

## Eleanor Turner Long Biography 2017 (495 words)

Eleanor Turner is a passionate ambassador for the harp and its music as a healing, life-changing force. Eleanor has been performing professionally for over eighteen years, making her London concerto debut aged just fifteen, with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields conducted by Daniel Harding and broadcast live on Classic Fm. Praised by The Times for her 'scrupulous attention to the harp's dynamic and rhythmic possibilities', Eleanor has performed solo at the Berlin Philharmonie, Musiekgeouw Aant Ij in Amsterdam and the Wigmore Hall in London.

Eleanor won Second Prize in the 2011 Gaudeamus Interpreters Competition, showcasing the harp in a competition for contemporary music that is open to all instruments, voices and ensembles. She has also won numerous prizes at international harp competitions and her principal tutors were Daphne Boden and Alison Nicholls. Eleanor has also benefited hugely from study courses with harpists Ernestine Stoop, Erika Waardenburg and Marisa Robles.

Eleanor composed the music for Ballet Wales' 2007 production 'The Bride of Flowers', wrote pop songs with Dutch artist Angela Moyra (Dutch International Harp Festival 2013) and created an original show entitled 'Elusive Symmetry', with hip-hop dancer Lizzie Gough and guitarist-composer Alan Thomas. Recent projects include 'Wild Bird' for harp and ensemble, performing Indian-western improvised fusion music with tabla player Mendi Mohinder Singh and touring with the band Ranagrí and pop legend Tony Christie (whilst Ranagrí's harpist, Jean Kelly, is on maternity leave). Eleanor has also been working with Music Interaction Designer Balandino Di Donato on their 'HarpCI' gesture-controlled electronic music project, including performances and workshops around the world.

Eleanor's artistic development has been supported by awards the Tillett Trust, Ambache Charitable Trust, PRS Foundation for New Music, Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust, Musicians Benevolent Fund, Park Lane Group and a Wingate Scholarship. These have enabled Eleanor to commission harp music from composers such as Dai Fujikura, Nicola LeFanu, Savourna Stevenson and Edward Longstaff, and to push boundaries in her own composition.

A key influence in Eleanor's life is the American jazz harpist, composer and conductor Deborah Henson-Conant. Since their first collaboration in 2010, generously supported by Camac Harps, Eleanor and Deborah have worked together in New Orleans (where Eleanor performed Deborah's concerto *Soñando en Español* with the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra) and Sydney for the 12<sup>th</sup> World Harp Congress. Eleanor looks forward to being inspired further by DHC when they pair up again over the forthcoming year, kickstarting their next creative outburst in Hong Kong, where they are both performing at the 13<sup>th</sup> World Harp Congress.

Eleanor also loves to teach and enjoys sharing her wealth of experience with students at Birmingham Conservatoire (where she is Head of Harp), Uppingham School and Stamford Endowed Schools as well as at her home in Lincolnshire. Eleanor plays a Salvi Diana concert harp, a Salvi Echo electro-acoustic and an electric Delta Harp, also by Salvi. She is grateful to the Salvi company for supporting her international career and providing harps for her performances around the world. [www.eleanorturner.com](http://www.eleanorturner.com)