

### STUDENT RECOGNITION

- 12 All-Region Harpists (Qualified)
  - 1 First Place, Phoenix AHS Student Competition
  - 1 Best in Class - State Solo & Ensemble
  - 2 Tier II State Solo & Ensemble
  - 5 AHS National Youth Harp Ensemble members
- OTHER HONORS (non-harp related):
- 19 MPS Junior High Honor Orchestra members
  - 4 MPS Junior High Honor Band members



### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The MPS Harp Program completed its 44<sup>th</sup> year of offering harp instruction to interested music students across the Mesa district.

Harp presentations were offered to all junior high band and orchestra students at ten junior high schools at the beginning of the year. Thirty presentations to over 1400 students introduced students to the harp and the MPS Harp Program.

The MPS Harp Program experienced record enrollment for 2017-2018 with over 210 students enrolled across the district.

All students participating in the Harp Program are required to continue playing their primary band and/or orchestra instrument while concurrently receiving weekly harp instruction during their ensemble class period.

Over 155 original arrangements and adaptations of harp parts were provided to junior and senior high ensembles to include harp in their school performances. Repertoire was suggested by the ensemble director and original parts were written specifically for each student.

Mesa Public Schools currently owns six Salvi Orchestra pedal harps, three Salvi ¾ Daphne pedal harps, one Lyon & Healy 85CG, and six Venus Prodigy harps, which are used for the high school program and the MPS High School Harp Ensemble. The district also owns 21 Lyon & Healy Troubadour harps. A majority of the harp inventory dates back to the beginnings of the program and are approximately thirty plus years old.

### ENROLLMENT: 211 Students

- 140 Junior High Students
- 71 Senior High Students

#### Harp Instruction Offered At

##### Nine Junior High Schools

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Carson Junior  | Fremont Junior  |
| Kino Junior    | Poston Junior   |
| Rhodes Junior  | Shepherd Junior |
| Smith Junior   | Stapley Junior  |
| Summit Academy | Taylor Junior   |

##### Six Senior High Schools

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Dobson        | Mesa High    |
| Mountain View | Red Mountain |
| Skyline       | Westwood     |



#### MPS HARP PROGRAM FACULTY

Dr. Charles W. Lynch III, Harp Specialist

Karen Miller, Harp Teacher (Retired Harp Specialist/Founding Faculty)

# MPS HARP PROGRAM

## 2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

### STUDENT PERFORMANCES

- All students prepared technical exercises, solos, and ensemble repertoire for performances throughout the year.
- MPS harpists were included and often featured in approximately 108 different junior high and senior high school performances at their school auditoriums, state-wide festivals, and other locations.
- All students enrolled in the Program for the entire year were given the opportunity to perform a solo or in an ensemble setting during the 2017-2018 school year.



### HARP ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCES

- The MPS High School Harp Ensemble performed four full recitals at the Historic Irving Auditorium.
- The December concert featured 27 freshman harpists, with members of the High School Harp Ensemble, in three separate ensembles.
- The February dinner and concert event, *Harp in the Courtyard*, featured the MPS Junior High Honor Harp Ensemble and the MPS Freshman Prelude Harp Ensemble, with the High School Harp Ensemble. The outdoor event featured solo performances during dinner and concluded with an ensemble concert.
- The High School Harp Ensemble also performed for special district and community events throughout the year, including the December School Board Meeting, Dia de Los Muertos Festival, and the Mesa Christmas Market.
- Every high school and several junior high schools featured a school harp ensemble during their winter concert. These ensembles shared harps and prepared with minimal rehearsals to accommodate the instrument needs across the district.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- University of Oklahoma harp professor Gaye Leblanc presented a masterclass for high school harp students (in association with Arizona Musicfest).
- Audition workshops, ensemble coachings, and extra lessons were offered throughout the year by MPS Harp Program faculty.

### ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Mana Azimi (Dobson, '16) was named a prizewinner in the Anne Adams Awards national competition. She also performed in recital at the American Harp Society National Conference. Mana is currently studying harp performance at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on a full scholarship.



For More Information:

Dr. Charles Lynch III, MPS Harp Specialist

Historic Irving: MPS Creative and Performing Arts Center

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<http://www.mpsaz.org/arts/music/harp-program-and-curriculum>