



## HARP ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL 2027

Dallas/Forth Worth Metroplex, TX — June 17-20, 2027

The purpose of the American Harp Society Ensemble Festival is to encourage musical collaboration, the building of community through harp ensembles, and to inspire harpists of all ages and levels to advance their ensemble performance skills. The AHS Ensemble Festival offers the unique opportunity for harp ensembles to perform their program for a live audience, and to receive valuable feedback and ratings from preeminent harpists and adjudicators.

### **FESTIVAL DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES**

The Festival is divided into six (6) Divisions:

Division 1: Primary Division

Up to age 12 as of June 1, 2027

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 2: Middle School/Junior High Division

Ages 12-15 as of June 1, 2027

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 3: High School Division

Ages 14-19 as of June 1, 2027

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 4: Mixed Pre-College Division

Up to age 19 as of June 1, 2027

15 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 5: Collegiate Division

All members must be enrolled in a collegiate program as of Spring 2027

20 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Division 6: Open Division

Any age

20 minutes maximum performance time limit, including transitions between pieces

Ensembles in each Division may participate in one or more of the following five (5) Categories:

- Harp Duet (two harps all playing individual parts)
- Harp Trio (three harps all playing individual parts)
- Harp Quartet (four harps all playing individual parts)
- Medium Ensemble (maximum of 12 harpists, players may double and/or divide parts)
- Large Ensemble (more than 12 harpists, players may double and/or divide parts)

### **APPLICATION & ENTRY FEES**

Applications are due by February 1, 2027.

Entry fees are due by March 1, 2027. Entry fees are non-refundable.

- Small Ensembles (Duet, Trio, Quartet) = \$20 per ensemble
- Medium Ensemble = \$40 per ensemble
- Large Ensemble = \$60 per ensemble

### **REPERTOIRE**

All programs are free choice. Each program must include at least one work originally composed for harp ensemble. Transcriptions will not count as works that are 'originally composed' for harp ensemble.

### **PERFORMANCES, RATINGS, & COMMENTS**

Ensembles will perform once before a panel of adjudicators and live audience of registered attendees in the division and category in which they are entered.

Ensembles will receive written comments on their performance as well as ratings.

Ratings shall be awarded as follows: I (Superior), II (Excellent), & III (Good).

Ratings will be based on precision of ensemble playing, blend of sound, quality of articulation and tone, ensemble intonation, and musical interpretation of the score.

The performance of the ensemble shall be the only factor considered when determining ratings. Ensembles will not receive rankings (first, second, third place, etc.) within a division or category.

Multiple ensembles can earn the same rating within the same division and category.

Participants in any Division may elect to receive written comments only, with no rating. In doing so, that ensemble will not be eligible for Outstanding Ensemble Performance Award consideration.

## **OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE AWARD**

The Outstanding Ensemble Performance Award represents the attainment of superior musicianship by an ensemble as demonstrated in their performance at the AHS Harp Ensemble Festival. Within each division and category, Outstanding Ensemble Performance Awards may be conferred at the discretion of the adjudicators. Ensembles receiving the Outstanding Performance Award may additionally be invited to perform at the Closing Awards Ceremony and Concert without remuneration.

## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

A complete list of rules and regulations may be [found here](#).