

# *Dr. Alaina Graiser, harpist and teacher*

Sam Houston State University

School of Music

Huntsville, TX 77340-2208

[alaina.harpist@gmail.com](mailto:alaina.harpist@gmail.com)

[www.alainagraiser.com](http://www.alainagraiser.com)

## **Primary Education**

- Doctor of Musical Arts, harp performance and music education cognate, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, 2015, student of Gillian Sella.
- Master of Music, harp performance, University of Toronto, 2011, student of Judy Loman.
- Bachelor of Music, harp performance and individual pedagogy courses, University of Texas at Austin, 2009, student of Delaine Leonard.

## **Secondary Education**

- Suzuki Association of the Americas Harp Teacher Training, Books 1-3.
- Masters Academy, Aarau, Switzerland. August 2008.
- Eastman Harp Camp, Rochester, NY. July 2004.
- Lessons and masterclasses with Susann McDonald, Erica Goodman, Skaila Kanga, Milda Agazarian, Park Stickney, Catherine Michel, Susan Pejovich, Kathleen Bride, Elizabeth Fontan-Binoche, Courtney Hershey-Bress, AnnMarie Liss, Emily Mitchell, Maria Luisa Rayan-Forrero, Elizabeth Hainen, and Natalia Shemeyeva.

## **Teaching Experience**

- Adjunct Harp Instructor, Sam Houston State University, 2018-present. Responsibilities include:
  - Teaching applied weekly harp lessons, focusing on technique and musicality.
  - Preparing and executing performance juries.
  - Grading lessons and performances with detailed critique.
  - Teaching weekly harp courses including harp history, pedagogy, ensemble, and masterclass.
  - Designing the harp courses and curriculum from scratch.
  - Evaluating and grading assignments.
- Adjunct Harp Instructor, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, 2016-2017. Responsibilities include:
  - Teaching applied weekly graduate-level harp lessons, focusing on technique and musicality.
  - Preparing and executing a performance jury.
  - Grading lessons and performances with detailed critique.
  - Teaching weekly Harp Pedagogy course to undergraduate and graduate students.
  - Initiated and designed the Harp Pedagogy course and curriculum from scratch.
  - Evaluating and grading assignments.
- Adjunct Harp Instructor, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Preparatory Department, 2015-2017. Responsibilities include:
  - Developing a comprehensive, sequential curriculum for an adult group harp class.

- Directing group harp classes incorporating elements of technique, artistry, music theory, harp history, sight-reading, and ear-training; relating music to other topics; and enabling students to have continual personal and musical growth.
  - Working with the Preparatory Department on logistics, marketing, and recruiting strategies.
- **Applied Harp Instructor, God's Bible School and College, 2012-2013. Responsibilities included:**
    - Teaching applied weekly undergraduate-level harp lessons, focusing on technique and musicality.
    - Preparing and executing performance juries and recitals.
    - Grading lessons and performances with detailed critique.
- **Applied Harp Instructor, Walnut Hills High School, 2014-2017. Responsibilities include:**
    - Teaching applied lessons incorporating elements of technique, artistry, music theory, history, sight-reading, and ear-training; relating music to other topics; and enabling students to have continual personal and musical growth.
    - Coordinating and communicating information about private lesson logistics (marketing strategies for the program; lesson days, times and locations; harp rentals; performance logistics; etc.) with orchestra director, parents, and students.
    - Developing a sequential, flexible, enjoyable, age-appropriate harp curriculum for both private lessons and group lessons.
    - Developing and editing weekly lesson plans for each student.
    - Meeting with students and parents at the beginning and end of each semester to discuss technical, musical, and practical goals.
- **General Music Teacher, Leaves of Learning Private School, 2012-2017. Responsibilities include:**
    - Developing an engaging general music class curriculum using a variety of resources for students ages six through eighteen. Topics include elementary to intermediate music theory, music history, ear-training, sight-reading, world music, improvisation, composition, singing, and instrumental performance (percussion, bells, recorder, and ukulele). Activities include presentations, rehearsals, games, small-group activities, and interactive sessions.
    - Preparing and editing weekly lesson plans.
    - Preparing thoughtful student evaluations.
    - Coordinating, preparing, and successfully executing an end-of-year concert.
    - Writing course descriptions and working with the administration to successfully promote and maintain the course.
- **Program Director, the Annual Cincinnati Summer Harp Camp, 2013-2016. Responsibilities include:**
    - Coordinating and effectively communicating information and logistics for the camp and the concluding performance.
    - Developing a balanced, exciting curriculum for the students, including all of the materials used for games, activities, and lectures.

