



## Letter from the President

Hello Everyone,

I can't believe that 2025 has passed in what seems like 5 minutes and we are well into 2026. Another Getaway has come and gone. Last year's Getaway was very successful as attendees learned so much from our instructors Kathy DeAngelo and Candice Lark Masucci.

This year we move to the Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD. Please take the time to visit the new venue at their website (<https://bonsecoursrcc.org>) and start making plans to join us for the 2026 Annual WAFHS Getaway November 13th– 15th. Kim Robertson is confirmed as one of our instructors. Kim is a very popular instructor at workshops the world over and we look forward to having her. We are working on the final details with our second instructor and will announce that very soon. Please pass this information on to anyone that would benefit from attending. Your students are our future, please invite them to become a member of WAFHS and to attend The Getaway.

I want to thank the WAFHS Board and Chairs for another dedicated year and thank YOU for being members. Without all of you WAFHS would not exist.

Love to all of you,

Judith Schwartz,

President

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# Spring 2026 Workshop - a time for new growth!

## With Hannah Flowers

Saturday May 16, 2026

Church of the Good Shepherd

9350 Braddock Rd

Burke, VA 22015

It has been a while since we hosted a WAFHS Workshop and we are looking forward to bringing it back! The pandemic derailed all of us and bringing the workshops back is long overdue. For our Spring workshop we are delighted to host Hannah Flowers a bright new star from St. Paul Minnesota.

As a performer, singer, and educator, Hannah seeks to infuse her music-making and teaching with effortless grace and fluidity. She is known for her sensitive and lyrical accompaniment of songs as well as her syncopated and rhythmic accompaniment of dance tunes, Hannah enjoys exploring the full depth of traditional Irish music and song. We can learn a lot from her!

Inspired to learn the harp as a child, she regained her enthusiasm for the instrument after watching performances of Celtic Woman on public television as a young teenager. This musical gateway led to a life-altering immersion in Irish Traditional music and song which has taken her to Ireland over fifteen times. Over the past decade, she has traveled to Ireland to compete in the Fleadh Cheoil na Éireann and received a Minnesota Arts Board Grant to study wire-strung harp at Scoil na gCláirseach in Kilkenny, Ireland. She received her first grant from the Fulbright Commission in 2017 to study the Irish Language at Oideas Gael in the Gaeltacht in Donegal for three summers, and in 2020 was awarded a Fulbright research award to Ireland to pursue a Master's Degree in Irish Traditional Music Performance from Maynooth University.

Learn more about Hannah at [hannahflowersharp.com](http://hannahflowersharp.com).

We are excited to have Hannah present two different workshops and a concert. The workshops will be Harpin' it Irish and Ear Worms and Waltzes

## **Harpin' it Irish: Irish Ornamentation and Style**

Have you ever played Irish tunes but didn't think they sounded very "Irish?"

In this workshop Hannah will teach how to play Irish dance tunes and melodies in the tradition and discuss Irish ornamentation, style, and modern techniques. Learn how to make dance tunes more "danceable" in this approachable workshop. Harp players of all levels will gain skills for how to play in the Irish style and leave with tips and tricks to invigorate their Irish tune playing.

## **Ear Worms and Waltzes: Beautiful tunes to get stuck in your head (In a Good Way!)**

Hannah will never admit to having a favorite tune, but there are some melodies she returns to again and again, never getting sick of them, even after 15+ years of playing them! In this workshop she will introduce you to some of these melodies that will be suitable to be played in most any place, whether an event, a place of worship, or your living room. You'll be humming these tunes all the way home!



Come for one workshop or both. Either way, the concert is included in your ticket so definitely stay! One Workshop is \$30; two workshops are \$ 40.

To save your spot, Register [here](#) or email [jentheharper@gmail.com](mailto:jentheharper@gmail.com).

Concert (included with Workshop Registration)

Hannah will be giving a concert at The Church of the Good Shepherd, our workshop venue, after our workshops – stay for the fun and enjoy her warm and fun playing!

# WAFHS Website Update Launched



The WAFHS website has been updated recently and developed with a new look. The address is the same: [www.wafhs.org](http://www.wafhs.org). The design can be easily and quickly updated but presents the same important information that has been available since inception.

Note too that the website is not final. The site continues long running pages including The Getaway, Workshops, Teachers, Member Events, and Harps for Rent or Sale. We will continue to develop capabilities including a shop for merchandise (including membership renewal and purchases of Finale).

Take a look at the new site and see what's happening. If your information is incorrect, please send updated content to the webmaster at [info@wafhs.org](mailto:info@wafhs.org) for updates. This includes the listings of Harp Circles and members who teach. Please include what is outdated (so that it can be removed) and what should be there (so it can be added).

The site would be so much better with additional current and rapid turn-around content from members! Photographs from recent events and member news (between Newsletters) will keep the site fresh and interesting. Although we have a webmaster feeding the site, the content comes mostly from you, the members. Feel free to submit additional material by email to [info@wafhs.org](mailto:info@wafhs.org) or navigate to the Contact page and use the web form. Thanks to everyone who provided content and context.

