



The Harp Herald

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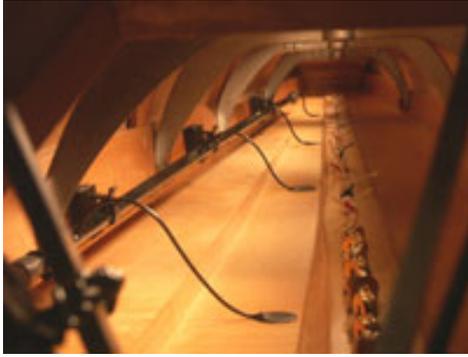
Introducing the Dusty Harp Pickup

Of all the new products I saw at this year's American Harp Society Conference in Tacoma, Washington, I was particularly impressed by the new Dusty Harp Pickup, designed and produced by the good folks at [Dusty Strings](#). One of the more frequent questions I am asked by harpists is "what pickup do you recommend?" Up to now, I haven't had a clear favorite, but now I do. Let me tell you a little more.

Most harp pickups get their input through a single piezoelectric transducer, the "business end" of the pickup that senses the vibrations of the harp's soundboard and converts them to electrical energy. The problem with a single transducer is, where on the soundboard do you place it? Too low on the bass end and your harp sounds boomy when amplified, too high and it sounds tinny. It can be a real trial to find that "sweet spot" that offers the best mix of highs and lows. Some brands of pickup deal with this by providing two transducers instead of one. A better solution, but still one that can be improved upon. Electronic harps like those made by Lyon & Healy and Camac have a separate transducer for *each string*. That's great if you want to buy a new harp, but what can you do to provide that kind of balance on your existing instrument?

The Dusty Harp Pickup tackles this issue with a system of four transducers, spaced along the entire length of the sound board. What's more, their cables are enclosed in a central tube that mounts to the instrument's side, keeping the cables from contacting the board. This prevents the annoying rattles and sympathetic vibrations that often plague pickup-equipped harps.





This pickup is available in three sizes: two for lever harps, depending on how many strings they have, and one for pedal harps. As harps can vary in size, talk with me or with Dusty Strings directly before ordering, to make sure you have the size that's right for you. A handy person can install this system herself. The product comes with templates and instructions to help you do it right. You can also have it installed by a competent instrument repair technician (like me, for instance!). The input jack for your amp can be mounted directly to a through-hole drilled in the harp's body, or by a stick-on clip if you are uncomfortable

about drilling holes in your instrument.

I had the opportunity to hear both the lever and pedal harp models at the Tacoma conference. I was very impressed by the evenness of sound, the dynamic range, the lack of extraneous vibrations, and the volume this pickup is capable of generating. Sure, this unit costs more than a single transducer would, but unlike many of the pickups on the market, the Dusty Harp Pickup was designed specifically for the harp, and thus provides the best performance of any system I have heard so far. For more information, visit the [Dusty Strings website](#), or feel free to [contact me](#).

New Harp Care DVD is Now Available!



Harp Care with Steve Moss, my new DVD on basic harp maintenance, is now available. Everything you need to know about tuning, replacing strings, moving, and caring for your harp is here. 85 minutes of video are packed with step-by-step instructions, answers to your most common harp care questions, and more. A perfect gift for the new harp student, or for the intermediate harpist who has questions but never knows who to ask.

The DVD debuted at this past summer's American Harp Society Conference in July, and initial feedback has been very positive. I'm very proud of the product my team and I came up with, and I hope you'll like it as much as I do.

[Visit this page](#) to learn more, to watch an excerpt, and to order online.

Hello from Beautiful Oregon!

As many of you know, my family and I recently relocated from Wisconsin to Corvallis, Oregon, where my wife Jenny is attending Oregon State University as a PhD. candidate. Many have been kind enough to ask how we're doing, so I thought I'd include a brief personal update. In short, all is very well. We love our new home and community. We've been taking advantage of the area's bike friendly culture, and when I'm not on the road my daughter Annie and I bike to school together. My older daughter, Liza, is continuing to pursue her interest in singing. She has joined the Heart of the Valley Children's Choir as well as her middle school choir, and found an excellent voice teacher at the University. She also has a role in her school's fall production of "Charlotte's Web." I'm enjoying the transition from big city life to the rhythms of a smaller town. We are often greeted by a family of deer in the back yard in the mornings, and enjoy frequent visits from the neighborhood hummingbirds at our feeder. Corvallis is also the home of [Thormahlen Harps](#), and it has been a pleasure to meet Dave and Sharon Thormahlen, and to hear some of their fantastic instruments fresh from the workshop.



About Moss Harp Service



"It is a pleasure to recommend Steve Moss for harp regulations and repairs. Steve is a perfectionist's dream! His results are incredibly thorough and accurate. His intelligence and patience are his gold star qualities. Steve has regulated my harps and the Milwaukee Symphony harp many times, and I have always been 1000% satisfied with his work."

-Danis Kelly, Principal Harpist, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

Steve Moss has been regulating and repairing harps for over 15 years. During eight years with Lyon & Healy, he trained and worked with Master Regulator Peter Wiley. Steve oversaw the company's lever harp production for two years before moving into pedal harp assembly and regulation. He also specialized in training new employees and visiting technicians. As a traveling technician, Steve has serviced harps in across the country. Clients include the principal harpists of the Lyric Opera

of Chicago, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra, The Utah Symphony, and The Seattle Opera, as well as The Eastman School of Music, Interlochen Arts Academy, Northwestern University, The University of Michigan, The University of Washington, and Brigham Young University. He also makes frequent regulation trips to Lyon & Healy West in Salt Lake City. Steve lives in Corvallis, Oregon with his wife and two daughters.

"It is a pleasure for me to play harps worked on by Steve Moss. They are always perfectly regulated and extremely resonant since he voices for sound as well as regulates for pitch. And he's a really nice guy, too!" -Liz Cifani, Principal Harp (retired), Lyric Opera of Chicago, Professor of Harp, Northwestern University

Upcoming Road Service Stops

October 15-19

Omaha, NE

November 3-8

Anaheim/Los Angeles. For reservations contact [Salvi Harps Inc.](#)

December 2-5

Spokane, WA

January

Salt Lake City, UT

February

Las Vegas, NV
Seattle/Tacoma, WA

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