

## Hangin' with the Harp in October 2024

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The “Ins and Outs” of presenting a harp concert:

1. First things First: Confirm the date/time, Location/venue, Time frame, Access to parking and unloading harp, Type of audience, FEE (with contract)
2. All the above will determine your “set list” or program pieces!
3. My approach to presenting an October concert, for a noontime concert series in a city church. Time Length: no longer than 40 minutes.

It's all about the MUSIC!

1. Explore and brainstorm the music you would enjoy practicing and performing.
  - a. If you were attending this concert- what would you like to hear?
  - b. What pieces are already in your fingers?
  - c. What NEW pieces are you eager to learn?
  - d. Resources: your rep library, youtube videos, past concerts
  - e. Be realistic! This process should begin at least 3 months ahead.
2. Know your audience! Retirees, students, general public? Is it a formal, informal, religious, seasonal, holiday, entertainment-based concert?
3. How many pieces should I perform? I choose to present shorter selections (4-7 minutes) over works that have several movements. For this 40 minute concert, I have 7 shorter pieces to present a variety of genres.
4. Printed Program or Announced?
  - a. Printed- include: titles, composers' full names and dates: arrangers/transcribers- use first initials with last name.
  - b. Announced- be sure to know how to correctly pronounce titles and composers' names! Ex. Cagatay Akyol is pronounced, “jta-tie Ak-yol (!) Offer up some fun-facts and backstories. Jot them down. KISS~
5. The Order of things!
  - a. Selecting your first and second pieces is the most challenging. The first piece should pull your audience in- with upbeat tempi, dynamic

ranges, more major than minor keys, and not too long. Know this work inside and out. Practice with metronome to prevent opening nerves from taking you to the races! Second piece should compliment the first; e.g. similar genre, colorful contrast with dynamics, tempi, some intrigue.

- b. Your presentation: after you've been introduced-come out, bow, sit down and play! Don't keep your audience waiting with an intro about the music you are about to perform.
- c. The rest of the program- keep it moving; add segue or breaks with stories, a joke (!). Add a familiar piece to the mix. Show a contrast of genres and tempi. It's your show!
- d. No need to stand up and bow after every piece. It's fine to simply nod and smile while seated. Longer, larger works and ending the program needs a standing bow-of course!
- e. A big ending or a fond farewell... leave them wanting more. I like to thank the audience and the patrons before playing the last piece. Best to end with an appealing, upbeat work that audience connects to. Then be prepared to play a contrasting encore!

6. Janet's concert program on next page!