



Puget Sound Folk Harp Society's

Spring Folk Harp Festival

April 17 – 19, 2026

“Harbors from North to South”

At Pilgrim Firs Camp and Retreat Center in Port Orchard, WA

Information and Instructions for Registration

Thank you for your interest in this event! We welcome folk harp enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. Our goal is to celebrate and support the folk harp community through sharing knowledge, building connections, and having great fun through making music. Non-harping companions are also welcome (sharing a room with a harp participant) and may attend some (though not all) of the scheduled activities.

Featured activities of the festival include:

- **Concert and Keynote workshop** by Aryeh Frankfurter
- “**Harper’s Choice**” workshop (A1 or B1) by Aryeh Frankfurter or Beth Kollé
- **Structured ensembles** (A2 or B2) with Anna Jenkins or Sharon Thormahlen
- “**Harp Greetings**” where everyone gets a turn to play
- **All-plays** from the Harpers’ Songbook (book given out at the festival to newbies)
- **Ceilidh** (a talent sharing party)

Our registration form has many bits to fill out, because we want to meet your needs and preferences as much as possible. There is a section for your identifying information, a section for food and lodging preferences, and a section related to some musical choices. Most of the form should be self-explanatory, but the musical choices could want some elaboration. Please keep reading for more details.

We kick off the weekend late Friday afternoon with a session to learn two new tunes (“group tunes”) that will go into the Harpers’ Songbook. For this introductory session only, we’ll divide into two groups to accommodate slightly different learning approaches. The **Noble Firs** will focus on multiple repetitions of the melody before any additional accompaniment. This approach works well for those who like a clean soundscape, such as people wanting to learn the melody by ear or those who like to imagine a possible accompaniment with few distractions. The other group, **Grand Firs**, will also begin with melody, but expand into accompaniment ideas fairly quickly. This approach works well for those who like to hear or experiment with accompaniment patterns early on in the learning process. Please tell us on your registration form which approach you prefer or whether you’ll be happy either way.

Harper’s Choice allows for attending one of two workshops. Aryeh Frankfurter will present “**Tips for Arranging Traditional Music**,” while Beth Kollé will present “**Play from the Heart, Not from the Nerves**.” Descriptions of each workshop are below. We ask you to select one on the registration form so that we can plan how to use our available room sizes.

Structured ensembles are a new activity this year. There will be two groups, each practicing its own piece of music. Each piece will start with easy bits and then add optional expanding layers, so that all skill levels will find a way to play and contribute to the ensemble. Each group will have a chance to share its piece at the Saturday night Ceilidh. For those who want to prepare, learning aids will be emailed in advance, but no matter how much or how little study time you have, you’ll be welcome to participate. One group will practice

“**Siyahamba**,” a Zulu freedom song, with heavy reliance on the **printed page**. The other group will practice “**La Pieza del Indio**,” a romantic Honduran dance tune, **without reliance on sheet music** (although you’ll get the page to refer to later). Further descriptions of each tune are below. Please choose one ensemble on the registration form.

More about our Presenters, Workshops, and Structured Ensemble Tunes

Aryeh Frankfurter

Aryeh’s musical endeavors began at the age of three when he undertook classical training on the violin. At the age of fifteen, Aryeh was introduced to the Celtic harp, an instrument which then became the focal point of his musical expression. After touring in Sweden, he was introduced to the nyckelharpa (keyed fiddle) which, in addition to the harp and fiddle, subsequently became a central inspiration for his musical explorations. Aryeh is well-known as a recording and performance artist. He has performed before British royalty and audiences of thousands. He has been a featured presenter at any number of harp conferences including at Somerset (New Jersey) and Dusty Strings Harp Symposiums (Seattle). From 2012-2018 Aryeh was a workshop presenter (harp and Swedish music) at Lark in the Morning Music Camp (www.larkcamp.org).

---Aryeh’s workshops---

Keynote (for all harp participants):

Norwegian & Swedish Tunes for Celtic Harp In this workshop, we will learn some lovely Nordic tunes that work well on the Celtic harp. From brooding “Bridal Marches,” joyful polkas and driving marches, Nordic music is beautiful, rich and evocative. A wonderful, refreshing and inspiring landscape of music, the music has some unusual and even exotic flavors relative to Celtic and Irish music; yet close enough to be accessible to both the player and listener. Generally we can cover roughly 3-4 tunes in one workshop. Tunes (melodies) will be taught by ear but sheet music will be passed out as well. This is primarily a “hands on” workshop with participants learning and playing their instruments. The objective is not to master or gain fluency but to introduce some of the landscape of Nordic music to the participants and inspire for further exploration.

