



Curriculum Vitae:

Elizabeth Volpé Bligh, Principal Harpist, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Date of Birth: May 5, 1953

Address: 3601-1077 W. Cordova St., Vancouver, BC, V6C 2C6

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Training:

- graduated from University of Toronto, 1975, Mus. Bac. in Performance
- studied with: Judy Loman (Toronto Symphony)
 - Alice Chalifoux (Cleveland Orchestra)
 - Edna Phillips (Philadelphia Orchestra)
- master classes with: Ossian Ellis (London Symphony)
 - Nancy Allen
 - Heidi Lehwalder
 - Cheryl Ann Fulton (Early music)
- National Youth Orchestra of Canada 1973 and 1975

Performing:

- Principal Harpist, National Ballet Orchestra, 1975-1982
- 1975-1982 - extra with Toronto Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony, Atlantic Symphony, Charlottetown Festival
- Principal Harpist, Vancouver Symphony from Sept., 1982-
- solo concerto performances with VSO:
Mozart: Flute and Harp Concerto, Grandjany: Aria in Classic Style, Mozetich: El Dorado, Debussy: Danses Sacrée et Profane, Michael Conway Baker: Harp Concerto (written for me and broadcast on CBC Radio), Scott Good: Sonata for Harp and Strings (commissioned and premiered at World Harp Congress, 2014)
- solo concerti with regional orchestras
- performed for HRH Queen Elizabeth II at luncheon in 1983
- recordings: "Due North" and "Rise, Shine" with Vancouver Chamber Choir, "The Greater Vancouver Album" (works by Michael Conway Baker including "Intermezzo" for flute and harp), various VSO recordings - VSO recording of Korngold, Walton and Barber Vln. Concertos with violinist James Ehnes won Grammy and Juno awards
- chamber music performances (i.e. Vancouver Chamber Players, Turning Point, Masterpiece Music)
- solo performances at CISHI, Vancouver, International Harp Workshop, Italy, World Harp Congress, 2014, Sydney, Australia
- soundtracks, such as "Poison Ivy", "The Alamo" and "Miracle on I-880"
- commissioned and premiered two pieces by John Armstrong: "Earth, Wind, Sea" for soprano, violin and harp, and "Caol MacAoidh" for oboe and harp
- performed with Lyric Brass Quintet at American Harp Society Conference in Tacoma in 2010
- Festival of the Sound 2010 - performed Debussy Danses Sacrée et Profane with Festival Orchestra (Jim McKay conducting), Reade's Victorian Kitchen Garden Suite with James Campbell, and my own solo pieces

Composing and Arranging:

- Elizabeth Volpé Bligh: *Solos for Lever and Pedal Harp*, published by The Avondale Press, www.theavondalepress.com - six pieces included in Royal Conservatory Syllabus and Trinity UK Syllabus, which are being performed and taught all over the world, two private commissions
- *Seasons in Vancouver* - premiered on Italy at International Harp Workshop
- arrangements of orchestra parts and other pieces
- premièred *A New Harp!*, written for a fund-raising concert for UBC, 2006
- two editions of orchestra harp parts for Kalmus

Teaching:

