

Beginner Harp Orchestra (BegEnz)

What do you do when you have a group of keen, gorgeous harpists ... you bring them together to make music in a fun way. That's what we have done with BegEnz. Knowing that there was an enthusiastic group of people (aged 6-60+ from absolute beginner to Grade 2 ish) I spent some time arranging 15 beginner tunes into three versions, from a beginner solo, to something a little more challenging, to the third version – an accompaniment or harmony part. The first two versions can be used as stand-alone solos, so the beginner is able to double up on their usefulness and also be a part of an ensemble with what they are learning.

Our first get together was a great success – the 11 founding members of BegEnz moved through the first four tunes in the book (Ode to Joy, Hine e Hine, I know where I'm going and Au Clair de la Lune) very comfortable, and then learnt 2 old and 2 new rounds. What an amazing effort!!

We've found that with this approach, there is something for everyone even if you can only play one hand (bass or treble) or play a drone during the learning of a new round. Once each harpist is confidently playing version one, they will move to the slightly harder version of the same song – so they still know the tune, but will have added some new bass or chords with the tune.

We're all looking forward to the next rehearsal!

Anna Dunwoodie



The Founding Members of the Auckland Beginner Harp Ensemble

Front – Sabina, David, Kayla, Lennard, Lucy

Back – Anna, Lynx, Marie-Christine, Denise, Odyssee, Deborah, Joshua