



## **Marta Cook**

### Irish Harp

A traditional musician from a young age, Marta is committed to realizing the potential of the modern lever harp as a traditional instrument. Her approach to technique and musicianship is greatly inspired by her love of fiddling and piping, and particularly by the legacy of those traditions in Chicago. She is also well-known as an accompanist with an interest in developing the harp as a rhythm instrument.

Having won a senior title at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann at the age of 19, in recent years Marta has traveled extensively, performing and teaching throughout Europe and North America. Highlights include the World Harp Congress (Vancouver), Spoleto Festival USA (Charleston), Pritzker Pavilion (Chicago), Espace Culturel Bertin Poirée (Paris), The Irish Centre (Leeds), and every major North American harp festival. Having worked as a studio musician in Chicago and New York City, her playing has featured on many albums; she is considered a GRAMMY® winner by the Recording Academy for her contribution to Yo-Yo Ma's 2010 release *Songs of Joy and Peace*.

Marta is dedicated to teaching and coaching students of all abilities, from beginners of all ages to professional performers. Her students have been recognized with numerous first place and runner up awards at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann as well as at the regional level. At the university level, Marta has worked with harpists and Irish Studies students at Oberlin, NYU, Columbia, Sacred Heart, Evergreen State, and the University of Oregon. She formerly taught at Manhattan's Irish Arts Center.

Marta's own training is greatly indebted to pioneering Irish harper Máire Ní Chathasaigh. She studied musicology at the University of Chicago and holds an honors degree in harp performance from the Chicago College of Performing Arts under Chicago Symphony/former New York Philharmonic Principal Harpist, Sarah Bullen.