

Camden Harp Celebration

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Kimberly Rowe • krowe@harpcolumn.com

MORE INFO: camdenharpcelebration.com

OVER 70 HARPISTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WILL RETURN TO CAMDEN JULY 12-14, 2024

From 1929-2001 the sound of music filled the streets of Camden, Maine, as harpists came from around the world to study at the legendary Salzedo Harp Colony at the end of Marine Avenue. This July, area residents will once again have the opportunity to hear these harpists perform in two concerts open to the public as part of the Camden Harp Celebration, a tribute to the Salzedo Harp Colony and Alice Chalifoux. Harpists from throughout the U.S and as far away as Australia have made plans to attend the one-of-a-kind event.

A star-studded Saturday July 13 evening concert at the Rockport Opera House will feature distinguished alumni Judy Loman (former Toronto Symphony principal harp and JUNO award winner), Douglas Rioth (recently retired San Francisco Symphony principal harp), Joan Raeburn Holland (Interlochen Arts Academy and University of Michigan), and Nancy Lendrim and Jody Guinn of the Salzedo Harp Duo. On Sunday afternoon July 14, Paula Page (former Houston Symphony principal harp) will lead a harp ensemble concert in the Camden Public Library Amphitheatre in the tradition of the historic concerts presented there by Salzedo. Thirty featured alumni will perform as part of the ensemble.

Throughout the 20th century, approximately 50 harpists traveled to Camden each summer to study at the well-known school overlooking Sherman's Cove, staying in the homes of local residents. Founded by Carlos Salzedo, harp instructor at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, the school was later bequeathed to his successor, Alice Chalifoux. A memorial bench dedication at the end of Marine Avenue will take place on Sunday, July 14, in remembrance of the historic school, and a photo presentation spanning seven decades will be on display throughout the event.

Organizers are encouraging area residents who hosted harpists in their homes to get in touch and be part of this special event.

Concert events are free to the public; a donation at the door is encouraged.

For more details and updated event information visit camdenharpcelebration.com.