

10th Anniversary
HARP
ON
WIGHT
International Festival

24th - 29th October 2023

Programme of Events

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*CATRIN FINCH
welcomes you to
Harp on Wight International Festival 2023*

I had the great pleasure of performing at the Harp on Wight Festival last year, and have many fond memories of my performance there. Whether you are a harpist or harp lover, or new to the harp, it's a wonderful Festival that celebrates this most versatile and magical of instruments, and gathers together old and new friends alike.

This is the tenth anniversary of Harp on Wight International and the programme is filled with an exciting and eclectic list of harpists, from all corners of the globe, and playing many different types of harp. There is music from Scotland with Corrina Hewat and Mary Macmaster, and closer to home, Fran Barsby will be here from across the water. Other countries are represented by the wonderful talents of Laoise Kelly from Ireland and Lily Neill from the USA; the virtuosity of harpist Helena Ricci from Switzerland; Ismael Ledesma from Paraguay on his paraguayan harp and Kadialy Kouyate playing the traditional West African harp - the kora.

And if that's not enough, to round it all up, one of the most exciting and inventive harpists in the world today, Remy van Kesteren, will astound you all with a performance I guarantee you will not forget.

If you still have some time left, there are workshops and masterclasses, and you can explore the exhibition which has harps, sheet music, accessories and other delights for sale.

You are all in for a treat! Big thanks to the fantastic and enthusiastic organising team for putting on such a great show again, and long may it thrive and continue. Enjoy!

With all good wishes to you all.



Catrin Finch

HARP SHOWROOM 2023

HARP ON WIGHT welcomes everyone to visit the
**Harp Showroom in Ryde Methodist Church,
Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT**

National harp makers will show their beautiful creations available for sale or rent, and will be happy to advise on all your needs as a player. Harp accessories and sheet music will also be on sale. The enchanted world of harps is at your disposal, just catch the opportunity.

Opening Hours:	Tuesday	24th	October	10:00 - 17:00
	Wednesday	25th	October	10:00 - 17:00
	Thursday	26th	October	10:00 - 17:00
	Friday	27th	October	10:00 - 17:00
	Saturday	28th	October	10:00 - 17:00

Some exhibitors may not stay throughout the Festival. Please check.

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The United Kingdom Harp Association celebrates our unique heritage, encourages creativity and inspires future generations within our diverse harp community.



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OPENING EVENT: HARPCATCHER

Monday 23rd October 2023

From 18:30 **HARP-THEMED CANDLELIT DINNER**

VENUE: MICHELANGELO RESTAURANT
30 St Thomas Street, Ryde PO33 2DL
Tel. 01983 811966
3 courses, Harp-themed Menu, £39
Booking essential

Performance: 'The Fairies Lullaby'
Lucia de Carlo (Voice and Harp), Andree Bottiglioni (Percussion)

This performance, inspired by a sonnet composed by William Shakespeare, ranges from ancient ballads narrating stories of kings and queens, valiant leaders and fairy creatures who fell in love with mortals to the sacred and profane music of the Middle Ages.

LUCIA DE CARLO, singer, musician and actress, was born in Modena (Italy) in 1980. She graduated from the Faculty of Art, Music and Entertainment (DAMS) of Bologna. Lucia approaches different singing styles such as musical, lyric and folk. In 2009 she founded a Celtic/folk musical group called Belthane of which she is still a singer and harpist. In addition to this, in 2016 she founded another musical project called The Fairies Lullaby in collaboration with Andree Bottiglioni, with a focus on medieval, renaissance and Celtic music.

ANDREE BOTTIGLIONI, percussionist and instrument maker, was born in Germany in 1966 and moved to Verona at the age of four. In 2005 he became very interested in Irish music after being fascinated by the sound of the bodhran. He began by teaching himself and then took lessons from musicians in Milan.

At the same time, he participated assiduously in sessions around Ireland and Italy playing with Junior Davey and John Joe Kelly, two of the greatest bodhran players, and with Siobhan O'Donnell in singing and 'lilting'. In 2018 Andree attended Harp on Wight's harp making course under the guidance of Sylvestre Charbin, and has since founded his own company, Red Squirrel Musical Instruments, specialising in making ancient and folk instruments.



CONCERTS

TUESDAY 24th OCTOBER

19:15 OPENING CONCERT

KADIALY KOUYATE: Kora Player (from Senegal)

Experience the magical sound of the West African kora, as Kadialy makes a welcome return to the Isle of Wight. He first came to the Island in 2009 when he performed two concerts in a double bill with Lily Neill. Enjoy beautiful melodies and deep messages from the Griot tradition.

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT

Tickets: £15, Children under 16: £7

WEDNESDAY 25th OCTOBER

19:15 REMY VAN KESTEREN (from The Netherlands)

'MUSES'

As Catrin Finch so aptly writes in her foreword for this programme, '... one of the most exciting and inventive harpists in the world today, Remy van Kesteren will astound you with a performance I guarantee you will not forget.' We anticipate electro-harp magic.

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT

Tickets: £15, Children under 16: £7

THURSDAY 26th OCTOBER

14:00 HELENA RICCI (from Switzerland)

'ANIMA'

Soul, air and spirit are words which embody the word 'anima' and can equally well be applied to music. Helena's programme for solo harp emerged from personal meditation on the question 'what does music mean to you?'

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT

Tickets: £10, Children under 16: £5

19:15 ISMAEL LEDESMA (from Paraguay)

'ARPA GUARANI'

Ismael's concert is in honour of the Guarani civilisation (indigenous Paraguayan) who, at the beginning of the 1600's, first learned the harp from the Jesuit missionaries. 'Arpa Guarani' is the title of his most recent CD.

