

What is your favorite thing about playing the harp?

These are the answers from the Harp Center Customer Survey featured in Sylvia Woods' January and February 2024 e-Newsletters

- * A couple of things. I love sitting down at the harp - with or without music - and just play. It doesn't have to be perfect! Also, I play twice a week at a local hospice where I have played for 11 years.
- * A delight to learn something new at my age. I love the sound of the harp.
- * a fun sound and technique change from the flute.
- * a good hobby
- * After many years of playing other instruments and being told that accuracy is paramount, my current teacher says there is no such thing as a wrong note, just a variation! The harp seems to have given me much greater freedom to just enjoy making music.
- * Assisting others in their prayers and meditations. 'Creating a frame' of sound, with tunes familiar or unfamiliar, in which real connection with God can happen. Helping create a quiet space.
- * Associating with listeners & with other musicians
- * Beautiful sound
- * Beautiful sound!
- * Beautiful sound, Challenge of learning
- * Beauty
- * Beauty, healing, mystery, creativity, magic
- * Being able to be Creative on such a beautiful instrument, being part of an exclusive community
- * Being able to create beautiful music from what is essentially just a few choice pieces of wood and a bunch of strings. For me, the experience is tactile, grounding, and immensely satisfying.
- * Being able to express thoughts through music
- * Being able to pass along my years of experience and knowledge.
- * being able to play simple music beautifully
- * Being able to progress and train my hands to do something beautiful that produces such beautiful sounds. Getting better as a harpist has made me a harder worker and a more dedicated musician. Nothing makes me prouder or happier than to be a harpist.
- * Both hands go the same direction
- * Calming and relaxing
- * Challenging, yet relaxing.
- * Challenging, peaceful, beautiful sound, inspiring others
- * Collaborating with other musicians.
- * Communicating with other people through my music.
- * Connection with others in the community! Harp has taken me many places.
- * Creating a beautiful moment and getting to experience it slightly differently each time I play.
- * Creating beautiful harp music and teaching others how to play it.
- * Creating beautiful sounds to give joy to others!
- * Creating beauty
- * Creating musical vibration that goes out to the entire cosmos.
- * Difficult to say. I love my harp and playing different types of music. There are no favorite things.
- * Enjoying the SOUND
- * Enjoyment in all settings where I play
- * Even a beginning harpist can make beautiful music.
- * Even if you don't play very well, the harp sounds gorgeous.

- * Even simple songs are impressively beautiful.
- * Even the simplest melodies sound wonderful.
Love touching the strings directly with my fingers, not keys like the piano.
- * Even when I get notes wrong, they sound so lovely I don't mind too much. It's a very encouraging instrument.
- * Even when I'm playing badly it sounds ok (especially compared to the instruments I first learned, like trumpet and recorder)
- * Even when the wrong string is pulled it sounds great. (ha ha)
- * Every time I sit down, I don't know what will happen. What my fingers will do, what music I'll gravitate to that day. I play a lot of improvised music, but I also study tunes, music theory.
- * Everything!
- * Everything! Best therapy in the world
- * EVERYTHING! But seriously, I love how wide-reaching the harp is. It can play the widest variety of musical styles and has such a wide and diverse history. My favorite thing is the study of how harp has been taught through the years and the culture.
- * Everything! It's the neatest instrument and I love how it's played (with your hands and not a breathing instrument), and I love how your feet need to be synchronized with the hands for pedal harp. I love the sound, the beauty of the actual instrument
- * Explaining the harp to people and letting them try it when I can (depending on type of gig). Surprising people by playing rock and pop music. "I bet you can't play Stairway to Heaven on that thing." "Oh yeah? Hang on to your hat!"
- * Falling in love with medieval music! The Healer's Way-Calming music for anxiety, The Healer's Way-Soothing music for those in pain, and The Gift of Healing Modes by Stella Benson are beautiful. But technique suffered due to no numbered fingering.^[2]
- * Feeling of authentic inner peace
- * Fun and relaxing
- * Getting a piece of music that I can't play and practicing it and then being successful in playing the music easily.
- * Getting lost in the beauty of the tonal frequencies of an instrument that you are basically hugging. It is so cool.
- * Gives me piece in this crazy world
- * Giving folks who listen a sense of peace and relaxation!
- * Good vibrations, healing and relaxing and beautiful sounds for myself and all who listen in person. It inspires me to improvise, compose, and helps people who cannot speak communicate, remember and focus, and draws people to listen to music
- * Hard to say! the sound, playing for others, learning new tunes, learning the history of the tunes!
- * Harp has such a beautiful unique sound - nothing else like it. I believe the harp is a healing instrument - that has been my personal experience. As a Christian, it is significant to me that the harp has a Biblical history throughout the centuries.
- * Harp was my first love but it was not available in my country. 5 years ago I was informed that a woodworking master is making harps then I bought and started to playing by myself. I really don't know why I love it but now I believe in first love. ;)
- * Harps sound so beautiful and look beautiful. Simple pieces are enjoyed and appreciated when they are played on the harp. A lot more is expected when playing other instruments like piano.
- * Have always wanted to play the harp. It was on my bucket list. When my life settled down at 59, I started to play at a summer camp for harpers.
- * Having a gift to give.
- * Having come from violin and piano, my favorite thing about the harp is that your hand position does not change for sharps or flats.
- * Hearing the beautiful tone! Playing glisses
- * Hearing the beauty of it.
- * Hearing the lovely sounds and harmonies that i can produce; it's also good to work on duets with my wife who started on her 70th birthday.
- * How beautiful it sounds and it's a beautiful instrument.
- * How beautiful it sounds.
- * How easy it is to improvise and play by ear.
- * How I feel when I play, and how it affects others.

