

# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The range of notes used in this book goes from the G that is 10 strings below middle C, up to the C that is 2 octaves above middle C. If you have a small harp that doesn't have some of the low strings, you have several choices when playing pieces that have notes lower than your harp. On many of the pieces, you can play all the notes with both hands an octave higher than written, and this will keep the music in the range for your harp. Or, if there are only a few notes that your harp is missing, you can just play those individual notes an octave higher, keeping the rest of the notes in the range as written in the music.



You do not need any sharpening levers on your harp to play the music in this book because there are no sharps or flats in any of the pieces. See pages 73 and 74 for more information on sharps, flats, and the use of sharpening levers in other harp music.

I highly recommend that you take lessons from a qualified harp teacher while you are learning to play the harp. Although you can “teach yourself,” the feedback and guidance from a teacher will make you a much better harp player and give you greater enjoyment and success.

This book is designed to be studied consecutively from beginning to end. Each chapter introduces a new technique or concept. Don't be tempted to skip around. Be sure you understand the material and can play the pieces in each lesson before going on.

I have created two companion products that you'll find useful while learning from this book. On the companion CD I play all of the pieces in the book, so you can hear how the music is supposed to sound. The informative companion DVD is extremely helpful, particularly if you are teaching yourself without the aid of a teacher. I give more detailed instruction about the concepts and techniques presented in the book, and point out places in the music where you need to pay particular attention. You can also see my hand position and playing technique as you watch me play all of the pieces. You should be able to purchase either of these companion products from the store where you purchased this book. Or, you can order them directly from me at [www.harpcenter.com](http://www.harpcenter.com).

If you'd like a copy of the lyrics for the songs in this book, they are available for purchase in a booklet that also contains the lyrics from my [Hymns and Wedding Music for All Harps](#) book. However, you may also download the lyrics for free at [www.harpcenter.com/lyrics](http://www.harpcenter.com/lyrics).

## **A SPECIAL NOTE FOR PIANISTS AND OTHER MUSICIANS**

Having taught hundreds of people how to play the harp, I have observed that beginners who are already accomplished musicians, particularly pianists, tend to try to progress too fast, without taking the time to create a good foundation of basic technique. You may be able to sight-read the music in this book immediately. However, if you do this, you're probably not playing it correctly with proper hand position and placing. I can't emphasize enough how vital it is for you to spend time with the first few lessons playing the pieces very slowly, conscientiously following the placing brackets, watching to be sure your hand position is correct and your fingers are moving all the way into your palm. Taking the time to stop and place your fingers in the brackets, even if that means that there are pauses in the music, is much more important at the beginning than playing the piece in the correct time. Don't be in a hurry. The time you spend to be sure your basics are solid at the beginning will pay off for years to come.