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT

Tickets: £15, Children under 16: £7

FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER

14:00 FRAN BARSBY and ISLE OF WIGHT POPPY HARPERS ENSEMBLE

A beautiful eclectic collection of music performed by the harp ensemble formed from students of this year's Harp on Wight International Festival conducted by Fran Barsby. You will hear music from around the world. Come and enjoy an afternoon of delightful listening to harp music as never heard before.

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT
Tickets: £10, Children under 16: £5

19:15 LAOISE KELLY (from Ireland)

'ANCIENT AND MODERN TRADITIONAL IRISH TUNES'

We are delighted to welcome Laoise to the Festival. This will be her first appearance on the Island since the summer of 2000 when she performed a concert at Quay Arts as a member of the Irish traditional trio Bumblebees with Mary Shannon and Collette O'Leary. Laoise's sparky individual style of playing stands out through sheer talent and technical brilliance. We are in for a treat.

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT
Tickets: £15, Children under 16: £7

SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER

14:00 PERFORMANCE PLATFORM

The Festival's traditional Saturday afternoon concert features two leading young harpists: the winner and runner-up in the 2023 UK Harp Association Competition in the North London Festival. The winner was **HUW BOUCHER** and the runner-up was **AISHA PALMER**. Both harpists are from Wales. We welcome Aisha and we welcome back Huw who performed here last year as joint runner-up in the 2022 competition.

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT
Tickets: £9, Children under 16: £5

**THIS CONCERT IS KINDLY SPONSORED BY UK
HARP ASSOCIATION**



19:15 CORRINA HEWAT and MARY MACMASTER
(from Scotland) 'SINGING THE CLARSACH'

Two of Scotland's most respected and best loved harpists present songs and tunes from Scotland and beyond on acoustic and electro harps in a concert specially created for the Festival. We welcome Corrina. Mary played a big part in our first Festival in 2014 and it is great to welcome her back.

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT
Tickets: £15, Children under 16: £7

SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER

14:00 CLOSING CONCERT

LILY NEILL (from USA)

We are very pleased that Lily will be performing the closing concert in our 10th Anniversary Festival. She has a real affinity with the Isle of Wight. This will be her eighth appearance on the Island - the first being in 2008. Her latest was her beautifully sensitive performance at our 2018 Harp on Wight Festival. Expect original compositions alongside a dynamic array of melodies from ragtime and tangos to Eastern European and Nordic tunes, jigs and reels and renaissance classics.

Venue: RYDE METHODIST CHURCH, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT
Tickets: £12, Children under 16: £7



**TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS CAN BE BOOKED IN
ADVANCE FROM**

***www.harponwight.co.uk; phone 01983 730930;
from Monkton Arts, 11 East Street, Ryde, PO33 1JP***

or during the Festival at the

Festival Box Office, Ryde Methodist Church

from Tuesday 24th October from 09:00 onward.

A season ticket for all concerts is available at £90.

BIOGRAPHIES

KADIALY KOUYATE

CONCERT: 19:15 TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

Born into the great line of Kouyate Griot in Southern Senegal, **KADIALY KOUYATE**'s kora playing and singing style, both as a soloist and in different ensembles, have been appreciated in many prestigious venues including the Royal Festival Hall, the O2 Arena, the National Theatre, the Royal Albert Hall and Clarence House. Kadialy has also played venues and festivals across the world, touring Europe, Australia and North America. Since his arrival in the UK, Kadialy has played a significant part in enriching the London music scene with his Griot legacy.

Kadialy has taught the kora at SOAS, University of London, for the last decade and has also been involved in countless musical projects both as collaborator and session musician. He toured with the RSC's production of Julius Caesar. Other theatre projects include working at London's Globe Theatre on a show called We the People as well as touring with three children's theatre projects with the renowned Oily Cart. In 2015 he took part in the remaking of the TV series Roots as a musician, cultural consultant and dialect coach. Kadialy has released several albums, and makes regular radio and television appearances.

With his Sound Archive, Kadialy Kouyate draws on his heritage and its traditional songs to create his own mesmerising compositions, leading his fantastic band into the West African groove. His latest album Nemo (meaning Blessings in Mandinka), released in April 2020, won rave reviews and was selected Top of the World in the July 2020 issue of Songlines Magazine.

'It's great to hear Kadialy Kouyate firmly back in his own Mandinka territory. This album Na Kitabo (My Book) by the kora player and singer is rooted in his own Senegalese tradition and has all the hallmarks of a classic in the making. The themes of the songs counteract humanity's current obsession with negativity in the world and focus instead on happiness.' *Rhythmpassport*.



REMY VAN KESTEREN

CONCERT: 19:15 WEDNESDAY 25th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

REMY VAN KESTEREN was five years old when he was enchanted by the sound of the harp while in a garden, and knew that that was it. He was admitted to the Conservatoire of Utrecht at the age of ten and graduated in 2010 with honours. He continued his education at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris, where he studied with Isabelle Moretti. In 2012, he received his Master's diploma with honours at the Conservatoire of Amsterdam. Remy has won various prizes, which have led to concerts all around the world. He debuted at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam with Het Nederlands Kamerorkest when he was sixteen. The previous year he played on the occasion of the baptism of Princess Amalia, and also performed in Carnegie Hall, New York.



