

## CARING FOR YOUR HARP

**ALWAYS** put your harp in its case to move it. The case will protect the harp from weather and temperature extremes and from dents and dings.

**ALWAYS** return levers to the disengaged position when you are not going to use the harp for a while. This relieves stress on the harp's soundboard and strings.

**ALWAYS** protect your harp from excessive exposure to strong sunlight or spotlights. It may dry the wood and glue or at least bleach the wood.

**NEVER** store your harp in a hot vehicle or trunk. Serious damage to the glue joints can result.

**NEVER** lay your harp on its side with the levers down. The levers can be bent or jarred loose affecting the intonation.

**NEVER** leave the tuning wrench hanging on a tuning pin. A bump to the harp could cause it to fall off and mar the soundboard or wood parts.

**NEVER** tighten the strings much above the note intended or replace a string with one of a larger diameter or different material. Serious damage to the soundboard could result.

**NEVER** store your harp for long periods in very dry environments. The wood could crack.

## REPLACING A STRING

Remove the broken string from the tuning pin and pull it out of the soundbox from the access hole on the back of the harp taking care not to lose the grommet. If your harp has zither type tuning pins, you must back the tuning pin out before installing the new string. Back the pin out until you can look through the string hole in the zither pin and just see the end of the bridge pin.

Select the correct string to replace the broken one. When replacing strings that already have knots, the string must be inserted from the back of the harp. It helps to loop the string and put the entire string inside the soundbox while holding the end and poking it up through the hole in the string rib. (If you leave some of the string hanging out of the access hole and poke the string up through, then when you remove your hand it can drag the string back out.) For strings without knots, poke the string through from the front of the soundboard and out the access hole in the back. Then tie a harp knot in the string. Remember to place a toggle in any strings smaller than .040 inches. The toggle is usually a piece of larger diameter string about an inch long. We tie a second loop over the harp knot on strings smaller than .032 inches. This prevents the knot from slipping.

Poke the remaining loose end of the string through the hole in the tuning pin. If the string is .040 or larger pull the slack out and tighten. For the smaller strings, pull out the slack, then push about 1 1/4 inches back through the hole for slack. Then tighten the tuning pin winding up the slack. (It helps to keep tension on the string by pulling it out of line as you do this.) For the smaller strings, allow the string to overlap itself as it winds. This will prevent the string from slipping or pulling back through. This is not necessary for the larger strings. Cut off the excess string leaving about 1/2 inch. The string will not hold pitch very well until it has stretched a bit. Tune it frequently for a few days.

