

TPH Newsletter - August 2026

Concert - 20th September at Bradford Industrial Museum, 2.00 pm

We have started working on our concert programme for BIM, and, of course, we are looking for volunteers to play. There is some new music, but mostly it is music we have previously played. It does not matter what level you are, there is music for all, and lots of support and help. Please do give it a try!

Here is some of the concert music for you to practise before trying the house group.

Eliza Aria

Simple Gifts (new arrangement)

Scarboro Fair

Cormacke

Queens Marsh

For sheet music and more information please contact jean - jeannie69b@gmail.com

Committee meeting news

It was mooted at the June meeting that it might be possible, with a great deal of preparation and organisation, for TPH to hold a two day residential festival. Of course we would need plenty of participants (you).

If you would be interested please let us know, by email (tphnewsletters@outlook.com) or at the AGM which we hope you will attend, or any zoom meeting.

If you would like to be a committee member we would be delighted to welcome new members. It isn't an onerous task. Just a few meetings on zoom and any little task you would like to volunteer for

A Day of Harp Mosaics

'....a day of harp mosaics where we will look at the different elements of music which are necessary for successful progress.' This was, in Eira's own words, what we had to look forward to in her workshop at Cullingworth Village Hall on 12 July.

Beginning the day with Eira's own arrangement of the traditional Welsh tune *Dacw 'Nghariad I Lawr yn y Berllan*, as a warm-up, Eira went on to explain that as a student she had studied in New York with a pupil of the French-American harpist and composer

Marcel Grandjany (1891-1975). Today she had brought pieces of music to illustrate the main points of Grandjany's teaching.

During the course of the day we were introduced to three more very different pieces, all easily read at sight, but all making us concentrate on some aspects of the 'different elements necessary for successful progress'.

In playing Mauro Giuliani's *Allegro* *, written for the classical guitar but beautifully arranged for the lever harp, our task was to concentrate on our playing technique to produce a full singing clear tone, whilst all the time listening to ourselves and to each other.

Eira's two-part arrangement of the beautiful traditional *Welsh Ar Lan T Môr* (On the Sea Shore) again was about listening both to ourselves and others playing the same part, and equally to the part we weren't playing - in other words being aware of what was going on around us musically, which also meant accurate counting and attention to dotted notes.

Playing Eira's arrangement of Ennio Morricone's *Chi Mai* **, a piece in 12/8 time, with a dotted note rhythm again ensured we concentrated on counting (rhythm is not optional!). Eira emphasised the importance of technique, but not at the expense of producing a good tone, which in turn means careful listening both to yourself, as player, and to then playing of those around you. To quote Grandjany '...the harpists' first problem is not his technique, but his tone....'

At the end of the day Eira thanked us all for our enthusiasm throughout the day. But it was her enthusiasm and guidance that got us all through a day of concentrated listening and playing, to end it with a concert for Steve (Eira's husband) of all four pieces we had learnt.

Joan Dearnley

Here are the thoughts of some attendees at Eira's workshop

I loved Eira's workshop. The pieces she gave us to play were not too demanding, but we really had to listen to our technique and to listen to each other. There were numerous practical tips for improving skills and how to utilise your practice time more effectively -

following Eira's advice I have sticky bookmarks above distinct bars that need further practice to help me to focus before playing a whole piece.

The piece *Chi Mai* from "The Life and Times of David Lloyd George" was a great choice to play, and maybe in future we could play it in ensemble. (**Pam**)



Eira's workshop was fully subscribed with 17 attendees in total. Cullingworth Village Hall, as ever proved to be an excellent venue for TP harps

How lovely it was to be with Eira again and her teaching style: close attention to detail; a range of pieces; her ability to include something for everyone. I certainly had enough to get my teeth into. Also it was a chance for me to catch up a bit with old friends and talk harps. (**Jane**)