But then Remy reached the age of 25 and knew: this isn't it. Not all of it. This realisation led, in 2016, to *Tomorrow Eyes*, the genre-transcending album containing a number of pieces composed by Remy himself. He went from playing with world famous orchestras to playing in clubs and at pop festivals, performing solo, with his band and with The Analogue Robot Orchestra. He pushes the boundaries of his instrument. He plays a unique specially designed and crafted harp with 49 strings: the *Salvi Réus*, funded by the Nationaal Muziekinstrumenten Fonds. With this harp Remy followed his debut album with the pioneering *Shadows* (2019), *An Alternative Soundtrack to the Motion Picture...* (2020) and four EPs: *Home Studio Sessions* (2020), and, in 2022, *Places I May Have Visited*, *People I May Have Met*, *Parts 1, 2 and 3*.

Remy loves to collaborate with dancers and other musicians. He is the artistic director of the Dutch Harp Festival, held every two years in Tivoli Vredenburg, Utrecht. He was hailed by the *New York Times* (1989) as a 'brilliant harpist ... when Remy van Kesteren plays the harp, it sounds like you have never heard it before.'

**MICHELANGELO RESTAURANT IS PROUD TO
SPONSOR REMY VAN KESTEREN**

HELENA RICCI

CONCERT: 14:00 THURSDAY 26th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

Originally from Switzerland and now based in London, **HELENA RICCI** is rapidly gaining a reputation as a virtuoso harpist with a unique creative and free spirit, praised for her insightful, memorable playing, communication on and off stage, and engaging personality. She graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with the highest honours, where she studied with Imogen Barford. Recent solo appearances include venues such as the Wigmore Hall, Tivoli Vredenburg, Milton Court, LSO St. Luke's, St James's Piccadilly and Centro Botin in Spain, with the prestigious Encuentro de Santander Academy. As a principal harpist she toured with the Philharmonie der Animato Orchestra throughout Europe with a final concert at the Vienna Konzerthaus. She has played for HM King Charles III and appeared live on radio for Resonance FM as part of Sounds Promising.

Helena is in high demand as a harpist and collaborator. She was the solo harpist for Sensory Symphony, in collaboration with Broadgate, the only harpist for the Britten-Pears Young Artist Composition and Performance Course 2019. Despite the pandemic she made her West End debut with the London Musical Theatre Orchestra last December while giving regular concerts for Age UK Camden and the U3A organisation.

Passionate about promoting the harp to a wider audience and challenging the perception of classical music, she is the founder of MUSILUX, an innovative project which produces immersive concerts combining classical music and video projections.

Outside of music, Helena Ricci is a keen photographer. Her video for Brian and Roger Eno's Cerulean Blue was a winner in the Mixing Colours Competition and subsequently selected as the official video released on the Deutsche Grammophon label.



ISMAEL LEDESMA

CONCERT: 19:15 THURSDAY 26th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

ISMAEL LEDESMA was born in the city of Lambaré, Paraguay, in 1962, into a musical family. He began to learn the harp with his father at the age of five, and his first performance was at a school festival in the city of Fernando de la Mora at age six. He won his first prize in the genre interpretation at twelve years old in a folkloric festival organized by the Chilean Embassy in Paraguay. He played with his mother's group Los Madrigales in various nightclubs in the city of Asunción and at private events.

After finishing high school, Ismael was invited to France by his uncle, the musician Kike Lucena. Ismael then joined the Parisian Latin-American circuit, sharing the stage with Paraguayan artists living in France, such as Papi Echeverría, Juan Portillo, Lito Benítez, Johnny Cabrera, Pedro Fernandez, Alberto Jara and more. He studied French Language and Civilization at the Sorbonne University. Meanwhile he continued training at the Paris International Music Conservatory Alfred de Vigny.

His first solo concert was in Paris at the Du Marais theatre. In 1985 Ismael set out on a solo career, performing his own compositions. He wanted to promote Latin American music. Ismael has performed on important stages around the world, including Japan, Mexico, the United States, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Spain, Luxembourg, Belgium, Portugal, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and of course France.

He was the first artist to appear in the Hemicycle of the Shrine of Lourdes in 2018. He was invited to the World Music Festival of Martigues and the Festival of Capvern.



Ismael returns frequently to his own country where he takes part in Paraguayan events and has twice played at the World Harp Festival in Asunción. The French Senate has distinguished him as Personality of Latin America in France and the Paraguayan tourism ministry nominated him Ambassador of the Paraguayan Arpa. He has made 13 albums, and in 2023 He celebrates 55 years of playing the harp. Ismael is without doubt one of the greatest representatives of Paraguayan music.

FRAN BARSBY

CONCERT: 14:00 FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

FRAN BARSBY is an award-winning harpist based in West Sussex. Having graduated in 2015 from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire she was awarded a Master's degree in education from Bath University in 2022.

Fran has been playing the harp for 20 years and during this time she has enjoyed studying with teachers including Catherine White, Gabriella Dall'Olio, David Watkins, Skaila Kanga, Louisa Maria Cordell, Charlotte Seale, Anne Hughes Chamberlain, and others. She is Resident Harpist for the British harp makers, Pilgrim Harps.

Fran enjoys a busy performing and teaching career and has performed in many prestigious venues such as St John's Smith Square, Royal Albert Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Birmingham Town Hall, Chichester Festival Theatre, Chichester's Minerva Theatre, and many more. She enjoys performing an eclectic mix of music but is especially passionate about arranging pop and film music and bringing the harp into the 21st century. Fran also has a great passion for teaching and ensuring that anyone who wants to learn the harp has the opportunity. Fran has enjoyed giving masterclasses at numerous harp festivals, schools and universities such as at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Young Composers Project.

