

About the Young Composers Project

New AHS Program Provides Young Harpists an Extraordinary Opportunity

“to celebrate our legacy, inspire excellence, and empower the next generation of harpists.” AHS’s newest educational program appears ready to achieve all three goals of its ambitious mission statement. The **Young Composers Project** provides an opportunity for harpists aged 25 and younger to submit a harp music composition, receive one-on-one feedback from world renowned professional composers, and perform their original work at a concert at the 2017 AHS Summer Institute in St. Olaf College. Private feedback and personal guidance will be provided the young harpists/composers by one of the great living American composers of our time, Grammy Award winning, **Libby Larsen**, as well as the award-winning, inspiring harp composer, **Rachel Brandwein**.

All Three Rails of the AHS Mission Statement The Young Composers Project *inspires* young harpists to be creative and interact with their instrument in new ways. The program *empowers* them to express themselves through composition and offers a unique chance for collaboration with professional composers. It provides opportunity for musical as well as personal growth and *celebrates* their accomplishment at the concert. The Featured Composers will receive a professional recording of their performance following the Institute and will be spotlighted in *The American Harp Journal*.

The American Harp Society has a rich history of supporting young harpists and advocating for new music. Producing new harp repertoire has often been challenging for composers because harp techniques are less well known than that of more common instruments. The benefits of exploring composition for young students are numerous on a personal and professional level. It may be more effective to encourage practicing harpist to compose than to teach composers about the instrument.