

March 31, 2009  
For Immediate Release

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## Pacific Harp Institute Announces Harpist Elizabeth Fontan as 2009 Artist-in-Residence

*Legendary French harpist to give recital, masterclass April 17-18, 2009*

REDMOND, WA: Pacific Harp Institute (PHI), a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation for the harp, is pleased to welcome celebrated harpist **Elizabeth Fontan** as artist-in-residence for 2009. Mme. Fontan will present a solo recital on Friday, April 17, 2009, at 7:30pm in Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall (200 University Street in Seattle). The program includes works by Faure, Ravel, and Tournier; and will also feature guest artist Valerie Muzzolini, principal harpist of Seattle Symphony and a former student of Mme. Fontan.

Tickets are \$20 adults / \$12 students and seniors, and are available for purchase via Ticketmaster.com, 1-800-982-ARTS, or the Benaroya Hall office.

On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Pacific Harp Institute will host Mme. Fontan in an all-day masterclass for local harp students. It will take place from 10am to 4:30pm at the Austin Harp Studio (7300 139<sup>th</sup> Pl. NE in Redmond). Students interested in participating should reserve space as soon as possible by calling (425) 885-2785 or emailing [Alison@pacificharpinstitute.org](mailto:Alison@pacificharpinstitute.org). The participation fee is \$50 for a half-hour slot. The general public is welcome to audit the class for \$10.

For more information, please visit [www.pacificharpinstitute.org](http://www.pacificharpinstitute.org) or call (425) 885-2785.

### **About the Artist**

Harpist Elizabeth Fontan won the prestigious Prix d'Israel, the highest distinction for the harp in the world, and acquired early an international reputation for her musicality and brio. She has taught in Paris, Lyon, Rome and Nice and gives concerts and master-classes all over the world, from Japan to the U.S. where she was invited by the Curtis Institute of

Philadelphia. Her Kyoto recital won the National Award in Japan. As one of France's most gifted performers, Elizabeth Fontan enchants audiences with her passion, her dynamics and her poetry. Her accomplishments are a wonderful homage to her master teacher, Marcel Tournier.

#### **About Pacific Harp Institute**

Pacific Harp Institute (PHI) exists to provide young harpists with the resources, learning environment and support necessary to pursue excellence in performing the harp. Established in 2002 by Artistic Director Alison Austin, PHI is dedicated to increasing awareness and appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument. PHI addresses all aspects of harp playing and performance including proper technique, artistic expression, stylistic expression, musicianship, focus, discipline, and persistence. PHI programs and activities give students many opportunities throughout the year to further their understanding and mastery of the harp. More information about Pacific Harp Institute is available online at [www.pacificharpinstitute.org](http://www.pacificharpinstitute.org).

## Pacific Harp Institute presents Elizabeth Fontan, harpist

- WHO** Pacific Harp Institute
- WHAT** Harpist Elizabeth Fontan in solo recital and masterclass
- WHEN**
- Recital: Friday, April 17, 2009 at 7:30pm
  - Masterclass: Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 10am-4:30pm
- WHERE**
- Recital: Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall at Benaroya Hall – 200 University Ave., Seattle
  - Masterclass: Austin Harp Studio – 7300 139<sup>th</sup> Pl. NE, Redmond
- COST**
- Recital: \$20 adults / \$12 students and seniors
  - Masterclass: \$50 participation fee / \$10 auditor fee
- MORE INFORMATION** [www.pacificharpinstitute.org](http://www.pacificharpinstitute.org) or (425) 885-2785

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