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**Tales of the Marron**

The Marron is a Cumbrian river that flows out of the hills around Cogra Moss and travels northwards to join the River Derwent near Workington. The fish are not as plentiful as they used to be, but it still has trout and salmon, providing food for the otter that continue to hunt in the river. Kingfishers, dippers, wagtails, goosander and heron are frequently seen along the length of the river and, in the woods along the riverbank, you can see bats, tawny owls, red squirrels and deer.

The music was originally written as a basic 16 bar melody, played in canon, to accompany the ‘Strip the Willow’ dance. The intention being to echo the counterpoint of movement created by the dance, with a counterpoint in the music itself. In the form presented here, the tempo of the music is slower and the approach more lyrical.

## Ed Heslam

Ed Heslam is a classical guitarist with a keen interest in the music of Cumberland and Westmorland. Born in Cumberland, he has been researching the music and history of the area and performing his own arrangements of old Cumbrian tunes copied from the original manuscripts held in local archives. Ed Heslam performs old Cumbrian music as a solo guitarist and as a duo, with harpist Jean Altshuler.

## Jean Altshuler

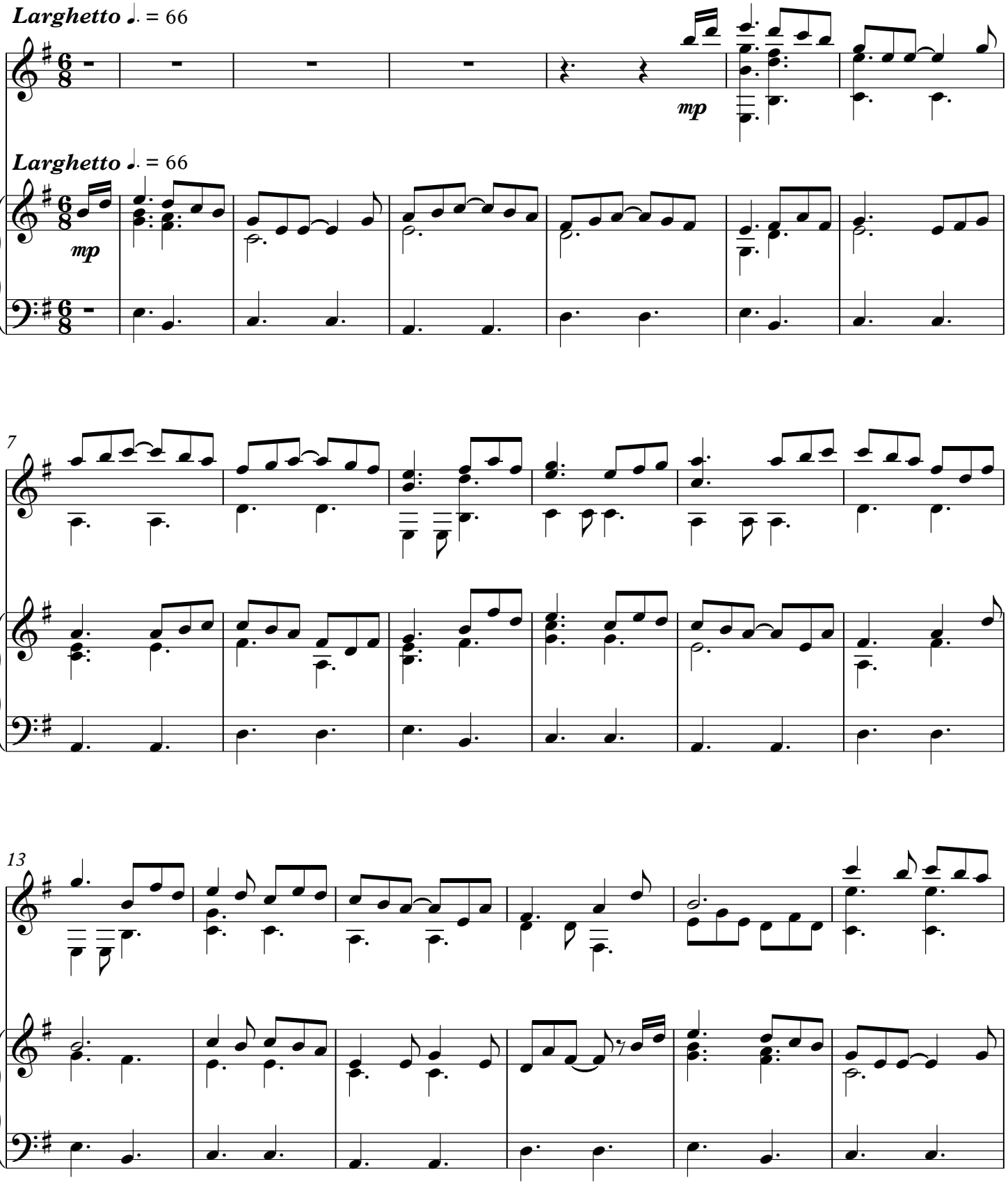
Jean has been playing the harp since she was seven. She graduated from Oberlin Conservatory on a harp scholarship. After many years as an orchestral harpist she discovered the Lake District in England where she now lives.

She met classical guitarist Ed Heslam in January 2016 after seeing an anthology of his music beside the famous musical stones (made from hornfels rock in 1837) at Keswick Museum. Since then she has enjoyed learning and playing Ed's arrangements of tunes from Cumberland and Westmorland. They have performed in venues throughout the North of England and Scotland and their CD of Cumbrian music, 'Hunsup through the Wood', is a combination of old and new music from their locality.

# Tales of the Marron

To Fiona

Heslam

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