

## SKAILA KANGA ~ BIOGRAPHY



Skaila studied piano and singing from an early age at the Royal Academy of Music and at 17 years started the harp with Tina Bonifacio and later with Marisa Robles.

She quickly became established freelancing with all the major London and regional orchestras. Skaila is renowned for her long extensive career in both classical and pop music recording, films and television series including her amazing list of over 1000 film soundtracks to date. Her credits include four Harry Potter films, the Disney musicals such as *Into the Woods*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Mary Poppins Returns* and *Aladdin*, all the James Bond films since the *The John Barry* days and all the *Avengers* films.

Her album and concert credits include artists such as Elton John, Paul McCartney, Sting, Robbie Williams, Jerry Goldsmith, Michel Legrand, Henry Mancini, John Williams, Pat Metheny, Frank Sinatra, Joan Sutherland, Pavarotti, Domingo Katherine Jenkins James Galway and many more.

For 25 years Skaila was the solo harpist of the famous chamber group the Nash Ensemble and since 1971 was the principal harpist of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields under Sir Neville Marriner and principal harpist of the London Mozart players from 1993 till 2019.

For over 20 years Skaila and Tommy Reilly, virtuoso Harmonica player performed, wrote and recorded many new works for their unique duo. Her solo recordings are available on Naxos, Chandos, ASV and Hyperion labels.

Skaila began teaching at the Royal Academy of Music in 1988 and in 2004 was awarded the title of Professor of the University of London. She was Head of Harp from 1999 till 2010. Her former students are globally renowned and many have solo orchestral positions worldwide. She was appointed Professor Emerita of Harp in 2010. In 1993 she established the Academy Harp Ensemble and has commissioned over 25 works for her harp department.

Skaila is regularly invited to sit on juries and in July 2019 she was the President of the Jury of the USA International Harp Competition in Bloomington, Indiana. She has given lecture recitals and masterclasses in Russia, across Europe, Hong Kong and extensively in America.

Parallel to her performing and teaching career Skaila has composed and arranged 24 books of harp music of all levels, many of which are on the ABRSM, Guildhall and Trinity exam syllabus. Skaila has worked closely with the ABRSM as harp consultant for several years. Her publications are available at [www.marukamusic.com](http://www.marukamusic.com)

Skaila's articles have appeared in the Gramophone, BBC music Magazine, WHC Review, AHS Journal, Harp Column, Harp Today and the UKHA magazine. Skaila was honoured to be featured in the Musicians' Union magazine's Hall of Fame article in 2010. Skaila has four children, six grandchildren and her hobbies are gardening, baking and embroidery.