours together.

Course Materials

In the following pages, you will find

- References and Information pages on subjects such as; harp maintenance and practice techniques. Some pages will be referred to throughout the course and others are just for further reading
- Warmups for each week
- Notes on the topic of the week
- The piece that we will cover in class that week
- One or two extra pieces for those who would like a challenge to use the techniques learned in class on a higher-level piece.

To Mute or Not To Mute?

As this is a group online class, you will often be muted. While you are muted you can be playing along with the instructor. We will be giving opportunities to unmute to talk as a class, to contribute with questions or share comments, to ask for help or advice and to play for the class if you are comfortable doing so!

Recording Assessment

There is no formal assessment for this class, however, each week you are welcome to record an audio or video of yourself playing one of the week's pieces or warmup. This recording can be submitted for comments and suggestions from either Elizabeth or Lani.

To submit your recording or video:

Please create a Youtube channel for yourself. Upload your video to your Youtube channel. You can make the video unlisted if you wish and then only those whom you share your link with will see the video. After uploading your video, copy the link and send it by email to Elizabeth and Lani. You will receive feedback by email.

Getting Set up On Zoom:

If you haven't had a zoom lesson before, you should familiarize yourself with the best sound settings for using zoom. Set the camera around social distancing distance from the harp (6ft). Use headphones if you can for the best sound. Make sure that all the strings and your body from head to feet are visible (for Celtic harps head to shin is fine). Make sure the lighting is sufficient. If you are using a mobile app be sure that the option for original sound is available. On a laptop or desktop you should be able to toggle between original sound on and original sound off. With original sound on, your harp will sound like a real harp and the sound won't cut in and out too much. However, background noise may pick up more easily. If you are in a noisy building and are able to turn original sound off during group conversation, that may reduce background noise. Turning your microphone off while others are playing or talking will make it easier for everyone to hear. If you are using a keyboard, the space bar can be used to quickly turn the microphone on and off. Set it to gallery view to see everyone, or speaker view to zoom in on whoever is speaking.

Log in a few minutes early as it may take a few minutes to load into Zoom. Class will begin right at 7pm with a warmup and we will be asking for questions and feedback from the previous week after the warm up is finished. If you are late, don't worry! Just join in with the warmup, again with microphones off to begin with.

Tuning:

Have your harp tuned to A 441 before class begins. Best if your harp is tuned with A's, E's and B's Flat – then you raise your A E and B Levers to make them natural as needed.

Troubleshooting Your Lever Harp: <https://kolacnymusic.com/trouble-shooting-your-lever-harp/>

Weekly Schedule:

Each week we will explore a different style of music. You can preview the sheet music as well as listen to the songs on Youtube. Each week you will find warmup sheets, and a piece which we will study in class. You may also find rhythm warmups for that week as well as an extra Intermediate level piece that you can practice over the week, if you would like an extra challenge.

Here is the link to recordings for week 1:

The following is the schedule of what styles we will be looking at and some brief notes on what learning focus to expect each week.

Course Schedule

Week	Style	Learning Focus
Week 1	The Classics	Basic Harp Hand, Placement, Scales, Tuning
Week 2	Baroque with Bach and More	Chord Basics & Dynamics, The Harp Hand
Week 3	Elizabeth Week	techniques, general tips, harmonics
Week 4	Latin Week	Left Hand Accompaniment and Technique, Changing Timbre with technique shifts.
Week 5	Celtic Week	ornaments, different styles
Week 6	I've Got Rhythm – Standards Week	12 Bar Blues, Chords, Lead Sheets and Accompaniment patterns. Closing into a harp fist, Strengthening individual fingers. Wrap up from the 6 weeks – Questions & Answers

Please feel free to email if you have any questions. We look forward to meeting you all!