

Sonata for Harp  
program note

**Sonata for Harp** was composed in 1982 for the composer's sister, Deborah Hoffman, who gave its first performance in New York later that year. It is a single-movement work whose primary musical material is a 7-note modal figure heard at the outset. This figure (and its unfolding over the course of the piece) drew its inspiration from the pedal mechanism of the harp. Thus, the listener can not only hear harmonic development, but see it as well. The piece begins with all the pedals in their "flat" position (the harp's most resonant mode) and it is to this mode that the piece returns at the end. In the interim, there is a series of sometimes gradual and sometimes more abrupt changes that bring the modal material in play to the "natural" position, the "sharp" position and then back again.

Joel Hoffman