

## **Carol J Levin**

### **Electric/Acoustic Harpist**

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Carol J Levin has established a unique niche as Seattle's improvising harpist. Returning to the harp after classical training in her youth, she has been embraced by jazz and free improvisation communities for her creative voice and for extending the capabilities of the harp far beyond its expected style.

Carol plays frequently in duos, trios and large ensembles including **CHA!**, **Levitation**, **Spontanea**, **The Likes Of**, Christian Pincock's **Scrambler**, the **Rain City Jazz Orchestra**, Beth Fleenor's **Blindfold Ensemble** and Steve Treseler's **Game Symphony Workshop**.

She has guested with the Jazz Connection, Starbucks Chorus (*Street Requiem* at Benaroya Hall), the Phinney Neighborhood Chorus, Neil Welch's *Coltrane Expressions* (Royal Room Psychedelic Festival), the Seth Alexander quintet, at trio and quartet improvisation concerts in the Wayward Music series (Chapel Performance Space), the Racer Sessions, and at Gallery 1412's *Monthly Improvisation Celebration*.

One of several curators for new music at the weekly Spite House concerts, Carol performs there regularly in extemporaneous collaboration with artists including Jenny Ziefel (clarinets, saxophone), Jim Knodle (trumpet), Leanna Keith (flute), Heather Bentley (viola/violin), Amelia Love Clearheart (voice, spoken word), Dick Valentine (flutes, reeds), Don Berman (percussion), Stephen Fandrich (piano and gamelan instruments), Bill Monteleone (saxophones) and many others.

Festival appearances with ensembles have included the Seattle Improvised Music Festival, the Greenwood Community Jazz Festival, and with the Dutch Impro Academy (Bimhuis, Amsterdam and ZomerJazzFiets, Groningen).

In addition to improvised music, Carol enjoys stretching out with unusual projects of composed works - concert music drawn from Steven Eric Scribner's **Tond** fantasy series; Kaley Eaton's **Lily** opera for instruments, voice and dancer; worldwide virtual orchestras (Doctor Who Fan Orchestra, Sherlock Fan Orchestra, Random Fandom - on YouTube). Beyond harp, she has also played on Harry Partch's invented instruments with the Partch Ensemble at the University of Washington School of Music.

She has recorded with the Spontanea quartet (**Flow**) on Right Brain Records.

Always a respectful listener, Carol generously supports other musicians who enjoy playing with her. Carol's music is full of surprises with styles varying from beautiful melodic lines to challenging and experimental tangents with electronic effects and loops. Her musical loves and influences include Sibelius, Copland, Bernstein, Ellington, Monk, Coltrane (John and Alice), Kurt Weill, David Byrne, Leonard Cohen and progressive and Latin jazz artists, local and international. Her performances are music made with integrity, rhythm, melody and humor.