

UTAH THERAPEUTIC HARP NETWORK

The Utah Therapeutic Harp Network is a group of therapeutic harpists who gather monthly to share experiences, educational opportunities and support. Members are professional, paid, certified therapeutic musicians, with the exception of two who are currently students in one of the NSBTM accredited programs. The group includes graduates and students from the Clinical Musician Certification Program/Harp for Healing (CMCP), Music for Healing and Transition Program (MHTP), the International Harp Therapy Program (IHTP), and Chalice of Repose.

The group was begun in April of 2017 (I was just beginning Level II as a student with the CMCP) with a handful of founding members and has continued to grow. This diverse group of ladies from four different therapeutic music programs share a passion for the harp and for providing a healing presence to the patients we serve.

All but one member (who is disabled and not able to work currently) are either working in a hospital or hospice with patients as a paid employee or they are volunteering in institutions as part of their certification requirements. One member just recently retired after a 25 year career as a Music Thanatologist; another member plays and performs with the internationally renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir in addition to being employed as a therapeutic harpist with hospice. Several members have degrees in music performance. Some of us are also nurses or chaplains.

With this richness of experience and different backgrounds, members take turns leading the monthly meeting. Educational topics have included:

- use of modes, improvisation, using lullabies
- playing in specific clinical settings and situations, including discussion of case studies
- collaborating with others such as music therapists and massage therapists
- reporting from various professional conferences
- harp maintenance
- Native American flute as a therapeutic instrument
- guest speakers such as music therapists, choir directors

To me, the best thing about our group is the camaraderie and support we share. Meetings always include the sharing of experiences, and there is often laughter as well as tears.

For more information, please contact:

Pamela Archbold, CCM,RN
435.671.5000
pam.archbold@yahoo.com



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From left to right: (front row) Pam Archbold, CCM, RN; Tristan Adair, Chalice of Repose graduate; Keri Hains Kammerman, Board Certified Professional Chaplain. (middle row) Kate Dougherty, CCM intern; Peggy Cann, CMP; Chris Watts, CMP; Kinsey McNevin, CMP. (back row) Kristen Rogers-Iverson, CMP; Heidi Jaeger, CTHP, MHA; Angela Scothern, CMP; Tamara Oswald, CCM.

Angela, Kinsey and Tamara hold degrees in music performance. Tamara has played with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir for twenty years.

Not pictured: Cyndi Bowen, CMCP student, CNA; Laurel Wright-Feighery, CMP