

DEAR UNCLE MAX

I'm planning a recital to include a young harpist. What literature can you recommend for easy harp/medium organ duos?

E.B., Tex.

You have a pleasant problem and are lucky to have a harpist to work with you. The organ and the harp go together very well indeed—the one sustained, the other plucked. A heavenly combination; a fit subject for paintings. Unfortunately, I haven't been so lucky as to have a harpist to work with for a duo program. While I have arranged things to include the harp, and conducted harpists, I am at the stage where I prefer

to check my judgment with a professional and would not presume to slide harp music into easy, medium, or difficult slots. However, here is what I suggest you might like to do—this gives me the opportunity to call attention to:

1. Spelman, Leslie P., *Organ Plus: A Catalogue of Ensemble Music for Organ and Instruments*. This is published by the American Guild of Organists and is available from National Headquarters, 475 Riverside Dr., Suite 1260, New York, NY 10115. The catalog is organized by instruments with organ, from one to chamber orchestra, and gives the following information: composer, title, number of pages, difficulty (easy, medium, difficult), publisher, date of publication, and the instrument in question plus, if used, additional instruments. If you have instrumentalists waiting to be

tapped to play, this book is an at-your-desk necessity. It requires constant revision and is as up to date as anything of the sort can be kept; composers go from C.P.E. Bach (*Three Duets*) through Grandjany (*Aria in Classic Style*, which every harpist seems to know) to Pinkham's works.

The quoted page below, from *Organ Plus*, will show you and others what is out there.

2. Francina Hinlopen, a Dutch composer, poetess, and harpist, mentioned in the *International Encyclopedia of Women Composers* as well as in Adel Heinrich's *Organ and Harpsichord Music by Women Composers*, has written a great deal for organ and harp and worked hard to introduce the harp as a regular feature of liturgical worship; neither book mentions her publishers. Know anyone in Holland to check for you?

Harp and Organ

ANDREWS, George W.	Song of Devotion	12p	M	JF	1923	Vl and Vc
BACH, C.P.E. (Altman)	Three Duets	20p	E	SaMu	1976	Hped (Keyboard)
BROWN, Rayner	Sonata for Harp and Organ			FhM	1990	
BUSSER, Henri	Le Sommeil de L'Enfant Jésus	11p	E	Cho	1898–1923	Vl (Vc)
DEMAREST, Clifford	Sunset	6p	E	G	1914	
DEYOUNG, Lynden	Texture			SMC		Hp and C
DICKINSON, Clarence	Exaltation	9p	M	G	1916–1944	Vl and Vc
DICKINSON, Clarence	Old Dutch Melody	10p	M	G	1933	
DICKINSON, Clarence	Reverie	8p	E	G	1923	Vl and Vc
FRANCK, César	Panis Angelicus	6p	E	JF	1968	Vl (or Hn) and Vc
FRIEDEL, Harold	Elegy	8p	E	G	1970	Vl
GRANDJANY, Marcel	Aria in Classic Style	12p	M	AMP	1944	
HANSON, Howard	Concerto	38p	D	CF	1947	Stg
HANSON, Howard	Pastorale, Op. 38	14p	M	CF	1939	Ob and Stg
LISZT, Franz (Dickinson)	March of the Magi	9p	E	G	1922	Vl and Vc
LISZT, Franz (Dickinson)	The Shepherds at the Manger	12p	E	G	1922	Vl and Vc
MOLTER, Johann M.	Sonata	15p	E	Hof	1960	Vl
OWENS, Dewey	Rhapsodic Poem	8p	M	Lyea	1980	
PEEK, Richard	Blessed Is He Who Comes in the Name of the Lord			BMC		Vl (Fl), Hp (PF) and Or
PINKHAM, Daniel	Diversions	34p	D	SchE	1982	Hp
PURVIS, Richard	Petit Concert Champêtre	27p	M	WL	1972	
PURVIS, Richard	Pièce Symphonique	29p	M	WL (RENT)	1971	Stg and T
RAVANELLO, Oreste	Andante Cantabile	9p	E	Zan	1949	Stg, 1, 2 or #-Hp
RAVANELLO, Oreste	Élegie	6p	E	Zan		Stg
RAVANELLO, Oreste	Prelude-Berceuse	6p	M	Zan	1959	
SAINT-SAËNS, Camille	Romance	9p	E	Dur	1906	Vl
SAMMARTINI, Giuseppe	Four Concertos	74p	M	NYP	1934	2-Vl and Vc
SCHARWENKA, Xaver	Andante Religioso	13p	M	Agn	1881	Stg
SNOER, John	Invocation	7p	E	IM	1913	
STRAUSS, Johann	Hochzeitspräludium	8p	E	Dob	1963	Vl
SUSA, Conrad	Serenade for a Christmas Night			SchE	1980	Hp and Vibraphone
WHITE, Louie	Suite					
WHITE, Louie	Suite for Harp and Organ		D	Sal	1981	
	1. Prelude; 2. Aria; 3. Fugue					
WOOD, Dale	Air and Dance	16p	D	Sac	1968	Handbells
WOOD, Dale	American Folk Hymn Suite	24p	M	HF	1973	Handbells
WOOD, Dale	Pastorale on Forest Green	4p	E	HF	1972	



Alexander McCurdy and Flora Greenwood
(photo courtesy Karen McFarlane Artists)

3. It had originally occurred to me that recordings of organ and harp might be an excellent source of repertoire, and accordingly I called my good friend, Henry Karl Baker of the Organ Literature Foundation, whose phone number is 781-848-1388. Within a couple of days, a computer printout listing some 18 CDs for organ and harp arrived. These were just what he had on his shelves! Henry keeps in stock about 3,000 organ recordings! Because of the fact that my old three-story Victorian house is already tilting to the left, I forewent ordering them. You may have as good a source in Texas right in your own backyard.

4. If you want to go further afield, you might find it profitable to check into concertos written for harp and orchestra (playing the reduction of the orchestral parts on the organ) or other literature for organ and keyboard. It would be a rather nifty switch to do the Handel Concerto, Opus 4 in B-flat, where what we usually consider to be the organ part is written for either organ or harp, letting, instead, the organ accompany with the orchestral parts.

Apropos of not much, I looked up "harp, harped, harpers, harps" in an old concordance lying about the house—about 30 references, mostly from the Old Testament. Some curious references to "prophesied with a harp" and "dark sayings upon the harp." What I was looking for was references to saints/angels in heaven playing on harps in the manner of Renaissance paintings. Not too clear. Most references in the New Testament are from Revelations: "four and 20 elders . . . having every one of them harps," "voice of harpers harping with their harps," "having the harps of God." It's no task to think of heaven with all those harpers playing, but somehow to think of them all at 8:00 A.M. . . . tuning, tuning, tuning . . . that must be sheer hell!

MAX B. MILLER, FAGO

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