

The Crane School of Music • SUNY Potsdam

# CRANE

## HARP

**Welcome to the harp studio at The Crane School of Music!** The Crane School offers the B.M. in Harp Performance, Music Education, and Musical Studies (Music Theory, Music History, or Composition); the B.M. with an emphasis in Music Business; the B.A. in Music, and the M.M. in either Performance or Music Education. These degrees include weekly private harp study and Performance Class. Admission to these programs is via audition. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic merit and talent.



*Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis with student Kelsey Munz*

### **Who will teach, guide and mentor me?**

While many faculty will contribute to your education, Dr. Jessica Suchy-Pilalis will interact with you on almost a daily basis as she has since joining the Crane faculty in 1996. She has performed extensively both in the U.S. and abroad as a recitalist and soloist with orchestra. She holds advanced degrees in music performance and theory from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Eastman School of Music and Indiana University. She has been awarded a Master Fellowship by the Indiana Arts Commission/National Endowment for the Arts and has toured Greece as a soloist under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State. She is

principal harpist of the Orchestra of Northern New York and is a featured soloist on their CD, *Invitation to the Dance*. She serves as vice president of the Historical Harp Society and is on the editorial board of the American Harp Journal. She has presented at the World Harp Congress and at American Harp Society Summer Institutes and conferences. Her harp-related research has been published in the *American Harp Journal* and *Grove Music Online*.

### **What are the performance opportunities at Crane?**

Students are provided with numerous opportunities to perform with the Crane Symphony Orchestra, Opera Orchestra, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Contemporary Music Ensemble, Early Music Ensemble, Latin Ensemble and many chamber music groups including the Crane Harp Ensemble, an award-winning group that tours. Each harp student is encouraged to explore his/her artistic potential via venues that include performances, auditions and competitions.

### **In addition to performance, how will Crane help me to prepare for my future as a professional harpist?**

In harmony with the mission of The Crane School of Music, Dr. Suchy-Pilalis' teaching philosophy stresses a balance of pedagogy and performance. Whether you aspire to be an orchestral harpist, a soloist, an educator or a researcher (or all of these!), knowing how to teach is an invaluable tool. Undergraduates and graduates have the opportunity to work with harp students of varying ages and levels. This happens in several venues such as dedicated pedagogy courses and the *National String*

Project where Dr. Suchy-Pilalis serves to guide Crane harpists as they teach small groups of children. Crane harp students often serve as counselors and teaching assistants at the pre-college summer camp, Crane Youth Music.

A well-rounded harpist should also know the history of the instrument and the important harp composers. Dr. Suchy-Pilalis encourages undergraduate research and directs projects of interest to the students, both as part of the Honors and Presidential Scholars programs. In addition, training in basic harp repair and maintenance, including felting and regulation, is also part of the curriculum.



### **Where will I practice and what harps are available?**

Harpists may bring their own instruments or use one of the school's three concert grand harps. On-campus practice facilities include a dedicated harp room and two harp/organ studios as well as adjacent practice rooms. In addition, there are lever harps for use in pedagogy classes. A restored Erard single-action harp is available for historical harp performances.

## **What might my future look like?**

Students have many diverse visions and often choose to double major either within or outside of music. Career mentoring is an important part of our programs that continues beyond graduation. Some of our harp alumni are:

### **Ruth Bennett (Harp Performance, '02)**

- M.M. – Harp Performance, Eastman
- Professional Studies Certificate, Manhattan School of Music
- NY Debut Recital: Carnegie's Weill Hall
- Competitor, 16<sup>th</sup> International Harp Competition, Israel
- First Prize Winner - Segundo Concurso Nacional de Arpa, Mexico City, Mexico
- Principal Harpist, Symphony Orchestra of Yucatan, Mexico

### **Amanda Evans (Harp Performance, '05)**

- M.M. – Harp Performance, Eastman
- Performer's Certificate, U. Conn.
- Freelance harpist, private teacher, Connecticut

### **Cailin O'Hara (Music Education, '06)**

- Music Educator at Montpelier Central Schools, VT

### **Laura Osgood (Music Ed Harp/Vocal Perf., '07)**

- M.M. – Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (Vocal Performance)
- D.Mus. – Eastman (Vocal Performance)

### **Lindsay Paul (Harp Perf. and Musical Studies, '08)**

- M.M. – Performance and Teacher Certification, The Crane School of Music
- Freelance harpist, New Hampshire

### **Grace Myers (Musical Studies, '09)**

- M.M. – Ethnomusicology, Penn. State Univ.

### **Kate Sloat (Harp Performance, '11)**

- M.M. – Harp Performance, Eastman
- Professional Studies Certificate, Mannes (in progress)

### **Mikaela Davis (Harp Performance, '14)**

- Touring under management with the Mikaela Davis Band producing CDs of her original music and publishing arrangements for harp ensemble.

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