



AHS FALL 2008 NEWSLETTER

Patrice Fisher, Southern Regional Director, 921 Stewart Ct., New Orleans, LA 70119
The American Harp Society has decided to only **print one newsletter per year**, starting with this newsletter. I will be continuing to forward emails that are sent to me at ecoslatinos@gmail.com to all harpists in the Southern Region, for whom I have valid email addresses. I will also post concerts and other events like AHS chapter meetings on our new **REGIONAL WEBSITE** at www.myspace.com/ahssouthernregion.

E-mail is becoming more and more important as a means of communication with our members. Recently, the national secretary, Kathleen Moon, furnished me with a list of email addresses for our members in the Southern region for the purpose of official AHS business. Some people did not provide their email addresses and the emails sent to the following members came back as failed permanently.

FAILED EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Henry and Hallie Doom, Louisville, KY
Michael Boone, St. Louis, MO
Scott Farley, Louisville, KY
Cynthia Hicks, Knoxville, TN
Hannah Lanier, Sulphur, LA
Linda Gayle Daniels, Denham Springs, LA
Patricia Butler, Cookeville, TN
Amber Burks, Greenbrier, TN
Robin Hines King, Shreveport, LA
Cindy Little Mathis, Corinth, MS
Anna Wicker, New Market, TN
Lacey Seiffertt, Maryland Hgts, MO
Elizabeth Chardonnet, Little Rock, AR
John & Elisabeth Dahlstrand
Abigail St. Pierre, Lawrenceburg, KY
Campbell Johnson, Fayetteville, AR
Lydia Falconnier, Knoxville, TN
Hannah Reeb, Bowling Green, KY
Sheila Mitchell Hart, Holladay, TN
Martha Painter, Kingsport, TN
Leah Campbell, Maryville, TN
Courtney Orr, Maryville, TN
Joane Johnson, Evansville, IN
Veronica Shreve, Knoxville, TN
Molly O'Roark, Cordova, TN.

NO EMAIL ADDRESS PROVIDED:

Louise W Benton, Priscilla Buxton, Frances Cobb, Ruth Cobb, George Flinn, Carol T Fraser, Hannah Lee Barry Hagan, Emily Henley, Patricia A Horvath, Ann (Margie)

Humphreys, Linda Smiddy, David H Stockstill Jr, James Swindell, Jeanne E Thomson, Jocelynn Wolfe.

The problem could be that your spam filter is catching AHS emails as junk mail and bouncing them back or that you have a new email address that we are not aware of. Please send me an **email** to ecoslatinos@gmail.com, so that I can **update your information** and/or add me to your **list of acceptable contacts**. I will only be sending you information about harp events in our region, National AHS business or "harps for sale" in our region. If, at any time, you no longer want to receive emails from AHS, simply send me an email and ask to be removed from our list. **I will not share your email address** with anyone and I always use the Blind Carbon Copy function, so that other recipients cannot see your address.

Please also **send me mp3s** of yourself playing the harp. I can post up to 4 music clips, at a time, on our regional web site. These clips are not available for download, but site listeners can contact you, if you **become a friend of our myspace web site**. Other harpists can find you, as our friend, without seeing your e-mail address. Simply go to www.myspace.com/ahssouthernregion and click on "Add to Friends."

I have also started **blogs about harp news in each state in our Southern region**. You can add comments on your own or send me news and I will post it. If there is a topic of interest to you, please let me know. I started a blog during Hurricane Gustav, to keep track on our Southern Region harpists, affected by the storm. There is a **calendar function on the web site**. You can **send me news of upcoming events** and I will post it.

KENTUCKY, posted by **Nancy Bick Clark**, lionsbrd@one.net

The **Harpers Robin**, a group of harpers in Greater Cincinnati, will be holding a holiday concert at the **Kenton County Library** in Covington, KY on Saturday, December 6 at 1:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public. At the last Robin concert there in March, over a dozen harpers participated. The group is organized by **Lindsey Duncan**. AHS member **Nancy Bick Clark** is one of the participants.

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The **Southeast Harp Weekend** in Asheville, NC from October 10-12, 2008 was a big success. Clinicians included **Janet Harbison** of Castleconnell, Ireland, **Ray Pool** of New York City, **Tina Tourin** of San Diego, CA, **Pamela Bruner** of Asheville, NC, Christine VanArsdale of Charlotte, NC, Eve Watters of Charlottesville, VA, **Ian Henry** of Charlottesville, VA (by way of Australia), **Stella Benson** of Seattle, WA, **Martha Gallagher** of Upstate New York, **Marta Cook** of Chicago and New York, **Virginia Bethune**, **Frank Clark** of Newport, KY and **Nancy Bick Clark** of Newport, KY. Different clinicians performed Friday night, with Ray Pool closing the concert. The Saturday night concert by Janet Harbison of Castleconnell, Ireland, Tina Tourin of San Diego and Pamela Bruner of Asheville was attended by over 200 people and very well received. Next year's SEHW will take place the weekend of October 23, 2009.

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Nancy Bick Clark of Newport, KY performed with the **Clark & Jones Trio** at the **Cincinnati Celtic Festival** in downtown Cincinnati. The trio comprises **Jude Jones** on fiddle and guitar, **Frank Clark** on bodhran and vocals, and **Nancy Bick Clark** on Celtic harp, dulcimer, recorder and vocals. Nancy also performed that day with the Welsh group

Tri Werin - with **Lindsey Duncan** on Celtic harp and vocals; **David Jones** on concertina and vocals and **Bill Williams** on cittern, fiddle and vocals. Although it was not predicted, Hurricane Ike rolled into the Greater Cincinnati area the next day with damaging winds, but no rain. Several hundred thousand residents of Greater Cincinnati were without power for a number of days after that. Somehow luck held out, and the Celtic Festival had already taken place the day before.

