

## *Harpenz 2015*

*Harpenz* = Four days of harping + 28 enthusiastic harpists of all ages and stages + a thousand years of music + more than a thousand strings + Sunderland College + a jungle of fake flora and fauna = WOW!!

*Harpenz* 2015 was dedicated to the late Brynmor Williams who had, for the last few *Harpenz*, been an important part of the *Harpenz* teaching team, and we truly miss him.

We were also very sorry to be without Lisa Williamson for the four days, though her hand was evident in every stage of the journey from composing to concert.

A huge debt of gratitude to Pam Gordon and Jac Mogeey – our intermediate and beginner group ‘facilitators’, who had the seemingly endless task of repeatedly counting bars and enthusing the groups to ‘give it another go’ or ‘give it the jandal’ from Jac and the beginner harpists!

After four days of ensemble rehearsals, the stage was set for an amazing visual and audio extravaganza. The harps, music stands and harpists were elaborately wrapped in strands of ivy, bunches of roses, dragonflies, butterflies, autumn leaves, floral dresses – a spectacular sight – and played a soundtrack of music to accompany a powerpoint display of photos from the Hamilton Gardens – the International Garden of the Year 2014, and a spectacular place in its own right. Thanks *Harpenz* harpies – you made us very proud!!!!



Thanks also to our helper Mums, our kind host families who billeted out of town harpists, our sound man, Shane, our garden photographers Oliver, Jamie, Luc Aime, Marie Christine and AnnaW, , and our concert photographer, Ian.

"2015 was my first Harpenz and I loved it. Being able to play in groups teaches you so much more than playing by yourself. Having played in Auckland Harp Orchestra, the concept wasn't entirely new to me, but I think the more contact of this type you get, the better musician it makes you. And this was 4 days of it - such a treat!

Especially inspiring is that all levels of harpist can attend. It means there is always someone to listen to and aspire to... listening to other harpists is a part of the learning process that for some reason it's really easy to overlook. And even the newest beginners can join in - a wonderful way to kickstart your harping life.

I'll definitely be back for 2017!" *Wendy*



Since Harpenz my 8 year old has taken off with her harp. She was daunted at the prospect of performing and practising alongside experienced players but the community of harpists created a special atmosphere and that together with the guidance and the music has led her to a new joy in playing.

*Evie (mum of Sabina)*

The huge value of what is at bottom simply counting accurately can hardly be exaggerated. Holding to rhythm and tempo both strengthen coherence with those playing the same part and help achieve often breath-taking complementarity with other players.

While some of this can be learned at home, the more subtle complexities can only be achieved in ensemble. The latter can also lay bare any lack of crystal clarity in tuning!

The words and images form a delicately suggestive counterpoint to the music, even if their full richness was appreciated only with hindsight. And yet those ongoing impressions and recollections furnish their own testimony to the unique evocative power of the whole experience, not least those captivating melodies which linger on in the mind and heart.

*Chris Parkin*



"Harpnz 2015 Hamilton Gardens Suite was indeed a triumph. The music, arrangements and people made it the best one yet. Toe tapping was seriously a threat with lovely standout pieces for each part of the orchestra no matter which level you were at.

Who knew the array of sounds that a harp could make?

Anna and Lisa put together a fabulous score. Many thanks for full on enjoyment and very tired fingers."

*Linda Braden*



This was my first ever Harpenz and I loved it. It was great getting to know some other harpists and the whole experience was very memorable. I learnt lots, especially about ensemble playing which has already proved very helpful when playing in the school orchestra. Billeting in Auckland was also an interesting and thoroughly enjoyable experience. Can't wait for 2017!

*Nadia Khan(15)*

