

About the author

Amanda Whiting started classical harp at the age of 6 and at 16 was awarded a specialist scholarship to Wells Cathedral School. She later obtained her BMus from Cardiff University, LRSM and her MA in Jazz from The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Amanda has freelanced all over the world, from classical concerts in London's South Bank to Jazz festivals in Johannesburg, Helsinki and Hamburg.

Amanda lectures at numerous music colleges across the UK and her books are enabling harpists, from beginners to professionals, to access a whole new and inspired repertoire.

About this book

With more and more students wanting to learn jazz and popular music, this series of books approaches jazz from the mind-set of a classical harpist. The simple approach allows harpists to play in a 'jazz style,' as well as encouraging a move towards the freedom of improvisatory music.

Throughout this book you will encounter the following symbols. They are there to encourage you to start listening to the music that you are making as well as further suggestions which will enrich your musical language. Please embrace them and have fun!



Suggestion boxes encourage you to explore your ideas and make up your own music.



Interesting facts boxes will suggest listening ideas or factual information on the contents of the music.



Alert boxes draw your attention to key areas which may need more work e.g. rhythms or awkward lever/pedal changes

An introduction to

Jazz

for the beginner

Classical

Harpist

by
Amanda Whiting

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- Learning to play rhythms swung or straight

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- Improvising over a piece of written music

Chapter 1 – listening to your sound

Keeping it simple – short jazzy pieces using only crotchets (♩), minims (♭) and semibreves (♩), allowing you freedom to concentrate on your sound.

Throughout this chapter you should:

- Listen to and enjoy making a beautiful sound on the harp.
- Play the pieces using whichever fingers you choose, depending on your studies to date.
- Let your ears guide you.

First Day

Amanda Whiting



set harp to C major



Listening to your sound

- If there are no dynamic markings – try adding your own e.g. loud/soft, *f*/*p*.
- Try different tempos – what makes the piece sound best? Fast or slow?
- Trust yourself – use your ears and feel for the music to guide you.
- Try recording and listening back to your playing – does it sound as you expected?