

JULIE ANN SMITH, PRINCIPAL HARP



Principal Harpist of the San Diego Symphony, Julie Ann Smith is one of the most prominent young harpists today, performing as both an orchestral musician and concert artist. Gaining international recognition for her performing style and diverse repertoire, Ms. Smith was the Silver medalist winner in the 2004 USA International Harp Competition and Bronze medalist in 2001. She made her National Symphony Orchestra debut in 2003 and has been honored in numerous competitions throughout the country. She is an active recitalist and soloist with orchestras across the country, enchanting audiences with her dramatic presence and engaging style. Her appearances include performances with the San Diego Symphony, the New World Symphony Orchestra, the South Dakota Symphony, the West Los Angeles Symphony, the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra and the

Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra. She has been the featured recitalist for the 2006 American Harp Society National Conference, the 2007 USA International Harp Competition and guest artist for the 2010 Young Artist Harp Seminar in Rabun Gap, Georgia.

Equally experienced as a chamber and orchestral musician, Ms. Smith collaborates with renowned musicians across the country. A founding member of the San Diego-based Myriad Trio, she regularly appears in chamber concerts and festivals and has performed abroad in Italy and Japan. During the 2006-07 season she was the Acting Principal Harpist of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and prior to that held the position of Principal Harpist for the New World Symphony Orchestra.

As a teacher, Ms. Smith maintains a harp studio and works with students of all ages. A trained instructor in the Suzuki method, she has served on faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and regularly gives master-classes across the county. Ms. Smith released her first album, *The Rhapsodic Harp*, which is available from her website, www.harpjas.com. Attending the Cleveland Institute of Music, she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in harp performance where she studied with Yolanda Kondonassis. Her other primary teachers have included Alice Chalifoux and Patrice Lockhart. A native of Hastings, Nebraska, Ms. Smith began studying the harp at age eleven.

Getting to know Julie Ann Smith...

Q: What are your favorite three tunes or pieces on your iPod/Mp3 or CD collection?

A: "When You Say Nothing At All" – Alison Krauss; "God Bless the Child" – Billie Holiday; "American Honey" – Lady Antebellum

Q: How did you choose your instrument?

A: I first saw a harp in the Hastings Symphony Orchestra, a community orchestra in my hometown, and immediately fell in love with the beauty and sound of the instrument. (Only later did I realize the challenges the harp also has as well!) I begged my parents for two years to play the harp, raising money through performances in order to purchase my own instrument. Finally, when I was 11, my uncle found a used lever harp and with that, I was able to begin taking lessons. Because I quickly grew out of that smaller instrument, I continued raising money, giving recitals and playing my uncle's calliope at fairs, eventually earning enough to purchase my own harp. My first instrument was a Lyon Healy style 23 which I bought my junior year in high school.

Q: What are three of your favorite movies?

A: *When Harry Met Sally*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *The Apartment*

Q: What is your favorite travel destination?

A: Maine

Q: What are some favorite composers and/or musical periods?

A: Brahms, Mahler, Prokofiev. 1850's -1950's

Q: What good book have you read most recently?

A: *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert

Q: Where might you find me on a Saturday night if I'm not performing with the Symphony?

A: Either at home making a fabulous meal with friends, checking out a new hot spot downtown or perhaps in LA catching the Phil....

Q: The non-musical accomplishment you are most proud of is...?

A: Running my first ½ marathon in Chicago