Fran is a Director at PoppyHarp, which launched in 2014. PoppyHarp is a harp showroom for British harp makers, including Pilgrim Harps, Silver Spear Harps and Derwent Harps.

Through PoppyHarp Fran helps young professional musicians and composers publish their first compositions.

In conjunction with this she launched the Future Blend Project, now internationally renowned. Fran also launched, in 2015, the PoppyHarp Competitive Harp Festival. This is run online each January and is extremely popular, with students and professionals taking part from all over the world.



LAOISE KELLY

CONCERT: 19:15 FRIDAY 27th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

LAOISE KELLY, hailing from Westport, County Mayo, has won three All-Ireland Harp competitions and the Waterford Crystal harp at the Belfast Bicentennial Harp Festival 1992. She has featured on numerous TV and radio programmes both in Ireland and internationally, including RTÉ's A River of Sound, The Late Late Show, Sult, Eurovision, BBC's Folkworks UK Harp Tour Documentary, Colmcille sessions, and many of TG4's music programmes. In 2020 she was awarded Musician of the year, TG4's Gradam Ceoil Ceoltóir na Bliana. Laoise has pioneered a new style of driving instrumental harping, as showcased in her three critically acclaimed solo albums Just Harp, Ceis and Fáilte Uí Cheallaigh.

Among her numerous achievements is Laoise's role as Director of the Achill International Harp Festival. She was a founding member of traditional group Bumblebees with whom she recorded two albums and toured extensively. She is also a founding member of Fiddletree, a group with members from America, Cape Breton and Scotland who play eight instruments made from the same tree. Throughout her career she has recorded over 70 albums with many of Ireland's leading artists, as well as Kate Bush and American country/bluegrass icon Tim O'Brien.

Laoise was Musical Director on Brendan Behan's The Hostage and Seán O'Casey's Purple Dust with Glasgow theatre company Arches at the Edinburgh Festival.

She toured with New York-based Mabou

Mines' award-winning production of Peter and Wendy to the Edinburgh Festival and to New York, off-Broadway. Laoise has performed for Irish Presidents Michael D. Higgins, Mary Robinson, Mary McAleese and for the twenty-five EU heads of state and presidents in Dublin. She has represented Ireland with the Irish Embassy in Nigeria, Ghana, Russia, Argentina, and at the World Harp Festival in Paraguay.



'An exuberant and innovative talent which catches the spirit of the modern Irish music movement.' *Irish Music Magazine*

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

	Tuesday 24th October	Wednesday 25th October	Thursday 26th October
09:30 to 11:00	WORKSHOP LUCIA DE CARLO Play and Sing Early Music	WORKSHOP REMY VAN KESTEREN Where the Boundaries Between Genres Evaporate	WORKSHOP ISMAEL LEDESMA Paraguayan Polka and Colombian Rhythms
11:30 to 13:00	WORKSHOP REMY VAN KESTEREN Where the Boundaries Between Genres Evaporate	WORKSHOPS ISMAEL LEDESMA Paraguayan Polka and Colombian Rhythms FRAN BARSBY Harp Festival Ensemble	WORKSHOP FRAN BARSBY Harp Festival Ensemble
14:00 to 15:00		WORKSHOP FRAN BARSBY Come and Try the Harp	CONCERT HELENA RICCI 'ANIMA'
15:30 to 17:00	WORKSHOPS LUCIA DE CARLO Play and Sing Early Music REMY VAN KESTEREN Where the Boundaries Between Genres Evaporate	WORKSHOP ISMAEL LEDESMA Paraguayan Polka and Colombian Rhythms	WORKSHOP FRAN BARSBY Harp Festival Ensemble
17:00	Sound Check	Sound Check	Sound Check
19:15	OPENING CONCERT KADIALY KOUYATE	CONCERT REMY VAN KESTEREN 'MUSES'	CONCERT ISMAEL LEDESMA 'ARPA GUARANI'

**ALL CONCERTS, EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS TAKE PLACE
IN RYDE METHODIST CHURCH OR CHURCH HALL.
PLEASE CHECK VENUE.**

Friday 27th October	Saturday 28th October	Sunday 29th October
WORKSHOP LAOISE KELLY Irish Tunes by Ear	WORKSHOPS CORRINA HEWAT Exploring the Scottish musical character MARY MACMASTER Scottish Three Ways	
WORKSHOPS CORRINA HEWAT Exploring the Scottish musical character MARY MACMASTER Scottish Three Ways	WORKSHOPS LAOISE KELLY Irish Tunes by Ear	
CONCERT FRAN BARSBY and ISLE OF WIGHT POPPY HARPERS ENSEMBLE	PERFORMANCE PLATFORM HUW BOUCHER and AISHA PALMER	CLOSING CONCERT LILY NEILL
WORKSHOPS CORRINA HEWAT Exploring the Scottish musical character MARY MACMASTER Scottish Three Ways	WORKSHOP LAOISE KELLY Irish Tunes by Ear	
Sound Check	Sound Check	
CONCERT LAOISE KELLY 'ANCIENT AND MODERN TRADITIONAL IRISH TUNES'	CONCERT CORRINA HEWAT and MARY MACMASTER 'SINGING THE CLARSACH'	

PERFORMANCE PLATFORM

HUW BOUCHER

CONCERT: 14:00 SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

HUW BOUCHER's interest in music began when he started learning the piano at the age of 10. At 11 years old at the Junior Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama he began his harp studies with Kathryn Rees. With the addition of the flute Huw achieved ABRSM Grade 8 in all three instruments by his early teens. He won the National Eisteddfod from 2016-19 and in 2017 was also awarded the coveted Blue Ribbon with a £1000 scholarship.

