



Media Release

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The Eternal Harp Showcased in Folk, World, and Jazz Concert MiniSeries

There's something psychically primordial about the harp - it's perhaps the oldest type of string instrument throughout the world, and so it has lent itself to every style of music through the ages.

That is more true today than ever as showcased in an upcoming miniseries in San Francisco at the landmark Swedenborgian Church.

In three concerts, from July to September, various harps will be featured performing Latin, Classical, Pop, Neo Indo-Asian-African, and traditional Irish music in the hands of top-flight renowned artists and rising talent alike. Unlike its staid orchestral image, this series highlights the harp's popularity and appeal as an instrument for the people of every place and time.

On July 9th Grammy winner Carlos Reyes and friends will dazzle us on the Paraguayan harp that has become his artistic emblem, as well as showcase his mastery on violin. Carlos is renowned for thrilling thousands of fans throughout the Bay Area in the Jazz/Rock group Merlin. He has since shared the concert stage with such great artist from Craig Chaquico, The Crusaders, The Rippingtons, Roy Rogers to Charlie Daniels, Wynona Judd, Clint Black, Willie Nelson, John Handy, The Doobie Brothers, Rocker Steve Miller and many more. Listening to Carlos perform is to hear a virtuoso at play, relishing each song with boundless enthusiasm and an infectious joy.

Then on August 13th local ensemble StringQuake with harpist Amelia Romano ventures down the path less traveled, taking us on a tour of styles and genres that span the globe from India, the Near East, to Africa and the Americas. StringQuake experiments with rhythms, tones and textures that demand the listener re-think the lever harp's role in today's music. Cellist Misha Khalikulov, born in Uzbekistan and raised in San Francisco, has toured over 25 countries in various ensembles. Percussionist Josh Mellinger is an exponent of various percussion ensembles, Tabla, North Indian, African, both Javanese and Balinese Gamelans, as well as performing with chamber orchestra. A rich panoply of world music in one evening.

No harp series would be complete without featuring Celtic music. The September 10th concert will resound with two Celtic talents in one performance by the legendary Patrick Ball, musician and theatrical storyteller. He is a master interpreter of the legendary Irish harper, Turlough O'Carolan in particular - "streams of silvery tunes glisten and shimmer" raves the SF Chronicle. Audiences are swept away by this master storyteller and artist of achingly beautiful harp music as he blends them in concert to create "a warm and magical performance."

The performances are part of the "Second Sundays" Concert Series at the SF Swedenborgian Church, the monthly series is as unique as its historic setting, featuring virtuoso performances that cross musical boundaries of culture and geography while expressing the universal strivings of the human spirit with traditional compositions, authentic and novel arrangements, as well as inspired original modern works.

The evening concerts are held in the early Arts & Crafts style candle-lit sanctuary, a National Historic Landmark and an ideal, intimate setting for performances by the smaller ensembles that are scheduled. The series continues monthly on the second Sunday of each month through October 8th. Tickets are available from Brown Paper Tickets online, or at the door. The Swedenborgian Church is located at 2107 Lyon Street in San Francisco, at the corner of Washington Street.

Additional information, interviews, and free press tickets available from:
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Information on the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church: sfswedenborgian.org and also at sfwedding.org