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American Harp Society

North Central Regional Newsletter Spring 2004

Greetings!

Weddings are on the near horizon, but first we must be rid of the snow and muck. Please, no outdoor weddings until things dry up and the temperature is “temperate”. This doesn’t mean we haven’t been harping in our usual manner, dragging long dresses through the snow drifts, salt on the legs of tuxedos, to say nothing of cars stalling in the cold.

I want to remind you that email addresses are very useful for the Harp Society, and myself, to gather information for the newsletter. The time is coming when we will be using them to distribute information from the National Organization, including the newsletter, to those who have email. I would also like to receive your local chapter newsletters, as I could then keep current on your meetings for the regional newsletter.

The Minnesota Chapter is in the midst of evaluations, and I would like to encourage other chapters to use this valuable learning experience for your students if you don’t do it at present. One of our AHS goals is education, and this includes our harp students, as well as the listening public.

I hope to see many of you at the June 2004 Conference in Philadelphia. It will be a time of inspiration, challenge, new music, and old friends.

Sincerely,
Kitty Eliason

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGION

Minnesota

Evaluations will take place March 13, 2004 and April 17, 2004. The April evaluation will include a concert presented by the nearly 18 participants for the general meeting. This is such a great way for students, young and old, to get encouragement and suggestions for interpretation from non-harpist musicians.

The May 16th meeting will be a program at the home of Kitty Eliason. The concert will feature the Scholarship Winners from the competition held on May 1st.

Shari Lutz Rothman is a guest musician on the recently released album, "Asteroid Belt", by Los Angeles band, The Velvet Chain. She will be heard playing concert harp on the songs "Other Side" and "I Spy." Velvet Chain's music combines modern grooves and textures with elegant melodies and hard rock power. They're a trip-hop band mixed with a rock band, a pop band, and a funk band. Their music has been featured on several popular television shows.

Andrea Stern, Celtic harp, and **Laura Mackenzie**, wooden flute, whistles, pipes, concertina, and voice, have appeared and are performing in their duo AURA at the following venues: Saturday, February 28th, at Old Kitchen Rug Brewery House Series; Saturday, March 6th at 7:30, in concert with Irish dancers and Michael Bissonnette, percussion, Elk River High School Theater, Elk River; Thursday, March 18th at 7:30, at the Ginko Coffeehouse, 721 Snelling Ave. St. Paul (Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door.

Sheila Frankfurt is a freshman at the University of Minnesota School of Music in harp performance, studying with **Kathy Kienzle**. She made the Deans' List her first semester. She will be performing **The Tales of Hoffman** by Offenbach with the University Opera Theatre, April 1st through the 4th.

The Star Tribune Paper had an article about the Minneapolis Public Library music collection. They are a great resource for sheet music of all kinds, back to when it first opened. They receive requests from all over the world for sheet music, parts for quartets, orchestras, and all kinds of music.

WISCONSIN

Karen Beth Atz has accepted the position of Artist-in-Residence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to teach harp. She is Principal Harpist with the Madison Symphony Orchestra, a position she has held since 1976. Ms. Atz maintains a private teaching studio and presents more than 30 performances each year as a freelance harpist. She offers expertise and experience in many styles, including classical, contemporary, folk, jazz, popular, ethnic, and Celtic music.

The Harp Ensemble is going to perform at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, 7 p.m. on Monday, April 12th. They will also perform at an entrance to the Viennese Ball at UW-EC on April 16th and 17th.

Paula Smith, UW-Eau Claire Harp Instructor, will be performing a solo harp concert as part of the "Celebration Series" of the First Presbyterian Church in Chippewa Falls, WI. On Sunday March 14th, 2004. She will be assisted by John **Utphall**, violin; **Kara Fairchild**, flute; and **Steve Redman**, vocalist.

Paula Smith will be assisting **Kara Fairchild**, flutist, on her solo concert, Sunday, March 21st, at the historic Mabel Tainter Theater in Menomonie.

UW-Eau Claire Music Therapy students and harpists **Jacque Petroni**, **Amber Johnson** and **Sara Ries** are conducting a research grant using music therapy and the harp with students in the Menomonie School District Early Childhood program. Research results will be presented by the students along with UW-Eau Claire Harp Instructor **Paula Smith**, and UW-Eau Claire Music Therapy Professor **Lee Anna Rasar**, at the Music Therapy Conference in Indianapolis on March 19th, 2004.

The Historical Harp Society's annual conference and workshop will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, in 2004 in collaboration with the Madison Early Music Festival (MEMF). The HHS Conference (July 9-11) features lectures, demonstrations and concerts, with hands-on workshop classes continuing throughout the following week (July 11-17). Participants may attend the three-day Conference only, or both the Conference and Workshop for a discounted conference fee. In addition to harp workshop classes, participants are welcome to

attend all MEMF workshop classes, concerts and events. Optional UW-Madison credit is available.

The HHS workshop faculty features **Cheryl Ann Fulton, Judy Kadar, Becky Baxter, Grainne Yeats**, and workshop director **Christa Patton**. Classes include technique and repertoire of the Italian baroque triple harp, 17th century vocal repertoire with harp continuo, Arab and Sephardic influences in Venetian music, music of Dufay, Landini and other early Italian Renaissance composers, performing ancient Irish harp laments and transporting single line laments for harpers of all levels of technique. Also, a beginning harp class welcomes harp enthusiasts and novices. Contact Jean Humphrey at Bigharper@aol.com for a HHS brochure; contact **Chelcy Bowles** at cbowles@dc.wisc.edu for a MEMF brochure (includes HHS enrollment form), or visit the MEMF website://www.dcs.wisc.edu/lisa/memf/

For Sale

Swanson LaScuola, concert grand, ebony harp. Priced at \$16,000. Superb condition. Full cover set and dolly included. Photo available. Email iterps06@yahoo.com Erin Fitzgerald

Lyon and Healy # 17 harp about 20 years old, yearly regulated, used professionally. Not moved since last regulation. New wires, also Lyon and Healy trunk, used once. Betty Dahlgren, Dahlgren@mymailstation.com