

Harp Competition Rules & Musical Requirements

	Conditions	Music Requirements	Prize(s)
Composition (90)	Piece must be submitted to NHHG by 7/1/26	One piece	1 st Place Quaich and \$200.00 Piece will be played at the Saturday Night concert by the composer/ judge(s) 2 nd Place Medal Evaluation Special Performance Award*
Non-Competitive Evaluation (91)	Not competing in the NHHG Novice, Amateur, or Open competition during this current year.	One solo piece	Evaluation Special Performance Award*
Junior Novice (92)	Playing harp for less than three years	An air and one contrasting piece (solo only)	1 st Place Quaich 2 nd Place Medal Evaluation Special Performance Award*
Junior Amateur (93)	Playing harp for three or more years	An air and two contrasting pieces (solo only)	1 st Place Quaich and \$100.00 2 nd Place Medal Evaluation Special Performance Award*
Junior Open (96)	Playing harp for three or more years	An air and two contrasting pieces (One selection may be a duo or accompanied piece)	1 st Place Quaich and \$150.00 2 nd Place Medal and \$75.00 Evaluation Special Performance Award*
Senior Novice (94)	Playing harp for less than three years	An air and one contrasting piece (solo only)	1 st Place Quaich 2 nd Place Medal Evaluation Special Performance Award*
Senior Amateur (95)	Playing harp for three or more years	An air and two contrasting pieces (solo only)	1 st Place Quaich and \$100.00 2 nd Place Medal Evaluation Special Performance Award*
Senior Open (97)	Playing harp for three or more years	An air and two contrasting pieces (One selection may be a duo or accompanied piece)	1 st Place Quaich and \$300.00 2 nd Place Medal and \$150.00 Evaluation Special Performance Award*

NHHG Harp Competition General Rules

Scottish Music

- Harpers will be judged on their performance of Scottish music played on a Celtic harp, with or without levers, and be single or multiple strung.
- One original Scottish piece is permitted for each category
- The Judge(s) is the final authority in determining the Scottish authenticity of the piece/melodies played. ○ The Judge(s) may call upon the competitor to justify Scotland's cultural claim to their piece/melodies.
 - The Judge(s) may request an alternative piece to be played.

Categories by Age/Level:

- Age
 - Junior competitors are 17 years old or younger on the day of the competition.
 - Senior competitors are 18 years old and older on the day of the competition.
- Level ○ Competitors may elect to compete at a higher, but not a lower, skill category than they have competed.
- There are no age requirements for the Composition and Non-competitive categories.
- A competitor may only compete in one Novice, Amateur, or Open Competition at the NHHG each year.

Expectations:

- Registration ○ Competitors will register and fill out their pieces on the Adjudication Form ○ Original compositions and arrangements should be noted on the Adjudication Form ○ Order of play will be determined by a drawing of numbers.
- Introduction ○ The competitor is expected to introduce themselves and each piece ○ Original compositions and arrangements shall be announced during the introduction
- Evaluations/Competition ○ Music must be performed by memory ○ Official Adjudication Forms shall be completed by judge(s) during the competitor's performance. ○ Each person being evaluated will receive a performance certificate and evaluation ○ In each division a 1st and 2nd place winner may be declared. If there are too few competitors, or quality of performance does not merit it, one or both winners may not be declared.
 - Junior and Senior Novice categories, Junior and Senior Amateur, and Junior and Senior Open divisions may be combined into a Novice, Amateur, or Open division at the discretion of the Judge(s). Awards given will reflect the competitor's registered division.
 - Decisions of the judge(s) regarding winners and awards are final.
 - Special Performance Awards for excellence may be given at the discretion of the judge(s), (Prize: Medal and Performance Award Certificate)
- A Harper of the Day may be chosen by the Judge(s) and will receive a certificate and special award
- The Harp Committee (Chair, Stewards, and Judge(s)) may require proof of eligibility and may disqualify any competitor for misrepresentation, noncompliance with the rules, or inappropriate behavior. Decisions of the Harp Committee regarding eligibility, special circumstances, etc. are final.

