

# *Verlene Schermer*

Award-winning singer and harpist Verlene Schermer presents a diverse, upbeat style of music that leans toward contemporary jazz and blues. She accompanies her dynamic, versatile voice on folk harp, electric harp, double-strung harp, and cross-strung harp.

Inspiring international audiences with her poignant observations of modern living, and strengthening the capacity of each person to creatively envision a better reality, Verlene's original songs and solo recordings are often described as "transformative" and "empowering."

A 1997 prizewinner of the Lyon & Healy Pop & Jazz Harpfest, Verlene is a sought after harp player and singer who gives concerts and workshops throughout the country and in Europe. Verlene performs as a solo artist, but also in several groups, from duos and trios, to her four piece band.

In 2014, three of Verlene's songs were in the top 10 in the MasterPeace international song competition. Among these songs, Peace, For Peace Sake and Common Ground are on her CD titled "Peace" and may be viewed at [www.verlene.com](http://www.verlene.com).

She has been performing as Hospital Musician at El Camino Hospital since the Spring of 2002, and at Stanford Hospital and Clinics, and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital since August of 2003. She performs on her double strung harp in waiting areas, on the units near the nurses stations, and in patient rooms. She is also heard in the Atrium Concerts three or four times a year with one of her ensembles at Stanford Hospital.

Along with her busy performance schedule, Verlene teaches thirty private voice, folk harp, guitar, and piano students each week. Many of her students can be heard in local clubs, coffee houses, and recording studios. In addition to her private teaching schedule, Verlene offers a 5-week class on various topics, including Harmony Singing, Songwriting, Sight-singing, Performance and Stagemanship, and various harp related topics. She has also been a member of the teaching staff at the California Coast Music Camp, a week long camp for adult musicians since its first year. Verlene is available to give workshops on harp, singing, or songwriting in your area.

As a writer, Verlene has written articles for the international newsletter, Vocals, since the publication began in 1988, and has been Vocals' technical editor since the third issue. She has also published vocal articles in *Vocalease*. Another aspect of her writing is her music compositions. Not only does she write her own songs, which can be heard on her five solo recordings, but she also writes arrangements for solo harp, harp & flute, and guitar & flute. A companion book to her duo, Silverwood's debut instrumental album is now available. Also available are companion songbooks for some of her solo releases, tune books of jazzy arrangements of traditional tunes, books on how to arrange for lever harp, or play accompaniments, and a book on the basics of singing. You can also now order CD's or books using PayPal. She has also written stories and poems that have been featured in such publications as *Vocalese*, *The Folk Harp Journal*, and *The Fling*.

As a singer-songwriter, Verlene has been performing at Bay Area coffeehouses, bookstores, and other concert venues, including Freight & Salvage, Don Quixotes, Barnes & Noble, The San Francisco Free Folk Festival, Cuppa Joe's, Borders, and Gryphon Stringed Instruments, accompanying her versatile singing voice on folk harps, guitars, and keyboards. She also appears several times a year on KKUP-91.5 FM live radio. Her repertoire includes her own original songs as well as songs by her favorite artists from jazz, pop and Celtic harp music.