

# Heart of the Valley Harp Retreat

January 12-14, 2024

**WHAT:** A packed weekend of varied workshops for pedal and lever harpist of all levels, led by two outstanding teachers, in the heart of the Willamette Valley, Corvallis Oregon.

**WHERE:** Corvallis Oregon, First Presbyterian Church. Lodging and most food will be on your own.

**WHEN:** January, 2024; Friday evening 6:00 through Sunday afternoon 5:00.

**WHO:** Hosted by Laura Zaerr, 541-908-2077 (text OK) or e-mail [lauraz@peak.org](mailto:lauraz@peak.org).

**Julia Kay Jamieson** is an energetic performer, dedicated teacher, innovative composer and award-winning harpist. Julia has been a featured concert artist, clinician and composer for events including the Canadian International Summer Harp Institute, the Festival de Cuerdas in Puerto Rico, and the annual Harp Day in Eugene, Oregon. She has been commissioned to write several harp ensemble pieces including *Sea* for the Illinois Summer Harp Class and *Creatures* for the High Cascade Harp Retreat. An advocate for new music, she is chair of the American Harp Society Young Composers Project and is the principal harpist of the Cleveland Chamber Symphony. She is the author of *The Young at Harp*, a method book for beginning harpists and has given improvisation, arranging, and creative teaching workshops throughout the US and Canada. Julia studied with Jocelyn Chang (Cleveland, OH), Susann McDonald (Indiana University) and Ann Yeung (University of Illinois).

**Laura Zaerr** continues to pursue her interest in Celtic music and jazz alongside her classical music. She has taught both pedal harp and Celtic harp at the University of Oregon for 18 years. Over the past 25 years Laura has produced several solo CDs featuring original compositions and arrangements of Celtic tunes as well as recording collaboratively with various musical groups including *The Oregon Renaissance Band*, *Village Green*, *Chuva Boa* (Latin jazz), and *Trilogy*. She is currently a member of a cross over band *Compass Rose*. She has gained national recognition for her *Celtic Concerto*, a suite for Celtic harp with orchestra featuring seven traditional Irish tunes. Her original and innovative harp arrangements meld together a rich heritage of classical technique with the buoyancy and charm of Celtic styling. Laura also enjoys singing with *Kitchen Ceilidh*, an a-capella women's Gaelic singing group based in Eugene. Laura plays her harp for Hospice in the Corvallis area and maintains a private teaching studio.

**HOW:** Send this registration form (with checks payable to "Laura Zaerr") to:

**Laura Zaerr (Harp Retreat)**  
**3015 NW Taft Ave.**  
**Corvallis, OR 97330**

When your registration is received, I will send you maps and relevant information one month before the retreat as well as some of the music we will be working on so you can get a head start.

**Brief schedule:**

**Friday January 12**, 6:00-9:00 workshops for all levels.

**Saturday January 13**, 8:30-noon workshops for all levels. (Light lunch provided.

1:00-5:00 choice of workshops for all levels, including ensemble.

5:00-7:00 Dinner at a local restaurant.

7:00-9:00 Evening harp circle and party Dessert provided.

**Sunday January 14**, 9:00- 1:00 pm, choice of activities in various locations around town.

3:00 concert by Julia and Laura, featuring premier performances of original harp duos.

**Full retreat package \$290 Early bird option: Sign up before December 1: \$260**

**Saturday only \$220 Early Bird option: \$190**

**HEART OF THE VALLEY HARP RETREAT 2024 REGISTRATION**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number(s)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**I will be bringing** \_\_\_ my pedal harp \_\_\_ my lever harp **I will need to rent a harp** \_\_\_ pedal \_\_\_ lever

\_\_\_ I am interested in scheduling a private lesson with Julia Kay Jamieson. (possibly Monday Jan. 15)

\_\_\_ I am interested in scheduling a private lesson with Laura Zaerr.

\_\_\_ I would like to host a harpist for the weekend.

\_\_\_ I would like someone to host me for the weekend.

\_\_\_ I would like information on hotels or B&Bs in the area.

\_\_\_ I may be interested in scheduling a massage.

I would be interested in:

\_\_\_ Improvisation with lead sheet

\_\_\_ Modal improvisation

\_\_\_ Trying out a looper station (electronic fun)

\_\_\_ Tour of Thormahlen harp studios

\_\_\_ Learning some Celtic tunes

\_\_\_ Early harps show and tell (Triple, bray, Arpa Doppia)

\_\_\_ Ensemble playing

\_\_\_ other things such as \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate **your harp background, performance level, & any other details** that would help us determine how best to make this weekend meaningful to you (even if you've already done this before, so all presenters can read about you.)

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