- Topics included the history and development of the harp, biographies of famous harpists and composers, the harp and gender, harps around the world, music theory, improvisation, sight-reading, ear-training, “healthy-harping,” music and the mind, harp in film, performance etiquette, and ensemble rehearsals.
- Selecting ensemble repertoire, directing ensemble rehearsals, and conducting the end-of-camp harp ensemble concert.
- Private harp and piano teacher, 2003-present. Responsibilities include:
  - Maintaining a professional studio of forty private students, including administrative duties such as scheduling, recruiting, marketing, communication with parents, contracts, invoices, studio recital logistics, community outreach, etc.
  - Developing a sequential, flexible, enjoyable, age-appropriate harp curriculum.
  - Developing and editing weekly lesson plans for each student.
  - Teaching weekly private lessons, incorporating elements of technique, artistry, music theory, history, sight-reading, and ear-training into lessons; relating music to other topics; and enabling students to have continual personal and musical growth.
  - Meeting with the students and parents at the beginning and end of each semester to discuss technical, musical, and practical goals.
  - Providing monthly group harp classes. Each class includes self-developed curriculum covering topics of harp ensemble rehearsal, music theory, harp history, biographies of harpists and composers, sight-reading, ear-training, and performance etiquette through age-appropriate activities and games. Each class gives a performance at the end of the semester.

### **Other Recent Teaching Experience**

- Guest lecturer for the 2017 Lexington Talent Education Association Midwinter Harp Workshop
  - Conduct master classes with students
  - Lead harp ensemble rehearsals
  - Give harp-related presentations
- Adjudicator for the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music Harp Concerto Competition, 2017.
- Adjudicator for the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music Harp Department Auditions, 2016-2017.
- Masterclass for Toronto Harpists, November 2016.
- Adjudicator for the Toronto Harp Society Scholarship Auditions, April 2015.
- Adjudicator for the harp division of the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs, 2014-current.
- Music Faculty at the Cincinnati Young Artists Cello Workshop, August 2014.
- Guest clinician at the Cincinnati School for the Creative and Performing Arts, 2013.
- Harp Counselor and Music Tutor, University of Texas Longhorn Music Camp, June, 2007.
- Summer harp ensemble coach, Mt. Pleasant, TX, 2004-2009.

### **Research Experience**

- Research presenter at the 2015 American Harp Society National Institute in Logan, Utah.
- Research presenter at the 2014 World Harp Congress in Sydney, Australia.

- Guest lecturer for the harp pedagogy class at the Glenn Gould School of Music, Toronto, ON, April 2015.
- DMA Project, "Create Your Own Curriculum: Harp Repertoire Database," April 2015.
- Doctoral Lecture-Recital, "The Many Faces of Transcription in the Pedal Harp Repertoire: Levels of Historical Fidelity in Transcriptions," December 2012.

#### **Leadership Experience**

- President of the Cincinnati Chapter of the American Harp Society (AHS), 2013-2017.