- * How it creates a sense of peace, compassion and joy for myself and others
 - * How it draws people
 - * How it makes me, and others feel
 - * How it makes me feel when I play, and also the joy I get from perfecting a piece and then playing it for/with someone. And it is just beautiful to look at.
 - * How it makes me FEEL!
 - * how it makes me feel, happy and relaxed
 - * How magical it is and how relaxing and therapeutic
 - * How present I am: It's just me and the strings
 - * How the music makes me feel...a depth bigger than words can describe.
 - * How the sound can soothe people. Some people their blood pressure was lowered.
 - * How versatile it is.
 - * How when I get it right with good sound it rests my soul.
 - * Hugging the instrument to play it and it's gorgeous tone, also it makes people so happy to hear the harp.
 - * I always knew it was my instrument right from the get-go. It has a beautiful sound and everything sounds wonderful on the instrument. I do enjoy the fact that not many people play it.
 - * I am good at it and find it fulfilling!
 - * I am good at it and improve all the time, can't say that about most other things at my age
 - * I can bring beauty and peace to others.
 - * I can earn money without even "working"! It isn't like work. And it is wonderful that others enjoy hearing my harp and that for some it is comforting and soothing-or celebratory. I love the variety of music and the fascinating people I have met.
 - * I can play alone and have harmonization along with the melody.
 - * I don't know if there are words for it. Something about playing the harp fills my soul. It is my voice to share my deepest feelings. And it brings so much joy & comfort to others. With the harp, I don't perform... I share.
 - * I enjoy playing just before going to bed as it helps me empty my mind and just concentrate on playing
 - * I enjoy the continuing challenge of improving my playing and stretching myself with different genres of music. Playing for others brings them joy or peace.
 - * I enjoy the sound and opportunities to "play out."
 - * I enjoy the way it makes me feel inside and to see the effects of how harp music touches people's hearts.
 - * I enjoy very much playing harp and it is very important to maintain active my brain and also many muscles of my body.
 - * I feel a deep connection to the harp. The sound vibrations are very therapeutic and I love how it makes me feel.
 - * I feel at one with it.
 - * I find it very relaxing and I love learning new songs.
 - * I find it very soothing. After learning to play, I developed a progressive illness and although I have to give up many things that I used to be able to do, the harp will always be there for me even if I become housebound.
 - * I have always loved the sound of harp strings and it's a treat to be able to make music myself.
 - * I have always loved the sound.
 - * I have been blessed to see so many people being moved by the sound of the harp, and bearing witness to their reconnecting to dormant parts of their souls feels like a sacred gift I am honoured to be able to bestow.
 - * I have been obsessed with harping since the beginning. I even have two travel harps and always take one when I travel. I never go a day without playing.
 - * I have never figured that out. Probably the pursuit of starting to finish a piece.
 - * I have started playing with a friend at church who is a much better harper than I. Since moving here, she hadn't been able to play much, but enjoys sharing her duet books, and I am a much better harper now. It has helped both of us.
 - * I just love music.
 - * I just love the feeling the music creates for people. It brings love, happiness and calmness to all.
 - * I just love the sound and the peaceful feeling I get when I play.
- I also love introducing people to the harp and letting them touch the strings. Especially children!

