

FREE CONCERT : ECLECTIC HARP

Featuring Stephanie Claussen

Want to hear jazz on the harp? Interested in discovering some new medieval music? On Sunday, September 28th at 2pm, the Miss Wadena Pageant Committee will present Twin Cities harpist Stephanie Claussen in a free harp concert at Wadena United Methodist Church. Stephanie Claussen is a recipient of a 2014 Art Tour Minnesota Grant.

Last August, with no great expectations of success, Claussen applied for the grant through the MN State Arts Board. "I was very happy and a bit surprised to see my name on the list next to the Minnesota Orchestra and the Ordway," she said. "The committee mentioned that I'm their youngest applicant." At age twenty-seven, Claussen has already been playing harp for twenty years. She studied harp at the University of Minnesota and has been performing professionally in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas since she was fourteen. Her current concert tour explores some of her more unconventional musical interests such as early American shape-note melodies, Gregorian chants, and jazz.

"I enjoy breaking the stereotypes that surround the harp," Claussen wrote in her grant proposal. "People often comment to me that harp is so lovely; that it is soothing; that it sounds heavenly. I wish to show audiences that the harp can also be wild, harsh, resonant, sorrowful, or eerie." She plans to also incorporate some fun pop tunes to surprise her audience.

Claussen will be available for a Q and A session following the concert and the Miss Wadena Pageant Committee will be hosting a reception. Additionally, Claussen will be offering individual "Intro to the Harp" lessons, to start around 3pm. Only six slots are available; sign up before the concert on a first-come first-serve basis.

Interested in learning more about the harp? Visit Claussen's blog at www.StephanieClaussen.com/harp-blog.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Stephanie Claussen, harpist
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