

DANIELLE RIEGEL - LONG BIO

Danielle Riegel is a Dutch-French harpist whose international career spans more than three decades as a soloist, principal orchestral harpist, chamber musician and collaborator. Known for her expressive touch, refined tone and emotional depth, she brings the precision and sensitivity of a distinguished classical background to a musical world that reaches across periods, styles and artistic traditions.

Drawn to the harp from early childhood, Danielle entered the Young Talent Department of the Royal Conservatory of The Hague at the age of twelve. Her studies continued in the Netherlands and France and later at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin, where she completed the prestigious Konzertexamen with highest distinction, culminating in a concerto performance with the Berliner Symphonie-Orchester. She is a winner and prizewinner of national and international harp competitions, including the Dutch National Harp Competition, the Vriendenkrans Competition of the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the USA International Harp Competition.

Solo performance has remained an important strand throughout Danielle's career. Alongside concerto appearances in the Netherlands, Germany and Italy, her early orchestral years included principal-harp positions with Jeugd Orkest Nederland and the Nationaal Jeugdorkest, with international touring to the Edinburgh Festival and through the Baltic and Scandinavian countries.

In 2000 she was selected for the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra and its international orchestral academy at Schloss Salzbau. During the season she toured internationally, performed at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and took part in a distinctive collaboration with Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, bringing together music by Tchaikovsky and Duke Ellington under Christoph Eschenbach and Wynton Marsalis.

From 2004 to 2020 Danielle was principal harpist of the Residentie Orkest - The Hague Philharmonic. Those fifteen years encompassed major symphonic and contemporary repertoire, solo and chamber appearances, international tours, recordings and broadcasts, as well as productions with Dutch National Opera and long-term collaborations with Nederlands Dans Theater. Her wider orchestral career has included performances with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and other leading European orchestras.

Danielle has appeared at venues and festivals including the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Konzerthaus Berlin, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Kölner Philharmonie, Salzburger

Festspiele, World Harp Congress, Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival and Grachtenfestival Amsterdam. At the Salzburger Festspiele in 2010 she appeared at the Salzburger

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Landestheater in a programme with Austrian actor Klaus Maria Brandauer. Her performances have also been heard on Dutch and German radio and television.

Her musical world has never belonged to a single period or genre. Alongside the classical repertoire, contemporary music has been a continuous part of her career, including collaborations with ensembles such as Asko/Schönberg Ensemble, Nieuw Ensemble and ROSA Ensemble and performances of premieres and newly written works. She also pursued specialist studies in historical performance practice, studying arpa doppia and viola da gamba and performing Renaissance and Baroque repertoire on historical harp.

Danielle's current solo work draws on the breadth of her musical background: Baroque, classical and French Impressionist repertoire alongside contemporary and neoclassical music, improvisation and crossover. She has also developed alternative concert formats, including lay-down concerts and Harp & Sound Journeys, exploring different ways of experiencing live music while keeping colour, expression, emotional depth and close listening at the centre.

Her 2026 album Einaudi on Harp - Oltremare (Beyond the Sea), released internationally by Challenge Records, presents a personal interpretation of Ludovico Einaudi's music and forms one facet of a musical life that continues to move naturally between tradition and contemporary expression.

Danielle tours and performs across Europe.