ELEANOR TURNER

BIOGRAPHY

Eleanor Turner is a harpist and composer who creates bold and immersive experiences across many genres. Her practice stretches the possibilities of harp technique as she plays with movement, text and visual art to bring her music to life. Whether she is performing Deborah Henson-Conant's Concerto with the Louisiana Philharmonic in New Orleans, or exploring electronic music in Shanghai, Eleanor's technique, integrity and imagination set her apart from the crowd.

Eleanor thrives in a variety of creative environments and uses her expertise and musical instincts to make other artists' work more distinctive, as well as her own. Her background in western classical music informs her artistic choices but never stands in the way of change and progress. Eleanor has performed on three albums for the Grammy nominated ensemble Voces8 and numerous film soundtracks including Jonny Greenwood's *Phantom Thread* and *History of Sound* by Oliver Coates. Her contributions to the game-changing British rap artist Dave's album *The Boy Who Played The Harp* were recorded by Eleanor in her home studio, which is where she also produced her solo album, *Lullabies for the Land*.

Eleanor uses her international professional standing to foster community and uphold human rights. *Lullabies for the Land* started life as a book of eighteen lullabies from Palestine, the SWANA region, Africa, Europe and indigenous nations such as Cherokee, arranged for harp by Eleanor and with some of the songs appearing in western notation for the first time. In 2024, Eleanor worked closely with Scottish-Palestinian artist and graphic designer Dima Nowarah to curate this body of work, highlighting cultural erasure and seeing the role of the harp through a post-colonial lens. The book evolved through sleepless nights where Dima and Eleanor combined their artistry with their motherhood, working together over Zoom whilst breastfeeding their infants. Dima created the cover and designed the layout, and complete with an insightful foreword from sonic agent Christina Hazboun, the book is an enduring symbol of resistance and hope for generations to come. Eleanor has performed *Lullabies for the Land* at Edinburgh's Palestine Museum and at the World Harp Congress in Toronto, as well as performances from Glasgow to London.

Turner collaborates with a small circle of brilliant musicians who express their personalities through an exploratory approach to sound and their hearts aligned with social justice. Her partnership with celebrated tabla player Mendi Singh is called Tāla Tarang, which means 'rhythm waves'. As a duo, they have honed a uniquely beautiful and expressive palette of sounds, encompassing virtuosity that speaks of tutelage that began before the age of five. They have performed at festivals in Europe, the Rupunumi Music and Arts Festival in Guyana, Symphony Hall Birmingham and Peggy's Skylight in Nottingham, as well as for MishMash Productions and the Midlands World Music Consortium.

In 2022, Eleanor designed a soundscape for visual artist Lucy Cade's *Disrupted Icons* exhibition at The Crypt, Euston, which sought to challenge 'the maternal gaze'. Turner's *Philo Sophia* workshop in 2019, hosted by Sam Hickman and facilitated by composer Liz Dilnot Johnson, created a space in which feminine wisdom was explored within a supportive group of female and non-binary musician friends. Eleanor will continue to challenge the status quo, pursuing her conviction that the voices we tend not to hear are some of the most interesting.