I enjoyed the workshop led by Eira Lynn Jones on 12th July 2026 very much indeed and learnt a lot. I had never been to an event like this before so was amazed and inspired. When we started playing the first piece, a Welsh tune, just after the first few tones I felt as though I was in heaven surrounded by angels playing harps and a heavenly tune. Magical moments. The day went very quickly which is a sign that I was completely absorbed into the workshop. I liked the variety of arrangements (they were all easy to read and sufficiently rewarding as well as challenging), the friendly atmosphere with a free question time, the 5 minute personal practice time and when Eira was walking around, giving every single one of us a little bit of one-to-one attention. I enjoyed Eira's honesty and straight forward way of speaking with clarity and integrity. I like the summary of technique sheet with Eira's favourite things, which will be inspiring me for a long time to come, a very thoughtful addition. I also liked the table with Eira's own music that could be purchased and also the second hand box of music for raising charity funds. I cannot think of any way the workshop could have been improved, the layout worked well in a circle and the hall was spacious, comfortable and easy to find including parking. Overall, it was an amazing experience that I cherish. (**Liba**)

What a privilege to be able to work with Eira, hopefully it won't take as long for her to return next time. Eira was excellent, such a treat to have someone with her experience working with us. I loved that she brought music to buy too; I've just ordered some more flute and harp duets from her this morning.

Regarding the level, although Eira brought pieces at a range of standards, I don't think the overall playing level quite matched the intermediate/advanced description. As a result, there was quite a bit of time spent working on basic rhythms, and the pace was necessarily slower to accommodate those with less experience. I thought Eira adapted brilliantly. It might be worth including some guidance on expected playing levels/ experience in the booking form, similar to what EHF does.

The format worked well, and I'd want the format to be whatever works best for the tutor leading the workshop, rather than having something imposed on them (though I know that's not something we'd do).

Huge thanks for organising it all, it's really appreciated. I know there's a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes to make an event like this happen. (**Karina**)



This was my first time of joining one of Eira's workshops. I enjoyed the music and playing with a group and also being able to find some musical bargains to take away from the session. (**Tracey**)

Such an enjoyable day, I particularly enjoyed learning the music - *The Life and Times of Lloyd George*. A useful list of things to do and practise, and I still haven't bought a 2B pencil. (**Jean**)

I really enjoyed the workshop...the pieces were lovely, counting in 12/8 was interesting (?) and the technical tips along the way most valuable. Trying to get the wrist crease sorted! (**Gill B**)

* Mauro Giuliani (1782-1829) *Allegro* from Le Papillon (Op. 50, No 13)

** Ennio Morricone (1928-2020) *Chi Mai* (from 'The Life and Times of Lloyd George')

Sharing the Joy of Harp Music at MHA Care Homes



We were delighted to be invited to take part in MHA's recent Music Festival, with visits to three care homes. Thaisa performed in Harrogate and Ilkley, while Karina visited MHA Gledhow, giving three performances between us.

From the moment we arrived, we were met with a warm welcome from residents and staff alike. Every performance was filled with smiles, singing, tapping feet and wonderfully appreciative audiences, reminding us just how much live music can brighten someone's day.

One of the highlights for us was hearing everyone join in with familiar songs. You Are My Sunshine was undoubtedly the favourite, with residents singing along. It was wonderful to see the memories and emotions that the music unlocked.

We would like to thank all the staff and residents for making us feel so welcome. It was a privilege to be part of the MHA Music Festival, and we came away reminded of the unique ability of the harp to connect with people and evoke memories.

Notes from our Convener

House groups for August - please contact Jean for details. (jeannie69@gmail.com)

Concert in Rawdon on Tuesday 13th October - we are looking for volunteers to play at this event.

Shop early for Christmas! The musical director of the u3a choir has asked us to play at their Christmas Concert, Tuesday 1st December, 10 am, at St John's Church, Ilkley. We have 2 solo slots, and will accompany some of the carols. Rehearsals mostly in house groups. If you would like to play at this please contact Jean

FOR SALE

TPHarps are selling a **Camac Melusine** 38 lever harp.

The harp was bought in 2009 and has been one of our rental harps. It comes with dust cover, carrying case and tuning key.

Details

38 strings, from C00 to A36, (C00 to D26 nylon, C27 to A36 lever harp wires)

Height 136 cm

Weight 14 kg.

Price £900, last serviced in June 22.

For further information please contact Jean, Harp Hire Secretary -
jeannie69b@gmail.com