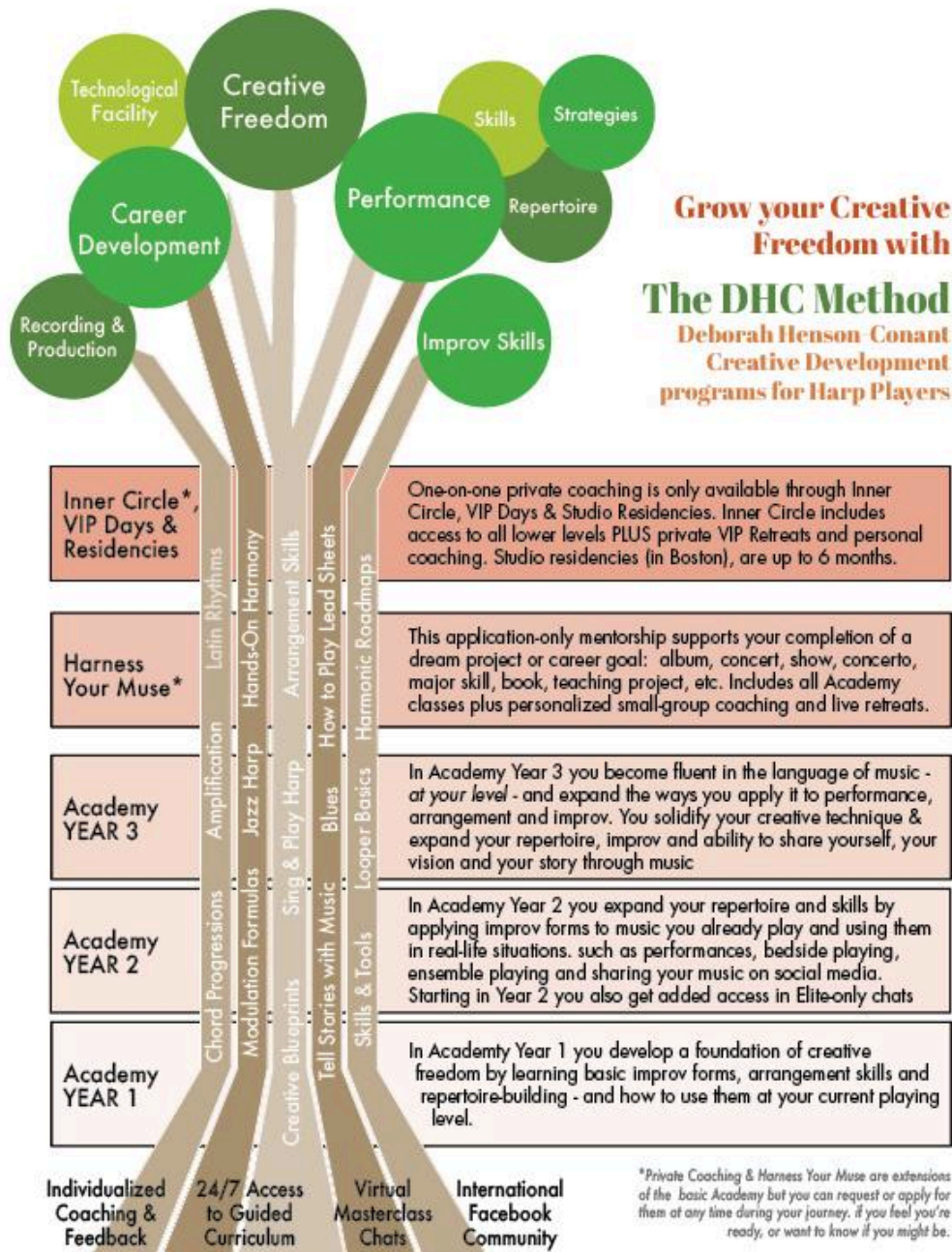


Hip Harp Academy

Curriculum Overview & Class Descriptions

This is a working document developed to help students [fill out a survey](#) about what classes they'd most like to see scheduled next in the Academy. If you're not an Academy Member yet and you're reading this, please join us for a year-long Creative Curriculum for Harpists at [Hip Harp Academy](#).



FN: Tree-HHA-DHC-Coaching - Version 7 - SD: 4/24/2020 ~ 11:30 AM

>> [Register for the Year-Long Curriculum at Hip Harp Academy](#) <<

How Does the Academy Work?

FIRST ... THE BIG PICTURE

The Academy is a yearlong membership program for harpists led by award-winning composer, performer and harpist, Deborah Henson-Conant. It teaches harpists the skills and tools of improv, arrangement and creative self-expression.

The curriculum is made up of a series of guided classes, live masterclass-chats and intensives PLUS additional self-paced courses and resources.

Starting in 2021, each guided class is 5-6 weeks long, with 2-3 weeks in between classes, to integrate and apply what you learn, get feedback, coaching and ask questions in the live chats. A "guided" class means that I lead students through the class as a group - with optional weekly assignments, a weekly masterclass-chat and a focused project to help you apply what you learn.

Most importantly - you're not alone. In addition to having a highly experienced coach - it's the vibrant, encouraging community that makes the difference between just 'getting information' and truly learning. You're not doing this alone. The current membership includes nearly 150 other supportive harpists around the world, all committed to expanding their lives, their skills and their creative freedom - like you are.

THE COMPONENTS OF LEARNING & COMMUNITY

Every student/member uses the Academy resources a little differently - and you can take part in as much or as little of the Academy as you want.

Some members always take the guided courses together. You can [see some of their Final-Beginning projects here](#). Some prefer to focus on self-paced learning. Some only come to the chats (and don't even take the classes!). Some just take a few classes each year. Some take every single class and come to all the chats and live events. But EVERYONE has access to the resources that work for them. Here's how they do that:

1. GUIDED CLASSES:

Each guided class runs 5–10 weeks. We aim for 5 weeks of training and 3-4 weeks implement and apply what you've learned, and get feedback and input from me - your coach. **The trainings are available in advance and we meet every Monday for live class sessions** where I answer your questions, give feedback on homework (this is everyone's favorite part, believe it or not), and preview the next week's lesson.

>> [Register for the Year-Long Curriculum at Hip Harp Academy](#) <<

Some of those guided classes include: **Hip Harp Toolkit** (the Improv & Arrangement class), **Harp Jam** (short-form improv), **Baroque Flamenco Beyond the Page** (where you learn to play a powerhouse showpiece), **Blues HarpStyle** (where you get a foundation for one of the world's most powerful improv forms), **Strings of Passion** (the creativity kickstarter)

2. LIVE SESSIONS:

We currently run TWO live sessions each Monday - one at 11AM EST and one at 5:30 pm EST - so students in different time zones can attend without sleep loss!

3. OFFICE HOURS

Office Hours are generally held several times a month. This is a casual hour when students can come and bring a question or get coaching on something they're stuck on, or ask for extended input for a special project they're working on. Students often even stay after I leave the room to continue working together on pieces.

4. PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP:

This is where Students share ideas and get input in between classes and live events.

5. RESOURCES:

These pre-recorded resources are available 24/7 and include "tidbits" of learning: shorter "Beyond-the-Page" classes, creative blueprints and mini-trainings. Some people like taking these between classes, or they use them to add a little spice to the guided classes.

6. INTENSIVES:

We generally offer some kind of INTENSIVE - a WEEKEND RETREAT or an 'IMMERSION' CLASS - once every month or two. These are a fun and effective way to spend focused time - from 4 hours to 3 days - on learning one specific skill that will support all areas of your harp playing - like music theory, left-hand patterns or how to play from lead sheets.

