



## Triple harp

### Date

1750-1789 ca.

### Primary Maker

John Richards

### Description

The Welsh triple harp derives from the Italian Renaissance harp, with multiple layers of strings for naturals and sharps. The instrument became popular in Wales in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Its playing is preserved today as a folk tradition. Body: nine staves, edged with black-painted moulding Straight-sided soundboard of longitudinal grain has six (three pairs) of soundholes of 15-22 mm diameter (larger holes at lower end) Nine brass screws holding top of soundboard in place Painted black moulding continues in 2 pieces across lower edge of soundboard Straight fore pillar has curved front surface painted black Side surfaces flat with moulded profile along edge Topped with a rear-facing carved violin-type scroll Neck of harp has high harmonic curve Shoulder topped with a smaller, forward-facing scroll then curves

downwards, attached to a rectangular wooden block which is supported by a circular section beneath which is the carved, fluted top of the body. Ninety-six strings (GG-g3) in three rows (36; 32; 28). 96<sup>o</sup> brass tuning pins, with tapered four-sided heads on Player's left Strings held in place on soundboard by wooden pins Behind each is a metal staple Harp sits on (later) wooden stand with 2 scrolls at front Gut strings

### Dimensions

Max. height (including stand): 1880 mm Max. width: 485 mm Max. depth (including stand): 750 mm

Longest string: 1520 mm Shortest string: 150 mm