



COLLEGE OF MUSIC

University of North Texas College of Music

Guest Artist Recital | Tuesday, March 5, 2024 | 6:30 pm | Recital Hall

Workshop | Wednesday, March 6, 2024 | 10:00-12:00 - harp &

3:00-5:00 - composers, jazz students, arrangers | Recital Hall

Park Stickney, harp

Repertoire To Be Announced From The Stage

about our guest artist

While attempting to live simultaneously in Brooklyn and on a farm in Switzerland, harpist Park Stickney is constantly in motion, traveling across Europe, the United States and Asia, as a soloist and teacher, as well as with a variety of ensembles whose music ranges from jazz to classical to rock.

He has performed and taught in nearly every harp festival that exists, from Adelaide to Zaragoza, often several times (12 appearances at the German Harfentreffen, 6 for the Edinburgh Harp Festival, every International Harpfest since 1995), has played Wagner with the Berlin Philharmonic (as a jazz harpist disguised as a classical harpist), profiting at the same occasion to play a solo jazz concert for the Philharmonic's lunchtime series for 1,200 people.

He has appeared on the French television program "La Boîte à Musique," performed on the QE2, recorded with the Crash Test Dummies, jammed with John Sebastian (of the Lovin' Spoonful), played with young oud students in the West Bank, given concerts in a mine in South-Tyrol, in a thermal bath in Switzerland, in a New York McDonald's, in Sri Lanka, in Hong Kong, in Moscow. He has played Broadway pits in New York, toured with *The Fantasticks* in Japan, and appears on page 97 of Patricia Cornwell's novel *From Potter's Field*.

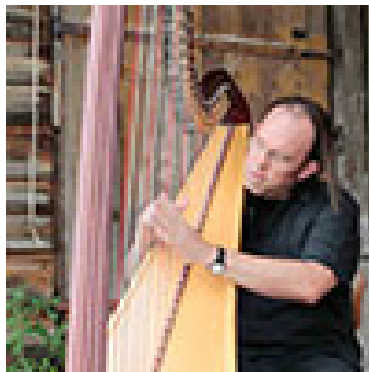
In the fall of 1999, he was invited by electro-celtic harpist Rüdiger Oppermann to perform 25 concerts in Germany as part of his International Harp Festival. Stickney returned to Germany the following year, this time for a 10-concert solo tour. As Rüdiger and Park found themselves constantly jamming together at festivals, they decided in 2003 to form an "official" duo, by making the critically-acclaimed CD *Harp Summit* ("Two players at the top of their game share their complementary skill and empathy with the music."- *The Harp Column*), touring Germany and Korea, and performing at the Edinburgh Harp Festival. This collaboration continued in Rüdiger's 2004 and 2011 Klangwelten Festivals, which also featured musicians from Gambia, the Cook Islands,

India, and Mongolia, with 40 concerts throughout Germany. In Spring 2005, Stickney & Oppermann toured 12 cities in the United States, including New York, Philadelphia, Seattle, Boston, and Los Angeles. They returned in 2007 for a follow-up West Coast tour.

Another longtime collaboration is with Swiss flutist Regula Küffer, in a project called "Mozart & More," which combines classical and jazz works in an improvisational setting. In March 2013, they performed the Mozart *Flute and Harp Concerto* with the Berne Chamber Orchestra, improvising cadenzas onstage. Stickney's most recent group is a trio called *The Lion, the Wolf, and the Donkey* with bassist Dino Contenti and percussionist Gigi Biolcati. The group has been featured on Radio France's program "Le Matin des Musicien," and their first CD, *Who is "The Lion, the Wolf, and the Donkey"?* was released in Fall 2013.

An active teacher, Stickney is the jazz harp tutor at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and an assistant professor at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Lyon, France. He also teaches a regular improvisation class at the Haute Ecole de Musique in Lausanne and has given masterclasses at, among others, the Juilliard School, Berklee College of Music, University of Minnesota, Chopin Conservatory in Warsaw, Hochschule für Musik in Munich and Frankfurt, Musik Akademie Basel, Paris Conservatory, the Barcelona, Madrid and Zaragosa conservatories in Spain, Ecole de Jazz et Musique Actuelle in Lausanne, and conservatories in Milano and Torino, Italy. He also teaches privately in Switzerland, London, and New York.

Stickney has 4 solo CDs, *Overdressed Late Guy* (1995), *Action Harp Play Set* (1999), *Still, Life with Jazz Harp* (2005), and *Surprise Corner* (2011), as well as a duo CD *Harp Summit* with Rüdiger Oppermann. Stickney holds degrees from the Juilliard School (master of music, 1991, professional studies, 1992) and the University of Arizona (bachelor of music *cum laude*, 1988). His teachers included Nancy Allen and Carrol McLaughlin. He plays the Lyon & Healy Electro-acoustic harp, and is inordinately fond of black-cherry yogurt. He is also an enthusiastic but decidedly un-gifted Swiss volunteer fireman.--
Valeyres-sous-Ursins, May 2013



Five hundred eighty-eighth program of the 2023–2024 season
Photography and videography are prohibited