Huw was also a finalist on two occasions in the Gregynog National Young Musician with a £500 scholarship award. In 2018 He joined the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and performed with them in the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. In 2020 Huw was the only harpist in the Strings Finals in the BBC Young Musician competition, which was shown on national television.

In 2021 Huw was awarded a full scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music in addition to the prestigious ABRSM award to support his studies.

At the Academy Huw studies with Skaila Kanga, Professor Emerita of Harp, as well as being part of a thriving harp department.

In July 2022 Huw won the Silver Medal at the USA International Harp Competition in Bloomington, Indiana. He also won the Concerto Prize in the final stage.



**PERFORMANCE PLATFORM IS KINDLY SPONSORED BY
UK HARP ASSOCIATION**

PERFORMANCE PLATFORM

AISHA PALMER

CONCERT: 14:00 SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

AISHA PALMER is a harpist whose Welsh heritage plays an important role in her performances, promoting compositions written by Welsh composers. She annually competes in the Eisteddfod yr Urdd and Genedlaethol, achieving first place, with her performances being televised on S4C.

Among her numerous awards Aisha has won the Eastbourne Symphony Orchestra Young Soloist Competition 2023, the Nansi Richards Scholarship in the Wales Harp Festival 2022, second prize at the UK Harp Competition in the North London Festival, the Olive Jenkins Memorial Bursary, and the Peter Simon Award for Harp which led to her becoming a Philanthropy Ambassador for the Academy.

Aisha achieved the LRAM Teaching Diploma in 2022 and has been approached to become a coach for the Harp Scheme at Thames Youth Orchestra starting September 2023.



Aisha is establishing herself internationally. She was awarded second prize in the World Music Category at the Wales International Harp Festival 2023; the Professional Duet Category in the Hong Kong International Harp Competition 2022; first prize in the International Harp Competition Walled Town in Cittadella; second prize at the Infinity International Harp Competition and a Diploma in the Glowing Harp International Competition. She performs regularly with a variety of orchestras, including the National Youth Orchestra of Wales, Royal Academy Opera, Royal Academy Symphony Orchestra, Royal Academy Symphonic Brass, Gustav Mahler Orchestra, Thames Youth Orchestra and Orchestra of the City.

Aisha has worked with renowned international harpists attending masterclasses from Isabelle Perrin, Anneleen Lenaerts, Gwyneth Wentink and Anne Sophie Bertrand. She is in her final year of her Bachelor of Music Degree at the Royal Academy of Music under the tuition of Karen Vaughan. She plans to continue her post-graduate studies with Catrin Finch.

CORRINA HEWAT and MARY MACMASTER

CONCERT: 19:15 SATURDAY 28th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

CORRINA HEWAT grew up in the Scottish Highlands, surrounded by music and song, art and stories, in an expansive landscape which helped shape her musical narrative. She is a harper, singer, composer and was Principal Scottish Harp Tutor at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland 2012-2022.

Corrina directs the Scots Folk 60-strong choir Sangstream and the Borders Health in Harmony Staff Choir. She works in a duo with pianist Dave Milligan, and a special harp duo with Mary Macmaster. Corrina also runs Harp in Scotland, an online learning weekend and the Harp Village, a harp weekend in Cromarty annually in late September.



Corrina has recorded around 50 albums, 13 under her own or band name, and has composed many large-scale commissions for ensemble. She co-directs the children's theatre company DragonSong Productions and is also one of the musicians compiling the 100 Women Composers in Trad Tunebook, for release on Faber Music.



Inducted into the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame in 2013 as part of the groundbreaking harp duo Sileas, **MARY MACMASTER** is best known for her pioneering work with the metal-strung clarsach and the fantastic Camac electro-harp. Mary has toured extensively with Sileas, The Poozies, Shine, Macmaster/Hay, Clan Alba, Caledon and award winning project, Songs of Separation.

As well as working with theatre companies Dogstar, Grid Iron and Licketyspit, Mary has collaborated live and in the studio with many wonderful musicians including Dick Gaughan, Kathryn Tickell, Norma Waterson and Sting.

In 2017 Mary was presented with the Hands up for Trad Inspiration Award.



LILY NEILL

CONCERT: 14:00 SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER, RYDE METHODIST CHURCH

LILY NEILL was just three years old when she told her family that she was going to play the harp. She even made one for herself from a shoe box and rubber bands! Lily began her music education on the piano yet through her unwavering determination to play the harp she soon became proficient at both instruments. By the time she was thirteen she had won numerous prizes at music competitions. Lily's teenage years were filled with everything from playing the harp in orchestral premieres to collaborations with dancers and actors, and performances with the legendary Derek Bell and The Chieftains. She performed for President Bill Clinton in Washington D.C. and a decade later across the world played in Moscow for President Mary McAleese at the first ever visit by an Irish Head of State to Russia.

Collaborations with poets, rock n'roll artists, film-makers and dancers have all influenced Lily's playing and today her solo performances highlight the scope of her musicianship. From North America to Europe and Russia she has mesmerized and delighted listeners. Critics have praised her effortless technique, versatility, and the uniqueness of her style.


