

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

December 1, 2014

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

Photo Description: Members of Winter Harp display their fabulous garments and ancient instruments.

Photo Credit: N/A

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER HARP: WARM VOICES FOR COLD WINTER

The magical experience of *Winter Harp* returns to the Chilliwack Cultural Centre this winter with a performance on **December 16**, filling the HUB International Theatre with music, passion, and memories of Christmas past.

After all, *Winter Harp* is so much more than a performance - the players are a vision in magnificent medieval costumes, all flowing sleeves and vibrant cloth. Set against breath-taking painted backgrounds of snow, cathedral windows, and classical stonemasonry, the experience returns audiences to a simpler time - transporting listeners from hectic December schedules into shining holiday memories of childhood and the pure spirit of the holidays.

Carols and other classic winter tunes spring to life from harp and drum, treating audience members to another world with ancient and rarely-seen instruments: two musicians play the beautifully obscure organistrum, an ornately carved distant relative of the hurdy-gurdy. Another charms warm notes from a deep-voiced bass psaltery: five feet tall, 35-stringed, and the only one of its kind in the world. With thrilling harmonies and soothing narration, the musicians draw

their audience deep into the heart of winter - a journey to the centre of holiday spirit.

“There are a lot of memories wrapped up in Christmas. There’s a lot of joy, and sometimes there’s sorrow,” *Winter Harp’s* Lori Pappajohn says. Her voice is hushed, and softly passionate. “People remember their childhoods, or parents who may no longer be with them. These are the memories often stirred at our concerts - the winters they will never forget.”

Their winter repertoire includes some of the most joyful music ever written, and it’s clear in this passionate and ardent display that shines from the stage and pours from *Winter Harp’s* master musicians.

“I wanted to share the beauty and exuberance of this music with others on instruments rarely heard - namely harps and rare medieval instruments,” Lori says.

“As time marches forward, much of the past is forgotten - and this includes music. There are hundreds of carols that have been forgotten,” she continues. “When I come across an almost-forgotten carol I cherish the fact that I have found it and that I’m able to give it a voice - so that, at least for now, it is not lost in the mists of time.”

Time and passion are imbued in every aspect of *Winter Harp’s* performance. The costumes, designed by Lori and sewn by a dedicated dressmaker, pair with backdrops that are the culmination of months of design and detailed work. Everything comes to life in the gentle glow of candles onstage, creating a breath-taking pre-Raphaelite diorama and transporting audiences into the memories of Christmas past.

“It’s childhood,” Lori says simply. “You get together with your aunts, uncles, and parents. The snow; everybody eating around the table - that’s what’s so wonderful about Christmas. We all have basically the same memories, and together we share those memories and understand them.”

“Even if we didn’t play a note, even if people just came and looked, it would still take people somewhere,” she says, smiling gently. “It’s really two hours where people are lost in their own memories.”

The players of Winter Harp take to the stage in the Chilliwack Cultural Centre's HUB International Theatre on December 16 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$37 for adults, \$34 for seniors, and \$32 for students. Tickets are available online at www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca or by calling the box office at 604-391-SHOW(7469).

Winter harp is generously sponsored by The Chilliwack Progress, Coast Capital Savings, Chilliwack-Hope MLA Laurie Throness, Fraser Valley Custom Printers, Wagner Appliances, The Province of British Columbia, The City of Chilliwack, MNP, Hallmark Productions, the British Columbia Arts Council, and the Department of Canadian Heritage.

– 30 –

Additional Information

[Winter Harp's website](#)

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 188,000 tickets have been sold through the Centre Box Office, with a value exceeding \$2,600,000. 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

Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society Board of Directors

Dave Stephen - President

Doug Wickers - Vice President

Jordan Forsyth - Secretary

Mark Paxian - Treasurer

Directors at Large

Janet Carroll

Neil Clark

Michael Hamilton-Clark

Nigel Lennie

Jacque Simpson

Joy St. John

Ex-officio

Gord Pederson

Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society Partners

Chilliwack Academy of Music

Chilliwack Players Guild

Chilliwack Visual Artists Association

The Chilliwack Arts & Cultural Centre Society is registered under the British Columbia Society Act as a not-for-profit society (society number S-54973), and is a registered Canadian charitable organization under the Canadian Charities Directorate. (charity number 805742897 RR0001)

#

If you wish to be removed from this email list, simply reply to this email.