



# BARBARA W. LEPKE-SIMS

"Harpist of the Presidents"  
MM, The Juilliard School

## Education:

- M.M., The Juilliard School of Music
- M.B.A., University of Colorado
- B.M.E. with Honors, University of Colorado
- Certified Music Practitioner, MHTP
- Certificate in Theology, Denver Seminary
- Studies in Nice, France and Netherlands
- Interlochen National Music Camp, Michigan

## Barbara W. Lepke-Sims

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Barbara W. Lepke-Sims is an active and well-known professional harpist in the Denver area since she earned her Master of Music at The Juilliard School in 1978 studying under Susann McDonald. As a versatile and successful musician, Barbara focuses on four main areas: Education, Performance, Therapeutic Music, and Administration.

## As An Educator:

Barbara is currently an Affiliate Professor of Applied Harp at Regis University and Colorado Christian University. She is experienced in all levels of instruction including previously teaching at Colorado State University, Colorado Academy, in Jefferson County schools where she started an harp ensemble which was invited to play at many important District and community service events, and in her private studio.

## As A Performer:

Barbara performs in many capacities: as a soloist, with chamber ensembles and as a regular member or guest of many orchestras and choirs in Colorado. Performance highlights include work with the Denver Symphony, Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra, Colorado Music Festival, Colorado Ballet, Lonetree Symphony, Lakewood Symphony, Denver Chamber Orchestra, Boulder Symphony, touring Broadway musicals, Young Audiences, Lincoln Center Student programs, Colorado Children's Chorale, Young Voices and The Colorado Chorale.

Barbara is the harpist "of choice" for playing the longest running musical, "The Fantasticks". Having first performed the musical in high school, she has over 1000 performances to her credit including a six-month engagement at the Sullivan St. Playhouse in Greenwich Village, NY.

President George H. Bush called Barbara the "Harpist of the Presidents" because of her experience playing for Presidents, Dignitaries and VIPs including former Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H. Bush, Gerald Ford; Governors Hickenlooper, Owens, Romer, and Lamm; Mayors Hickenlooper, Webb, Pena and dignitaries such as Madeline Albright and John Sutherland.

## As A Therapeutic Musician:

Barbara is also a Certified Music Practitioner having been trained through the Music for Healing and Transition Program ([www.mhttp.org](http://www.mhttp.org)). She plays at local healthcare facilities for patients by the bedside including Children's Hospital Colorado and Centura Health hospitals. Barbara is the Denver area coordinator for MHTP and serves on their National Board. In addition, Barbara recently released her latest CD, "Music for the Heart...from the Heart", featuring 56 minutes of calm, relaxing solo harp music.

## As An Administrator:

Barbara is very active in the American Harp Society having served as Chairman of the Board, Chairman of the 1988 National AHS Conference in Denver, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee and in many other roles and responsibilities. She is currently serving on the Executive Committee of the AHS Board of Directors.

As Director of the Boulder Public Library Series for many years she contributed to the cultural enhancement of the Boulder Community. She has been Director of the Harp Fantasia concert for several years which features a fifty person harp ensemble and is part of the Lakewood Cultural Center Concert Series.

Barbara loves to ski, take walks in the mountains, and spend time with her family.