- Sessional Harp Instructor, UBC, 1985-
 - Trinity Western University, 2009 - 2013
 - VSO School of Music, 2011 -
 - Vancouver Academy of Music, 1987-2002
 - Douglas College, 2002-2003, Vancouver Community College, 1987-88
 - 6th International Harp Workshop, Sanctuaria del Crea, Italy, 2012
 - co-founder of Canadian International Summer Harp Institute, 2012
 - PRISMA, 2015
 - VSOIW, 2015
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- panellist at American Harp Society Conference, Dearborn, 2008 , performer at AHS Conference in Tacoma, 2010, and 11th World Harp Congress, 2011, performer and panellist at WHC in Sydney, Australia, 2014
 - workshops and master classes for BC Harp Society and other teachers (topics: i.e. orchestral technique, injury prevention, preparing to perform)
 - gave harp lesson via video to McGill harp student Ellen Gibling from UBC Telestudios, Nov. 2006
 - video master class for seven harp students at Mt. Royal College Conservatory in Calgary, January 2007, from UBC Telestudios
 - tour to New Zealand, March 2007: Auckland: master class, U. of Auckland, workshop for Anna Dunwoodie and Lisa Williamson, teachers' forum, four private lessons in Wellington
 - gave master classes in Beijing and Shanghai, China 2008
 - gave master class in Ottawa, 2009
 - gave master class in Toronto, August 2010 for students of Andrew Chan
 - Orchestra Techniques article published in Teachers' Forum of American Harp Society Journal, Summer 2002, re-published in Dutch National Harp Journal 2008, published online on various web sites
 - two full articles published in Harp Column 2014, one in 2015, one in 2016
 - articles on technique published in New Zealand Harp Association Newsletter June 2007
 - judge for Kiwanis Festival in Delta, May 2007, Calgary Feb. 2008, Brandon Feb. 2010
 - judge for finals at OSM Standard Life Competition in Montreal in November 2010
 - guest students from Singapore, Hong Kong, France, Germany, USA, Ireland, Alberta
 - guest clinician for Pacific Harp Institute, USA
 - organized and hosted master classes and concerts, given by Judy Loman, Nancy Allen, Sunita Staneslow, Alys Howe, Alison Austin, Sebastien and Sayo Lipman, Susann Macdonald, Erica Goodman, Gianetta Baril, Verlene Schermer and Aryeh Frankfurter, Willy Postma, Natalia Shameyeva, Ann Yeung
 - award-winning students include: Alys Howe (National Youth Orchestra, numerous awards, see web site), Hebe Kelly (Edith Lando Scholarship for Gifted Youth), Tara Burnell (Concerto Competition Intermediate VYSO), Albertina Chan (VYSO harpist, National Youth Orchestra, Senior VYSO Concerto Competition, Third Prize, American Harp Society Competition), Nadia Kim (VYSO harpist, Senior VYSO Concerto Competition), Andrew Chan (VYSO harpist, soloist in Debussy Danes with Academy Strings), Lani Krantz (National Youth Orchestra, Aspen Festival), Blanche Olivar (VYSO harpist), Esther Cannon (Gold Medal, Royal Conservatory of Music, 2006, Senior VYSO Concerto Competition 3rd Prize, 2007), Jasmine Tsang, (Silver Medal RCM 2007), Noelle Kelbert (RCM Gold Medal)

I encourage:

- divergent thinking and problem-solving
- solid rhythm
- understanding of harmony
- logical approach to fingerings
- attention to style and phrasing
- relaxed, injury-free playing
- stress management, anxiety reduction
- preparation for auditions and performances

Some references: Barry Green's Inner Game of Music, Dr. R. Norris's Musicians' Survival Manual, Lieberman's You Are Your Instrument, Eloise Runstedt's A Soprano on her Head, Neumann's Baroque Ornamentation, Phil Perkins' A Logical Approach to Rhythmic Notation, Philip Johnston's The Practice Revolution, Kaplan's Practicing for Artistic Success, Beatrice Schroeder Rose's The Harp In The Orchestra, Anne Sullivan's Kaleidoscope Practice

Other:

- President of BC Chapter of American Harp Society 2006-
- President of Toronto Chapter of American Harp Society 1976
- Vice-President of Organization of Canadian Symphony Musicians, 1986
- Artistic Advisory Committee, VSO
- Education Committee, VSO
- Chairman: Host Committee, World Harp Congress 2011 in Vancouver
- co-founded West Coast Harp Society
- co-founded Canadian International Summer Harp Institute

Short Biography: Elizabeth Volpé Bligh

Elizabeth Volpé Bligh became the Vancouver Symphony's Principal Harpist in 1982, after 6 years with the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra. She studied harp with Judy Loman, Alice Chalifoux and Edna Phillips.

Her career includes concerti, chamber music concerts, movie soundtracks and recordings, i.e. The Greater Vancouver Album. Michael Conway Baker wrote a Harp Concerto for her, which she performed with the VSO.

Elizabeth's students have won awards such as the VYSO Concerto Competition, Edith Lando Gifted Youth Scholarship, and RCM Gold Medal, and have been in the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. Many have become professional harpists. Elizabeth teaches privately, at UBC, and the VSO School of Music. In 2012, she taught and performed at the 6th International Harp Workshop at Santuario di Crea in Italy and co-founded Canadian International Summer Harp Institute with Gianetta Baril, Judy Loman and Cristina Braga. She coached at PRISMA, June 2014 and performed at the World Harp Congress in Sydney, Australia, July, 2014. She taught at the VSO Summer Orchestra Institute in 2015.