##### **Responsibilities include:**

- Communication of events and topics of interest to the entire Cincinnati harp community.
- Working closely with the officers and board members to enable the growth and vibrancy of the chapter.
- Communicating with members about their desires and requests for the chapter and overseeing that these desires and requests are met.
- Creating and organizing at least four events a year that are rewarding, enjoyable, and well-balanced for members of any age and background.
- Responsibility for all logistics, including scheduling, set-up, refreshments, organization of topics and presentations, keeping time at meetings, discussions with the officers and board members, financial issues, advertising issues, and delegation of responsibilities.
- Director of the Annual Cincinnati Summer Harp Camp, 2013-2016 (see description above).
- Director of the Memorial Benefit Concert and Fundraiser honoring the memory of the late harpist Michelle Gwynne; all funds contributed to the purchase, upkeep, and donation of two harps to the Cincinnati School for Creative and Performing Arts where Michelle Gwynne was the director of the harp department.

#### **Notable Performance Experience**

- *Circles* (for voice, two percussion, and harp) by Luciano Berio with the CCM Contemporary Chamber Quartet at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, November 2014.
- *Suite for Harp and Canticle V: The Death of St. Narcissus* by Benjamin Britten with Cincinnati Opera tenor Marco Panuccio for the "Britten at 100" gala concert, July 2013.
- On tour with the CCM Wind Orchestra in Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina, culminating in a performance at the College Band Directors National Association, March 2013.
- *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten with the Miami University Choraliers, November-December 2012.
- Chamber music performance with faculty at the Fall Faculty Gala at the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin, September 2008.
- *The Nutcracker* (full ballet) by P. I. Tchaikovsky with Ballet Austin, November 2006.
- Performances with the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, Ohio Metropolitan Pops Orchestra, Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra, Marshall Symphony, and the Festival String Quartet.
- Concerto performances: *Concerto in B-flat* by G.F. Handel with the York Chamber Ensemble, December 2009; *Dances Sacree et Profane* by Claude Debussy with the Festival String Quartet, May 2005.

#### **Recent and Upcoming Performances**

- Kentucky Symphony Orchestra, July 2017.

- *Il Tabarro* and *Gianni Schicchi* with Opera Project Columbus under the direction of Alessandro Siciliani, June 2017.
- “Viva Verdi” with Opera Project Columbus, January 2017.
- Regional tour with REFLECT harp+percussion duo, April 2016.
- Richmond Symphony Orchestra (Indiana), April 2016.
- Solo concert for the Cincinnati Symphony Club, March 2016.
- *Magnificent* by John Rutter for the Columbus Dance Theatre’s production of “Matchgirl,” December 2015.
- World premiere of *Etude for Vibraphone and Harp* by Marissa DiPronio, September 2015.

#### **Discography**

- *Persephone*, solo harp performances by Alaina Graiser and harp ensemble performances with Laura, Susanna and Julia Seabourne. Self published and distributed. Recorded at Rosewood Studios, Tyler, TX.
- *Plump Jack* by Gordon Getty with the Butler Opera Center. Austin, TX.
- *Variations on ‘Mein junges Leben hat ein End’* by Jan Sweelinck with the University of Texas Wind Ensemble. Austin, TX.

#### **Volunteer Service**

- Participating in community performances with the Cincinnati Harper’s Robin. 2013-2017; Cincinnati, OH.
- Presenting solo concerts and information sessions at public schools to promote harp and classical music awareness. 2002, 2004, 2005, 2013; Mt. Pleasant, TX and Cincinnati, OH.
- Presenting solo concerts and information sessions at libraries and assisted-living facilities. 2002-present; Mt. Pleasant, TX and Cincinnati, OH.
- Organizing and leading student ensemble concerts at Assisted Living Facilities. 2003-2005, 2013-2017; Mt. Pleasant, TX and Cincinnati, OH.
- Assisting with harp classes at the Cincinnati School for the Creative and Performing Arts. Spring 2012; Cincinnati, OH.
- Assisting with harp classes for the University of Texas Harp Project (Suzuki program). 2005-2006; Austin, TX.

References available upon request.