

2018 HARP DAY
panel for parents of harp students 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Panellists: Elizabeth Volpé Bligh, Joy Yeh, Miya Otake

Having piano background is very helpful, since it is so visual, making it easier to comprehend theory. It is wonderful if they can play two lines at once, and read bass and treble clefs, before they come to the harp. It is not necessary, but it might save time to start this way.

Every teacher has their list of requirements, but most agree on these:

Come to each lesson prepared to show progress. This means practising every day, even if it's not as long a session as usual. Have clean hands, short nails, no chewing gum, be respectful and engaged. Take off any jewelry that might damage the harp (i.e. bracelets, dangly earrings, necklaces). Arrive and leave punctually.

Buy the best harp you can afford. The child will practise more if they love the sound they're making. Also, it is easier to sell a good harp if the child doesn't wish to continue.

Videotape parts of lessons, if necessary.

Pull out snippets of music from a hat and memorize these.

Keep a practice journal with your goals and deadlines carefully organized.

Keep notes from lessons and re-read. It helps if the student writes them out themselves, or copies the teacher's notes into a tabbed binder. The tabs make it easier to find the notes for each piece or study.

There are various ways to improve practising skills.

Break your practising into goals:

Example: Play segments of piece 3 to 10 times in a row perfectly (depends on age of student) - you can use pennies or small candies to count the repetitions

clapping out rhythms for five minutes

Sight-read for five minutes

Listen to a recording of piece

Missed lessons - everyone has different policies on this. There should be plenty of notice and a very good reason. If the child is sick, they should not come to the lesson.

If they are well enough to learn, they could have an online lesson that week. Zoom, FaceTime and Skype all work.

Resources:

Anne Crosby Gaudette's web site has a good page on her studio policies, which is instructive:

<https://musicdiscoveries.studio/studio-policies>

Phil Perkins - The Logical Approach to Rhythmic Notation

Sylvia woods' vidoes on how to tie string knots, etc.

Royal Conservatory of Msic Harp Syllabus and recordings

Suzuki recordings