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As part of its mission to promote the playing of traditional music on the harp, The Somerset Folk Harp Festival is creating a scholarship program in conjunction with the Scottish Harp Society of America. The scholarship is part of the prize that will be awarded to the winner at the Apprentice level at the National Scottish Harp Championship of America in 2009, which is organized by the SHSA at the Ohio Scottish Games in Wellington Ohio in June. The recipient will receive a full festival registration package to study harp in the comprehensive Celtic studies track at the Somerset Folk Harp Festival.

Festival Director Kathy DeAngelo said "I want to motivate harpers to earn the scholarship, which will not only elevate their own playing level but encourage them to promote traditional music." By partnering with the Scottish Harp Society of America, she said, "we both achieve our goals."

The Somerset Folk Harp Festival, now in its ninth year, will be held in Alexandria, Virginia from July 9-12. This year it features a newly crafted Celtic studies segment which includes renowned Scottish harper and composer William Jackson. For more information on the festival, contact Kathy DeAngelo at 856-795-7637 or see the website <http://www.somersettharpfest.com>. The Scottish Harp Society website is <http://www.shsa.org>.