Special thanks to Wayne Morrison, our long-time webmaster who kept us informed and up to date for so long. We would not be where we are now without his leadership and help!

# The Lament for Flora MacDonald

Scottish Waltz Air

Niel Gow Jr. Arr. S. M. Knowles 2008

The musical score is presented in five systems, each with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system begins with a repeat sign. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the bass clef provides harmonic support with chords and single notes. The piece concludes with a final chord in the bass clef.

[www.fynesound.co](http://www.fynesound.co)

# The New Land

Otis Tomas, Nova Scotia  
Arr. C 1988 Sue Richards

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It contains four measures of music: the first measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; the second measure has a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5; the third measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4; the fourth measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a triplet of eighth notes G4, A4, and B4. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, containing four measures of chords: the first measure has a quarter note G2 and a quarter note B2; the second measure has a quarter note A2 and a quarter note C3; the third measure has a quarter note B2 and a quarter note D3; the fourth measure has a quarter note C3 and a quarter note E2.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody from the first system: the first measure has a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5; the second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4; the third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; the fourth measure has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a triplet of eighth notes C5, D5, and E5. The lower staff continues the chordal accompaniment: the first measure has a quarter note G2 and a quarter note B2; the second measure has a quarter note A2 and a quarter note C3; the third measure has a quarter note B2 and a quarter note D3; the fourth measure has a quarter note C3 and a quarter note E2.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody: the first measure has a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5; the second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4; the third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; the fourth measure has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The lower staff continues the chordal accompaniment: the first measure has a quarter note G2 and a quarter note B2; the second measure has a quarter note A2 and a quarter note C3; the third measure has a quarter note B2 and a quarter note D3; the fourth measure has a quarter note C3 and a quarter note E2.

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff continues the melody: the first measure has a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5; the second measure has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4; the third measure has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; the fourth measure has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5, with a first ending bracket above it. The lower staff continues the chordal accompaniment: the first measure has a quarter note G2 and a quarter note B2; the second measure has a quarter note A2 and a quarter note C3; the third measure has a quarter note B2 and a quarter note D3; the fourth measure has a quarter note C3 and a quarter note E2.

2. The New Land

The musical score for 'The New Land' is presented in five systems, each consisting of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system begins with a first ending bracket over the first two measures, followed by a second ending bracket over the next two measures. The second system continues the melody in the treble clef and accompaniment in the bass clef. The third system shows further development of the melodic line. The fourth system features a more active bass line with some triplets. The fifth system concludes with a first ending bracket over the first two measures and a second ending bracket over the next two measures, leading to a final cadence.

## Thank You Members!

As many of you know, my husband passed away in January after a long fight with Early Onset Alzheimers, Posterior Cortical Atrophy and cancer. Some of you met him at The Getaway and other events he attended over the years. I wanted to thank the many members that have reached out with words of sympathy and encouragement. Your kind words and support in the last few months and over the years has been greatly appreciated. We also had lovely harp music at his viewing and funeral provided by Jen Narkevicius and Martha Hill. This prompted many attendees to tell me they are having directions put in their will that they want harp music to be played at their funerals.

Again, many thanks to our WAFHS family.

Donna Bennett

## Newsletter Info

We are trying to get back on track with our newsletters and to do so we need your help. I would be open to having some regular contributors if you are interested in doing so. Your WAFHS friends are really interested in what you are doing with your harp. That is why we are all here. When a call for submissions goes out for the newsletter, please send me your story about the concert you/your group played, tell us about the therapeutic session you provided music for, and we always love harp pictures from out in the world. If you have a new arrangement/tune you wrote and would like to share, please send it along.

Upcoming newsletter deadlines.

June 15, 2026

September 15, 2026

November 30, 2026

Please send your submissions to Donna Bennett at [wafhsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wafhsnewsletter@gmail.com). For those of you that have my other emails addresses, please don't send submissions there if at all possible. I don't want them to get lost in the never ending stream of spam.

We all look forward to hearing from YOU!



## Upcoming Events

### **Common Ground on the Hill**

Jo Morrison will be teaching a beginner class at Common Ground on the Hill with the idea of having harps available for those that don't own one to use for the week at a slight fee, and some of the harps may be available to rent and or rent-to-buy if they want to do so at the end of the week. This is a 1 period class at 9am, but includes a separate second period 10:30am to allow students to get more time and contact with the harp and get advice and help during that period if they want to extend it. People can choose to join both or either of these periods. Jo is also teaching a more advanced class after the beginner classes.

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/fun-harp>

Fun Music for Folk Harp period 3 at 1pm

More info at this link:

<https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/learn-harp2>

For more info: [harp@triharpskel.com](mailto:harp@triharpskel.com)

### **Jo Morrison with Port Righ**

Strathmore Hall for Celtic Tea

June 6th at 1 pm.

### **Banrigh** (Donna Bennett, Martha Hill, Jen Narkevicius and Sue Richards)

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

44078 Saint Andrews Church Rd, California, MD 20619

Saturday September, 5th at 7 pm

### **WAFHS Getaway**

11/13-11/15/26

