

Dominique Piana

A Performer's Biography

Dominique Piana grew up bicultural (French and German) in Belgium, where she majored in harp at the Brussels Conservatory of Music. After moving to Southern California to study with master teacher Susann McDonald, she earned an M.A. in harp performance at Claremont Graduate University. From 1986, she taught at the University of Redlands and at La Sierra University in Riverside; since 2001 she is on the faculty of Holy Names University in Oakland. She maintains a private studio and has given lectures and master classes nationally and in Europe.

As a performer Dominique has made a specialty of historical recitals. She has presented "*The Romantic Spirit*", a solo program of 19th century music and poetry, in concert tours throughout the United States and abroad. She was on the touring roster of the California Arts Council until its demise. She has also explored extensively the duo repertoire in several combinations, with violinist Sherry Kloss in the 1990's, more recently with flutist Jeffery Pelletier, and presently with baritone Greg Allen Friedman.

Dominique founded the Pleasanton Chamber Players (a flexible group of 10 or more musicians and singers) in 2003 and, as artistic director, continues to program the classics as well as the unjustly forgotten. She has premiered works written specifically for her by Alexandra Pierce (*Caryatids*), by Alfredo Rolando Ortiz for her harp ensemble (*Venezolana*), and by Helena Michelson for her chamber group ("*softly through the night...memories of music...*").

Other premieres focused on works she has chosen to revive, such as Liszt's *Liebesträume* (the set of three in Posse's transcription), Liszt's symphonic poem *Orpheus* (in her own arrangement from the Saint-Saëns trio version), the Concerto by Joseph Jongen (five performances in Southern California in one season) and her own edition of the *Ballade* by Alberstoeffer (with the Livermore-Amador Symphony in December 2007).

Dominique has released 3 CD's: *Lulling the Soul*, *The Harp of King David* and *Beyond Dreams*. She writes frequently on harp literature for the *American Harp Journal*, and has edited and published over 120 titles of music ranging from baroque to modern through her company Harpiana Publications. She is listed in the *International Who's Who in Music* since 1990.



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