

Ottawa harpist Lucile Brais Hildesheim's musical roots are in classical music. She began piano studies when she was seven and harp studies at eight in her native Montreal, ending with a BMus (Performance) from McGill University in 1979. She was a Finalist in the 1981 CBC National Competition, spent that summer as harpist in residence at the Banff Centre, and began a lovely relationship with CBC and Radio-Canada. Solo, Chamber and concerto performances took her to the summer festivals of Lanaudière and Domaine Forget, to Europe, the US and across Canada. But the purchase of a Celtic harp in the mid 90's changed everything: New musical styles needed to be learned since the repertoire she knew did not suit the small harp. There begins the adventure into folk, South-American, Renaissance and Medieval music; improvisation, arranging and composition. If she often chooses to bring both harps to the stage, it is because of repertoire: Since these harps have very different sounds and personalities, Lucile uses these qualities to best carry the music. She is active in the Ottawa chamber music scene, a regular guest with the Strings of St. John's, Seventeen Voyces, the Ottawa Choral Society, and various choirs & chamber groups. She is a featured performer at the 50th Anniversary Conference of the American Harp Society 2012. She has recorded with several choirs and produced three solo harp albums. Her new Christmas CD features her own arrangements and composition. Lucile teaches harp at the University of Ottawa, and her private studio is busy with young and mature students. Find out more on her website, 83strings.ca.