

Harpenz

July 27-30, 2011



Wow - what a wonderful time Harpenz was - thanks for all your energy and enthusiasm. You played through nerves, exhaustion, sore fingers, pressure, grumpy conductor, new music and sight reading (fright reading!!).

You took the chance to be part of something much bigger than your own personal harp world - it is a constant challenge to be part of a group - it requires skills you will never gain through solo practise alone. Ensemble playing will enrich your solo playing and the other way round too as we have all found out!

You all know how to look after and carry your harp, tune them correctly, change a string, practise a new part, listen to your fellow musicians, watch the conductor, edit a piece of music and take it back to the necessities.

You know you enjoyed the harping more (or could have enjoyed it more) by practising your parts in advance and knowing your music. You sat through hours of repetition - not necessarily so you could learn to get your fingers around it, but because someone else in the group needed a chance to get their fingers around it. Thank you - your patience was amazing!

You accepted and rose to the challenge of learning and performing a completely new piece of ensemble music you hadn't set eyes on until four days earlier.

Thanks to our wonderful harp mums (Nicola, Annamarieka, Vanessa and Pat) and others who kept the food and drinks side of things well organised and ran little missions for me when I had forgotten to get the milk or lost music.... etc

We missed our Dunedin harpers Dale and Anne who were unable to get here thanks to snow disrupting flights – will have a word to the weather man before the next Harpenz! And we missed Lisa (co-organiser) who also really wanted to be there but due to too many circumstances beyond her control just couldn't!

Our thanks goes out to Sunderland College for the use of such a perfect venue and to Shane who recorded our harp orchestra tunes for us – it's a great resource to be able to have a listen and see what our hard work sounded like to our audience.

Thanks to each of you who at some stage over the four days asked 'can I help?'

A huge thanks to Brynmor - couldn't have done without your constant support and gentle guidance. So much knowledge carried in one head - thanks for sharing with us! And for the gifts from Salvi and Bow Brand – yay!

Anna Dunwoodie

“This is the second Harpenz I have attended. It is wonderful meeting such a range of people – different ages, styles of harps and music. I love Anna's calm and cheerful manner of conducting and I have such admiration for people who came along after very few lessons” Pip

“This was my first Harpenz and I have loved it. Meeting other budding harpist and wonderful folk. What an inspiration. Thanks to Anna and Brynmor for all their passion and care. Can we do it again next week?” Trisha (Anna says “I’m keen!”)

“Love it, love it! Thanks so much Anna (and Lisa)I love being a part of this. The talent is amazing and it makes all of us work together to higher levels. We wuvs you!” Raewynn

“It was really fun, but sore and tiring! Really well organised but I would have liked the ensemble music earlier.” Kate (Anna’s note – “No way – its part of the challenge! And you did fabulously at it!!!”)

“It was really good to play with other people, especially in the harp orchestra. It’s a completely different experience from playing along.” Briony

“I learnt such a lot from the Harpenz and felt that every day a few little precious jewels had dropped into my lap! It was the opportunity to receive teaching from yourself and the wonderful Brynmor as well as from all the other harpers young and old that was so precious” Moira

“This was my first Harpenz and I really enjoyed working with other people. I learnt so much. It was great. I can’t wait for the next one” Radhika

“It felt nice to be surrounded by so many other talents harpists. It definitely was a challenge to try and keep up with everybody else.” Heather

“Another great get-together for harpers and harpists alike. It was good to meet other harpists and share ideas. I always learn something new and it’s so much fun playing together. No harm to have a bit of a challenge either! I am looking forward to the next one already!” Caroline

“This year was my first time for Harpenz and I enjoyed it heaps. I was surprised at how quickly we could learn new songs and how to play them together, as a group. I learnt heaps and had lots of fun, it was very worthwhile” Anita

“Harpenz was great fun this year! I thought everybody enjoyed it enormously and thought that it was a great success.” Joanna

“It was good to see everyone participating and enjoying the playing as one” – John

“It was really enjoyable playing with other people and seeing all the different harps” – Helen

“What a fantastic thing to be involved in! I loved every minute and learnt so much. Bring on the next Harpenz”. Charlotte (who is an adult harper who had only 3 harp lessons, and didn’t read music before Harpenz – Go girl!)

“It was my first time at Harpenz and I liked it” Lucy (aged 6 – see cover photo!)

“An excellent Harpenz. It was great to have the extra days to settle better into playing together both as an orchestra and ensemble. A lot of hard work in the organisation and planning was put in before Harpenz and this was a real benefit to its success. To have the opportunity to play with other harpists is a very worthwhile experience and not to be missed. Thank you Anna for your hard work and enthusiasm!” Elizabeth (who had travelled up from Wellington)



We have loads and loads of fab photos of all the gorgeous harps, harpers and harpists and you may see more of them in future issues of the journal, or in the archive of the website. But here is the group, minus Lily, who was absent due to her own birthday party!

Harpens 2011 – (kinda from left to right and a bit up and down!) Emma, Trisha, Dale, Rosalie, Raewynn, Laura, Radhika, Moira, Briony, Lucy, Jan, Mikaele, Anna, Anita, Elizabeth, Kate, Joanna, Caroline, Becky, Charlotte, Helen, Brynmor and Pip.

