



Irishfest
la crosse



2009 Celtic Harp Competition Participant Application

- Purpose:** To encourage harp players to become competent performers of Celtic music, to broaden their repertoire of Celtic music and to further cooperation of harp groups and organizations involved in Celtic music.
- Value of Competition:** Irishfest-La Crosse recognizes the value of harp competition as a way for competitors to show mastery of Celtic harp skills and its cultural significance to the community presented in a public forum.
- Eligibility:** Anyone may enter the harp competition.
- Performance Requirements:**
- Use of sheet music is allowed in the Beginner, Novice, and Non-competitive categories only
 - All music must be Celtic in nature. (Irish, Scottish in the lowland or Gaelic style, Gaelic, Breton, Cornish, Welsh or Manx)
 - Each competitor is responsible for having her/his harp in tune and ready prior to start of competition.
 - No tuning harps in the competition area during the competition, except while on stage.
 - Competitors are encouraged to participate in the Harp Circle prior to the competition.
- Contest Requirements:**
1. Beginners play two contrasting Celtic pieces. Time frame of 5-7 minutes.
 2. Novices should play 2 tunes: An aire, followed by a march, strathspey, jig or reel. Time frame of 5-7 minutes.
 3. Amateurs must play 3 tunes: An aire, a reel and a third tune of their choice, either a march, jig, hornpipe or strathspey. Playing as a medley is encouraged but not required. Time frame of 10-15 minutes.
 4. Professionals must play an aire followed by three tunes in a medley, including at least one reel. It can include march, strathspey, hornpipe, jig, etc. Time frame of 15-20 minutes.
 5. Non-competitive may perform two Celtic pieces. Time frame 5-7 minutes.
 6. Accompaniment to voice or other instruments is allowed; **Only harp playing** will be judged.

Note: Original compositions, arrangements and variations are encouraged both at the amateur and professional levels.



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2009 Celtic Harp Competition Participant Application *continued...*

**Definition
of Entry
Categories:**

Beginner: Anyone who has recently started playing the harp and has mastered basic concepts.

Novice: Anyone who has played 24 months or less.

Amateur: Anyone who has played more than 24 months OR has won first place in the novice categories in another harp competition.

Professional (or Open): Anyone who has played 36 months or more OR has won first place twice in the amateur categories in another harp competition.

(An individual may win first place only two times in succession and a total of three times in the professional category, after which he/she must retire from the Irishfest-La Crosse Celtic Harp Competition)

Non-Competitive: This category is for those who wish not to compete, but would like to have the experience in a public setting. Participant will receive a judge's score including a critique with positive suggestions as in other categories but will not be placed.

**Verbal
Introduction:**

- State your name and category competing in.
- State names of pieces and the kind of piece it is. (reel, jig etc.)
- Give a brief historical account of the tune. (Composer if known, events of the period, etc.)
- It is also recommended that you medley the tunes together if possible.

**Definition of
Tune Categories:**

1. Aire: Any slow aire, pastoral, slow strathspey, lament. 4/4 time.
 2. March: 4/4 or 6/8 time with heavy emphasis. Tempo 80 - 122 bpm.
 3. Hornpipe: 4/4 time, slower than a reel and includes triplets in the melody. Tempo half note=80
 4. Strathspey: Moderate 4/4 walking tempo 100 - 120.
 5. Reel: Fast 4/4 time. Tempo 100 - 130 bpm to half note or slower.
 6. Jig: Fast 6/8 or 9/8 with emphasis on the first and forth beats. Tempo 96 - 120 bpm to dotted quarter.
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2009 Celtic Harp Competition

Participant Application continued...

Judging & Scoring:

Points are scored for the following: tone, execution, expression, creativity, performance skills, historical knowledge and overall impression. The judge usually includes a critique with positive suggestions.

Judge's scoring is final.

Order of Performance:

The order of contestants within each category will be determined at registration table within the first half hour prior to start of the competition by the Harp Stage coordinator. Categories will go in the following order: Non-competitive, Beginner, Novice, Amateur, Professional.

Other Requirements:

1. If a competitor is not present when called for in the competition she/he may be disqualified.
2. Irishfest-La Crosse shall not be liable for entries lost, delayed, mislaid, incomplete, damaged in the US mail or with insufficient postage.
3. All entry forms will automatically become the property of Irishfest-La Crosse and shall not be returned.
4. Irishfest-La Crosse shall not be responsible for any loss of or damage to competitors property, including but not limited to the competitor's instruments and other equipment.
5. The decision of the judge shall be final and binding in respect to all matters relating to the competition and shall be accepted by each competitor.
6. Each competitor on entering the competition will be deemed to have read and accepted these rules.
7. Irishfest-La Crosse reserves the right to change, modify, correct, add to or delete rules prior to start of competition.

All questions should be submitted via E-mail to: harp1st@hotmail.com

**PLEASE PRINT, COMPLETE, AND RETURN THIS PAGE
WITH CHECK BY August 2nd, 2009 TO PRE-REGISTER**

**IRISHFEST -LA CROSSE
Atth: 2009 Celtic Harp Competition
P.O. Box 370076
Milwaukee, WI 53237**

All questions should be submitted via E-mail to: harp1st@hotmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

If under 18 years of age, birth date required _____ / _____ / _____
(Parent or Guardian's signature required)

<u>Check events you wish to participate in:</u>	<u>Pre-Registration</u>	<u>Day of event</u>
_____ Competition (does not include entry to festival and workshop)	\$10.00	\$20.00
_____ "Playing Back-up" Workshop w/ Kim Robertson (does not include entry to festival)	\$5.00	\$7.00

Any harper may participate in the Harp Circle with paid admission at the gate

Check category you are entering:

_____ Beginner _____ Novice _____ Amateur _____ Professional _____ Non Competitive

I have read and agree to the 2009 Celtic Harp Competition Rules and Guidelines posted on the Irishfest-La Crosse website and wish to enter into the event(s) listed above. I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and assigns waive and release any and all rights and claims I may have for damages against Irishfest-La Crosse, its agents, representatives and volunteers for any injuries or damages which I may suffer while attending, participating in and traveling to and from Irishfest-La Crosse.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of guardian if participant is under 18.