

Caryl Thomas MA ARCM FRWCMD

Caryl Thomas heads the exciting and thriving harp department at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. A respected soloist, chamber musician and teacher, she made her American debut in 1981 at Carnegie Hall, her London debut at the Wigmore Hall a year later, and has performed to critical acclaim throughout Europe, USA and the Far East. She graduated from the Welsh College of Music and Drama and gained a Master's degree from New York University; her teachers were Ann Griffiths, Marisa Robles, Pearl Chertok and Susann McDonald.

Caryl has performed as soloist with the London Philharmonic, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Orchestra of St John's Smith Square, and the Mozarteum Orchestra in Salzburg, and during a period as harpist with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, she played under the baton of such eminent conductors as Sir Simon Rattle, Klaus Tennstedt, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Bernard Haitink and Sir George Solti. Her discography includes the Mozart Flute and Harp Concerto with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, a solo recital entitled *Clair de Lune*, and a collection of French chamber works with the Prometheus Ensemble.

In 2007, Caryl was Artistic Director of the 7th European Harp Symposium, and in June 2016, sat on the jury of the USA International Harp Competition. Caryl is a member of the Board of Directors of the World Harp Congress, and in 2016 was named Chair of the Host Committee of the 14th World Harp Congress in Cardiff in August 2021. Her love of teaching inspires young students from across the world, and the department in Cardiff enjoys an international outlook and reputation.