- * I just love the sound of the harp and the fact that you can play it on your own as well as with others.
- * I like how it vibrates back into my heart.
- * I like its versatility, and that even simple things sound good on it. I like that I can surprise people by playing things that they wouldn't think of as being for the harp.
- * I like the look on people's faces because it is not an instrument you usually see. I especially like seeing people's reactions when I play music they don't expect to be played on a harp.
- * I like the mechanics of it, but really like it best when I play with other harps. I hate to say I have ditched it because I can't find a group to play with.
- * I like the peace and calm that it gives to me, and how others love the music it produces when I play for them.
- * I like the soothing sounds.
- * I like the way it makes me feel
- * I like the wide variety of musical styles that you can play on a harp from heavy metal to lullabies to classical to jazz to mariachi and everything in between. It's remarkably versatile but also can be just soothing and lovely.
- * I like to play duets and ensemble music.
- * I love encouraging others to play and helping revive interest in the harp as an instrument. Love the sound.
- * I lose myself when I play. Nothing else invades my mind.
I love the reaction when people see the harp!
- * I love being able to play melody, harmony and bass and hear the beautiful sounds!!
- * I love bringing joy to others.
- * I LOVE creating beauty, peace, balance and love, through the sound and tone quality and sensitivity of my touch directly from my heart into the space around me and out into others through my intentions. For me it's the most powerful Heart Instrument.
- * I love each and every single tone. It's great to have an instrument I can hold in my arms and feel with my body. I have a 38-strings harp and a small, 28-strings harp which I can easily take with me - much better than my piano,
- * I love everything about my harp. I love the sound, portability, repertoire, and the creativity it brings. I love that I have been able to create full time work in healthcare with my harps. I also love how each harpist brings their own unique sound.
- * I love hearing the beautiful sounds my instrument allows me to make
- * I love holding it in my arms, feeling the vibrations and resonating with it.
- * I love how harp music affects listeners.
- * I love how it sounds and how the harp is not a common instrument. I really enjoy that in order to play the harp you don't have to start with piano, instead you could start, like me, with harp. Though we have our limitations for music. I love harp.
- * I love how playing the harp makes me feel in my soul. And I love how seeing and hearing the harp makes other people feel happy, too.
- * I love how the harp makes one feel, so relaxing, for myself, and others. I play for my husband when he rests on the couch. It puts him to sleep every time!
- * I love improvising, and wonder at the strange music that sometimes appears
- * I love it! I sing and play -- I am a performer and I love playing my harp and singing -- I am half Welsh and it's in my blood!
- * I love it. It sounds beautiful and so relaxing. I love playing for other people
- * I love making music on it.
- * I love music and love the harp. Unfortunately, with advancing age and living in FL half year which isn't harp friendly I rarely play now (hence the dulcimer)
- * I love not having to think about anything else. I struggle with my mental health and being able to just focus on one thing that I'm good at, really lessens the load.
- * I love playing simple tunes that sound so beautiful on the harp -- even when I have to play them at slow tempos.
- * I love playing the harp because it is so relaxing. I also like challenges with new pieces and enjoy playing duets with my teacher and other students.
- * I love the beautiful music and bringing joy to those who listen.
- * I love the beautiful sound. It's very comforting.

- * I love the different sound that each one of them have. Also, the beauty of each harp's stature and personalities that each one possesses.
- * I love the fact that you can do both solo and accompaniment pieces on the harp. The harp is such a challenging instrument and I love that about it!
- * I love the feel and sound and wonder that it brings to others
- * I love the gorgeous sound from my harp!
- * I love the heavenly gentle tone of harps. There is no other instrument that can sooth the soul like the harp in my opinion
- * I love the sound and feel of the harp.
- * I love the sound and playing with others.
- * I love the sound and sharing music with others.
- * I love the sound and the flexibility of music
- * I love the sound of a lever harp. Learning is a constant challenging activity and keeps the brain functioning as I age. Since starting the harp, I have been exposed to a wealth of available music/composers/arrangers and Somerset festival.
- * I love the sound of harp music; it is so beautiful. I love playing rhythmic music, like calypso, Bossa, blues, and jazz. I love the variety of music that you play on the harp, improvisation, telling stories, endless possibilities.
- * I love the sound of the harp and the feel of playing. I love sharing beautiful music with other people.
- * I love the sound of the harp and the people I have met through playing harp.
- * I love the sound of the harp and the resonance. I love to play for the elderly as they really appreciate it. I also love to play new music and keep trying harder pieces. Somehow the harp feeds my soul!
- * I LOVE the sound of the harp!!!
- * I love the sound of the harp, besides, it's fun to learn something new!!!!
- * I love the sound of the harp.
- * I love the sound of the harp. I love learning new tunes. I really like Christy-Lyn Dose's video courses because I can take my time learning the tunes and she has different levels of difficulty to choose from. I love playing in the groups I play in.
- * I love the sound of the harp. It is relaxing to play.
- * I love the sound of the instrument and especially love Celtic music. I enjoy being able to make this music myself, rather than just listening to it. There feels as if there is some sort of deep connection with the harp and the music when I play.
- * I love the sound of the lever harp and the music that has been written for it.
- * I love the sound, it relaxes me, I think of my Mom, it challenges me, it's been a dream of mine.
- * I love the sound.
- * I love the sound.
- * I love the sounds and feel of the harp. It is relaxing to me.
- * I love the variety of music that can be played on the harp, the beautiful tone, and how relaxing it is to play.
- * I love the vibrations the harp sends into my core.
- * I love the way it feels to make the strings vibrate and hear the music come out, and to have exquisite control, (unlike piano). I kinda like the applause too! And to know that I have touched people through music.
- * I love the way it makes me feel. It brings me peace and joy. I also like sharing those feelings with others through harp music.
- * I love the way it sounds, the way it makes me feel.
- * I love the way it sounds.
- * I love the way the music changes the atmosphere when I play. People's moods change and the space becomes peaceful.
- * I love to accompany myself singing.
- * I love to hear it. I love the fact that I started as an adult. I also love the fact that I wanted to play the harp as a kid and I am finally doing it!
- * I love to play and sing
- * I love to take my harp where those who have not had a chance to hear one can enjoy the experience. I love to share with children how to play a glissando, or put the harp in a pentatonic mode where they can create beautiful music without instruction.
- * I loved it for many years but have become tired of crazy brides and orchestra parts that are unfeasible, written by

someone who thinks I'm playing a vertical piano. Retirement is coming!