The New England Scottish Harp Championship
2026 Harp Composition Competition
New Hampshire Highland Games 50th Anniversary

About

The New Hampshire Highland Games has been host to the New England Scottish Harp Open Championship for many decades. In honor of this special partnership, and of the 50th Anniversary of the NH Highland Games, the Harp Championship has organized this Composition Competition.

Competition Guidelines

1. The competition is open to all, excepting those persons directly involved with the organization of this competition (**judges and stewards**).
2. All presented works should be composed as a full arrangement to be played by solo harp. Works will be judged based upon the works' adherence to the aesthetics of traditional Scottish Highland music, their creativity, and their musical merit.
3. All submissions should be submitted by the deadline of **July 1, 2026** through e-mail to Competition Coordinator Katherine Chasse at kchasse@progressionsbhs.com or four (4) hard copies through post to Katherine Chasse at NHSCOT, 25 Triangle Park Drive, #4, Concord, NH 03301 by postmark August 1, 2025.
4. Works submitted through e-mail will be accepted in PDF format only. No third-party submission sites such as Dropbox or WeTransfer will be accepted. All works must be written clearly and legibly by hand or by computer.
5. Each composer may submit one work for the competition.
6. The competition will accept only work which has not been performed in public concerts, has not been published and was not awarded prizes at other competitions.
7. The composer's name **must not** appear on the work or filename. All composition entries are submitted to the Adjudicator anonymously by the Competition Coordinator.
8. The composition must be submitted with the Entry Form completed in full.
9. The jury of the competition is Adjudicator: **TBD**
10. The results of the competition will be announced no later than September 1, 2025.
11. International applicants, please translate all text documents to English.
12. Due to the large number of submissions, feedback regarding individual submissions will not be given. Submission materials received by post will not be returned.
13. Submissions that do not strictly follow the guidelines or are submitted after the submission period will be disqualified.
14. The composer of the prize-winning composition will retain rights to perform and record their work. Compositions that do not win a prize will remain the sole property of the composer. Judges' copies of all compositions will be destroyed following the competition.
15. The composer of the prize-winning composition will be required: (a) To assign to NHSCOT all publication and performance rights of the composition; and (b) To warrant to NHSCOT that the composition does not violate the rights of any other person or organization including copyright, trademark, or other intellectual property rights that may be applicable such as moral rights, in whole or in part, and that the composer has the lawful right to authorize publication of the composition. If the composer has any arrangement with any performing rights organizations, such as ASCAP, BMI, SESAC, SOCAN, and the like, the composer will be required to instruct the rights organization not to collect performance fees on the basis of this composition. The prize-winning composition may be

published and distributed by NHSCOT, however NHSCOT is under no obligation to publish or distribute the composition. The composer shall have no right to any payment or other compensation for publication and distribution of the composition from NHSCOT other than the prize provided in this competition by NHSCOT.

16. Once the results are published, the decision is final and cannot be changed. The Adjudicator(s) reserve the right to refrain from choosing a winner if they feel the submitted works were not worthy of a prize.
17. There is no fee associated with submission to this competition.
18. The jury will award one prize of amount TBD to the composer of the winning work.
19. The composer of the winning composition will be invited to perform their composition at the New Hampshire Highland Games Harp Concert at 8pm on Saturday September 20th, 2025. The composer may choose that the Adjudicator perform the composition instead.
20. All current information will be placed on the site of the New Hampshire Highland Games:
www.nhscot.org

Contact:

Katherine Chasse

kchasse@progressionsbhs.com

NH SCOT Scottish Harp Championship: 2025 Harp Composition Competition

New Hampshire Highland Games 50th Anniversary



Entry Form

Compositions must be submitted with this entry form. Please ensure that the composer's name does not appear on the sheet music or in any filename.

Composer's Name: _____

Title of Composition: _____

Date: _____

Full Post Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please include a brief biography (100-400 words) and recent photo

Please check the following:

- I have read and understand the Competition Guidelines for The New England Scottish Harp Open Championship Composition Competition in full.

Compositions should be submitted with this entry form postmarked no later than August 1, 2025 to:

Competition Coordinator Katherine Chasse

Email submissions (PDF only): kchasse@progressionsbhs.com

Post submissions (4 hard copies): Katherine Chasse 25 Triangle Park Drive, #4,
Concord, NH 03301