

Minnesota-based harpist Stephanie Claussen is a performer, teacher and arranger. With interests that span the Celtic and classical harp worlds, she performs her own mixture of Scottish tunes, J.S. Bach, Debussy, and anything that sounds medieval or French. At the age of twelve she won first place in the Macalester Scottish Country Harp Competition in St. Paul and was named “Most Promising Harpist.” After studying for eleven years with Twin Cities harpist Catherine Victorsen, Claussen obtained her B.M. in harp performance from the University of Minnesota under the instruction of Kathy Kienzle, principal harpist of the Minnesota Orchestra.

As a 2014 recipient of the Arts Tour grant, Claussen performed a program entitled “Eclectic Harp” throughout greater Minnesota, featuring jazz, shape-note, Classical and medieval music. Claussen visited Scotland for the first time in 2018 to attend the Edinburgh International Harp Festival and later competed for and won the title of 2018 US National Scottish Harp Champion.

Claussen has released four solo albums and a book of arrangements entitled *Light so Brilliant: Christmas Carols and Tunes for Solo Harp*, published by Mel Bay. She runs a harp studio in St. Paul and performs throughout the Upper Midwest. When not making music, she enjoys repainting her walls and drinking English Breakfast tea out of a real teacup.

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