

## RACHEL O'BRIEN, harp Biography



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2019 First Prize winner of the Houston Symphony's Ima Hogg Competition, harpist Rachel O'Brien (formerly Rachel Lee Hall) is a winner of Astral's 2017 National Auditions. Ms. Hall has appeared in Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Cleveland's Severance Hall, and Lyon & Healy Hall. She was also the winner of the 2013 Lyon & Healy Award, and has received top prizes from the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) Concerto Competition, the Saratoga Harp Colony "Play with the Pros" Competition, and the James Bland Music Contest of the Lions Club. She is also the recipient of the Ann Jett Rogers Award and the Alice Chalifoux Award, and was the 2015 CIM Presser Scholar.

Ms. O'Brien has appeared as soloist with the Houston Symphony, and has been an orchestral harpist with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Akron Symphony Orchestra, the Firelands Symphony Orchestra, and the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, and was a fellow of the National Repertory Orchestra. She has appeared as soloist with members of The Philadelphia Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Cleveland Institute of Music Symphony Orchestra.

Passionate about advocating for and introducing the harp and classical music to new audiences, Ms. O'Brien has a significant and ever-growing presence on social media, with over 50,000 followers currently, and regularly performs in schools, nursing homes, private homes, marketplaces, and mountain overlooks. She maintains a private harp studio, and is also an instructor of eurhythmics, an approach to classical music through movement.

Rachel O'Brien holds both a Bachelor and a Master of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied harp performance under the tutelage of Yolanda Kondonassis. She currently serves on the faculty of Hollins University in Virginia.

***For presenters, please include: "Rachel O'Brien appears courtesy of Astral Artists."***

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