The intensives are also available to non-members as paid classes - but are a free bonus for all Academy members. Intensives always combine training with implementation so you walk away not just 'knowing how' to do something, but having *done* it with a group and a coach many times during the workshop. Examples are: "Hands on Harmony," "Leadsheet Bootcamp" and "Sing & Play Harp Immersion". All intensives are available via replay as well, and become part of the Academy resources once the live sessions are over.

How Does the Academy Work?	2
FIRST ... THE BIG PICTURE	2
THE COMPONENTS OF LEARNING & COMMUNITY	2
1. GUIDED CLASSES:	2
2. LIVE SESSIONS:	3
3. OFFICE HOURS	3
4. PRIVATE FACEBOOK GROUP:	3
5. RESOURCES:	3
6. INTENSIVES:	3
The Fundamental Programs	10
“Hands on Harmony” [Harmony & Theory]	10
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	10
The self-paced classroom includes a series of video trainings, each of which includes a downloadable audio file. There’s one multi-page PDF for the course contains material for all the trainings.	10
SKILLS & TOOLS	10
SCHEDULE	11
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	11
OFFICIAL COURSE MINI-DESCRIPTION	11
INFO & REGISTRATION PAGE: HandsOnHarmony.com	11
Sing & Play Harp" (3-Chord Magic) [Accompaniment]	12
DESCRIPTION	12
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	12
SKILLS & TOOLS	12
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN	12
SCHEDULE	12
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	13
Info & Registration Page: SingAndPlayHarp.com	13
Hip Harp Toolkit / Arrange Yourself [Arrangement]	14
CLASS DESCRIPTION	14

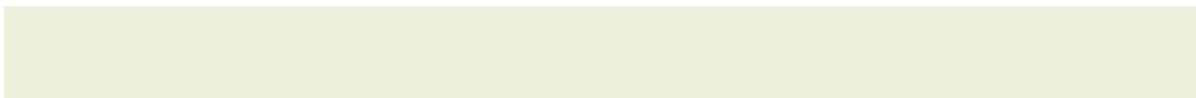
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	14
SKILLS & TOOLS	14
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	15
SCHEDULE	15
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	16
OFFICIAL COURSE MINI-DESCRIPTION:	16
INFO & REGISTRATION PAGE: HipHarpToolkit.com	16
“Blues Harp-Style” [Blues]	17
CLASS DESCRIPTION	17
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	17
SKILLS & TOOLS	17
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	18
SCHEDULE	18
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	18
Official course mini-description:	18
Info & Registration Page:	19
“Blues by the Dozen” [Blues]	20
CLASS DESCRIPTION	20
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	20
SKILLS & TOOLS	20
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	20
SCHEDULE	20
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	20
Official course mini-description:	21
Info & Registration Page:	21
[Improv] “Summer Harp Jam”	22
CLASS DESCRIPTION	22
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	22
SKILLS & TOOLS	22
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	22
SCHEDULE	22
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	23

OFFICIAL COURSE MINI-DESCRIPTION:	23
INFO & REGISTRATION PAGE: HarpJam.com	23
[Performance] One Song: ‘The Nightingale’	24
CLASS DESCRIPTION	24
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	24
SKILLS & TOOLS	24
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	24
SCHEDULE	24
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	24
Baroque Flamenco’ Beyond the Page’ [Performance]	25
CLASS DESCRIPTION	25
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	25
SKILLS & TOOLS	25
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	25
SCHEDULE	25
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	26
Official course mini-description:	26
Info & Registration Page:	26
New Blues’ Beyond the Page [Performance]	27
CLASS DESCRIPTION	27
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	27
SKILL & TOOLS	27
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	27
SCHEDULE	27
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	28
Official course mini-description:	28
Info & Registration Page:	28
“Strings of Passion” [Creativity]	29
CLASS DESCRIPTION	29
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	29
SKILLS & TOOLS	29
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	29

SCHEDULE	30
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	30
Official course mini-description:	30
Info & Registration Page:	30
Creating Conducive Conditions [Logistics]	31
CLASS DESCRIPTION	31
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	31
SKILLS & TOOLS	31
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	31
SCHEDULE	31
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	31
Official course mini-description:	31
Info & Registration Page:	31
[Basics] Hip Harp Basics.	32
CLASS DESCRIPTION	32
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	32
SKILLS & TOOLS	32
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	32
SCHEDULE	32
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	32
Official course mini-description:	32
Info & Registration Page:	32
[Rhythm & Improv] Pachelbel with a Latin Beat:	33
CLASS DESCRIPTION	33
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	33
SKILLS & TOOLS	33
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	33
SCHEDULE	33
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	33
Official course mini-description:	33
Info & Registration Page:	33
[Improv] Season of the Night Beyond the Page:	34

CLASS DESCRIPTION	34
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	34
SKILLS & TOOLS	34
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	34
SCHEDULE	34
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	34
Official course mini-description:	34
Info & Registration Page:	34
[Mindset] Inner Play:	35
CLASS DESCRIPTION	35
HOW THE CLASS WORKS	35
SKILLS & TOOLS	35
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	35
SCHEDULE	35
STUDENT PERSPECTIVE	35
Official course mini-description:	35
Info & Registration Page:	35
[Live Replays] Live Chats:	36
CLASS DESCRIPTION	36
“Jazz for Harps” [Jazz Bundle]	37
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	37
HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS	38
SKILLS & TOOLS	38
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	38
Margi’s Comments on “Jazz for Harps”	38
Official course mini-description:	38
Info & Registration Page:	39
[Pre-Jazz Bundle] “Building the Bones”	40
CLASS DESCRIPTION	40
HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS	40
SKILLS & TOOLS	40
HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?	40

Official course mini-description:	40
Info & Registration Page:	41



The Fundamental Programs

Fundamental Programs are those that we expect all students to take - they give the fundamentals of Harmony, Accompaniment and Deconstruction: process of a breaking down a song in order to develop your own creative voice with it.

“Hands on Harmony” [Harmony & Theory]

In "Hands on Harmony" we start with a **SINGLE NOTE** and then go through the 3 phases of chord-construction: Expansion, Alteration & Substitution, all at your own pace.

You go as far as you want each session, then apply what you learn in the exercises, warmups and tunes.

Most importantly, this is taught *specifically for harpists* - using the way our instrument works - with lots of 'hands-on' examples so you can practice what you're learning and literally get it 'into your fingers.' The class covers the four quadrants of basic tonal and jazz harmony as well as covering 'families' of chords and basic modulation skills.

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

The self-paced classroom includes a series of video trainings, each of which includes a downloadable audio file. There's one multi-page PDF for the course contains material for all the trainings.

SKILLS & TOOLS

By the end of the class, you'll know how to **enrich the harmony of pieces** and know how to build the chords you see when you read a lead sheet. You'll learn:

- **How to read CHORD SYMBOLS** and what the different elements of the symbol *mean*.
- **How to EXPAND chords**, from single notes to triads, 7ths, 9th, 11ths and 13th and when that's likely to sound good (or bad!).
- **How ALTER chords** - by adding a b9, #9, b5 or #5 - to make them richer (and what chords you'll be most likely to want to alter!).
- **How to SUBSTITUTE one chord for another** to 'reharmonize' a piece, which substitutions are simplest, and which chords you're most likely to substitute
- **How PROGRESSIONS work**, how to look for them in the music you already play and how you can use them for improv, or to practice the skills of expanding, altering and substituting chords.
- **How to MODULATE** from one key to another using a "diversion" and a power progression
- **How to 'psyche out' a LEAD SHEET** to look for members of the same **chord family**, so you can more easily see where you need to shift your levers or pedals.