- * I make me feel calm and happy
- * I play for assisted living, memory care and hospice. I love the peace it brings to them as well as the peace it brings to me.
- * I pray while playing the harp.
- * I really enjoy the online harp community
- * I really love the sound of it & the challenge of learning to play!
- * I used to be a flutist (I did my bachelor degree in music). As a flutist you just play one note at a time. Love the sound of the strings/chords. Relaxes me!
- * I want to play in theatre productions and more for other people but don't feel as confident as I should. I also choose pretty challenging music, so it takes me a long time to get up to speed. I love the sound, and how it makes me feel.
- * I was first exposed to a harp or harp music was at a wedding many years ago. Since then, It's always at the back of my mind. The harp has become my dream instrument on my bucket list.
- * If I'm stressed, I'm able to lose myself in playing/practicing and ignore the world for a while. It helps me relax and sometimes helps me make decisions.
- * I'm a caregiver for my youngest son, age 29, who is severely disabled. Playing the harp really helps my sanity level. It's also such a calm instrument that it doesn't bother my son, who can't tolerate loud noises. Good thing I don't play the trumpet!
- * I'm never tired of the sound
- * It allows me to explore the world of music and bring it forth in ethereal sounds
- * It always sounds beautiful even when things are going wrong
- * It brings me joy!
- * It brings me joy.
- * It brings me joy. I retired from a demanding career last year and have begun weekly lessons and daily practice - my biggest retirement goal has come true.
- * It brings me peace and comfort and is beautiful, both in sound and structure.
- * It brings me so much joy!! It's such a beautiful instrument, and I'm so grateful I found a teacher who was able to help me learn just when I was ready to give up.
- * It clears my mind and gives me peace and even a smile on my face sometimes. ;))
- * It connects me to others...both those who listen and to other people in the world
- * It doesn't matter the skill level, it is a beautiful and forgiving instrument that makes lovely music regardless!
- * It feels magical
- * It fits my personality and I like that I don't have to press down on frets. I like the sound of the harp.
- * It gives me a calmness. Reading and playing music challenges my brain in ways I have never done before.
- * It has a calming effect and I feel refreshed after playing. (I play regularly at High Teas in a historic Home, and after two hours without a break I feel I could keep playing - and I'm 79 years old.). I love playing harp!
- * It has become my voice.
- * It has such a beautiful sound! Even simple music sounds beautiful. I love having it vibrate against my body. And, there is so much wonderful music out there to learn!
- * It helps me focus intently like meditation and I always feel better after playing.
- * It is a beautiful, ancient instrument! I think I've always been intrigued by its lovely sound.
- * It is a magical, mystical instrument that has the ability to heal, uplift, bring wonder and joy, to bring peace and quietude to myself and my listeners. I have always called myself, "The Bringer of the Harp", because it only needs to be there.
- * It is a very relaxing instrument to play
- * It is always beautiful, and people always love it.
- * It is angelic and soothing and a solo thing for me so I make my own schedule
- * It is calming to my spirit
- * It is difficult to make it sound unpleasant even if I make a mistake in playing.
- * It is fun!
- * It is just my hands on the strings! Nothing in-between, like on piano or organ.

- * It is like being able to swim in energy.
- * It is relaxing
- * It is relaxing and relieves stress. I lose track of time when I'm playing.
- * It is relaxing, entertaining and challenging all at the same time.
- * It is relaxing.
- * It is so beautiful and it brings such joy to those that I play for.
- * It is so beautiful and soothing, and makes people happy when they hear a harp.
- * It is so fun and relaxing. If I am having a bad day or I'm just a bit stressed out I can sit down at my harp and the worries of the world fade away. It's just me and my harp.
- * It is so much of an extension of me. It is my form of self-expression. I create a beautiful sound with it and because of it.
It is always a challenge. When I play well, I feel an enormous sense of accomplishment. People love to hear me, and
- * It is so relaxing, and my way to remember my 8-year-old son who passed from brain cancer (built my harp in remembrance of him)
- * It is soothing
- * It is soothing and relaxing; I feel energized after I've played or just even tuned my harp.
- * it is soothing to my soul!!
- * It is such an expressive instrument ... not only through the way it sounds, but also because of its appearance.
- * It is the instrument that got me into playing any instrument. I love both playing continuo, and tunes.
- * It is the most beautiful sounding instrument ever. Sometimes I play a chord just to listen to the reverberation as the humming fades.
- * It is therapeutic for me, and it keeps my brain working.
- * It is unusual.
- * It is very relaxing.
- * It is very relaxing.
- * It is very relaxing.
- * It is very soothing and makes me relax
- * It is very therapeutic and is calming to play
- * It is wonderful to play with a group of harpers, 4 to 8 of us regularly get together and play, share a meal and socialize. More experienced harpers mentor and encourage newer players. We are in a rural area and some travel over 100 kms to join in.
- * It just sounds so freakin' beautiful.
- * It makes me feel good. It relaxes me. And it sounds beautifully, even if you plug the wrong strings!
- * It makes me happy.
- * It makes the simplest tunes sound good, and it makes the player and the listener feel good.
- * It relaxes me and I enjoy the beautiful sound it plays.
- * It relaxes me and makes me happy. I have to concentrate on what I'm doing so everything else takes a back burner.
- * It says what I can't say with words
- * It sounds beautiful, holding my harp soothes my spirit, playing my harp soothes my soul. Sometimes I close my eyes and just play glissandos for a while. It's like balm for my spirit. It feels deeply spiritual.
- * It sounds great -- even if I play very simple pieces!! - very soothing -- as opposed to my pipe music -- which can clear the room easily!!
- * It sounds lovely!
- * It sounds so restful and soothing and even when you're playing a simple arrangement it sounds beautiful
- * It sounds wonderful even if you're not very good :)
- * It sounds wonderful no matter the difficulty of it the music or my level of ability
- * It still sounds magical to me

