

## **Harp info:**

This guide will help you find your dream harp.

There are three main harps groups Lap, Celtic (or Lever Harp) & Pedal harp. Your harp should also come with a tuning hammer that will allow you to tune your harp.



### **Lap**

They are smaller in size

- Have around 22 strings
- May or may not have sharpening levers\*
- Playing range is around 3 octaves
- Around 10 pounds
- Great for traveling
- This harp is limited in which music you can play because of the amount of the strings.
- It can also be unstable because of the size.



## **Floor, Celtic or Lever harp**

A mid size harp

- Range between 29 - 36 Strings
- May or may not have sharpening levers\*
- Usually have nylon or gut strings depending on the harp maker
- 22 - 30 pounds
- They sit on the floor. They may have a base or legs that attach.
- Can fit in the back seat of a car
- Easily transportable
- Fully levered ones are capable of taking you through graded exams.  
ABRSM & RCM

**\* Sharping levers are small mechanisms that are mounted near the top of each string and are designed to shorten the string length the exact amount necessary to raise the pitch a half step when the handle is lifted. Sharping levers enable easy key changes and the playing of accidentals within a piece of music.**



## **Pedal**

This harp is most commonly seen in an orchestra or symphony.

- It has 7 pedals in which you use your feet to press up or down which allow you to play sharp and flats.
- They have between 40 - 47 strings
- They are around 6ft in height
- They are larger and usually heavier. Weighing up to 100 + pounds
- They have wire, nylon (or carbon fiber) & gut strings
- They are generally more expensive. New they generally start at around 25,000 CDN
- This harp is required to complete ABRSM 8 / RCM 10 and the diploma level

I would definitely check out **Aoyama Harps**, **Long and Mc Quade**, **Tapestry Music** or any music store for rentals first. Sometimes local harp makers will also have harps for rent.

Facebook Marketplace or Craigslist may have harps. If you are looking at used make sure there are no cracks, bulging sound boards or visible warping.

### **Harps to avoid:**

Avoid Pakistani made or Roosebeck harps. They are cheaply made harps out of Pakistan. They have a terrible reputation in the harp community. They can't be regulated or fixed if they need to, They also use cheap levers, strings and hardware which are nearly impossible to find.

### **Finding a Harp**

<http://aoyamaharp.ca> - Tell Miya, Michelle sent you. I highly recommend Aoyama harps as she has extensive knowledge in harps.

<https://www.long-mcquade.com/>

<https://www.tapestrymusic.com/>

[www.lyonhealy.com](http://www.lyonhealy.com) (lyon and healey is one of the top harp makers out of the US) it is a good place to just browse.

[www.dustystrings.com](http://www.dustystrings.com)

[www.harpsicleharps.com](http://www.harpsicleharps.com)

[www.salviharps.com](http://www.salviharps.com)

[www.camac-harps.com/en/](http://www.camac-harps.com/en/)

Build a harp [www.harpkit.com](http://www.harpkit.com)

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out anytime and I can help you with your journey to find your harp.

For harp lessons you will need the following,

A harp & tuning hammer.

A music stand.

A chair or bench which works for the size and height of your harp.

A chromatic tuner or app on your phone with one.

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