Her articles are in various harp journals and online. She has given master classes in China, New Zealand, the USA, Italy and Canada. Her compositions for solo harp, six of which are in the 2009 Royal Conservatory of Music Syllabus, are being taught and performed internationally (www.theavondalepress.com). She is President of the West Coast Harp Society and was Chair of the 11th World Harp Congress Host Committee. She has performed and spoken at harp conferences and festivals and was a judge at the OSM Standard Life Competition in 2010.

Her web site, www.elizabethvolpebligh.com, has articles on subjects such as preparing harp parts for orchestra, performance anxiety and tuning.

"unparalleled purity and subtlety" - David Gordon Duke, Vancouver Sun, Oct. 29, 2012

LONG BIO - Elizabeth Volpé Bligh, harpist

Email: evolpebligh@gmail.com **web site:** www.elizabethvolpebligh.com

Elizabeth Volpé Bligh became the Vancouver Symphony's Principal Harpist in 1982, after six years as the Principal Harpist in the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra. A graduate of University of Toronto's Bachelor of Music program in 1975, she studied with Judy Loman (Toronto Symphony), Alice Chalifoux (Cleveland Orchestra) and Edna Phillips (Philadelphia Orchestra). She has organized and attended many master classes, i.e. with Judy Loman, Nancy Allen, Heidi Lehwalder, Natalia Shameyeva, Erica Goodman, Willy Postma and Alice Giles. Her career includes concerto performances with the VSO and other orchestras, chamber music, movie soundtracks and recordings. She is featured in The Greater Vancouver Album, a collection of works by Michael Conway Baker, and performed his Harp Concerto, written for her, with the VSO. She is on the VSO's Grammy- and Juno-award-winning recording of the Korngold and Walton Violin Concertos with James Ehnes.

Through the years, some comments from reviews include: "one of the best harpists in the world" (Nigel Barbour), "a harpist of great skill" (Ray Chatelin), "achingly lovely playing" (Michael Scott), "very fine playing" (Sebastien Lipman, former harpist of Berlin Philharmonic), "unparalleled purity and subtlety" - David Gordon Duke, Vancouver Sun, Oct. 29, 2012.

Elizabeth's students have won awards such as the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition, Edith Lando Scholarship and RCM Gold Medal, and have been members of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, Aspen Music Festival and other summer music programs. Many have gone on to successful professional careers in the harp.

She has taught privately and at institutions such as the Vancouver Academy of Music, UBC, VSO School of Music, Trinity Western University, Vancouver Community College, Douglas College, Pacific Harp Institute, PRISMA, CISHI, Island Mountain Arts Festival and VSO Summer Orchestra Institute. Students have come to study with her from all over the world, such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Ireland, Germany and France.

Ms. Volpé Bligh has had articles in such journals as the Teachers' Forum of the *American Harp Journal*, *Harp Column*, New Zealand Harp Association newsletter and *Dutch National Harp Journal*, and she has published many articles on her web site for downloading. She has given many workshops and master classes in North America, New Zealand, Italy and China. She was a panelist at the American Harp Society Conference in Dearborn, MI, June 2008, performed in the American Harp Society Conference in Tacoma, WA, and The Festival of the Sound in Parry Sound, Ontario in 2010, was a panellist at the World Harp Congress in Vancouver 2011, and a performer and panellist at the WHC in Sydney, Australia in 2014.

She has adjudicated at festivals around Canada, including the OSM Standard Life Competition in 2010 along with Elisabeth Fontan-Binoche. She taught and performed at the International Harp Workshop in Italy in 2012, and opened Canadian International Summer Harp Institute in 2012 with colleague Gianetta Baril and guest teachers Judy Loman and Cristina Braga. She was the chair of the host committee for the World Harp Congress in Vancouver in 2011.

Her book of pieces *Solos for Lever or Pedal Harp* is published by www.theavondalepress.com and is in the Lyon Healy catalogue. Her pieces are in the Royal Conservatory of Music Syllabus and Trinity UK Syllabus, and are being taught and performed all over the world. *Winter in Vancouver* was premiered at the 11th World Harp Congress in 2011, and the complete suite *Seasons in Vancouver* was published in 2012 and premiered at the International Harp Workshop in Italy. Elizabeth has commissioned and premiered several new works for harp from such composers as Michael Conway Baker, John Armstrong and Scott Good.

She is currently President of the BC Chapter of the American Harp Society and West Coast Harp Society. Her web site, www.elizabethvolpebligh.com, has articles on subjects such as preparing harp parts for orchestra, performance anxiety and tuning.

Elizabeth is a noted expert on orchestra playing and editing harp parts, and has published two "harpistic" editions of harp parts with Kalmus.