SAID ANOTHER WAY, these are the principles you'll learn:

- **Extension:** How to build chords up from single notes to triads, 7th chords, 9th & 11th chords
- **Alteration:** How to add flavor to a chord by raising or lowering specific notes (eg: b9, #9, b5, #5, etc.)
- **Substitution:** How to 'reharmonize' music by using one chord to substitute for another (eg: using an Amin as a substitute for a C Maj chord)
- **Voicing:** How to change the sound of chords, or make them fit your hand better by changing the order of notes and the spacing between them
- **Progressions:** How sequences of chords create harmonic 'movement' and what progressions you're likely to see over and over again in jazz and improv
- **Modulation:** How to shift from key to key smoothly
- **Families:** How to identify chords that all belong to the same tuning, so you don't have to constantly worry about exactly how to spell them (and whether or not you have to change a lever or pedal)

SCHEDULE

- **Length:** This class was originally created as a one-day, 6-hour retreat. But most people now pace the class out for several weeks.
- **Learning/Practice Time:** The learning time is approximately 6 hours. You should expect to spend at least another 6 hours practicing with the examples.
- **When?** Available all the time for self-paced learning. In addition, we usually run this class live 2-3 times a year, either as an all-day retreat or over several weeks including one or more live Q&A masterclass sessions.
- **Access:** For non-Academy-members, access is usually for 6 months

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the student liaisons for Hip Harp Academy. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

I always wondered what made some harp players pull my heart strings and astonish me with their beauty, and others “not so much”. Here’s where I found out. The difference is in the harmonies and the great lessons on extending the harmonies. You will LOVE this. It will totally change your playing.

OFFICIAL COURSE MINI-DESCRIPTION

This essential course is *always* available for “at your own pace” learning because it gives you a theory and harmony foundation specifically for HARP – with hands-on exercises that get the harmony directly into your fingers. Once or twice a year I run a virtual retreat where we go through it all together, and you can ask questions when I’m there live to answer them. (\$297 when purchased separately)

INFO & REGISTRATION PAGE: [HandsOnHarmony.com](https://www.hipharpademy.com)

>> [Register for the Year-Long Curriculum at Hip Harp Academy](https://www.hipharpademy.com) <<

Sing & Play Harp" (3-Chord Magic) [Accompaniment]

DESCRIPTION

There are two basic learning objectives in this class:

- **Learning to sing and play harp** at the same time
- **Learning accompaniment techniques**

The class focuses on learning to play a 3-Chord Pattern using “smooth movement,” so you learn to literally play them with your eyes closed. This allows you to focus on singing while you play.

You learn to shift the pattern to different keys so you can sing in a range that suits your voice, and to play the sequence in inversions.

The class warmup gives you picking patterns to apply to the 3 chords.

For more advanced students, there’s an additional set of 12 videos that teaches you to expand the harmonies on each of the 12 tunes provided in the class.

The class also includes two bonus songs: a simplified version of “The Nightingale” and a group sing-along called “You Have a Voice.”

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

The self-paced classroom includes a series of **video trainings**, with downloadable **audio files**. There are several **PDFs** for the course: a set of Lyrics & Chord sheets for the tunes, the class handout and the warmup.

SKILLS & TOOLS

By the end you’ll be able to play hundreds of 3-chord folk songs, to apply picking patterns and accompany yourself or others. You’ll also have a new repertoire of 12 tunes to play and sing, a mix of folk song, ballads and children’s sing-alongs including Amazing Grace, Down in the Valley, Swing Low Sweet Chariot, Red River Valley, Crawdad Song, Motherless Child and Auld Lang Syne

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN

The main purpose of the class is to learn to play accompaniment on the harp, and sing along with it - but many students have said that it’s helpful for learning to accompany other instruments, and in learning to really make eye contact with the people they’re playing for while playing.

SCHEDULE

Length: This class was originally created as a one-day, 4-hour immersion. But most people now pace the class out for several weeks. The learning time is approximately 3-4 hours for the basic material and warmups, and another 3-4 hours if you choose to watch the more advanced videos.

Learning/Practice Time: You'll be able to learn the basic techniques and apply them immediately as you learn. You should expect to spend another 1-6 hours practicing them, depending on your technical level.

Timeline: Available all the time for self-paced learning. In addition, we usually run this class live once year, either as an all-day retreat or over several weeks including one or more live Q&A masterclass sessions.

Access: For non-Academy-members, access is usually for 3 months

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

I thought this class might confirm my suspicions: it's not easy to sing and play harp at the same time without looking like a Bobble-head swinging from music to strings and back.

This course changed all of that for me.

The 3-Chord Method took me back to my early days of piano lessons and guitar. YES, many songs can be done with three chords and YES, I can "feel" where to change chords and YES, I can do these chords without even looking at my fingers, and finally YES, I can sing and play at the same time!!! WOW, what a game changer this course is.

Info & Registration Page: SingAndPlayHarp.com

Hip Harp Toolkit / Arrange Yourself [Arrangement]

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This is the Academy's foundational ARRANGEMENT program that teaches you to create impromptu arrangements from any simple tune.

Learning to apply the arrangement formulas is the most powerful skill you can have for developing repertoire, expanding or simplifying pieces and gaining an understanding of the "DHC Method" of spontaneous arrangement.

This course also gives you the foundation of basic jazz arrangement structure, but without the complexity of jazz harmonies or rhythms – so it's an important prerequisite for any jazz harp training, as well as a powerful tool for creating meditative arrangements. (\$797when purchased separately)

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

The class has 10 modules, each with **video trainings**, downloadable **audio files** and **PDFs** - but the first 3 modules have all the basic concepts, skills & tools you need to create arrangements. The rest of the modules provide alternatives, embellishments, expansion and training in special skills like melodic improv and creating cadenzas, all of which enhance the basic 5-Part Arrangement Form.

The class is 'guided' once a year, when students can go through the modules as a group, with weekly masterclass-chats, a final project and personalized feedback. The rest of the year the class is available to Academy Members as a self-paced course.

For fledgling players, the fundamentals of the course are covered in the first 3 modules so they can focus on applying these fundamentals and getting feedback on them throughout the course.

More advanced players - or students in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th years in the Academy - expand their arrangements using more advanced skills and tools in the additional modules.

In this way, each student works to their capacity. The goal is for students of all levels to know how to create a repertoire of arrangements *at their own technical level*.

This class is usually scheduled to be guided in the Fall so that students can use what they learn to either quickly develop a holiday repertoire, or apply the creative skills they learn to the holiday repertoire they already have. This gives you a built-in opportunity to apply the skills, which can then be applied to arrange any tunes and build your general repertoire.

SKILLS & TOOLS

You'll learn to create two separate arrangement forms: a 3-Part form and a 5-Part form that includes introduction, theme, exploration, end-theme and coda. These are distillations of forms that are used in both classical and jazz arrangement.

You'll learn how you can apply this formula to any simple tune. You'll then learn how to expand that formula by adding basslines and building accompaniment.

The class includes tools like the “Arrange-o-Matic”: a one-page overview of all the class tools that you can set on your music-stand as a resource. It also includes several sets of 20-30 lead sheets in different styles: Holiday Tunes, Latin Favorites and folk Tunes. Once you learn the skills in the class, you use these two resources to practice instantly creating repertoire on-the-spot.

Once you can apply the basic concepts, you learn to collect arrangements into a repertoire, and combine pieces into medleys, modulating between them. Finally, you learn to add sections for improv. Advanced students can learn to create cadenzas.

