

Harpers Hall presents:  
Nancy Thym & Thilo Viehrig  
House Concert & Lyre Workshop

Saturday, July 16

Lyre Workshop: 1pm-3pm

Concert: 4pm-5:30pm

Price: \$30 for workshop only, \$10 for concert only or \$35 for both concert and workshop

Location: Deborah Bennett's home, 1585 Jacob Ave., San Jose 95118

Information and RSVP: [verleneschmer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:verleneschmer@sbcglobal.net)

### Lyre Technique Workshop with Thilo Viehrig



Medieval depictions of lyre players (usually King David) show one hand of the player touching the strings in the “playing window” from behind while the other hand strums or plucks the strings from the front of the instrument. In this way, some strings are stopped or damped, so that they do not sound, while the open strings sound when the other hand strums across all the strings. Changing the fingers to damp other strings causes different notes to sound together. Melodies can also be played in this manner, but the player must think in reverse to a harp: the strings which should NOT sound must be touched. Alternating damping and plucking in the left hand and strumming and plucking in the right hand offers a myriad of varied and complex musical possibilities. Thilo has brought along 5 of the lyres he has built so we can try the techniques first hand. And these will also be for sale at the end of the workshop!

### Nancy Thym & Thilo Viehrig Concert

Before there were newspapers, radio, films and television, people were entertained by traveling singers and musicians who brought news and stories in the form of ballads from their travels. Some of these are as magical and romantic as fairy tales. Others are as full of treachery and deceit as the tabloids or as humorous as the comics. The ballads from Scotland, England, Ireland, North America and Germany are populated by handsome highwaymen and thieving weavers, a treacherous grandmother, a woman who gets sent back from hell because she is too much for the devil to handle or a harpist who is enamoured of the Queen of Faerie.

The group Cantefable hails from Germany. Nancy Thym is originally from Auburn and is known to local audiences as a gifted storyteller, harpist and singer. She will be accompanied by Thilo Viehrig, a German instrument builder and musician. They will be playing historical harps and bowed instruments with names like clarsach (Scottish harp), bray harp, vielle (medieval fiddle), rebec and gusli (lyre from Novgorod, Russia) as well as Celtic harp and fiddle. In their inimitable manner, Nancy and Thilo will transport the listeners to other realms and times and the audience will find itself caught up in the stories and unable to resist singing along on the refrains.