- * It takes me to other places. When I am feeling stressed or sad or mad, I can sit down and play my harp and the world disappears.
- * It was my first love, it's what I'm most passionate about in the world. Being able to perform and teach, and pass that passion and love on to others is what I love doing
- * It's a beautiful instrument that sounds beautiful.
- * It's a unique instrument and listeners are typically very receptive.
- * it's calming, sounds good even when I make mistakes
- * It's challenging as well as beautiful. It makes me happy to practice and play.
- * It's clear my mind, and helps me not to worry about things around me. I enjoyed hearing people clap for me after my performance.
- * It's especially fun to play in a group of other instruments and ad lib the accompaniments.
- * It's fun, rewarding, relaxing, and sounds neat.
- * It's great fun and even simple arrangements sound nice and playing the harp is soothing. (This is a translation of the original response in German.)
- * It's just fun to play and listen to the beautiful tones.
- * It's peaceful and I just love it!
- * It's peaceful but dramatic
- * It's pretty (looking and sounding)
- * It's relaxing
- * It's relaxing
- * it's relaxing
- * It's relaxing
- * It's relaxing and settles my mind down before sleeping.
- * It's relaxing, it keeps me in the moment and gets my mind off other things. I enjoy the challenge of learning a difficult piece.
- * It's relaxing.
- * It's relaxing.
- * It's so beautiful. Even if I'm not playing great, the instrument still sounds good.
- * It's so soothing, it's chocolate for my soul. I get my inner harmony and positive energy back after work or stress.
- * It's so versatile. I sing and play.
- * It's sooo much easier than the cello!
- * Its sound
- * its sound
- * It's the most beautiful instrument.
- * It's the small accomplishments- making my fingers do what I want them to do!
- * It's very self-healing and everyone who hears it feels more relaxed and calmer. I enjoy the fact that I'm still learning about the instrument and how my own creativity can emerge from its strings.
- * I've wanted to since VERY young when I saw Harpo Marx. It was a dream come true when I walked into your store. I took lessons for 10 years. Then family deaths and shoulder injuries stopped me. I'm trying to get strong enough to start again. Thank you
- * Joy
- * Just being able to sit at the harp and produce a beautiful sound no matter what I play, even if I make mistakes. You can't make an unpleasant sound on the harp.
- * just enjoy the sound
- * Just making the beautiful sound.
- * Just playing and making such gorgeous sounds and also enjoying how much other people love to hear it and see it played.
- * Just the overall reverberating sounds and the ringing of the strings as they fade away.
- * Just working on learning a new instrument that just not everyone plays
- * Keeps my brain sharp, but is also relaxing

- * Keeps my mind active and playing the harp has always been on my bucket list! Beautiful instrument.
- * Learning about myself through playing
- * Learning new music that I love, especially if it's a little challenging but then gets easier as I practice it!
- * Learning new skills and peace.
- * Learning to play harp in retirement keeps me mentally stimulated, socially active & provides a sense of accomplishment.
- * Lifting up the music as praise to God and sharing His love with others through it. Allowing Him to use me and the music to minister to others.
- * Listening to the beautiful tunes written for folk harps when I play them.
- * Live music in my hands that brings enjoyment, happiness and healing to others and myself.
- * "Look, ma, I'm making music!!"
- * Love showing people the beauty of the harp and what it can do.
- * Love the sound and beautiful pieces written for harp.
- * Love the sound and the vibrating feeling of the harp.
- * Love the sound of the harp & plucking the strings!
- * Love the sound of the music
- * Lovely sound!
- * Making beautiful melodies combined with rich harmonies and good rhythms. The harp is like having a color board of sounds to work with. I love hearing beautiful melodies and playing them on the harp, familiar tunes from any style, and I love creating.
- * Making beautiful music
- * Making beautiful music with other musicians
- * Making beautiful music.
- * Making beautiful music.
- * Making gorgeous sounds
- * Making music
- * Making people happy. Sharing the harp
- * making progress in learning
- * Mood-changing. It is exhilarating when all the pieces begin to fall into place. The exquisite sound!
- * Much More relaxing than my Great Highland Bagpipes (always 120Dbs)
- * My favorite thing about playing the harp is listening to the beautiful Salzedo tone.
- * My favorite thing about playing the harp is the overall peace it brings to me, through its tone, & especially after accomplishing a difficult piece of music.
- * My favorite thing about the harp is it is calming and makes people to hear it. I enjoy playing.
- * My favorite thing is that there are only 7 notes (essentially one scale to learn since levers set to get different keys). I quit piano due to having to memorize multiple scales. Harp is easier to start, but can be more complicated if you want.
- * My favourite thing about playing the harp is that it soothes the soul and is very healing.
- * My harp has become a wonderful friend who is always there for me to relax or entertain others. It is a creative outlet. It is a way to relax and a way to express my feelings. I also love to introduce others to this magical instrument.
- * My husband always liked it. Also, making music satisfies some need I have to create. It sounds good. And this embarrasses me, but it's something that not everyone does and I like that.
- * My wife of 56 years finds it soothing enough to nap while I play. The joy of our congregation/individuals when I play. The carbon fiber 38 string harp has enough strings for all my music. Also, it is easily carried at eleven pounds.
- * Ok. That's an impossible question to answer! I love the people I've met, the places I've gone, and the education I've had because of harp. I also love the solitary discipline of regular practice.
- * PEACE
- * Peace and solace
- * Peace.
- * Peaceful

