

# Choosing a Harp Teacher

Now that you have your harp, you are debating whether to teach yourself how to play or to seek the help of a harp teacher that can guide you on your harp journey. If you have been playing the harp for a while or even playing music on other instruments such as the piano, you might benefit from self-instruction but for newbies to the harp or even to music, you will want to consider taking formal lessons from a harp teacher. I know, lessons can get expensive but *it's well worth the investment!*

To choose a good harp teacher, you will want to define your goals, research local and/or online teaching options, and consider your learning style. Look for harp teachers who specialize in your chosen harp type (pedal or lever) and desired music genre, and inquire about their teaching methods, experience, and fees. You will want to consider engaging with potential teachers through trial lessons or consultations to assess compatibility.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

## **What to look for in selecting a harp teacher**

### **Define Your Goals**

*What are your goals when you learn to play the harp?*<sup>1 2</sup>

*Harp Type:* Are you interested in learning to play on a pedal harp or a lever harp? Teachers may specialize in one or both. Lever harps are highly recommended if you are just getting started.

*Music Genre:* What kind of music do you want to play (classical, folk, world, contemporary, etc.)? A good teacher will tailor their lessons to your preferences.

*Learning Goals:* Are you aiming to play for enjoyment, take part in ensembles, perform professionally, or something else? Your goals should influence the teacher's approach.<sup>1 2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.enjoytheharp.com/choosing-a-music-teacher>

<sup>2</sup> <https://harpsicleharp.com/finding-a-harp-teacher>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.reddit.com/r/harp/comments/w4wsv2/how\\_to\\_pick\\_a\\_harp\\_teacher/](https://www.reddit.com/r/harp/comments/w4wsv2/how_to_pick_a_harp_teacher/)

### Research Local and/or Online Options

*If you are in a metropolitan area such as the Tampa Bay region, finding a harp teacher should be easy. However, if you live a considerable distance from a metropolitan area there are harp teachers out there that give lessons online, usually via Zoom.*<sup>4</sup>

*Local Music Schools/Organizations:* Music schools and local music teacher organizations often list teachers, according to the Music Teachers National Association.<sup>4</sup> Also try local community colleges too.

*Harp Centers/Stores:* Harp stores such as Atlanta Harp Center and Virginia Harp Center may have listings or be able to recommend teachers. The Sylvia Woods Harp Center also has an online listing of harp teachers.<sup>5 6</sup>

*Online Listings:* Sites like Superprof can connect you with teachers in your area.<sup>7 8</sup>

*Recommendations:* Ask for recommendations from friends, family, and other harpists.<sup>4</sup>

### Interview and Assess

*Like when you choose a professional such as a doctor or a dentist, you should interview at least three harp teachers.*<sup>1 2</sup>

*Teaching Style:* Ask about their teaching methods, experience, and preferred approach.<sup>1 2</sup>

*Fees and Schedule:* Clarify lesson costs, frequency, and duration.<sup>1 5</sup> Also determine if you can pay by the lesson or if any kind of a commitment is required. **Highly recommended:** Paying by the lesson without any kind of commitment.

*Trial Lessons/Consultations:* Consider a trial lesson or consultation to gauge your compatibility with the teacher's style.<sup>1 3</sup>

*References:* If possible, inquire about previous students' experiences.<sup>4</sup>

*Personal Connection:* Do you feel comfortable and inspired by this harp teacher? A good harp teacher should motivate and support your learning journey.<sup>1 3</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Parent\\_and\\_Student\\_Resources/Choosing\\_a\\_Music\\_Teacher.aspx](https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Parent_and_Student_Resources/Choosing_a_Music_Teacher.aspx)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.harpcenter.com/category/harp-teachers>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.harpkit.com/resources/harp-101>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.superprof.com/lessons/harp/united-states/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.superprof.com/blog/how-to-academic-tutoring/>

## Specific Considerations

*Does the harp teacher's teaching style adapt to your needs?*<sup>9</sup>

*Lever vs. Pedal Harp:* Lever harp and pedal harp techniques differ significantly. Ensure the harp teacher is familiar with the type of harp you wish to learn.<sup>9</sup>

*Injury Prevention:* A good harp teacher should emphasize proper posture and techniques to prevent common injuries like carpal tunnel syndrome.<sup>2</sup>

*Online Lessons:* If you can't find a local teacher, consider online lessons. Ensure that the harp teacher can provide effective feedback and guidance remotely.<sup>10</sup>

## Other Considerations

*Other items to consider when choosing a harp teacher*

*Age Range:* Does the harp teacher only teach children? Only teach adults? Or teach both adults and children?

*Harp Instruments:* Does the harp teacher use quality harps from well-known harp makers such as Dusty Strings, Camac, Lyon & Healy or Salvi? You want to use the best harp for your lessons – you want to get the best lesson for your money.

*Harp Rentals:* Does the harp teacher offer rental harps to use at home to review skills learned in lessons?<sup>11</sup>

*Harp Practice Books:* Does the harp teacher offer a variety of harp practice books for sale, either directly or through Amazon or another online store? Don't forget adjunct music education items such as musical note flash cards<sup>12</sup> and a music theory book for the harp!

---

<sup>9</sup> <https://reesharps.com/finding-a-lever-harp-teacher>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.reddit.com/r/harp/comments/1c1ccyb/adult\\_learners\\_can\\_you\\_share\\_your\\_harp\\_learning/](https://www.reddit.com/r/harp/comments/1c1ccyb/adult_learners_can_you_share_your_harp_learning/)

<sup>11</sup> Both Atlanta Harp Center and Virginia Harp Center also offer wonderful harp rent-to-own programs where the rental cost is applied towards purchase, should you decide to purchase a harp later down the road. As new harps can be expensive (pedal harps can cost about the same price as a new car, if not more) a rent-to-own program makes better financial sense if finances are of a concern.

<sup>12</sup> There are music flash cards out there as an app for your smartphone. However, the Music Flash Cards published by Hal Leonard is the gold standard for learning music notes.

## **In Summary**

Harp lessons are undoubtedly your biggest investment when it comes to learning how to play the harp. That investment should pay off when you decide to perform in public, whether it may be solo at an event such as a wellness event, as part of an organized orchestra or even when you record your pieces.

© 2025 Edward Ringwald