Lily has released two solo CDs to strong acclaim: *Without Words* in 2004 (short-listed for a GRAMMY nomination) and 2011's *The Habit of a Foreign Sky*, which captured attention with its dramatic musical range and interpretations of such '...staggering beauty that it melts your hard heart.' *Irish American News*



Lily earned a 1st Class Honours degree in Irish Music and Dance from the Irish World Academy at the University of Limerick, and a Master of Music degree from Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. Lily's firm understanding of the harp, coupled with the diversity of her experiences, and an appreciation of music in the broadest sense, have contributed to her wholly rooted yet eminently distinctive and modern sound.

THANK YOU

The *Harp on Wight* team gives a big 'thank you' to everyone who has worked so hard to make the Tenth Harp on Wight International Festival happen. We could not have done it without you all.



HARP ON WIGHT

International Festival

Harp composition Competition 2023

*for young composers
on the Isle of Wight (age 12-18)*

A competition for a new piece of harp music

Theme: Isle of Light

PRIZE £100

The piece is for solo harp

- The piece must not exceed 3 minutes duration
- The theme is: ISLE OF LIGHT
- One category: YOUNG COMPOSER (under 18)
- All entries must be received by 1st June 2023
- Entry forms are available from www.harponwight.co.uk
- The winner will have his/her piece performed at Harp on Wight Festival 2023

INFO

www.harponwight.co.uk
arnasacchini@btinternet.com

This event is sponsored by Michelangelo Restaurant, Ryde, IOW

WORKSHOPS 2023

FRAN BARSBY

Wednesday 25th October 14:00 - 15:00

Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Rose Room

Come and Try the Harp (for Absolute Beginners): An opportunity for everyone to try the harp. All ages welcome. Fran will demonstrate the basic technique and will help anyone intending to take this instrument further. For this course only, harps will be kindly supplied by some of the harp exhibitors. £10 x 1 session of 1 hour

LUCIA DE CARLO

Tuesday 24th October 9:30 - 11:00

Tuesday 24th October 15:30 - 17:00

Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Rose Room

Play and Sing Early Music: Students will explore modal music from the Middle Ages by studying 13th century Laude and Cantigas. These are simple melodies enriched by drones on which they will be free to sing. No singing experience is necessary as the music will be the guide.

LEVEL: Post-beginners. £40 (2 sessions x 1.5 hrs)

REMY VAN KESTEREN

Tuesday 24th October 11:30 - 13:00

Tuesday 24th October 15:30 - 17:00

Wednesday 25th October 9:30 - 11:00

Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Church Hall

Where the Boundaries Between Genres Evaporate

Remy van Kesteren creates his own world with his compositions, a blend of neo-classical minimal, electronic music, alternative, jazz and world influences, where the boundaries between genres evaporate.

He has released two songbooks covering his music, one for more advanced harpists (Songbook I), and one with intermediate compositions which are also suitable for lever harp (Songbook II). In this course Remy will use these Songbooks to improvise and help the students make the music their own. Course participants can either obtain a book or choose one of the two PDF's provided to study the work.

LEVEL: Intermediate and advanced, but most importantly, curious.

£55 (3 sessions x 1.5 hrs)

ISMAEL LEDESMA

Wednesday 25th October 11:30 - 13:00

Wednesday 25th October 15:30 - 17:00

Thursday 26th October 9:30 - 11:00

Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Lecture room

Paraguayan Polka and Colombian Rhythms: an opportunity to explore traditional rhythms of Paraguayan polka, and also those of Colombia, and learn two pieces from the traditional Paraguayan repertoire: 'Malavita' and 'Pueblo Jeroky'. Oral, traditional teaching. Music given at the end.

LEVEL: All Levels welcome. £55 (3 sessions x 1.5 hrs)

FRAN BARSBY

Wednesday 25th October 11:30 - 13:00

Thursday 26th October 11:30 - 13:00

Thursday 26th October 15:30 - 17:00

Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Lecture Room

Isle of Wight International Harp Festival Ensemble: Join Fran and become part of the Ensemble. Enjoy three rehearsals learning an eclectic and beautiful mix of music with harp friends. Music includes folk, classical, world and pop! Something for everyone. On day four the Ensemble will conclude a fun week of harping together by performing a concert. Music will be provided to suit all abilities. All ages welcome. £55 (3 sessions x 1.5 hrs)

LAOISE KELLY

Friday 27th October 9:30 - 11:00

Saturday 28th October 11:30 - 13:00

Saturday 28th October 15:30 - 17:00

Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Lecture Room

Irish Tunes by Ear: Traditional Irish tunes taught by ear with a guide for the accompaniment. Music provided after the class. Students can record the class and video the tune being played, slowly at first, then up to speed by the end of the class. LEVEL: Intermediate. £55 (3 sessions x 1.5 hrs)

MARY MACMASTER

Friday 27th October 11:30 - 13:00

Friday 27th October 15:30 - 17:00

Saturday 28th October 9:30 - 11:00

Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Lecture Room

Scottish Three Ways: Mary loves 2/4 dance tunes. She says '3/4 waltzes are so playable; 4/4 strathspeys are challenging but can be fun.' Students will learn some of her favourite Scottish tunes in these three timings. Mary prefers to teach by ear but will give out scores out at the end. Students will also work on simple accompaniments for the tunes.

LEVEL: Intermediate (not too hard!). £55 (3 sessions x 1.5 hrs)

CORRINA HEWAT

Friday 27th October 11:30 - 13:00

Friday 27th October 15:30 - 17:00

Saturday 28th October 9:30 - 11:00

Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road. Rose Room

Exploring the Scottish musical character in traditional and

original tunes: The workshop will be a selection of tunes from across Scotland, some from deep within the tradition, some contemporary in traditional style, and some of her own, all with a particular character to them and all of which sit well under a harper's hands. This will not be a sight-reading workshop, rather a workshop for soaking in and absorbing the tunes. Corrina will teach by ear although she will bring music and her arrangements for students to take away.

