

# Introduction to Oral Harp Teacher Training with Janet Harbison

**in Glencolmcille, Co. Donegal 2019**

**June 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> (Saturday – Saturday)**

This 'Introduction to Oral Harp Teaching' course is a first level oral harp teacher training covering all the aspects and necessary skills for effective teaching of all kinds of students, from toddlers, to teens to adults in traditional Irish harping. The course runs alongside a regular harp week where a variety of students will be available as volunteers for method demonstration and teaching practise.

The teacher-training coursework will address the range of scenarios, skills, age-groups (toddlers, teens and adults); professional challenges and rewards that all teachers can expect. Distinctions will be made between formal and informal (session) performance and participation; the skills of interpretation, arrangement and accompaniment, the development of style and the preparation for professionalism. The attributes of learning – addressing the physical, aural, logic and mental aspects (PALM) separately and explores some of the remedies to achieve balanced learning. Also, the development of a 'learning repertoire' is explored and critiqued.

In preparation for the course, teachers will receive a package of 'Level Tutor Books' devised by Janet which will be discussed and explored in the course. It is not obligatory for the teacher trainees to use these books in their own teaching practises following the course, but they offer a method that can be referenced as a useful tool should they wish to use it.

This one-week course aims to give direction and clarity to teachers considering traditional oral teaching and offers strategies for the development of their skills and interest in the occupation.

Further training is offered in the delivery of the Harbison Harp Method following the course which involves between 3 and 5 days of training for each of the 4 Levels, the courses for Juniors and Adult Learners, for ensemble directors and 'skill specific weekends'.

**Glencolmcille** is particularly famous not only for its wild Atlantic coast and dramatic mountain landscape (where a James Bond movie was filmed), but its music, community and spiritual history. With many ancient Stone-age archaeological sites (and standing stones), there is also the history and pilgrim trail of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century Saint Colmcille (or Columba) on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Within a minute's walk of the Centre are pubs and coffee shops, a local 'Folk Museum' and a bit further for the Donegal Knits factory shop.



**The harp courses are based at Ionad Siuil** (pronounced 'un add shool' - the Walker's Centre) where we are also accommodated in a beautifully situated modern building at the bottom of the main street. Accommodation is in twin rooms (for twin and single occupation), and all are 'en suite'. There are also a number of rooms equipped for the disabled. Catering is provided including some evenings when we dine at 'The Rusty Mackerel' in Teelin for great nights at the hub of traditional music in the region.

**Arrive on Saturday from 4pm onwards** – and dinner is at 7pm (will be a salad plate) which, if you arrive later, is reserved for you. You will depart on the final day after breakfast. Fly into Dublin or Shannon and please see the travel advice below.

**Teachers Daily Schedule** (except Day 3 or 4 which is a 'half-day' allowing for a trip out) is:

8am	Breakfast
9.30-10.30am	Warm-up session for everyone – inc. trainee teachers (who will lead later in week)
10.30am	Coffee break
11 – 12pm	Teachers observe Janet teaching
12 – 12.45	Teacher training Lecture #1
1pm	Lunch
2 – 2.45pm	Full group class
2.45 - 3.30pm	Teaching practise with course participants
3.30 – 6pm	Time out for Teacher Homework! Also for trips, walks, reading, practise, socialising
6 – 7pm	Teacher training Lecture #2
7.30 pm	Dinner (in-house or at the Rusty Mackerel, Teelin with session afterwards)
Later	Concerts / Lectures / Quiz night / Sessions in-house / Sessions out in local pubs

This Teacher Training course runs along-side a regular harp course and you will be invited to try your teaching skills in Teaching Practise with the students on the course. Your Teacher Training Lectures are additional to the regular course (see Teachers' Daily Schedule) and are as follows:

**'Introduction to Oral Teacher Training'** Lectures #1 to #10 are titled:

Sunday	#1	Teaching Irish Harp: The challenges, rewards and achievement
	#2	Teaching methods and values – The whats, whys and wherefores of Oral Teaching
Monday	#3	Teaching Physical and Aural skills (P.A.L.M.)
	#4	Teaching Logic and Mental skills (P.A.L.M.)
Tuesday	#5	Choosing repertoire – whys and wherefores -
Wednesday	#6	Leading & Looping skills 1
	#7	Leading & Looping skills 2
Thursday	#8	Planning, progress & reporting
	#9	Concerts, Competitions, Ceremonial & Community (Session playing)
Friday	#10	Review and looking forward.

**Evening programme** is:

Day 1	After dinner recital:	Irish harping from O Cathain to Cabaret, a many-faceted tradition
Day 2	After dinner recital:	Introduction to contemporary harp
Day 3	Session out	
Day 4	After dinner recital:	Concerning Carolan
Day 5	After dinner activity:	Quiz night!
Day 6	Session in	

There may be sessions out and in after the recitals also...

Afternoon 3 or 4 (depending on the weather) is a trip out for everyone

For costs and accommodation options, please see the application.

## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ADVICE to Glencolmcille, County Donegal

### Arrange to fly into DUBLIN AIRPORT

The Bus Eireann coach just outside the airport arrivals for DUBLIN CENTRAL BUS STATION ('Busarus') where you will take the bus for DONEGAL town. Here you will change for Killybegs and Glencolmcille. See [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie), email: [info@buseireann.ie](mailto:info@buseireann.ie) or contact Bus Eireann Donegal on +353 (0) 74 9721101. There are also airports at Belfast and Knock but connecting bus transport may be problematic and there are no trains to this region. If arriving at these airports, check out the bus connections and do consider hiring a car!

**Ionad Siul** (The Walker's Centre) is at the bottom of the village of Glencolmcille. Turn left at Biddie's Pub opposite the National School, proceed down the hill and veering left at the war memorial. Ionad Siul is the modern building facing you beside the Fire Station.



## The Glencolmcille Harp Course Gallery

