

TYPES AND PARTS OF HARPS

FOLK HARPS or LEVER HARPS

Folk harps can also be called **lever harps**, **Celtic harps**, **Irish harps**, or **non-pedal harps**. They range in size from small 20 string lap harps to larger floor harps with up to 40 strings. No matter what name your harp goes by, you can use this book to learn to play your harp.

South American or Mexican-style harps are usually played with a slightly different technique than what is presented in this book, and often the string colors are different. However, if you have that type of harp, you can still use this book to learn to play.

Wire-strung or metal-strung harps also have their own special playing technique. If you have one of these harps, I suggest that you supplement this book with an additional method book specifically designed for that type of harp.

PEDAL HARPS

Pedal harps are the harps that are played in an orchestra. They are also called **concert harps**, **orchestral harps**, or **grand harps**. They have between 40 and 47 strings. There are seven pedals which are moved by the harpist's feet, one pedal for each of the seven notes in the scale. The pedals move discs on the neck of the harp which shorten or lengthen the sounding length of the strings, providing sharps, naturals, and flats. Although the title of this book mentions a "Folk Harp," you can also use it to learn to play a pedal harp.

