

# Highland Harps

An Impact Soundworks Sample Library  
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## Overview

This library was conceived of by Jason Gallaty, who provided to us a fantastic set of gorgeous recordings taken over many days in the studio. In continuing with the tradition of our other deep-sampled stringed instruments, our goal was to sample several traditional folk harps with incredible detail and clarity.

This library focuses on three traditional instruments: the Celtic Harp, Lyre, and Lap Harp. These lovely folk instruments should instantly evoke images of the Irish countryside, Appalachian splendor, tall tales and a hearty mug of mead beside a crackling fire. Though it's certainly not an "epic" collection in the traditional sense, we think you will thoroughly enjoy using the sounds in a wide variety of styles.

**Highland Harps** comprises over 1,500 recordings. Besides the 14 included "Natural" patches, each of which comes with a handy Combinator interface, we've also included 10 "Designed" patches that take the original recorded material into new directions: atmospheres, pads, keys, and so on.

We hope you'll find this library enjoyable to play, easy-to-use, and a brilliant addition to your tracks!

## Sound Content

The library features 14 deep-sampled "Natural" Combinator patches covering all articulations for the Celtic Harp, Lap Harp, and Lyre. Also included is a suite of 15 "FX" Combinator patches which morph and mangle the source material in various musically interesting ways. The NN-XT patches are used within the Combinator patches and contain the same audio, without the bonus effects and tweaks in the Combinator.

Please note that this library focuses on **depth** of sampling as opposed to hundreds of patches with relatively few samples. We meticulously recorded countless samples for these instruments with multiple velocity (dynamic) layers, round robin (RR) variations, articulations, and other techniques.

## User Interface (UI)

**All patches** share some common features in the Combinator UI.

- \* Mid-Sweep / EQ: When EQ is enabled, the Mid-Sweep knob controls the frequency boost range.
- \* Squash / Saturator: When Saturator is enabled, the Squash knob controls the depth of the saturation.
- \* Reverb: Adds reverb ambience to the instrument.
- \* Imager: Enables stereo widening.
- \* Release: Controls the release time of the sounds.
- \* Limiter: Adds a hard limiter to prevent clipping.

The Thor instance labeled **Thor FX** adds a couple of additional controls:

- \* DDL / DDL Feedback: Digital delay and feedback amount.
- \* Chorus / Chorus Mod/Rate: Digital chorus and modulation amount/rate.

The **Modwheel** generally adds vibrato.

# Patch List

## **Celtic Harp Bowed**

Evolving bowed strings on the Celtic harp, with a sweet spot of C2 to E4.

## **Celtic Harp Hammered**

Detailed sampling of the Celtic harp played with dulcimer hammers. Best played from C1 to C6.

## **Celtic Harp Harmonics**

Light and airy plucked harmonics: very resonant with a bright attack. Best played from C2 to C5.

## **Celtic Harp Horror**

Stretched, atonal samples of the Celtic harp being plucked in a dissonant fashion. Playable across the entire keyboard.

## **Celtic Harp Percussion**

Very deeply sampled, untuned percussive hand strikes on the Celtic harp body. Different strokes are mapped to C2, D2, E2 and F2.

## **Celtic Harp Plucked**

The primary traditional Celtic harp articulation featuring plucks with a finger pick. Up to 30x beautiful samples per note! Best played from C1 to G5 or so.

## **Lap Harp Glissando Beds**

Various sustained, "circular" glissandos played on the lap harp. These are mapped across the entire keyboard in a 'menu' style.

## **Lap Harp Glissandos**

A huge variety of glissandos of various directions and speeds. Each key contains a unique glissando sample.

## **Lap Harp Percussion**

Untuned percussive strikes and plucks of the lap harp. C1 to B1 (white keys only) contain multisampled hits with more attack, while C2 to B4 (white and black keys) contain finger and plectrum noises.

## **Lap Harp Plucked**

The primary lap harp patch featuring very deeply sampled plucks with a finger pick. High velocities typically have a slight, natural pitch bend. Best played from C2 to E6 for a more natural sound.

## **Lap Harp Slaps Hi**

Chordal "impacts" consisting of multiple higher-pitched notes, mapped menu style across the keyboard.

## **Lap Harp Slaps Lo**

Chordal "impacts" consisting of multiple lower-pitched notes, mapped menu style across the keyboard.

## **Lyre Ebow**

Sustained chromatic tones generated using an electronic bow (ebow) that resonates the strings without creating an attack transient. The **modwheel** brings out higher frequencies. Best played from C2 to C6.

## Lyre Plucked

The primary lyre patch. As with the other plucked patches, this contains a large number of dynamic and RR samples, and higher velocities bring out a slight natural pitch bend. Best played from G2 to C5.

*\*\* Note: All FX patches below are similar in that they provide synth-like sounds mapped over a large part of the keyboard. Since they are more creative in purpose and scope, they do not require a special explanation or usage guide, thus we have simply listed them! \*\**

Arctic Kalimba  
Chemical Forest  
Dream Zither  
Hybrid Organ  
Junkyard Sunrise Pad  
Magnetic Piano  
Ripple Harp  
Solar Threads  
Unstable Analog Strings  
Wind Powered Dulcimer

## Credits

Highland Harps was designed by Andrew Aversa, and performed/recorded by Jason Gallaty. Editing and programming was done by Iain Morland and Andrew Aversa.

Reason conversion by Anthony Mena.

## Troubleshooting and Feedback

Have you used this library in a project recently or have a demo or song that you'd like to share? You can email us ([admin@impactsoundworks.com](mailto:admin@impactsoundworks.com)) or tell the world at our Facebook page here: <http://www.facebook.com/ImpactSoundworks>

You can also catch us on Twitter at [@ISoundworks!](https://twitter.com/ISoundworks)

We encourage all our users to share and promote their work. Word of mouth is the #1 way people find our samples, so it also helps us to produce more great libraries for you! For any technical support issues regarding the library, don't hesitate to email [support@impactsoundworks.com](mailto:support@impactsoundworks.com).

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