

# Meghan Caulkett, Harpist



Q: What instrument(s) do you play?

A: Harp

Q: When and how did you get started in music?

A: I started playing the piano when I was about 5. I did classical and jazz all through high school, and started playing the harp when I was in high school. I immediately fell in love with the instrument, and have been hooked ever since.

Q: When did you begin playing with the SOST?

A: This is my fourth season as Principal Harpist with SOST! I started in 2011.

Q: Educational background?

A: I received a Bachelor of Music from Boston University when I studied with former BSO harpist Ann Hobson Pilot. I moved to Texas in 2010, to do my Masters at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music with Paula Page, who is the former harpist for the Houston Symphony.

Q: Who has been your greatest influence in music?

A: Paula Page really changed my outlook on my own playing and what it means to be a true professional. Studying with her at Rice University was one of the best decisions I have made for my career. I am so happy to have her as a mentor and friend.

Q: What is your "day job?"

A: Aside from playing in SOST, I am the Principal Harpist of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. I also am a substitute musician with the Houston Symphony, and do lots of freelance performing in Houston, including concerts for the Museum of Fine Arts and the Omni Hotel. A main focus for me is the organization I founded three years ago, 47 Strings. 47 Strings brings harp music out of the concert hall and into the community through original programming. So far, I have presented over 50 concerts in Houston, including community recitals as well as performances for children in homeless shelters and at Texas Children's Cancer Center.

Q: Hobbies or activities outside of SOST?

A: I tend to always have a stack of music on my stand that I need to work on, whether it be for orchestra concerts or chamber music performances through 47 Strings. My boyfriend and I have two dogs which also keep us busy. One has the heart of a puppy, while one is an actual puppy that we hope will grow out of that phase soon.

Q: Favorite music?

A: Since no one in my family is musical, I never listened to classical music growing up. Instead, I listened to a lot of classic rock, and I think my father might disown me if I didn't say Led Zeppelin was a favorite.