

**Colleen Potter Thorburn, harp**  
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Colleen Potter Thorburn has been featured as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral harpist with ensembles across the United States. She currently plays principal harp with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra in New London CT. Previously, she held the principal harp position with Symphony Nova (formerly the Neponset Valley Philharmonic Orchestra) of Boston MA, with whom she has also appeared as a concerto soloist.

Colleen's playing, acclaimed as "full of spirit and sensitivity" (Greenwich Citizen), has earned her national recognition as a winner of the American Harp Society's Anne Adams competition. She has performed as a harp fellow at the Aspen Music Festival, as a young artist at the International Festival-Institute at Round Top TX, and as an artist-in-residence at the Atlantic Music Festival in Waterville ME. She has been privileged to collaborate with numerous celebrated artists, among them Joshua Bell, Leonard Slatkin, James Conlon, and Marin Alsop. Outside of the "art" music scene, Colleen has also collaborated as a back-up musician for Kanye West's shows in the Chicago area, and recently played harp for 3Penny Chorus and Orchestra's America's Got Talent performances in New York in 2013.

In addition to her orchestral engagements, Colleen is a dedicated chamber musician who is particularly devoted to new music involving the harp. Her horn and harp duo Apple Orange Pair, founded in 2010 with hornist Emily Boyer, focuses on reviving, transcribing, performing, and commissioning new repertoire for French horn and harp. Apple Orange Pair's first full-length recorded album is pending release in November 2013. The duo has experience performing as guest artists for concert programs, in addition to presenting their own unique concert programs of rarely-heard works for harp and horn.

Colleen teaches private harp and piano lessons in Bluefield VA through Bluefield College's Fine Arts Community School, her own studio, and as an adjunct instructor at the college. She has experience teaching beginners of all ages, from elementary school children through adults, as well as more advanced college-level harp students. In addition to private instruction, Colleen has taught music appreciation classes (online and traditional formats), beginning music theory courses, and advanced musicianship courses at the college and graduate student levels.

Colleen holds multiple degrees in harp performance, most recently a Master of Musical Arts from the Yale School of Music, where she studied with June Han. She has also studied harp at the University of Illinois in Champaign with Ann Yeung, and in St. Louis with Laura Hearne, where she began her harp studies at age 11. Additional teachers and mentors include Nancy Allen, Deborah Hoffman, Lisa Wellbaum, Faye Seeman, and Paula Page.

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