

THE NYCKELHARPA



TUNINGS (from low to high):

- My tuning: C - G - C - G.
- Traditional tuning : C - G - C - A.
- Scordatura are available - strings can be tuned down a minor third lower and up to ½ step higher. I am completely comfortable with alternate tunings which suit the needs of a specific piece of music.

RANGE (all strings keyed chromatically)

- 4th st., Low C₃: no range, drone only.
- 3rd st., G₃: Perfect 4th from from G₃ to D₄
- 2nd st., C₄: Minor 7th from C₄ to b₄
- 1st st., G₄: 8ve plus minor 7th, G₄ to F₆
 - *note, string 1 is missing C#6 and E6*

CHARACTERISTICS

The harpa is like a stringed bagpipe or organ: the reedy high notes are best softened and used in combination with grace notes, ornaments, and double stops, and are not capable of vibrato. These notes work best amidst the wash of reverb created by sympathetic resonance in the lower strings, and with dynamic shaping of each note similar to baroque bowing. The notes in the lower register are deeply resonant, strong, and can be rich in overtones; key noises can often be heard to varying degrees, and the sound of their strike against the string is essential to the overall sound, as with a hurdy-gurdy.