LEVEL: Intermediate-ish. £55 (3 sessions x 1.5 hrs)



HOW TO BOOK FOR WORKSHOPS

Complete the booking form available on the website:

www.harponwight.co.uk

or contact: annasacchini@btinternet.com

or Vic King: +44(0)1983 730930

A maximum number of 10-12 students is accepted for each workshop. Please book early to avoid disappointment.

For all courses, except 'Come and Try the Harp', Students must provide their own harp. Those wishing to hire a harp could contact one of the companies who will be exhibiting in the Harp Showroom in Ryde Methodist Church:

The Harp Studio, tel. 01633 675588 (see page 5)

The Clarsach Society,

www.clarsachsociety.co.uk/www.harpsoutheast.org.uk (see page 6)

Heritage Harps, tel. 01803 690975 (see page 8)

Poppy Harps, tel. 07713 907808 (see page 9)

Arrangements would need to be made in advance.

GUIDE TO WORKSHOP LEVELS

ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

No experience of playing the harp.

BEGINNERS

Even if you have already taken some lessons, you still need help with the basic technique.

POST-BEGINNERS

You know where to place all your fingers, and you can already perform simple tunes, but you require further help in developing technique.

INTERMEDIATE

Your technique is established and you are able to work at moderate speed or stretch yourself.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION AND VENUES

REGISTRATION: Please register for your workshop at the Festival Box Office, Ryde Methodist Church, as soon as possible after your arrival.

VENUE: All workshops take place in Ryde Methodist Church or the Church Hall, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT. Check your room location.

There is a short-stay car park near the Church in Victoria Street, Ryde PO33 2PU.



CLOSING EVENT: HARPCATCHER

Sunday 29th October 2023

From 18:30 HARP-THEMED CANDLELIT DINNER

VENUE: MICHELANGELO RESTAURANT
30 St Thomas Street, Ryde PO33 2DL
Tel. 01983 811966
3 courses, Harp-themed Menu, £39
Booking essential

Harpist: Bethan Watson

Welsh harpist Bethan Watson began harp lessons at the age of nine through the peripatetic music service. She continued her studies through comprehensive school before gaining a place at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff where she studied under the guidance of renowned harpist Meinir Heulyn and gained a Bachelor of Music degree with honours. Bethan furthered her education by attaining a degree in Business Management.

While studying at the RWCMD Bethan was a member of the Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra and participated in masterclasses with distinguished harpists such as Isabelle Perrin, Caryl Thomas and Frances Kelly.

Bethan enjoys a busy freelance career as a performer for concerts, corporate events and weddings. Bethan also enjoys teaching privately and introducing people to the harp. For over twelve years Bethan worked for the famous Italian harp manufacturer Salvi Harps.



After a UK company restructure she embarked on a new challenge by establishing The Harp Studio in Newport, Gwent, where she is an authorised dealer of Salvi, Lyon & Healy, and Teifi Harps and supplies music and strings to customers around the globe.

Make yourself a Harp in 6 Days

under the guidance of Sylvestre Charbin

organised by Harp on Wight



24th– 29th October 2023

The Depository (Chapel in Ryde)
23, Nelson Street, Ryde, PO33 2EZ

Limited spaces available, deadline for deposit 25th July 2023

Complete the Booking form on the website: www.harponwight.co.uk or contact
annasacchini@btinternet.com or tel.01983 730930

SIX DAYS HARP MAKING WORKSHOP 2023
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF SYLVESTRE CHARBIN (France)
ORGANIZED BY HARP ON WIGHT

VENUE: THE DEPOZITORY (Chapel), 23 Nelson Street, RYDE PO33 2EZ

DATES: TUESDAY 24th OCTOBER TO SUNDAY 29th OCTOBER 2023

(6 consecutive days) 10:00 to 17:00, Lunch break 1 hour

MODEL: 23 STRING LAP HARP (No levers)

PRICE: £750. This includes the cost of all materials needed to construct and finish the harp

TEACHER: SYLVESTRE CHARBIN (Harp Maker from Brittany)

PROCEDURE: Students are required to adjust and glue together different parts of the instrument following the drawing plan. It is not just a kit: students will have to cut some parts of wood to the right size and fit the different pieces together, using a plan to work on the soundboard and adjust the response of the instrument. Students can shape their instrument as they wish with a degree of freedom to personalise it. They will then learn how to draw the instrument, how it works, what to do with the wood, which woods are preferable and why, how the shape and thickness and quality of the wood affect the sound of the instrument, how the sound changes if the design is modified, to understand the mechanical forces that affect the instrument, etc....

OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this workshop is not just to build your own harp. It will also give you an insight into instrument making. By the end of the course, in addition to the harp you have made, you should have a thorough understanding of the relationship between the design of the instrument and the sound it produces. With this knowledge you will never look at a harp again in the same way. This course provides an excellent starting point for those wishing to take their harp playing to a professional level.

DEPOSIT: A £350 DEPOSIT MUST BE PAID WHEN BOOKING. Places will be allocated on receipt of deposit. Payment of deposit **strictly by 25th July** will enable the luthier to prepare the parts ready for when you attend the workshop in October. The final payment of £400 must be made by **1st October**. PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

CLASS: The course can accommodate a maximum of 6 adults, aged 18 or over. Intending participants must ensure that they can attend for all 6 days in order to complete the harp. Only one instrument per participant is to be made during the course. For health and safety reasons it is not possible to have children in the workrooms.