- * Peacefulness
- * People are always enchanted by the harp.
- * People are always so excited to see and hear it played. Plus, it's pretty and there's essentially no wrong notes!
- * People like the sound of it. I want to get good enough to play for hospital or hospice settings. I joined Aedan McDonnell's Harp Orchestra, and every year they go to Ventura for the Highland Games Festival. I want to go in 2024, play there.
- * people love it
- * People love seeing and hearing the harp in person. Hospice definitely benefit from the music. Miracles happen.
- * Performing and Discovering new music-this has happened recently for me with the wonderful music of Bernard Andres
- * Personal satisfaction
- * playing Celtic music with others and sharing
- * Playing for others in healthcare settings. I love How unique it sounds. It gives me goosebumps to play. When I first learned to play I sometimes cried with joy. Harp sound is unique since all strings vibrate unless damped. I know the neuroscience.
- * Playing for others to enjoy. Finding inspiration in the sound of the music rather than note production.
- * Playing has such a calming effect on me and listeners
- * Playing it for other people at events
- * Playing makes me happy and I love sharing my music with others.
- * Playing music with my friends for over 40 years. I love matching the rhythm of the music with the chord notes, e.g. jigs, reels, laments, and unusual pieces like Horses' Bransle/Bransle Des Chevaux rather than simply matching the time signature.
- * Playing my harp gives me a sense of confidence that I can do something besides household chores. Also, my husband loves to hear me play. Harp playing also keeps my fingers nimble.
- * Playing songs that the audience recognizes but doesn't expect to hear on the harp (i.e. Dancing Queen)
- * Playing the harp engages me mentally, physically, emotionally, and musically. I forget about anything in life that might be taking up too much space in my head. My harp is my partner. If I miss a day of practice, I feel unbalanced.
- * Playing the harp is physical. I love wrapping my body around my instrument and feeling as well as hearing the musical vibrations. You can't think of anything else when playing so you are able to leave bothersome things behind.
- * Playing the harp makes me feel centered and connected to something bigger than myself. I believe the vibrations of the harp are very healing, to those who play and to those who listen.
- * Playing the harp resonates with my body and alleviates any pain or circular thoughts. It is freeing. I love playing solo, in an ensemble, and singing with the harp for all kinds of audiences.
- * Playing therapeutic music for hospice patients.
- * Playing with a friend
- * Playing with a small group.
- * Pretty sounds. Get lost in them.
- * Relaxation
- * Relaxation
- * Relaxation
- * relaxation, enjoyment, emotion
- * Relaxing
- * Relaxing
- * Relaxing and enjoy making music
- * Relaxing and soothing. Also, getting to introduce others to an instrument they thought was too exotic, letting them play it, answering their questions, and seeing them get enthused.
- * Relaxing yet challenging
- * Satisfaction in making beautiful music. In the past I enjoyed playing harp with others.
- * Seeing how the instrument affects those who hear it.
- * Seeing the joy and wonderment and gratefulness in peoples' faces
- * Self-achievement, relaxation, pushing boundaries, hobby. Hoping to do harp therapy for those in need one day.

- * Sharing it with others
- * Sharing music for patients in the hospital or hospice
- * Sharing my music and teaching the harp students of ANY age.
- * Sharing my passion of music with clients who are really fascinated by my playing skills.
- * Sharing the beautiful sound with others
- * Sharing the joy of music with others. Bringing happiness or relaxation.
- * Sharing the joy of the harp with others and also sitting in the middle of a professional orchestra making music
- * Sharing the sounds of a beautiful instrument that many people don't get the chance to hear or see.
- * Since childhood I have loved the sound of harp music. Playing it myself is challenging but also very rewarding.
- * Since I am a singer, my favorite thing is to accompany my singing.
- * SO many things - too difficult to name just one!
- * Sometimes even 2-3 notes hanging in ear are more beautiful than the most complex arrangements
- * Sometimes while I'm playing a piece like the Rutter or Fauré Requiem, I think, "I can't believe that I'm the one who gets to play this part!"
- * Soothing and relaxing to sit and play
- * Soothing for myself and others!
- * Soothing sounds and the good feeling from playing the harp that I get.
- * Soothing, beautiful sound, great way to relax and/or calm down, harp is always accessible and ready to play, great exercise for brain and fingers.
- * Soothing; relaxing
- * sound, appearance, uniqueness, stress relief
- * Sounds pretty good no matter what I do!
- * Sounds, vibrations
- * Stress relief:)
- * String vibration
- * Such a beautiful instrument and a wonderful contrast to my classical piano playing.
- * Such a beautiful sound.
- * That I can make beautiful music with it and harp playing allows me to relax and destress from the busy-ness of life.
- * That I can use it to play both instrumental and singing.
- * That it sounds beautiful even if you are not very good at it. Also, that it is a special and interesting instrument that draws attention and interest wherever it appears.
- * That you can use it in more ways than most instruments.
- * the ability to get inside the music with the live way the strings respond to the fingers as opposed to a "dead" keyboard
- * The attention it brings me
- * The beautiful resonance and the ongoing challenge of learning & improving.
- * The beautiful sound
- * The beautiful sound - even just plucking a string is lovely
- * the beautiful sound and the listeners' responses
- * The beautiful sound of a harp. No other instrument quite does it for me!
- * the beautiful sound of the strings
- * The beautiful sound vibrations are my favorite.
- * The beautiful sound!
- * The beautiful sound!
- * The beautiful sound.
- * The beautiful sound.
- * The beautiful sounds and musicality of the instrument.
- * The beautiful sounds that seem to uplift one's spirit and bless others as well
- * The beautiful sounds we can create to sooth others.

