

American Harp Society Founding Board Member

Lucien Thomson

Lucien Thomson took harp lessons from Mary Butt Griffith Dobbs near Atlanta, Georgia. He subsequently studied with Marie Miller for a summer in New York before beginning to work with Marcel Grandjany. Thomson eventually assisted Grandjany with his correspondence on a weekly basis, and when Grandjany decided to get some principles of his teaching on video, Thomson served as the demonstration harp student.

Thomson quickly became interested in teaching the harp and established a studio through traveling to the homes of students as well as teaching at the Lyon & Healy showroom. He continued to teach privately until close to the end of his life. His passion for harp pedagogy also resulted in many compositions and arrangements, including the book *Beginning At The Harp*, as well as *Two Pieces For Harp: Ebbing Tide and Song At Night*, and collections of transcriptions of period music and Christmas carols. With harpist William Lovelace, Thomson wrote a second volume of *Beginning At The Harp* as well as a harp solo, *The First Day of Spring*.

In 1966 Thomson was tasked with setting up an educational program for the American Harp Society. This became the AHS Auditions & Evaluations Program. Thomson also asked Grandjany to write something for the students participating in the program, resulting in the piece *Dancing Lambs* for one or several harpists and for lever or pedal harp.

Lucien Thomson was the first Chair of the AHS Music Education Committee.



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