

Harp at Chetham's



Chetham's
School of Music

Tutors

Marie Leenhardt Principal Harp, the Hallé

Eleanor Hudson former Principal Harp, Royal
Liverpool Philharmonic

Teaching

Eleanor and Marie are not only experienced solo and orchestral performers, but highly skilled and qualified teachers. Eleanor studied at the Royal Northern College of Music, followed by a diploma in harp performance from the Royal College of Music, a PGCERT in music education and a foundation degree in teaching young people with special educational needs - including gifted and talented students. Marie attained a music diploma from the Conservatoire National Supérieure in Lyon and further qualifications in France, including the Certificat d'Aptitude (CA), the highest instrumental teaching qualification the country has to offer, and is also a qualified and practising teacher of Alexander technique.

Each student will be assigned one main teacher for their individual lessons, but will work regularly with both tutors on a range of performance projects.

Instruments

Chetham's owns seven harps, which are used by students across the School. Instruments include two starfish lever harps, two smaller Salvi pedal harps - the Symphony and Sinfonietta models - as well as a Salvi Apollo, a Lyon and Healy style 30 and a new Lyon and Healy style 85. A choice of practice rooms are available and the school often allows students to take harps home over the holidays for ongoing practice.

Performance opportunities

Chetham's has numerous orchestras and ensembles for all age groups and of all sizes. Students may perform on solo harp, in a duo or chamber group including a harp ensemble, as well as in orchestras which perform in the School's stunning Stoller Hall or in external concerts across the UK. In addition, students are encouraged to take part in outreach activities, including performances in special educational settings across the north west.

In addition to individual instrumental lessons, all harp students enjoy:

Harp Ensemble provides an opportunity to learn varied repertoire from a wide range of musical styles. The ensemble prepares pieces for performance in public concerts, as well as considering performance presentation, harmony and improvisation. Eleanor's bespoke arrangements for the ensemble take into account the individual age and ability of each student, ensuring that every rehearsal is entirely inclusive.

Harp class covers orchestral repertoire and provides a space in which students are coached by experienced orchestral harpists, including visiting tutors. In these sessions students of all ages develop harp technique, perform repertoire to peers to aid the learning process, and discover the history of the harp.

Masterclasses and concerts

Recently, the harp department has been delighted to receive visits from Marie-Pierre Langlamet, principal harp of the Berlin Philharmonic; Elizabeth Fontan-Binoche, who studied with Marcel Tournier; and Los Hermanos Corbalán, a Venezuelan folk harp duet. Masterclasses will continue over coming years, many of them open to the public and free of charge to interested young players from outside Chetham's. One of the first performers in the School's Stoller Hall was harpist Catrin Finch, and harp students have also enjoyed concert trips to hear the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Xavier de Maistre and the Hallé, with whom Marie performed Ginastera's Harp Concerto. Debussy's Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp also formed part of The Stoller Hall's Opening Weekend, performed by Eleanor alongside colleagues from the School.

Recent alumni

Many former Chetham's students - including Eleanor herself! - have gone on to illustrious professional careers.

Cara Dawson is now studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Maria McNamee is now a student at Trinity College, London

Rebecca Morée Galian is studying at the BIMM (British and Irish Modern Music Institute) in London

Hero Douglas is a student at the University of Oxford

Abigail Millar Todd is studying with Isabelle Perrin in Norway

Catherine Derrick is a student of Skaila Kanga at the Royal Academy of Music

Angelina Warburton is a member of Clouds Harp Quartet



Eleanor Hudson



Marie Leenhardt



Los Hermanos Corbalán workshop



Harp Ensemble Concert