

EIRA LYNN JONES - HARPIST

EIRA LYNN JONES is Head of Harp Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music Manchester, where her students regularly achieve success through competitions, awards and orchestral positions. Students include: Catriona McKay - international clarsach soloist, Georgia Xagara - Principal Harpist, State Orchestra of Athens, Louise Thomson - Tashmina Young Artist and Elfair Dyer - tutor, Bangkok Harp Centre, Thailand.

She enjoys directing the RNCM Harp Ensemble, aiming to reach out to wider audiences with notable performances, such as: under the dinosaur at the National History Museum, London; 20 harps for a John Cage Festival and several commissions for massed harps of all levels. She herself has organised Harp Festivals in the North West of England, with guests such as Elizabeth Fontan-Binoche, Catherine Michel, Natalia Shamayeva, Mairi na Cathasaigh and Park Stickney.

Born in Wales, Eira graduated from the RNCM having won numerous prizes, including a Welsh Arts Council Award and a Guinness Foundation Scholarship. She gained a Masters Degree from the Manhattan School of Music, New York, studying with Kathleen Bride. She has given master classes all over the world, including the Denmark Harp Festival, Eastman School of Music (USA), Edinburgh International Harp Festival, Camac Harp Days (UK), Malmo Conservatoire of Music (Sweden) and the Royal Irish Academy of Music (Ireland).

In addition, Eira is a regular player with the Halle Orchestra, the BBC Philharmonic and Opera North. She has published several volumes of music; was editor of the UKHA Harp Magazine and is a Mentor for several musical organisations.

She performed at the World Harp Congress in Dublin and is passionate about the Cardiff bid for 2020. It's the land of the harp, and it will be organised by international harpists who have organised many festivals. It will be an event embracing every aspect of harp playing, and she gives it her full support.