



Class:

More about the class soon

Janet Harbison, Biography :

Dublin born Janet Harbison is widely acknowledged as a nationally significant Irish harper-composer. Her career has been a partnership of performance with academic work embracing the legacy of Ireland's historic harpers and the effects that society and politics had on the evolution of the tradition. Reciprocally, she has been deeply involved in using music as a social tool in bringing young people from the politically divided society in Northern Ireland together in recognition of a common heritage with her Grammy Award winning Belfast Harp Orchestra. The music of the Harp Orchestra originally focused on the historical repertoire, but with numerous commissions and inspired by 18 years of working and living in Belfast (where at first she was a Research Fellow at Queen's University, then 8 years as Curator of Music at the Ulster Folk Museum to another 8 years as CEO of the Harp Foundation). In 2002, Janet returned to her family roots in county Limerick and established the Irish Harp Centre (and College) at Castleconnell, where instead of her travelling throughout the northern hemisphere to teach, lecture and perform, her students from the world over could now travel to her. Many of these will stay and study for up to two years availing of unique apprenticeships where career harpers can gain from her experience and expertise: performing and stage directing, teaching and writing, training teachers, performers and palliative therapists; and bringing people together in the community with music-making within the phenomenal treasure of our cultural heritage.