Harper’s Choice A1:

Tips for Arranging Traditional Music In this workshop, Aryeh will share some useful tips for creating and developing interesting and evocative arrangements for any level of player. We begin by discussing some concepts: what is meant by an “arrangement” in traditional folk & harp context and also rethinking and reconceptualizing the “left hand” in its primary role in creating arrangements. We will discuss the process of structuring a traditional folk melody and adding our own original compositional elements to personalize any traditional tune. We will explore the secret sauce of creating not just original arrangements but effective ones, utilizing ideas of movement, lift, phrasing and dynamics. Time permitting, we will take a couple of very easy tunes everyone can play and apply these ideas to show how they work. 3/4 of this workshop will be discussion and dialogue and 1/4 will involve hands on the harp.

Beth Kollé

Beth has a long-held interest in Celtic and Nordic music. She has taught and performed internationally and has recorded music on both flute and harp. She has created several books of harp music, featuring her traditional tune arrangements and original compositions. Notable publications include *The Harp Ensemble Book*, *The Northern Folk Harp*, *The Scandinavian Folk Harp*, *Songs for the Midnight Sun*, and, in collaboration with Laurie Rilley, *The Double-Strung Harp*. She declares the workshop she’ll lead this year is her favorite!

---Beth’s workshop (next page)---

Harper's Choice B1:

Play from the Heart, Not from the Nerves Imagine playing for a group of listeners without fear. This workshop is designed to help us, ALL of us, take important steps to pinpoint what keeps us from playing with joy, playing from the heart. Explore the reasons we falter, and discover what holds us back from being relaxed and having fun while playing our instruments. No harps, just bring your open and inquisitive mind!

Structured Ensemble Tunes

"Siyahamba" or "we are marching" is a rhythmic and lively song that embraces community. Musicologists believe it emerged in the 1950s in the former Natal province of South Africa, was learned by a visiting Swedish choir whose leader later transcribed it, then was shared at international gatherings of various religious denominations. Siyahamba gained great popularity globally in the 1980s and was widely used in efforts to end racial discrimination in South Africa. It became a song of protest in a variety of settings. Today it is widely viewed as a liberation song and can be heard at rallies, demonstrations, in churches and at concerts. Our version will bring us together in community playing our harps as melody, harmony, and percussion!

"La Pieza del Indio" is a dance that was performed during the patron saint festivals of the village of Linaca, Choluteca, depicting romantic situations in which the dancers always end up winning over their partners, celebrating the event with great jubilation. This 2 chord tune in G (F#s needed) will be easy to learn without the "dots on the page." The rhythm is catchy and fun to play. It is very indicative of Honduran Dance music.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE FESTIVAL

Registration forms will only be accepted by mail and will be accepted in order of postmark. We strongly recommend that you take your envelope to a postal counter and **ask for it to be hand-stamped** with the postmark, thus avoiding what could be a several-day delay in postmark from a regional collection facility.

The number of participants is limited, and if necessary, a waitlist will be kept. The registration period runs from Feb. 1, 2026 to Apr. 1, 2026, but don't delay because historically, the festival has filled very quickly.

To register, please fill out both pages of the form and mail it along with a check (drawn in U.S. dollars) made out to Puget Sound Folk Harp Society. If you are hoping for lodging in a single room, please attach a separate, additional check for \$83. Mail to:

Tara O'Brien Pride /SFHF
1845 128th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA 98005

We'll confirm your registration as soon as it is processed and email you our two new group tunes (both PDF sheet music and audio files). You do not need to study or practice these in advance, but please print them out and add them to your PSFHS songbook, if you already have one. Around Mar. 15 we'll send driving directions and the schedule for the weekend. ***If you must cancel, we can refund fully before March 28; after that, we can only refund if we can fill your spot from the waiting list.*** Questions? Ask Event Directors:

Michelle Hazzard (mhazzard@gmail.com) or Tara O'Brien Pride (mezzotara@hotmail.com).

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.