
TPH Newsletter

December 2025

Transpennine Harp Group Concert 25 October 2025, St John's Church, Bradshaw, North Halifax

Eight TP harpists along with Tamsin Dearnley gave a very well-received afternoon concert. Fantastically, Tamsin had made it from Scotland with her lovely and *animato* family, church members had decorated the pews with flowers and there were sparkly lights everywhere, especially for the occasion. Delicious homemade cakes were served with tea and coffee during the interval, and a raffle was drawn.

The performance group had put a lot of time and hard work into preparing their programme, meeting for harp practice in small groups at Jean's house (*con molto* cake and coffee) and *tutti* twice at the Burley Library (where Pam has a key, which came in jolly handy)



TP Concert at St John's - with our new music stand covers!

The concert comprised group pieces, solos and a quartet, some been arranged by Lucy, Tamsin, Karina and Jean. The programme was: *Scarborough Fair*, Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Mandolins*, *Flower Duet* from *Lakmé*, *Waltz on a Wet Day* (Noreen Lobo), Ortiz's

Habanera Gris (Quartet), *Cantiga de Santa Maria*, *Women of Ireland* (Gill's Solo), *Simple Gifts*, *Pastime With Good Company*, *The Buff and the Blue*, *Summer is Icumen In*, *The South Wind* (Jeff's solo), *Sakura*, *Elizabethan Serenade*, *Black is the Colour of my True Love's Hair* (Pam's solo).

Tamsin had three solo spots, including a fascinatingly compelling piece for Hallowe'en and concluding with a dazzling performance of Handel's *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*. All in all it was a very enjoyable occasion for players and audience alike.

Thank you once again to the Transpennine Group and Tamsin, from all at St. John's.

Alex Gledhill

Transpennine Harp Festival 2025 – The Sixth Year!

And what a weekend it was. Not only had the highest attendance ever (81) with every class fully, or almost fully, subscribed. We had attendees from across the world (see map) - all coming together on a Saturday morning in November to enjoy two days of harp music and harp playing, led by our own two tutors, Lucy and Tamsin.



The yellow markers indicate the location of attendees from across the world

This amazingly talented and creative pair, worked together to devise a programme of twelve courses ranging from the earliest musical notation to the latest twenty-first century graphic scores, from folk melodies dating from the mists of time to modern jazz improvisation and from a variety of cultures and times across the world. Added to the mix was a fascinating talk on the history of the harp and half an hour's yoga. In other words twelfth-century Hildegard von Bingen, Groovy Graphics, Spooky Russian Lullabies

and blues improvisation, a talk by Bill Taylor and a yoga for harpists session led by Hannah Lenton.... and for anyone who wasn't able to join in over the weekend, the full programme is still available on the Transpennine Harps website.... something to whet your appetite for more to come in 2026.



The next generation of harpists taking an interest.....



The Festival simply would not have been such an outstanding success – or indeed have survived into its sixth year – without our two tutors' huge commitment to the planning and organisation of the programme, and even more importantly their varied and complementary musical skills and knowledge. Their obvious enjoyment of the whole weekend – leading workshops, sharing their musical skills and know-how with everyone – and equally importantly allowing those who came to the classes to share their personal harping experiences and knowledge. The Common Room once again proved to be a very valuable piece in the jigsaw of success too, offering a relaxed, friendly open space for everyone to 'meet and greet', chat about harps, and to share their experiences and ideas.

Joan Dearnley

More Harp Events

Carol Concert – TPH harpists support the Ilkley U3A choir

Tuesday 2nd December, 10.30 a.m. at St Johns Church, Ben Rhydding

Tuesday 9th December, 11.00 a.m. on at Bolton Priory

The Winter Harp Festival – 16-18 Jan 2026

winterharpfestival.com

An enriching weekend of harp music, with world-class tutors and performers, all from the comfort of your home!

Over To You

Many of you may well be playing your harp at various Christmas events in the coming weeks. We would like to hear about it!

To make it easier for you, we now have an email address just for the Newsletter:

tphnewsletters@outlook.com

We look forward to being inundated with your news and photos

Don't be shy - we really do want to know!