

Aeolian Harps

The term “aeolian” is assumed to have been born during the Romantic Period— a reference to man’s spiritual connection to nature and a nod to the Greeks. The first wind harp built in the United States may have been one made by Henry David Thoreau over 150 years ago.

The aeolian harp is a simple stringed instrument, much like a zither, that plays by itself in a window or breezy area. Music is made as wind causes a number of strings stretched across a flat soundboard, or soundbox, to resonate.

Bring live music into your home with one of these classic aeolian harps built by a New England craftsman.

The Henry David Thoreau Aeolian Harp

(circa 1836, Concord, MA)

A hand-crafted copy of the wind harp Henry David Thoreau designed and built. It has three strings stretched over a soundboard, and is available in walnut, elm, cherry or a unique spalted wood. The original may be found at the Concord Museum in Concord, MA.



The Charles T. Jackson Aeolian Harp

(circa 1863, Concord, MA)



This wind harp is a hand-crafted copy of the one given to Ralph Waldo Emerson by Charles T. Jackson, his brother-in-law and professor of Chemistry, Geology and Medicine

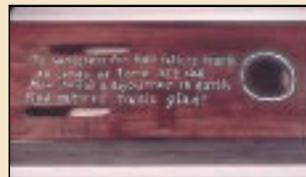
at Harvard. It features five strings stretched over a soundbox, and is available in mahogany.

The John White Webster Aeolian Harp

(Circa 1840, Boston, MA)

A hand-crafted reproduction of a wind harp unique for the poem on its 5-holed soundboard.

It was owned by the professor associated with the infamous Parkman murder at Harvard. It has 9 strings stretched over a soundbox, and is available in pine. The original is owned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



The Eliot Norton Aeolian Harp

(circa 1810, England)

The wind harp upon which this hand-crafted copy is based belonged to Samuel Eliot, a dry goods importer.



It is thought to have been constructed in England and later brought to this country. It features eight strings stretched over a soundbox and includes a lid. Available in painted

pine, with or without a copy of the famous rose on the lid, the original is displayed at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

The Henry David Thoreau Aeolian Harp Kit

Available in butternutwood, this kit includes easy instructions, pegs, planks, nails, strings and a cassette of solo harp.



Harp Clamp

For easy vertical mounting of a Thoreau harp on a sliding window or door. Made of sturdy aluminum. Available in black or silver.

Recordings



Recordings of Aeolian Harp Music

Recorded not far from where Thoreau fell in love with the music of his aeolian harp, these recordings feature the harp alone and in combination with outdoor sounds — a thunderstorm, the songs of wood thrushes and other birds and a distant steam locomotive — all of which he would have heard at Walden Pond. Specific types of wind and different tunings provide a wide range of moods and sounds. It’s available in both CD and cassette formats. “Midnight Magic”, a meditative recording of aeolian harp music featuring the night warbler, will be released in September of 1998.

Finally, it’s possible to appreciate the music that inspired the Thoreau poem, “Rumors From An Aeolian Harp.”

Prices

The Henry David Thoreau Aeolian Harp

in walnut wood	\$150
harp kits in butternut or maple	\$60.
CD	\$15
tape cassette	\$10

For more information call
1-800-692-HARP