The toolkit also includes a module on basic production, packaging and promotion which teaches you how to *use* these arrangements socially (eg: as invitations to events) or professionally (eg: as demos on your website) -- and it includes **several repertoire-builder sets of tunes**, include a set of Celtic tunes, Holiday tunes and Latin Tunes.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

I originally built this class as a pre-jazz skills-development program but the concepts in this class give you the skills to create arrangements and build repertoire *in any style of music*. In other words, you’re learning the building-blocks of arrangement that you can apply in any musical style.

Some people use these skills to expand their repertoire for **therapeutic music**, others to expand **background music repertoire**, **concert repertoire** or to play with other musicians.

The class is especially helpful in having a creative *formula* to turn any tune into an ‘arrangement’ expand - and to be able to simplify, expand or embellish music *on the spot* - so many people use it in live situations where conditions are constantly changing, like weddings, open mics, media appearances, for creating short demo recordings for professional use that can be expanded in performance, or for creating a *repertoire* of lots of music, either in a specific style (like a repertoire of Celtic tunes, or Latin tunes), or in a variety of styles.

To support repertoire-building, the class also covers how to ‘sequence’ a set-list.

Because you learn arrangement modularly, this class also helps you create ensemble music, and accompaniment when playing with other instruments.

There’s also a basic business component of the class, in terms of learning the basics of how to produce, package and promote your performances, whether they’re purely family events or public concerts.

SCHEDULE

The class is also always available for self-paced study.

- **Length:** This is a 10-week course, and we usually try to add an addition 2 weeks for catchup and questions at the end. During that time students are usually given the option to review, catch up or work on the “Blues by the Dozen” class

- **Learning/Practice Time::** Most comprehensive online classes like this one suggest about 5 hours of study and practice per week. If you have that time, you'll get a lot out of this class, but it's also possible to stick with the most basic concepts of the course, spend as little as 20-30 minutes a day playing them, and still get a lot out of the class - and for some people this is the most realistic way to take the course.
- **Timeline:** Available all the time for self-paced learning. In addition, we usually run this class live once every year or two, usually in the early spring
- **Access:** For non-Academy-members, access is usually for 6 months

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

I had always wanted to be able to dwell on a song long enough to get away from the music score and make the song my own. This was the class that did it for me. I learned how to create a great introduction, improvise in the middle and end the way I wanted to end, with pizzazz.

OFFICIAL COURSE MINI-DESCRIPTION:

The Academy's **repertoire-building powerhouse program**, the 10-week "Hip Harp Toolkit" teaches you to create spontaneous arrangements from any simple tune using a 5-part arrangement blueprint.

You'll also learn how to modulate, create medleys and power-generate repertoire whether you're a **professional harpist** looking to liberate yourself from the notes on the page, an **impassioned amateur** who wants to play for family or friends, or a **harp therapy practitioner** looking for ways to be more responsive to your clients while expanding your repertoire and improvisation techniques.

The Toolkit **also includes a module on the business basics** of promoting and sharing your repertoire.

This class is also available 'a la carte,' which includes 6 months of self-paced learning. To learn more about the class and register for it as a single, stand-alone class visit the [Hip Harp Toolkit Info Page](#).

INFO & REGISTRATION PAGE: HipHarpToolkit.com

“Blues Harp-Style” [Blues]

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Most people think of Blues as a *style* of music, but **when you separate the STYLE from the STRUCTURE, the Blues structure can be used in any style of music**, from therapeutic music to Jazz - and it's a very powerful form to learn when developing improvisation.

In Blues Harp-Style - we learn the basics of the 12-Bar Blues form which has been liberating guitarists for centuries. **We then look at the specific characteristics of the harp** and where they open opportunities (like being able to tune the harp into a Blues scale) and where we need work-arounds (like re-inventing some of the musical gestures that people identify with the Blues).

By the end students know the fundamentals of how to play and improvise on a 12-bar blues as a solo player, as accompaniment to singing and in ensemble with other harp players or other instrument.

You also learn how to use the Dorian mode, the Pentatonic scale and how to create a Meditative Blues for therapeutic and bedside use, which sounds nothing like standard Blues, but which uses all the skills and tools of the class.

Blues can also teach you the difference between style and structure, which allows you to liberate other tunes from the style you've always played them in.

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

The class is scheduled as a 'guided' class once a year, when students can go through the modules as a group, with weekly masterclass-chats, a final project and personalized feedback. The rest of the year the class is available to Academy Members as a self-paced course.

The class has 6 modules, each with **video trainings**, downloadable **audio files** and **PDFs**.

For fledgling players, the fundamentals of the course are covered in the first 3 modules so they can focus on applying these fundamentals and getting feedback on them throughout the course.

More advance players - or students in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th years in the Academy can add alternate skills and tools in the additional modules.

In this way, each student works to their capacity. The goal is for students of all levels to know how to effectively use the Blues for self-expression *at their own technical level and towards their own musical goals*.

SKILLS & TOOLS

You learn the basic Blues form & harmony, plus many alternate ways to play Blues. You learn to create Blues **basslines**, **accompaniment** patterns, and how to **improvise melodies** in the Blues. You get a firm rhythmic foundation of the “**swing feel**” which is characteristic of classic Blues - and you also learn how to use the Blues form in

uncharacteristic ways to expand your repertoire, especially for responsive (meditation, therapy) playing.

This class is especially powerful at helping students develop RH-LH independence. Because the basic harmonic structure is so simple, it can be learned easily - which allows you to focus on developing a powerful connection with playing a bassline, learning to improvise melodically with your right hand, and learning to play both bassline *and* accompaniment with your left hand.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

The best way to apply what you learn in “Blues Harp-Style” is to understand that the structure itself is very simple, and that the power of this art-form comes from “living it” - which means to allow it to be simple, to play it with focus and intention and *let it get to you*.

Playing Blues with others (other harpists or other instrumentalists or singers) is a very powerful way to use what you learn in the class to develop musical communication, an understanding of “*what to play*” when you’re

SCHEDULE

- **Length:** This is a 6-week course, and we usually try to add an addition 2 weeks for catchup and questions at the end. During that time students are given the option to review, catch up or work on the “Blues by the Dozen” class
- **Learning/Practice Time:** Most comprehensive online classes like this one suggest about 5 hours of study and practice per week. If you have that time, you’ll get a lot out of this class, but it’s also possible to stick with the most basic concepts of the course, spend as little as 20-30 minutes a day playing them, and still get a lot out of the class - and for some people this is the most realistic way to take the course.
- **Timeline:** Available all the time for self-paced learning. In addition, we usually run this class live once every year or two, usually in the early spring
- **Access:** For non-Academy-members, access is usually for 6 months

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy’s first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

Blues Harp Style. I had always watched Blues players “in a world of their own” and never using sheet music. In this class I learned why, and once I learned the structures and the chord patterns, I realized I too could end up in a world of my own!

Official course mini-description:

Learn a low-down Blues, a Boogie-Woogie Bassline and even a slow and sweet blues you can play in therapeutic situations. This is a great program for building a repertoire of fun

tunes and learning to jam with others. It's also a great course for harp ensembles
(\$597 when purchased separately)

“Blues Harp-Style” is 6-Module online course, especially for harp players. It gives you secrets to playing one of the world's most fun, useful, and expressive musical forms: the Blues – no matter what your skill level.

By the end of the course you'll be bending notes, improvising bass lines, comping, playing riffs and rhythms – and you'll know how to do it alone or with others!