- * The beautiful tone
- * The beautiful tones, calm and peacefulness. I love how everyone instantly seems absolutely charmed with my harp, just looking at the instrument. It seems meaningful and something to delight all.
- * The beautiful, ethereal sound it makes.
- * The beauty of the instrument
- * the beauty of the sound
- * The beauty of the sound and how it lends itself to creating a breathtaking mood. Also, the need to be improvising at times, which was not a skill that I had with my piano background.
- * The beauty of the sound and the mystique
- * The beauty of the sound. I love introducing people to the instrument. It's peaceful and calming for me and for others who listen.
- * The beauty of the sounds and being able to play such, always surprising to hear what you can do!
- * The beauty. It sounds pretty and looks pretty.
- * The calming and peace it gives me
- * The calming and soothing effect it has on me and on others that I play for!! I play songs that I like and that are familiar to others. I think it means more to them because they recognize the songs.
- * The calming effect, connecting with others online, sounds beautiful.
- * The calming presence it brings to people.
- * The calmness it makes me, and others feel.
- * The challenge
- * The challenge! And also, other people love to hear the instrument.
- * The challenge!!
- * The community of harp lovers is diverse and wonderful.
- * The diversity of music and playing styles and the lovely people who also play the harp
- * The enchantment it embodies, and which touches all who hear it or play it! It seems to bring joy and peace and mystical sort of magic to the heart.
- * The enjoyment I can share with others.
- * The ethereal sound of the harp
- * The excuse to wear beautiful gowns; to get ready not knowing what I will encounter that day (adventure); performing in beautiful places; the smiles and accolades I receive; having a skill that few people have that sets me apart and makes me memorable.
- * The expression of my heart flowing through the strings, the beauty of the tone, the reaction of the listener, the sheer joy of placing my hands on the strings and making beautiful music.
- * The feeling of resonance in my chest
- * The gentleness and soothing qualities
- * The harp has a lovely sound that hearers immediately like. It is a very forgiving instrument. Quite often people will judge your performance as good no matter how many mistakes you have made, provided you have learned to keep playing and not stop.
- * The harp has been a teacher for me. I love that you can always make the instrument sound good. It allows me to 'play' with it. It is good to keep challenges in your life to overcome. I love all the people I have met through my harp
- * The harp has resonated with me since first seeing Harpo Marx play as a child. I love the repertoire and I think everything about it is magical. When I play, I love its resonance and that it gives me peace. I also love that you have to hug it to play!
- * The harp is soothing and a beautiful tool for self-expression.
- * The harp is the instrument of the soul. It brings tears to some I play for, quiets children as I have played, comforts patients in nursing homes and sick or dying people. It feeds my own soul and spirit. There is no other instrument like it.
- * The harp itself creates such a beautiful melodic sound. Love harp music.
- * The healing energy
- * The healing vibrations against my own body and sharing the sound and vibration with cancer patients and individuals

in elder care facilities.

- * The heavenly relaxing sound
- * The huge range of colors we can create!
- * The immediacy of the interaction between fingers and strings.
- * The incredible feeling you get from the vibration of the strings, and the heavenly sounds that come from the harp are a win in my book!
- * The inner peace and how it permeates my body!!
- * The internal resonances of tones in playing.
- * The intimacy of connecting with the strings (vs. the piano for example.). The sound.
- * The joy and satisfaction of beautiful music available literally at my fingertips
- * The joy I get and give to others with the music
- * The joy it brings me. Currently using harp and piano as part of my physical therapy as I rehab my left shoulder after a broken humerus and reverse shoulder replacement. The joy of playing tempers the discomfort of building up strength and extension.
- * The joy it brings to others.
- * The joy of making beautiful music that can be modified to reflect all the different emotions one can have.
- * The joy of the music.
- * The joy that comes from being creative and making music, as well as the mental and physical benefits of playing.
- * The look on people's faces when they hear the music! It is a privilege to provide such a beautiful service.
- * The lovely sound and the way it affects me and others.
- * The magic is created with sound that talks not only to my heart but those around me.
- * The music
- * The music (sound) itself. The appreciation of listeners.
- * The music is Divine.
- * The opportunity to improvise and be creative
- * The peace I feel when playing. Making beautiful music
- * The peace it gives and others
- * The peace it gives me.
- * The peace it gives others and myself
- * The peaceful sounds and sight of the harp amaze people and in many cases, they have the experience of seeing and hearing a harp up close for the first time.
- * The physical action of playing. Just as much as the music itself.
- * The places it has taken me and the lovely people I have met through music!
- * The pleasant sound of it and being able to share all kinds of music with people.
- * The pleasure it gives to others
- * The pleasure listening to the harp brings to listeners
- * The positive differences and rich sounds it brings to me and to others.
- * The possibility of expression and placing this instrument in unconventional settings.
- * The presence of God - worshipful experience
- * The pure joy of it! There's nothing better! It never fails to move body, mind, and soul! For both the player and the listener!
- * The range of possible colors, sounds, styles, effects - can be endlessly inventive and surprising.
- * The resonance of the instrument, the beauty of the music, and the supportive response of listeners. I also take pride in having tackled a new instrument later in life.
- * The resonance.
- * The resonant sound.
- * The satisfaction I get from bringing pleasure to others
- * The sense of accomplishment I get when I have learned a piece and can play it easily. Also, the joyful response I get from audience members who see and hear me play.

