

# The Sacred Harp



Double-page miniature at the beginning of the Matins of the Hours of the Virgin, Book of Hours, Use of Bourges, France, ca. 1500. Lewis E 86, Free Library of Philadelphia Rare Book Department.

The harp is one of the most ancient and storied instruments in human civilization. In the western tradition, harp has long been associated with the contemplative and the holy. “Sing to the Lord with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp,” reads Psalm 147:7. In honor of this celebration’s garden theme, and in recognition of the Roman Catholic heritage of Rosemont College, tonight’s performance includes songs named for flowers and garden features (“Down by the Sally Garden,” “The Fountain,” “The Last Rose of Summer,” and “My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose”) as well as pieces by the medieval mystical abbess Hildegard von Bingen. I love exploring the harp’s meditative qualities and am pleased to bring its soothing sounds to you this evening!

–Alex L. Ames