You'll liberate yourself from the page by learning how the Blues WORKS – then expand your improv skills by learning to simplify, embellish and even modify Blues for therapeutic playing.

Info & Registration Page:

BluesHarpStyle.com / <https://www.hipharp.com/academy/blues-harpstyle/>

You can also take this class 'a la carte', which includes 6 months of self-paced learning. To learn more about the class and register for it as a single, stand-alone class, [visit the Blues Harp-Style Info-Page](#)

“Blues by the Dozen” [Blues]

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This class has 12 modules. Each is a different Blues that you can add to your repertoire.

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

The class has 12 modules, each with **video trainings**, downloadable **audio files** and **PDFs** (well, full-disclosure: the 12th Blues is for you to create)

Some are easier to learn than others, and students can choose those that match their technical ability, as they continue in the Academy.

SKILLS & TOOLS

I created this class so students of “Blues Harp-Style” would have a repertoire of Blues tunes to apply their new Blues skills to. To see those skills see “Blues Harp-Style” class info above.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

Go totally at your own pace, choose the tunes you like the best and play them every day. ‘Play them’ means to play the ‘head’ or ‘melody’ as outlined in the class and then improvise for at least 3 or 4 minutes on each tune, each day. By playing the tunes this way, you’ll get more and more comfortable both with playing the ‘head’ and also with how to improvise on them. If you’re playing more than one of them, you’ll start to see how you can use the skill you learn from one tune to enhance the others.

SCHEDULE

- **Length:** This is a 12-module class - each module is a separate song
- **Learning/Practice Time:** I originally created this class as a 2-Week Challenge, a way for players to completely immerse themselves in the Blues and get a sense of the huge variety in ways to use Blues. I realized that may be too challenging for most harpists - so now students often skip this class in their first year, and then focus on developing the tunes during their 2nd or 3rd year when “Blues Harp-Style” is being guided.
- **Timeline:** Available all the time for self-paced learning - but recommended to be taken either right after “Blues Harp-Style” or concurrent.
- **Access:** Currently not available except to Academy members.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy’s first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

Blues by the Dozen. I took this course right after Blues Harp Style. It was the perfect ending to a class where I learned the theory. Every day reinforced what I had learned

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about the blues. This class stops at eleven, and I'm still begging for #12, which DHC says should be "my own

Official course mini-description:

A 12-day Blues Challenge to play a new Blues Melody each day and post your rendition by the next morning, using the techniques you learned in "Blues HarpStyle" (\$297 Value)

Info & Registration Page:

This class is currently only available with full Academy membership or as a Bonus when students purchase "Blues Harp-Style."

[Improv] “Summer Harp Jam”

CLASS DESCRIPTION

“Summer Harp Jam” is a **6-Week creative improv program** that gives you a series of short-form jams & vamps (short harmonic structures) with play-along video & audio - to strengthen your improvisation and rhythm skills *while you’re playing!*

There’s no homework, no stress, no final projects. It’s all about ‘jamming’: improvising over short-form ‘vamps’ or repeated accompaniment patterns.

This is also a GREAT program for people who want to start playing with loopers because you can use any of the jam patterns as a loop. **(\$579 when purchased separately)**

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

The class has 6 modules, each with **video trainings**, downloadable **audio files** and **PDFs**.

The class is ‘guided’ once a year - during the summer - when students can go through the modules as a group, with weekly playalong-masterclasses, a final project and personalized feedback. The rest of the year the class is available to Academy Members as a self-paced course.

Each session starts by showing the jam and improv riffs in their simplest form, for less-advanced players, and then expanding throughout the class to show more and more advanced techniques.

In this way, each student works to their capacity. The goal is for students of all levels to be able to play *at their own technical level with others at different technical levels*.

This class is usually scheduled to be guided in the Summer, a little like a Virtual Summer Music Camp.

SKILLS & TOOLS

Improv and rhythm are the greatest skills you learn in this course, but many students use what they learn in this class to expand the music they already play by *inserting jam sections* from the class into music - even classical music - that they can already play. This expands their repertoire from the inside - and it also add opportunities to practice improvising *inside of pieces you feel safe and comfortable playing*.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

This class is meant to teach ‘through the body’ using "call and response" playing rather than through brain learning, so one of the best - and most fun - ways to get the most out of this class is to simply sit down and play with the play-long videos every day without judgment or expectation.

Students who are performing regularly often use the jams as intros, endings or interludes in the pieces they already play - or as meditations or improv breaks *between tunes*. In this way they can immediately apply what they’re learning to the music they already play.

SCHEDULE

- **Length:** This is a 6-week course
- **Learning/Practice Time:** Some people simply attend the weekly live jams, or play the recorded jams daily and come to the jam-chats to ask questions or learn additional techniques.
- **Timeline:** Available all the time for self-paced learning. In addition, we usually run this class live each summer.
- **Access:** For non-Academy-members, access is usually for 6 months

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

I wanted to just relax when I took this course, (it's summer!) but I found myself going back again and again to the riffs, vamps and rhythms and understanding blues/jazz all the more.

OFFICIAL COURSE MINI-DESCRIPTION:

"Summer Harp Jam" is an 6-week playalong Virtual Summer Camp for harp players that's all about learning improvisation *by playing along*.

You'll get left-hand patterns, right-hand patterns, rhythmic patterns and chord progressions that start you improvising immediately.

Learn improvisation while you play...liberating you from the notes on the page and opening up your creative power!

You can also take this class 'a la carte', which includes 6 months of self-paced learning. To learn more about the class and register for it as a single, stand-alone class, [visit the Harp-Jam Info Page](#).

INFO & REGISTRATION PAGE: HarpJam.com

[Performance] One Song: 'The Nightingale'

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This is a brand new program that breaks down my most requested piece so that you can easily memorize it, simplify it and see where you can build in your own improvisation

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

We're still in Beta on this class so it's still being built, but it's created to be a self-paced class with live masterclass-chat session 1-2 times a year.

The class combines **video trainings**, downloadable **audio files** and **PDFs**.

SKILLS & TOOLS

You learn to deconstruct this piece so you can create an arrangement of it using your own unique skills and current technical abilities so that you can play it *fluently and musically at your current technical level* without needing to spend hours practicing it.

By understanding how it's 'built' and how it 'works' you know, not only how to simplify it, but also how to embellish and expand it as your technical abilities and familiarity with the piece grow.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

The best way to use this class is to commit to playing the tune with musicality *immediately*, at whatever level you can immediately embrace it, and adding complexity and enrichments step by step -- *but throughout the process, performing it as though it's complete as is*.

The power of this way of learning is to be able to embrace *and share* the tune as *complete* at every single level.

SCHEDULE

Currently, while we're in Beta, we're meeting weekly for a live session on this piece. Once the class is complete, it will be available for self-paced learning with live masterclass-chat sessions 1-2 times a year.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

One Song, the Nightingale: What a luxury to be able to spend several weeks on one song. I played it every day on every occasion until I realized how well I could adapt it to many moods, my moods and those of the people I played for. I knew it so well I could look into the eyes of those persons and know that this song was making a difference.

OFFICIAL COURSE MINI-DESCRIPTION: *[not available yet]*

INFO & REGISTRATION PAGE: <http://www.hipharp.com/academy/1song-nightingale/>

Baroque Flamenco' Beyond the Page' [Performance]

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Baroque Flamenco' Beyond the Page' is a 3-week, 12 module course created especially for the impassioned harp player. Learn secrets from the composer of how to play her harp fiery showpiece, "Baroque Flamenco", at *your* skill level on *your* harp.