- * The sense of accomplishment in mastering a difficult piece and how nice it sounds solo or with other performers on other instruments.
- * The sense of calm it brings.
- * The sense of calm that comes to my home
- * The sense of peace that comes from the vibrations.
- * The smiles it brings to audience faces. The calm that comes over my senior listeners.
- * The smiles of residents, visitors and staff. positive feedback on how harp calms the unit. Not currently playing post-surgery and have vision problems. Until a few months ago Played at extended care & dementia unit 15 years. I hope to return.
- * The soft and easy going sound
- * The sound
- * The sound
- * The sound
- * The sound - it is just so beautiful! Our dogs come and lie on the floor when I play. Soon they are asleep. I play weekly at the hospital and patients, staff and visitors all appreciate it. It's my happy place!
- * The sound and music I create when I play
- * The sound and the challenge.
- * The sound and the feel of playing the harp.
- * The sound and the peace
- * The sound is so soothing and is very different than any other instrument I have played in the past. Other than low-stress ensemble gigs, I play for the sheer joy of it!
- * The sound of my lever harps. And playing classical music.
- * The sound of the harp and satisfaction of making music.
- * The sound of the harp and the relaxation my playing gives me.
- * The sound of the harp is sweet and relaxing
- * The sound of the harp is the most gentle musical sound in existence.
- * The sound of the harp just relaxes me.
- * The sound of the harp makes me happy. I love playing harp with others, and I love sharing harp music with people who have never seen a harp in person.
- * The sound of the harp when I get it right.
- * The sound of the instrument
- * The sound of the strings is so penetrating, and it soothes both myself and my patients.
- * The sound of vibrating strings.
- The challenge.
- The miracle that I can somewhat replicate favorite tunes.
- * The sound sings to my soul.
- * The sound vibrations directly to my heart.
- * The sound!
- * The sound! Every note has a pleasant timbre
- * The sound! Whether it's a complex or simple tune, it's always enjoyable to listen to and play.
- * The sound, relaxing, mistakes are allowed, and I know how to handle it
- * The sound, the ability to play both the melody and chords (unlike the flute which I started on), and it just feels right!
- * The sound, the expressiveness, the soothing of my soul!
- * the sound, the feelings, the majesty and wonder, the motions, the addiction of getting better and better with practice, finding new pieces of music to learn that strike a chord with me, meeting and getting to know other musicians, learning . . .
- * the sound, the peace, the spirituality
- * The sound, the serenity it brings and the feeling of being a fairy when I play it :)
- * The sound.

- * The sound. Doing rolled chords, sequentially up from the bottom.
- * The sound. Nothing else sounds like a harp
- * The sound. The beauty. The myth. The truth. The community.
- * The sound. The comradery with other players and listeners. The challenge of figuring out how to do something.
- * The sound. The overtones and vibrations. The folk harp community.
- * The sound...
- * The sound... there is nothing like it.
- * The sounds
- * The sounds that come from it.
- * The special sound of the instrument and the feel of the strings under my fingers.
- * The tactile aspect of being in direct contact with the strings and the resonance. The fact that there aren't many of us, so I get a lot of wonderful opportunities that I might not get if I played a different instrument.
- * The therapeutic aspect -- it has a calming influence on player and listener
- * The tone
- * The tone
- * The way it makes me feel...playing my harp is like meditating
- * The way its sound transforms the space into something special.
- * The way people react to the music, and this includes me! People find it soothing, often say how greatly it touched them, how magical the sound is, etc.
- * The way the sound and vibrations heal me, literally connecting with my body at the heart. I also love how meditative exercises can be to play. I play the harp because it makes me feel good and supports a healthy mood.
- * The wonderful sound and opportunity to cheer someone up who is a shut in or unable to get out. Thank you for your arrangements and your lovely Christmas book it has been a joy to play from.
- * Therapeutic.
- * Those times when I actually feel the music is gorgeous!! It's all about the music...
- * to hear the beautiful sound of the harp
- * To play in an Orchestra, for me the greatest Thing!