



Betsey O'Hagan Merkel, Harpist
 7305 West Clinton Ave #2
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Descriptive Summary

Education

- Master of Music, [Harp](#) Performance and Bachelor of Music, [The Cleveland Institute of Music \(CIM\), Cleveland, Ohio](#)

Mission and vision

- Harp performance
- Mentor, coach and train the Salzedo technique and [Carlos Salzedo's](#) musical compositions
- Conduct harp ensemble
- Expand public appreciation for the harp, awareness of Cleveland, Ohio harp tradition
- Represent/advocate for music education institutions, employment and job creation
- Increase public music access, education, appreciation and engagement
- Leverage collaborative technologies, content, media relations and social networks
- Advance cultural arts programming for community, workforce and economic development

Technical skills training 1977-1997

- Student of [Alice Chalifoux](#), Principal Harpist, [Cleveland Orchestra](#) (1931-1974) and protege of Carlos Salzedo
- Salzedo School Scholarship Student, The Cleveland Institute of Music, 1977-1983
- Extensive performance training, coaching and mentoring with Alice Chalifoux on Salzedo technique, solo, harp ensemble, and instrumental ensemble repertoire, and in harp repair
- Assisted Alice Chalifoux at the Salzedo Summer Harp Colony, in [Camden, Maine](#), 1977-1987
- Recitalist, Salzedo Summer Harp Colony, Camden, Maine 1979-1987
- Founder & Director, [CIM Preparatory](#) Harp Department & Preparatory Harp Ensemble
 - 35 students, competition and concerto awards, touring harp ensemble

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- Guest and Recitalist, [People's Republic of China](#), Alice Chalifoux Teaching Residency at the [Shanghai Conservatory of Music in Shanghai, China](#), 1985
- Co-Organizer and Performer, Salzedo Centennial Celebration, [American Harp Society](#) National Conference, [Columbus, Ohio](#), 1985
- Managing Director and Harpist, Coryton & Co., a not for profit performance ensemble, national tours, concerts and residencies, supported by the [Ohio Arts Council](#), [Arts Midwest](#), [Ohio Arts Presenters Network \(OAPN\)](#), 1985-1997

Development projects

- Collaboration development with national artists, writers, composers, and local community-
- Strange New World Festival-[Lake Erie College](#), Coryton & Co., [Huun-Huur-Tu](#) and Ted Levin, [Randall Davidson](#), composer; [St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cleveland Heights, Ohio](#); [Cleveland Composers Guild](#); music librettist, historians, writers and critics, 1997
- Public-private partnership development with organizations, business and government
- Local instrument supplier partnership established between CIM, [Mattlin-Hyde Piano](#) and [Lyon-Healy Harps](#)
- Designed Public Radio/[89.7 WKSU FM](#), Lake Erie College and Coryton & Co. collaboration resulting in a multi-state listener expansion
- Innovative community residency programs for student education, public appreciation and community building
- Thematic programming, i.e., "The French School: Impressionists in Music", U.S. campaign
- John D. Drinko Musical Arts Residency, Lake Erie College, [Morley Music Hall, Painesville, Ohio](#) 1995, 1996, 1997
- National chamber music concert tours, including [University of Alaska](#) Teaching and Performance Residency, [Fairbanks, AK](#)
- Chamber music performance and arts in education services throughout Ohio and neighboring states

Leadership in state and national associations

- The American Harp Society, member, Salzedo Centennial Committee and co creator Salzedo Centennial Exhibit
- The Salzedo Summer Harp Colony, Board Member
- [American Chamber Music Society](#), member
- Arts Midwest, member

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- Ohio Arts Council Arts Touring Artist
- Ohio Arts Council, Presenting/Touring Panel for Public Art, Member 1992-1995
- Ohio Arts Presenters Network Artist Affiliate Advisory Committee, Chair
- Ohio Arts Presenters Network Award of Merit, 1995

Communications, design and marketing

- Coryton & Co., management, operations, sales and marketing campaigns, personnel relations, concert program design

Public speaker and workshop leader

- "Artist to Artist: A Business Seminar", supported by the Ohio Arts Council and [State of Ohio Office of the Governor](#), serving multidisciplinary artists statewide 1992-1997; Arts Midwest National Conference

New music commissions and performance

- [University of Akron, American Music Center](#), independent composers, international ensembles
- Fundraising events-
 - The Cleveland Institute of Music, Asia Society Benefit, 1983
 - The Cleveland Institute of Music Art Song Festival, multiple years
 - Salzedo School Benefit Concert

Press

- The Plain Dealer. "Chamber Group Thrives on Risks" by Donald Rosenberg, Plain Dealer Music Critic, Sunday, March 9, 1997.
- The News-Herald. "Arts at Home at Lake Erie" by Jennifer Owens, Sept 27, 1996.
- Northern Ohio Live. "To Market" by David Sowd, November 1991. Article comparing innovative marketing techniques of a small entrepreneurial chamber music ensemble with a large business enterprise, the Cleveland Orchestra, Creative Design: Darby Scott, Nottingham Spirk, Kalman & Pabst Photo Group.