

Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS) presents



Thursday March 17, 2022 1:15 pm
The Church of the Transfiguration in New York City
Live Streamed to midtownconcerts.org and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/)

Zoe Vandermeer ~ Soprano and Welsh Triple Harp
The Inspired Bard

Bess of Bedlam Henry Purcell (1659–1695)

No, No! I Tell Ye No!
Dearest Love, Do Not Go
I Prithee Sweet
All Ye Forsaken Lovers
Cloris Sighed
Elizabeth Rogers Hir Virginnall Booke (1656)

Lascia ch'io pianga from *Rinaldo*, HWV 7 (1711) George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

The Rapture
The Stolen Kiss
The Parting
The Maid of Selma
James Oswald (1710–1769)

Ho ro Mo Chaidil Morag Bheag Scottish Hebrides (18th c.)

The Harp in Softly Pleasing Strains (1800) Dr. Stevenson (1761–1833)

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www.gemsny.org

About the Program

The program spans nearly two centuries and features music from England, Scotland, the Scottish Hebrides and Ireland. The mad song *Bess of Bedlam* can be found in *Orpheus Britannicus*. The manuscript of *Elizabeth Rogers Hir Virginall Booke* is in the British Museum. The Handel aria *Lascia ch'io pianga* includes the ornaments created by Isabella Girardeau from her 1711 London performance. Scottish composer James Oswald drew upon Baroque and Scottish elements in his music. The first three selections are from *Colin's Kisses* of 1743, and *The Maid of Selma* is from one of the Bland publications in 1790. *Ho ro Mo Chaidil Morag Bheag* is an 18th-century Hebridean lullaby. Irish composer Dr. Stevenson wrote *The Harp in Softly Pleasing Strains* specifically for voice and harp.

About the Artist

Soprano **Zoe Vandermeer** accompanies her singing on *Welsh triple harp*. A graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, she was named to the Roster of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism in 2011 and is a recipient of numerous grants. Solo performances include the São Paulo International Harp Festival, International Festival de Deia Spain, American Harp Society, Carnegie Hall, American Swedish Historical Museum, HarpCon2003 Bloomington, Glasgow International Early Music Festival, among other venues. In December 2021, Zoe was a Semi-Finalist in the Premiere Opera Foundation International Vocal Competition, and in January 2022, she was a two-time Bronze Winner in the vocal and classical categories by Global Music Awards. www.sopranoandharp.com

About the Welsh Harp

Zoe Vandermeer's Welsh triple harp was made in 2014 by harpist and harp maker Robin Ward in the UK. It is designed after a harp found at St. Fagan's Museum, Wales. It was intentionally built smaller than a full-size Welsh triple harp, in order to accommodate air travel.

NEXT WEEK: Tanimoto, Igarashi, Shin Trio
Musical Thievery