



PSFHS Spring Folk Harp Festival

HARP GREETINGS FROM THE FIRS

March 28 – 30, 2025

presented by the Puget Sound Folk Harp Society

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General Information: Program Offerings & Event Policies

Harpers of all levels, from beginners to professionals, are welcomed to this annual weekend event, which will take place at **Pilgrim Firs Camp and Conference Center on the Kitsap Peninsula**. This will be a cozy, rustic event promising fun, education, and community-building. Harpers under age 18 are welcome to attend---email Tara for details. Non-harping companions have a place, too!

Registration Fee - \$275; includes lodging, 5 meals, and all programming. (Non-harping companions may attend for \$225 and receive lodging, 5 meals, and access to some programming.) Some need-based tuition assistance is available. Registration is **by mail only**. Slots usually fill quickly, and a waitlist will be kept.

Our weekend begins on **Friday**, with **check-in beginning at 3pm**. We will have time before dinner to learn our two new group tunes (with the guidance of Tune Tutors, Anna Jenkins and Neil Hoyt). After dinner we have a keynote presentation, "With our Harps upon our Backs," by internationally known harp historian Nancy Thym. On **Saturday** there will be a keynote workshop, "Medieval Music and Song" (with Nancy Thym); Harper's Choice activities (a set of four concurrent offerings, see details on the registration form); three sessions of Harp Greetings (in which every harp participant is encouraged to give a brief introduction of themselves and their harp); and an evening Ceilidh (a party and talent show, where all festival attendees are encouraged to share what they'd like to, be it a song, a poem, a story, a magic trick,...). **Sunday**, after breakfast, we vacate the bedrooms and enjoy an All-Play session with our PSFHS Songbooks (led by Tara O'Brien Pride). **We depart Pilgrim Firs at noon**. During free time throughout the weekend, attendees are encouraged to explore the grounds of Pilgrim Firs, including the labyrinth, the Pride Garden, and the paths around the lake.

Our line-up of workshop presenters includes:

Nancy Thym (keynote presenter)—Nancy utilizes a wealth of historical knowledge to create engaging programs of harp, storytelling, and song. In her presentation, "With our Harps upon our Backs," she portrays a travelling hook harp player from 19th century Bohemia. Her workshop, "Medieval Music and Song," will develop ways of playing and accompanying medieval melodies based on modal ideas.

Sharon Thormahlen (Harper's Choice A, *Elements of Arranging*)—Sharon is known for her books of beautiful original harp music and accessible arrangements of traditional music.

Dave Thormahlen (Harper's Choice B, *Harp Maintenance*)—Dave has been building harps for many years that are respected and loved all over the world.

Beth Kollé (Harper's Choice C, *Chord Inversions 101*)—Beth performs and presents workshops at many harp events internationally and doesn't mind being called a music theory nerd.

Tara O'Brien Pride (Harper's Choice D, *Harp Jam and Play-Along*)—Tara has been a long-time student of Harper Tasche and Deborah Henson-Conant and loves to encourage spontaneous musical exploration.

The Puget Sound Folk Harp Society strives to provide equal access to its programs and services for all people without regard to race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability. ♪ Participants may bring alcoholic beverages, but are responsible for ensuring they are consumed only by those 21 years of age and over; alcoholic beverages will not be permitted at meals due to the presence of a youth group. ♪ Trained service animals (as defined by law) are welcome at Society events; the animal's owner assumes full responsibility for the animal's actions at all times. ♪ Questions? Ask Tara, mezzotara@hotmail.com, (425) 503-9788.

Register by filling out and mailing the following 2-page form along with payment.