

JEFF STOCKTON

Celtic Harpist & Storyteller

Jeff Stockton
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BIO

Jeff Stockton is a Celtic harpist, singer & storyteller. Since 1997, he has traveled near and far, nourishing the imagination of thousands of listeners. He has woven stories on the strings of the harp at national storytelling festivals, in hundreds of schools, and for audiences both at work and at play. The magic of story is woven upon the strings of the Celtic harp - with brilliant timing and strong connection with the listeners.

PROFILE

Storytelling awakens the imagination and nourishes the creative spirit. Jeff Stockton has worked as a professional storyteller and musician for over a decade. He has performed across Alberta as a solo harpist/singer, and as a storyteller for public and school audiences. He spent 12 years as a classroom teacher working with grades K – 9. Drawing on a repertoire of stories from around the world - and original compositions – Jeff carries listeners into the laughter, wonder and adventure of the tale. The stories are brought vividly to life on the strings of the Celtic harp. Jeff is also a recording artist, and has released three recordings to date: 'Sacred Ground' - a blend of instrumental and vocal pieces for harp, cello, violin & percussion; 'Beneath the Boughs' - a recording of gentle instrumental music for harp, cello and violin; and 'Wisdom of the Woods' - a storytelling recording, featuring tales he has woven on the harp over the past decade.

PERFORMANCE

On the stage, in the in the classroom, in the boardroom - the listeners are spellbound. Jeff's performances are unforgettable. Myth, legend and folk tale from around the world are woven with exquisite language and song, accompanied on the strings of the Celtic harp. A storytelling is an intimate, acoustic event. A In schools, a maximum size of 150-200 students per sitting is ideal during performance, although Jeff regularly performs for whole school audiences of 400-600 students. In a school environment, any space allowing for comfort and close proximity will suit the telling, whether in classrooms or any gathering area available. If it is necessary to utilize the gymnasium, use of the school sound system is required.

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The universe is
made of stories, not
atoms.

Muriel Rukeyser

If you tell me, it's an
essay. If you show
me, it's a story.

Barbara Greene

A story is told as
much by silence as
by speech.

Susan Griffin

It takes a thousand
voices to tell a
single story.

Native American saying

RESIDENCY

Every one of us is a storyteller. When the opportunities arise for Jeff to work in mentoring students as storytellers, the work of the students has power and impact. Lengths of residencies are determined with individual schools, and incorporate a number of performances from Jeff as the students work to develop the skills of performers themselves. Creating a balance between performance and coaching, Jeff constructs rubrics with students that define the components of masterful storytelling. With residencies of over 10 full school days, Jeff works with the school to create a student facilitated Storytelling Festival, with students as tellers, and parents and families as the invited audience. Technical Requirements: During residencies, video camera, tapes, TV/VCR are required for blocks of time to allow students to review their work as it develops. Digital cameras are required to capture snapshots of the work as it develops.

CURRICULUM

Curriculum becomes a feast when brought to life through the power and perspective of story. Through story, we explore ourselves and our world – both teller and listeners finding reflections of themselves. Historical figures and events linger in the minds of the listeners long after the tale has ended. Critical writing concepts such as voice, expression, pacing and audience become concrete experiences through oral storytelling. Story IS entertaining - and it is also an incredible tool for the building of knowledge and understanding.

EXPERIENCE

Jeff performs regularly throughout each year at various private and public functions. In addition to paid performances, such as concerts, and artist residencies - he offers his gifts in service of various charities, hospitals and hospices. He also facilitates workshops for professional and personal development, using the power and wisdom of story as perspective tools in growth and change. For a detailed resume, please email contact@jeffstockton.ca