You'll learn to EXPAND the piece if you're an advanced player and SIMPLIFY it if you're still a fledgling player. You'll learn to make the dramatic Flamenco cadenza *SIZZLE* and how to end the piece with so much inner fire that you COMPEL your audience to jump up and shout! You'll even learn to RESTYLE the piece to play it as a meditative or bedside piece!

You can also take this class 'a la carte,' which includes 6 months of self-paced learning. To learn more about the class and register for it as a single, stand-alone class [visit the Baroque Flamenco Beyond the Page Info Page](#).

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

In the first module of this class, you learn the basic structure and the underlying rhythm of this piece. At that point you can actually play a rudimentary version of the piece.

From then on, each module is broken in fledgling, intermediate and advanced/professional levels, so you can learn the actual written arrangement at your own level - or pick and choose from different levels for different sections of the piece.

The value of learning this way is that you almost immediately play 'a version' of the piece, playing the entire structure, and then you can start trading out the rudimentary sections for more complex ways of playing each section *if you want to*.

SKILLS & TOOLS

Some of the skills and tools you learn are:

- To understand and use the "Rondo Form" (a very versatile classical music form)
- The power of a descending bassline
- How to create a 'home free' structure for improvising that lets you alternate from a 'safe' melody to a challenging improv section, and return to safety as needed
- The "Mexican Triple Waltz" rhythm
- Strumming techniques
- The power of a cadenza

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

The best way to apply the skills and tools of this class is to immediately start 'performing' or playing the piece in its most rudimentary form, musically and completely, *as if that were the complete tune*. In this way you begin playing the 'gestalt' of this piece, learning

to express the all-important alterations in character, while learning a variety of ways you can express that character.

SCHEDULE

- **Length:** This is officially a 3-week course, but we often add an additional week
- **Learning/Practice Time:** Depending on the technical level of the class you want to learn, you can spend from 20 minutes to 2-hours a day on the class
- **Timeline:** We usually offer this class some time in the spring on alternating years
- **Access:** For non-Academy-members, access is usually for 6 months

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

This was my first ever course. I loved the song. I thought I could never ever play it. Then I discovered that it was being taught on three different levels. Level one was actually doable! I took the course a second time and combined two levels, and finally even got to some of the level three sections. Here's where I learned how to video myself, watch, do it over, get it better, get more relaxed and hand in the video homework with a sense of confidence.

Official course mini-description:

You'll learn to play one of the pieces that won me a Grammy Nomination – and take it beyond the page so you can play it as a fiery showpiece or a contemplative fantasia at your own level – simplified for fledglings – or all the bells and whistles for advanced. (\$497 when purchased separately)

Info & Registration Page:

BaroqueFlamenco.com // <https://www.hipharp.com/academy/bfbp-info-page/>

New Blues' Beyond the Page [Performance]

CLASS DESCRIPTION

In this short, 3-module class I'll show you how to play my popular piece "New Blues." **This class is specially crafted for non-advanced players to learn bite by bite** AND with suggestions for advanced players to accelerate and embellish. **This course has 15 sections which you can divide and tackle anyway you wish.** For some folks it might be a 3-hour review. For others it might be a 3 week, once a day class.

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

Module 1: The Structure

- Learn the Basic Structure Rhythm and Riffs of New Blues
- The 12 Bar Structure of the Blues
- The Intro & the Hits

Module 2: The Parts

- A Short Review: How to Play the Intro
- Playing the Melody
- The Overview Worksheet
- Getting Off the Page by Psyching Out the Sheet Music
- Takeaways
- The Stride Bass Variation
- Variation 2: Two Handed Melody with Stride

Module 3: Variations

- Student Takeaways
- Variation 4: Boogie Woogie Bassline
- Variation 5: Funky Slap Bass
- Four Playthroughs Together

SKILL & TOOLS

You learn all the fundamental of 12 bar blues: the 12 bar structure, several foundational bassline and accompaniment styles (like stride, slap bass, Boogie Woogie Bassline), how to approach melody and how to deconstruct the sheet music so that you can make choices on how and what you play, rather than simply playing the written notes.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

The best way to apply what you learn in this class is to play the piece immediately at a very simple level, getting completely grounded in the basics -- and then continue to add variations and embellishments. By doing this, you ground yourself in one of the most powerful and expressive musical forms: the Blues, and clarify what is the 'structure' and

what are the embellishments or variations that you can add to *any* tune that's in a Blues style.

SCHEDULE

This is a self-paced class. It can be taken any time. The class content is about 3 hours.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

Margi doesn't remember taking this class. So she has no perspective on it ... yet!

Official course mini-description:

This class is usually taken as an add-on to the "Blues Harp-Style" class. It deconstructs a popular arrangement of "New Blues" so that students can see what primary elements of the Blues are used in the piece. This helps students create their *own* arrangement of the piece, and to learn how to re-use those primary elements in different ways.

Info & Registration Page:

This course is only available with Academy Membership or as an add-on to the "Blues Harp-Style" class

“Strings of Passion” [Creativity]

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This is the foundational MINDSET course of Hip Harp Academy: an 8-10-Week creative expression course that takes you on a journey to the center of your creative expression. You'll develop your own daily creative practice with prompts, meditations and a workbook full of creative exercises. Most importantly you'll have guidance and the chance to show your work and ask question.

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

The class has 7 modules, each with **video trainings**, downloadable **audio files** and **PDFs**.

The class is 'guided' once a year - usually in January - when students can go through the modules as a group, with weekly masterclass-chats, a final project and personalized feedback. The rest of the year the class is available to Academy Members as a self-paced course.

Each module explores one of the strings of passion (the principles of creative resonance), and provides music you can use to apply the principles.

One of the powerful resources of the class is the "Creativity Gym" - a set of videos and prompts. These videos provide a creative 'atmosphere' for improvisation through a harmony and rhythm or a repeated chord progression. They're each 5-10 minutes long, and provide a creative sound-support for improvisation. The "Creativity Gym" helps students build *practices* that will support them in developing greater creative expression and resonance.

SKILLS & TOOLS

The basic skills you learn in "Strings of Passion" are the power of Creative Resonance, which creates an 'instant transformation' in your playing. By instant I mean that this transformation can happen in an instant - any instant - and it's not about 'improvement' - but about harnessing the skills, talents, tools and *natural creative expression* you have - that are often inaccessible because of blocks or misunderstandings.

This transformation happens because you begin playing as a *whole person*, accessing more and more of who you innately are.

Creative resonance also has a huge impact on the relationship between your inner creative impulse and your outward creative expression. As each of these develops, it creates a richer resonance and you begin to both *experience and express yourself* more as 'you.'

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

The best way to take this class is to bring a 'project' to the class to work on and to keep a journal about that process.. This 'project' should be something you can already 'execute'

but that you feel 'stuck' with in some way. It may be that you find it boring, or that you can't seem to express yourself with it, or you don't know how to share it with others.

By focusing on this one project and applying the principles you learn in the program, you can watch it bloom, become more familiar with how to apply the principles and be able to apply them to *everything* you do.

SCHEDULE

- **Length:** This is officially an 8-week course, but we often add at least one additional week for integration, completing projects and getting questions answered
- **Learning/Practice Time:** Depending on the technical level of the class you want to learn, you can spend from 15 minutes to 2-hours a day on the class
- **Timeline:** We usually offer this class as the first class of the year
- **Access:** For non-Academy-members, access is usually for 6 months

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

Strings of Passion. Ever wondered why you were attracted to the harp? Ever wondered why some music just speaks to you? Have you ever delved into what playing your harp does for your inner self? Here's the class to do that.