HOW TO BOOK: Complete the Booking Form on the website: www.harponwight.co.uk or contact annasacchini@btinternet.com or telephone Vic King 44(0)1983 730930.

SYLVESTRE CHARBIN is a self-taught musician. From an early age he loved to work with wood. After completing his formal education with a Master's degree in cell biology at the University of Rennes, he returned to his first love and in the 1990s began to make musical instruments, developing his particular interest at that time in the making of flutes. Sylvestre joined the CPFJ (Centre du Patrimoine de la Factice Instrumentale) in 1999. CPFJ is an organization set up to collect music, musical instruments and musical know-how from artists world-wide, and share these with other artists and the wider public. The Centre has a collection of 3,000 instruments from many different countries, which are played and exhibited and in constant need of care. Sylvestre was responsible for their care and repair until the end of 2016, when he set up his own harp-making company. Having taught himself guitar making, he completed his first instrument in 2000. His great interest in Celtic culture and music then led him to making his first harp in 2002. His love for harp building has grown over time. Sylvestre has run master-classes in instrument making in the CPFJ, and since 2008 he has organized and run harp-making courses as part of the International Harp Festival of Dinan in Brittany at the Centre in Le Mans. In 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 he ran harp-making courses for Harp on Wight. In July 2017 Sylvestre started his own activity manufacturing harps and low whistles. He is currently a lecturer in organology at the instrument makers' school ITEM in Le Mans.



Michelangelo Italian Restaurant is proud to support the Tenth Harp on Wight International Festival 2023

TRAVELLING TO HARP ON WIGHT

Wightlink foot passenger ferry:

Portsmouth Harbour to Ryde Pier Head, 22 minutes

Wightlink car and foot passenger ferry:

Portsmouth to Fishbourne, 45 minutes

Lymington to Yarmouth, 40 minutes

www.wightlink.co.uk; tel. 0333 999 7333

Hovertravel foot passenger hovercraft:

Portsmouth (Southsea) to Ryde, 10 minutes

www.hovertravel.co.uk; tel. 01983 717700 or 0345 222 0461

Red Funnel car and foot passenger ferry:

Southampton to East Cowes, 55-60 minutes

Red Funnel Redjet foot passenger ferry:

Southampton to West Cowes, 25 minutes

www.redfunnel.co.uk; tel. 0844 844 9988

Island buses to Ryde from Fishbourne, Cowes, Yarmouth

Southern Vectis: www.islandbuses.info; tel. 01983 827000

Trains from London Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour:

www.southwesternrailway.com

Trains from London Victoria to Portsmouth Harbour:

www.southernrailway.com

ACCOMMODATION

Dorset House Hotel, 31 Dover Street, Ryde, PO33 2BW

www.thedorsethotel.co.uk; 01983 564327

Travelodge, Lind Hill, Ryde, PO33 2LD

Email: Rydeiw.mgr@travelodge.co.uk; tel. 01983 564436

Also see: www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/explore/towns/ryde/placestostay

CAR PARKS IN RYDE

Victoria Street, Ryde PO33 2PU

Lind Street, Ryde PO33 2NT

St. Thomas Street, Ryde PO33 2DL

Green Street, Ryde PO33 2QH

Isle of Wight Council website for parking information and tourist

parking tickets: www.iwight.com/Visitors/Parking-and-Travel

Also see: www.visitisleofwight.co.uk/travel/car-parking-and-car-parks



- 1 - MICHELANGELO RESTAURANT (Harpcatcher)
- 2 - RYDE METHODIST CHURCH (Concerts and Workshops)
- 3 - DORSET HOTEL (Harpists' Headquarters)
- 4 - MAKE A HARP (THE DEPOZITORY, 23 Nelson Street, PO33 2EZ)



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ISLE OF WIGHT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2023/2024 Season Opener

Frederick Delius
Brigg Fair

Samuel Barber
Violin Concerto
soloist: Aki Blendis

Gustav Mahler
Symphony No.1 in D 'Titan'

Sunday 5th November 2023
Medina Theatre, Newport, 7.15pm

Adults £16, Under 18s £7

Box Office: 01983 823884
or online at medinatheatre.co.uk

iwsoco.uk



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TICKETS FOR ALL EVENTS CAN BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE FROM

www.harponwight.co.uk; phone +44(0)1983 730930;
from Monkton Arts, 11 East Street, Ryde, PO33 1JP
or during the Festival at the Festival Box Office,
from Tuesday 24th October from 09:00 onward.
A season ticket for all concerts is available at the price of £90.

Festival Box Office, Ryde Methodist Church, Garfield Road, Ryde PO33 2PT Opening Hours

Tuesday	24th October	09:00-17:00
Wednesday	25th October	09:00-17:00
Thursday	26th October	09:00-17:00
Friday	27th October	09:00-17:00
Saturday	28th October	09:00-17:00
Sunday	29th October	09:00-14:00

Harp on Wight
9 Whitwell Farm, High Street, Whitwell,
Isle of Wight PO38 2PY
www.harponwight.co.uk



Featuring:

Remy Van Kesteren (Netherlands)

Corrina Hewat/Mary MacMaster (Scotland)

Laoise Kelly (Ireland)

Lily Neill (USA)

Ismael Ledesma (Paraguay)

Kadialy Kouyate (Senegal)

Helena Ricci (Switzerland)

Fran Barsby (England)

Lucia De Carlo (Italy)

Bethan Watson (Wales)

Huw Boucher (Wales)

Aisha Palmer (Wales)

www.harponwight.co.uk