

FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &
CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY
9201 Corbould Street, Chilliwack BC V2P 4A6



Contact: Ann Goudswaard, Marketing Manager
T: 604.392.8000, ext.103
E: ann@chilliwackculturalcentre.ca
W: www.chilliwackculturalcentre.com

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High Resolution photo: [winterharp6.jpg](#)

Photo Description: Celebrate Christmas and the holiday season with the *Winter Harp* Ensemble.

Photo Credit: N/A

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WINTER HARP RETURNS TO ENCHANT THIS CHRISTMAS AT THE CULTURAL CENTRE

CHILLIWACK, BC - Breathtakingly beautiful backdrops of cathedrals and snow, heartwarming carols, songs and endearing stories in celebration of the Christmas set the stage for an evening of pure magic as *Winter Harp* returns once again to enchant audience members at The Cultural Centre on **December 17 at 7:30pm**. More than a concert, this world-class ensemble is a sensory experience renowned for awe-inspiring performances, sold-out houses, standing ovations and rave reviews. Let your heart sing along with the captivating melodies of the harps and the mystical music from age-old instruments as these extraordinary musicians, clad in glorious medieval attire, perform a musical repertoire ranging from heartwarming carols to Celtic, medieval, and worldly tunes.

"An enrapturing event that plucks at your heart strings." - The Province

One of Canada's most beloved holiday concert traditions, the magic that is ***Winter Harp*** celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year and returns to Chilliwack with a show that is as visually stunning as the music is enchanting. Adorned with candles that illuminate breathtaking backdrops of cathedrals and snow, and beautifully carved instruments, the entire show takes on the look of a luminous pre-Raphaelite painting. With golden Celtic and classical harps, drums, tambourines, temple bells, flutes and an assortment of dazzling ancient rare instruments, ***Winter Harp's*** performance is a magical journey overflowing with heartwarming carols, songs and stories that will stay with you all through the festive season.

Known for generating standing ovations, sold out concerts and rave reviews, this world-class ensemble, founded in 1993 by Lori Pappajohn and poet/narrator Alan Woodland in a small chapel in Vancouver, has since grown to include up to a dozen cities in its annual December tours throughout western Canada. Over the years, tens of thousands of people have made attending ***Winter Harp*** a part of their holiday tradition and with concerts on radio and TV, and ten CDs to their name, this world-class ensemble continues in its tradition of excellence and holiday spirit on December 17th.

“Winter Harp is different from any Christmas show you will ever see. It wraps you in pure magic.”- Lori Pappajohn

For the 2013 anniversary tour, ***Winter Harp*** is delighted to announce that the legendary harpist, Kim Robertson, will join the ensemble once again. A virtuoso musician, Kim is among the world's leading Celtic harpists, credited with bringing about the renaissance of the Celtic harp in North America. Her ground-breaking arrangements and passionate performances helped launch the Celtic harp into the modern world. Kim's work encompasses more than 40 recording projects and an international itinerary of workshops, concerts and retreats.

For two decades ***Winter Harp*** has captured the spirit of the Holidays, along with people's hearts, and is the must-see ticket on the holiday calendar. A feast for the senses this is a masterpiece show that you'll never forget so come join the performance where Christmas begins and be part of the festive magic. Buy your tickets early for this magical production as it sold out quickly last year. Tickets are \$35 for Adult, \$32 for Senior, and \$30 for Student. Call the Centre Box Office at 604-391-SHOW (7469) for more information or visit www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca.

Winter Harp is generously sponsored by Wagner Appliances, Simpson Notaries, Bob Plowright and Associates, Minter Country Gardens, Hallmark Promotions, The Chilliwack Times, The British Columbia Arts Council, The Department of Heritage and The Province of British Columbia.

Create Your Own Series and Save! Purchase tickets for three or more different performances and save \$5 per ticket! (*Shows must be bought at the same time to qualify*) Subscriptions are only available by phone or in person at The Centre Box Office.

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Additional Information

[Winter Harp website](#)

THE INSTRUMENTS

The ensemble's instrumentation includes: harps, flute, medieval instruments, hand drums, bells, chimes and voice. Some 300 strings must be tuned before each performance and during intermission.

Winter Harp features a number of unique instruments made especially for the ensemble:

Bass psaltery: The five-foot-tall bass psaltery is the only one of its kind in the world. Built by Vancouver luthier Edward Turner, it has a haunting, ethereal sound.

Organistrum: The ornately carved organistrum, an instrument that dates back to 12th Century Spain, produces deep, resonant drones. The only other one like it in Canada is in Ottawa's Museum of Civilization, also crafted by luthier Edward Turner.

Nyckelharpa: This instrument is a medieval cross between a hurdy-gurdy and a violin, and has a wistful, viol sound.

Symphonie: This is a forerunner of the hurdy-gurdy.

Medieval guitar: Reminiscent of instruments played in the 1600s, this instrument was made by Vancouver luthier Michael Dunn.

[Message from Winter Harp Co-Founder and Director, Lori Pappajohn](#)

It is my great pleasure to welcome everyone to the 20th anniversary year of Winter Harp. It is hard to believe that what began as an idea and a dream became a wonderful reality that has grown and thrived for two decades. A milestone such as this provides a great opportunity to look back, to appreciate the warmth with which Winter Harp has been received and to thank everyone, especially those people who have come - sometimes every year -- and shared in our special celebration of the spirit and joy of the

Christmas season. Co-founder Alan Woodland (our original narrator) and I feel blessed that our creative alliance of music and stories has brought joy to so many.

One of the reasons Winter Harp has been a 20-year success is that it gives people Christmas. The familiar carols and the touching stories take people home -- home to Christmas, with its rich and cherished memories. What we bring is different from any Christmas show you will ever see. The combination of music and story, rhythm and song, the backdrops, the gorgeous fabrics and colours of the medieval attire, the rich and resonant instruments and that hard-to-define something special comes together every year, at every concert, to wrap us in pure magic. We look forward to seeing you all -- from Vancouver Island to Manitoba -- on our 20th Anniversary Tour.

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

Ann Goudswaard, Marketing Manager

T: 604.392.8000, ext. 103

E: ann@chilliwackculturalcentre.ca

Chilliwack Cultural Centre

Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, offices, and is home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Art Gallery. Since opening in 2010, over 150,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding 2,000,000. The Centre is overseen by The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society on behalf of the City, and boasts The Chilliwack Academy of Music, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association and The Chilliwack Players Guild as partners.

Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:

- 597 seat performance theatre
- 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space
- Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)
- 21 music instructional rooms
- Arts and crafts studios
- Storage and Archival Resource Room

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