

**Karen Ashbrook** - hammered dulcimer, wooden flute, pennywhistle

Karen has played dulcimer for over 30 years. She built her first dulcimer in high school while also studying French horn and music theory at Eastmen Preparatory School in Rochester, NY. In search of Irish music she crossed the Atlantic to the pubs of England and Ireland. The first book written for advanced dulcimer playing in the US, "Playing the Hammered Dulcimer in the Irish Tradition," on Oak Publications was the result of her travels! She also helped introduce the dulcimer to Japan while traversing the globe. In Belgium, Karen has been instrumental in helping to revive the Flemish *hakkebord*. She has an instructional DVD/booklet for dulcimer/ hakkebord in English, Dutch and French.

With her husband Paul Oorts (harp guitar, accordion, cittern), Karen performs Celtic and Paul's native Belgian and French music. She also works with teaching Irish music and culture to children. She has several recordings on the Maggie's Music label. Performances include RTE 1-Irish National Television, the Smithsonian and the White House. She has several recordings on the Maggie's Music label and her newest CD is "Spring Will Come" from a 2006 live concert. [www.karenashbrook.com](http://www.karenashbrook.com);  
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