

# Area harpist coming to New Ulm Dec. 15

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NEW ULM — Carolers aren't a new idea when it comes to the holidays, except very few of them carry harps.

Renowned Mankato harpist Amy Kortuem isn't necessarily a caroler, but she plays plenty of carols on her harp and she'll bring many of the carols on her latest recording, "All Hayle to the Days," to the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity for a concert on Thursday night.

"It's something other than polkas," said Council for the Arts in New Ulm representative Barb Nelson.

Kortuem has never played [a solo show] in New Ulm, so CANU decided to book her for the Dec. 15 show. CANU Board Member Ursula Christ said the council is trying to cater toward the music aspect of the arts, so it sponsors the monthly open mic night at the Rhein River Art Center and invites artists from outside the area to play in New Ulm, including Kortuem's appearance this week.

Christ said CANU wanted the concert in the cathedral because of

its beauty and its striking appearance. Kortuem is no stranger to churches, since her first album, "The Light and the Lady," was a collection of her own arrangements of Medieval and traditional carols about the journey of Mary, who Christians believe was the mother of Jesus Christ. The album was recorded in the Our Lady of Good Counsel Chapel in Mankato.

Her second recording, "The Harp Her Soul Required," is a recording of traditional Irish music on her Celtic harp and was dedicated to friend Jack McGowan, who turned Kortuem on the harp in 1988.

She released "All Hayle to the Days" almost a month ago and the album is another collection of her arrangements of traditional holiday carols — and one original tune.

Her career has also taken her to the Minnesota Irish Fair in St. Paul and the Rock Bend Folk Festival in St. Peter, as well as several Christmas performances at Gustavus Adolphus College and appearances with the Mankato Symphony Orchestra. She keeps busy playing at weddings and special events and giving concerts.



Mankato harpist Amy Kortuem will play in New Ulm Dec. 15