

# Aural Skills Builders

## About These Books

The *Aural Skills Builders* books evolved over many years of teaching - nineteen years of teaching music theory and solfège at the Curtis Institute of Music and countless years of private harp teaching. Simply put, aural skills training, or ear training, teaches musicians how to understand what they hear. It helps them recognize note relationships and patterns such as keys, scales and arpeggios, and decipher the complexities of rhythm and meter.

I have used these drills in one form or another with all my harp students. Because the drills were developed in my teaching studio, they are specifically geared to harpists, especially where the keys used are concerned. Although I use them as teaching tools in the lesson, they are also a valuable self-study course should you wish to work on your own.

Each unit in the book represents several weeks of study. Repetition of the drills is the key to developing the ear. Just five minutes in a lesson, plus the same at home as part of a practice session, will over the period of a month or so be enough develop confidence with the material. Of course, each student will need to proceed at his or her own pace, working more on difficult areas and less on things that seem easy. It is important, however, to resist the temptation to skip too far ahead - building a solid foundation is essential for success.

## Why Build Aural Skills?

The answer is simple. Building aural skills is the **ONLY** way to learn to hear music with understanding, which has several important, practical benefits:

- *confident sightreading*
- *quick and dependable memorization*
- *efficient practicing*
- *playing back accurately what you hear*

**Who wouldn't want results like these?!**