Official course mini-description:

"Strings of Passion" is a ten-week program to develop creative *rigor*: the ability to distinguish and use the 7 principles that turn a creative *impulse* into creative *expression*.

We'll learn the 7 strings: Impulse, Structure, Character, Roles, Practice, Deconstruction, Lift-Off – and how they work together to empower and liberate your creative journey internally – and externally through your instrument.

This class will enhance your ability to *listen* as you play, to use blueprints for improvisation, and to develop your own daily creative practice – with video lessons, prompts, meditations, an online "Creativity Gym" and a workbook full of creative exercises. This class powerfully combines *mindset* with usable techniques whether you're playing classical music, jazz, or improvising a meditation.

You can also take this class 'a la carte', which includes 6 months of self-paced learning. To learn more about the class and register for it as a single, stand-alone class, [visit the "Strings of Passion" Info Page](https://www.hipharp.com/academy/strings-of-passion/).

Info & Registration Page:

StringsOfPassion.com // <https://www.hipharp.com/academy/strings-of-passion/>

Creating Conducive Conditions [Logistics]

CLASS DESCRIPTION

The goal of this set of resources is to help you support your creative development by creating 'conditions' in your life that are conducive to that development. Sometimes it's not our lack of skill or knowledge that inhibits us - but everyday logistical stumbling blocks - or the well-meaning interference of other people. The goal of the materials in this classroom is to help you remove creativity inhibitors by looking at your systems and conditions (like adequate light, ease of access, inadequate privacy) instead of just 'trying harder' or struggling to ignore the things that are inhibiting you.

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

This class is basically a set of resources and videos that you can watch as needed.

SKILLS & TOOLS

The mindset tools you learn in this class include learning to deeply appreciate the power of simplicity and fluency (versus the glitz of complexity), and learning to protect your privacy, especially when you're in the vulnerable state of *developing* a creative idea or skill.

The practical skills include how to set up conditions for effective practice, both in terms of organizing notebooks and workspace.

We also go over both the power ... and the pitfalls ... of preparation

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

If you apply *any* of the principles in the class, they'll help you. The more you apply them, *codify them* and rely on them, the more powerful they become.

SCHEDULE

This is a self-paced class, available 24/7.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

Creating Conducive Conditions. This is a great little course for taking a look at your harp "space" and the organization of your music, classes, etc. It's based on the premise that where you play your harp and what you use to make that space beautiful MATTERS!

Official course mini-description:

[I don't think there is one - I've never shared this class outside of the Academy]

Info & Registration Page:

This class is currently only available with full Academy membership or occasionally as a Bonus for other classes.

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[Basics] Hip Harp Basics.

- #1 – Instant 3-Part Arrangement Formula
- #2 – Left-Hand Liberation
- #3 – Playing the Shapes of Music

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This is a 3-Part class that combines 3 of the most popular and accessible Introductory Webinars to Academy classes

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

This is a self-paced series of classes, available 24/7

SKILLS & TOOLS

Each class focuses on a specific fundamental skill in the academy: basic arrangement structure, how to create and use left-hand patterns, and how to 'see' shapes in music and play them, instead of having to play it note by note.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

Simply taking these classes and using the hand outs is the best way to apply the fundamental learning in these 3 small courses.

SCHEDULE

- Available 24/7 for self-paced learning

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

This was the moment I realized what left hand liberation really means. Up until this point I slavishly read the bass clef and often gave up on songs because I could not read both clefs. Learning chord shapes and chord progressions with my left hand was the liberator. I enjoyed the "Happy Birthday" section, and never again got flustered during a party looking for the sheet music to this simple song. It was just there in my head!

Official course mini-description:

[I don't think there is one - we generally only share this within the Academy for new members or as a refresher]

Info & Registration Page:

This class is currently only available with full Academy membership or occasionally as a Bonus for other classes.

[Rhythm & Improv] Pachelbel with a Latin Beat:

CLASS DESCRIPTION

This is a fun, simple class with one purpose: to teach you how the 'Pachelbel Canon' is 'built', how to adapt it to play with a Latin beat, and how to improvise melodically with it.

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

This class is completely self-paced. It's a great short class to pick up in an afternoon.

SKILLS & TOOLS

You learn to distill a popular piece so that you can adapt it to your own purposes: to simplify it, expand it, improvise on it, change the rhythm, transpose it. This gives you a chance to develop all these skills with an easy and popular tune that can be used effectively in many circumstances, from playing weddings, to jazz concerts, to meditation or therapeutic situations.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

Simply take what you learn in the class and use it in as many situations as possible, starting slowly as a simple meditation and then adding more and more elements of improv as you're able. In this way students of any technical ability can start adding this song to their repertoire and more advanced players can use the tune as an opportunity to develop improv and rhythm skills.

SCHEDULE

This is available as a self-paced class only - but it's a great add-on for Hip Harp Toolkit, Summer Harp Jam ... and even Blues Harp-Style , as it offers an opportunity to expand on what you learn in each of those classes.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

This class was just plain fun. I had sweat so many times playing Pachelbel just right for brides walking down the aisle that I truly felt liberated learning how many fun ways I could play this Canon

Official course mini-description:

[I don't think there is one - I've never shared this class outside of the Academy]

Info & Registration Page:

This class is currently only available with full Academy membership or occasionally as a Bonus for other classes.

[Improv] Season of the Night Beyond the Page:

CLASS DESCRIPTION

"Season of the Night" Beyond the Page teaches you to read a jazz-type chart or roadmap, but without the difficult harmonies and modulations that most jazz tunes have. It gets you familiar with what it 'feels' like to play from a jazz chart.

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

This is a self-paced, self-contained class that students take on their own.

SKILLS & TOOLS

How to read chord charts

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

Add the piece that's provided to your repertoire and play it both without rhythm - as a rubato meditative-type piece - and with the rhythm.

SCHEDULE

- 24/7 Self-Paced class

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

This was another luxury class, being able to take the time to analyze one song, play, get it in my head and in my fingers, understand how it was put together, and then just enjoy playing it by following a pattern in my brain, not on paper!

Official course mini-description:

[I don't think there is one - I've never shared this class outside of the Academy]

Info & Registration Page:

This class is currently only available with full Academy membership or occasionally as a Bonus for other classes.

[Mindset] Inner Play:

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Mindset is just as important as every part of our practice - and the Academy motto is "Connection not Perfection," - but sometimes we need a little more support in the mindset area. The Innerplay Materials give that. They include:

- **Perfection-Free Contract** - to commit to imperfect action
- **Your Gift-Catcher** - where you capture all the gifts that are *already yours*
- **Your Demon-Pot** (a.k.a. Ick Pot) - where you capture the voices of denigration, criticism and perfectionism and hold them for demolition
- **Your Secret SuperPower** - where you claim the authentic "you-ness" that truly superpowers your life
- **JamLog CollectoMatic** - where you can anonymously share any thoughts that are jamming your consciousness

HOW THE CLASS WORKS

This is a set of resources collected from various classes that can be used as needed

SKILLS & TOOLS

These are mindset tools that have been used in specific classes. They provide a way to take action on emotional blocks, and to support emotional growth.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

The more these types of tools are used, the less resistance we have to authentically express ourselves - and that makes it infinitely easier to apply everything else we learn - and more importantly, to share our gifts with others.

SCHEDULE

- Available 24/7 for self-paced study

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy's first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

Every once in a while we need a mental break. Here's the place to go when you are stuck, bored, anxious, frustrated and all the rest....

Official course mini-description:

[I don't think there is one - I've never shared this class outside of the Academy]

Info & Registration Page:

This class is currently only available with full Academy membership or occasionally as a Bonus for other classes.

[Live Replays] Live Chats:

CLASS DESCRIPTION

Every guided class has live chats. Some students love to come to the chats live. Others prefer to attend via replay - and some students like to go back and watch previous chats -- so all class chats and masterclasses are recorded and available to the members.

"Jazz for Harps" [Jazz Bundle]

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

"Jazz for Harps" covers the 4 Quadrants of Learning Jazz & Improv: **Harmony, Rhythm, Roadmaps of Tunes, and Improvisation.**

It includes four separate classes:

1. **"Hands on Harmony" teaches HARMONY** - This class starts from 'square one' teaching harmony *specifically for harpists - using the way our instrument works* - with lots of 'hands-on' examples so you can practice what you're learning and literally get it 'into your fingers.' The class covers the four quadrants of basic tonal and jazz harmony:
 - a. **Extending** chords (to 7th chords, 9th & 11th chords)
 - b. **Altering** chords (add b9, #9, b5, #5, etc)
 - c. **Substituting** chords (what chords we can use to 'substitute' for another)
 - d. **Progressions** (how chords fit together into a progressive *series* of chords)
2. **"Jazz Harp Warmups" teaches RHYTHM** thru a series of warmups that you simply PLAY, rather than trying to 'learn rhythm'
3. **"Inside Jazz Tunes" teaches the STRUCTURE of JAZZ IMPROV** by teaching you to read and play musical 'roadmaps.'

Each jazz tune has a well-known *melody* - but **each tune also has a unique *harmonic roadmap* that supports that melody.** That roadmap is the foundation that jazz players improvise on. When you learn how to improvise on a roadmap you can improvise on *any melody*.

This class teaches you some of the *most accessible roadmaps for harp*. The reason that's important is that, knowing which tunes are more easily playable on the harp, gives you an advantage when playing jazz with others as well as solo - so you can focus on listening, improvising and collaborating with other players rather than struggling with roadmaps that focus on aspects of music where the harp is less agile. The pieces we cover in this class are playable on both lever and pedal harps and you'll learn how to read and play the roadmaps, and how to approach improvisation for each of them.

4. **"Summer Harp Jam" and/or "Vamps & Loops" teaches MELODIC IMPROV** using **playalong sessions** to guide students to develop improvisational fluency by responding to what they're hearing, rather than trying to learn to craft perfect improvisations.

WHAT'S THE CREATIVE VALUE OF THIS CLASS?

Learning the basics of how jazz 'works' expands your ability to improvise in *every style of music* from jazz to folk, meditation music - and gives you skills in creating your *own*

music, playing with ensembles and expanding the pieces *you already play* by adding improv sections or expanding the harmony.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

This is a bundled program. Each class is guided separately and students can either take all in succession, or can choose to stay with one or two classes and develop those skills at a higher level.

SKILLS & TOOLS

Basic jazz harmony, improv skills and rhythms.

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

Learning the basics of how jazz ‘works’ expands your ability to improvise in every style of music – from jazz to folk to meditation music – and gives you skills in creating your own music, playing with ensembles and expanding the pieces you already play by adding improv sections or expanding the harmony.

Margi’s Comments on “Jazz for Harps”

Margi Miller is one of the Hip Harp Academy student liaisons for. She was also one of the Academy’s first students. I asked her to describe her experience with this class:

When I saw the words: “Creating a Jazz Arrangement” I cringed. Not!! But when I worked through this course, I found I COULD! Everything is so well explained step by step that it becomes natural. And for those of us who think “we have no rhythm”, **Jazz Warmups** is the course. By the end of the warmups, you can actually *feel* the rhythm!

Official course mini-description:

“Jazz for Harps” covers the 4 Quadrants of Learning Jazz & Improv: **Harmony, Rhythm, Roadmaps of tunes, and Improvisation.**

Learning the basics of how jazz ‘works’ expands your ability to improvise in every style of music – from jazz to folk to meditation music – and gives you skills in creating your own music, playing with ensembles and expanding the pieces you already play by adding improv sections or expanding the harmony.

You’ll develop all 4 quadrants through “Jazz for Harps”:

- **Harmony** – (in “Hands on Harmony”) Jazz musicians are constantly expanding and altering chords. “Hands on Harmony” shows you how and gives you exercises for learning this skill, that you will use forever to both play and understand music.
- **Rhythm** – (in “Jazz Harp Warmups”) Instead of painstakingly reading rhythms, “Jazz Harp Warmups” combines fundamental rhythms and chord progressions so you can warm up with them every day, and get them into your bones!
- **The Roadmaps of the Tunes** – (in “Inside Jazz Tunes”) In “Inside Jazz Tunes” you learn the foundational concept of the “Roadmap” that is at the heart of every single

jazz tune, and that makes it possible for jazz players to play for hours from one single “chart”.

- **Improvisation** – (in "Summer Harp Jam") At the heart of all jazz is the ability to improvise. “Summer Harp Jam” breaks the art of improvisation down to the *fun* part by using loads of “call and response” play-alongs to take you out of your head and right into your HARP! (and ... yes, you can take "Summer Harp Jam" in the winter, spring or fall, too.)

Info & Registration Page:

JazzForHarps.com / <https://www.hipharp.com/academy/jazz-for-harps-infopage/>

You can also take this class ‘a la carte’, which includes 6 months of self-paced learning. To learn more about the class and register for it as a single, stand-alone class, [visit the Jazz for Harp Info-Page](#)

[Pre-Jazz Bundle] “Building the Bones”

CLASS DESCRIPTION

A 12-Week Bundled class that combines

- **Hip Harp Toolkit:** Create Instant Repertoire from any simple tune and expand with Improv & Arrangement
- **Baroque Flamenco Beyond the Page:** Use classical forms with cutting-edge harp techniques to learn rhythm, arrangement and performance
- **Hands on Harmony:** Learn the fundamental building blocks of harmony, and how to enrich YOUR harmonic vocabulary using the principles of: Expansion, Alteration, Substitution and Progression.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

You can read more on the individual classes earlier in this document. These 3 classes are bundled because they ground students in the fundamentals of the *forms and structures* of jazz and improv, while using mostly classical-type repertoire.

SKILLS & TOOLS

Some of the skills and tools you learn are:

- Two fundamental arrangement forms that can be used over and over with different melodies
- The basics of melodic improv and how to expand arrangement forms
- Basic harmony
- (see the individual class descriptions for more)

HOW TO APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN?

Like with the other classes, the best way to get the most out of this program is to apply the principles to quickly develop repertoire, and simply play it without falling prey to trying to 'perfect' it.

Official course mini-description:

'**Building the Bones**' is a 15 week bundled program that combines 3 powerful classes; **Baroque Flamenco Beyond the Page**, **Hip Harp Toolkit**, and **Hands on Harmony**. What we'll learn is at the heart of creating repertoire and developing improv skills for the liberation of your creative expression! This program gives you creative freedom by revealing the *simple internal structures of music* - which let you create spontaneous arrangements from any simple tune (which can be *espeically* handy during Holiday seasons) — and give you unlimited opportunities to develop your improv skills *while you're having fun playing*.

You can also take this class ‘a la carte,’ which includes 6 months of self-paced learning. To learn more about the class and register for it as a single, stand-alone class visit the [Building the Bones Info Page](#).

Info & Registration Page:

BuildingTheBones.com / (This class is currently not available as a stand-alone class although all the elements of the class are part of the Academy Curriculum)