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Nancy played the **Annual Irish Mass** in Middletown, OH at **Holy Trinity Church** on October 5, 2008.

More News from Kentucky and Tennessee...

Carol McClure has been appointed **Lecturer in Harp at the University of Louisville School of Music** in Louisville, Kentucky, and as harp faculty member at **Indiana University Southeast**, while continuing in her position as Artistic Director of **The Harp School, Inc.** Integrating The Harp School's **Angel's Harp Program** and **ABRSM ABRSM Harp Program** into the University of Louisville School of Music Community Music Program, Ms. McClure and U of L freshman harp performance major, **Lydia Falconnier**, have begun a **pilot harp teaching program in inner city Louisville**, based at Neighborhood House.

In January, 2008, **Parker Ramsay**, 16, of Burns, Tennessee, a **2007 American Harp Society national competition prizewinner**, won the **2008 Cambridge (England) Young Musician's String Competition**, and won the **2008 Cambridge Young Composers Competition** for a work which he adapted for premiere by harp quartet at **National Summer Harp Academy** in July, 2008.

In May 2008, **The Nashville Children's Harp Ensemble** performed for the **Kirkin' o' the Tartan** at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, premiering arrangements from **Hymntunes of the British Isles**, Vol. 1 and 2, **newly published** for the syllabus of the 2008-2010 **National Federation of Music Clubs**, chaired by **Carol McClure**.

In July 2008, The **Harp School's National Summer Harp Academy V** met in Louisville on the campus of the **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**. Directed by **Carol McClure**, with guest artist teacher, **Skaila Kanga**, of the Royal Academy of Music, London, fifty intermediate through advanced students in attendance and a dozen faculty enjoyed an intense week devoted to master classes in historical harp performance practice, solo coaching and ensembles.

In May and November in **Louisville** and **Nashville**, **The Harp School** hosted over **150 graded ABRSM examinations** in harp performance. ABRSM Grade 8 Certificates with honors were earned by **Claire Davis (TN)**, **Roseanna Shafer (TN)**, and **Anna Wicker (TN)**. 2007-2008 Diplomas in Harp Performance were awarded to **Lydia Falconnier (TN)**, **Kelsey Lederman (IN)**, **Julie Mueller (IL)**, **Natalie Riley (KY)**, and **Amy Shafer (TN)**. 2007-2008 Diplomas in Harp Teaching were awarded to **Julie Mueller**,

Amy Shafer and Andrea Sheaffer (IN). The Licentiate in Harp Performance (LRSM) was awarded to **Abigail Crouch (IN).**

News from Harlan, Kentucky: posted by Clara Pope, clarapope@bellsouth.net

The Harp is ALIVE in the mountains of Southeastern Kentucky, with concerts, classes, compositions and sharing on many levels. LSU harpist **Kimberly A. Houser** traveled to the **Pleasant Mountains Music Festival** with her gorgeous classical harp, and performed for over 500 students in Leslie and Harlan Counties. **Clara Atkins-Pope**, the artistic director for the festival, relates that Kimberly's performances were a wonderful and exciting addition to the 2008 festival, realizing that most children in the mountains of Southeastern Kentucky had never seen, heard, or touched a classical harp. The **Pleasant Mountains Music Festival** was founded in 1993, and exists as a vehicle for bringing musical arts opportunities to the people of Southeastern Kentucky. More information can be found by visiting www.pianofinearts.com and clicking on Pleasant Mountains Music Festival.

In other news, **Clara Atkins-Pope** continues to compose, record and perform her original compositions and arrangements for the Celtic Harp. Most recently with the 4-5 year old choir at **Tates Creek Christian Church, in Lexington, Kentucky**, Clara performed the song "Little David Play on Your Harp", as the children sang. "The challenge", Clara relates, "was that it was hard to hear the children!!! They were so fascinated by the harp, they wanted to stop and watch me play! We had to really help them focus their attention on the song. The performances turned out nicely, and made a special morning worship event for both services."

For more information about Clara's compositions for Celtic harp, please visit the website, www.pmpublishing.net

MISSISSIPPI:

CLINTON, submitted by **Grace Halsey**, graceharp@bellsouth.net

Grace Farner Halsey performed a flute and harp recital on August 17 in **Clinton, MS** and September 7 in **Charleston, MS** with Mississippi Symphony flutist, **Sybil Cheesman**. On the recital were works by Schumann, Bizet, Mozart, Bach and Brahms as well as some favorite hymn tunes.

Grace continues to serve as **principal harpist** with the **Mississippi Symphony** and teaches privately in her home.

TENNESSEE:

MEMPHIS, submitted by **Sandra Powers**, smcp46@yahoo.com

The **Memphis Harp Chapter** met for their annual meeting at the home of **Dr. George Flinn** on October 4, 2008.

Dr. Sylvia Schmidt recognized our guest, **Sheila Mitchell-Hart**, of the **Birdsong Harp Center** in Camden, TN. Sheila has a 12-piece harp ensemble that will travel to Ireland in July to meet with **Janet Harbison**.

The past year included a **workshop and concerts** by **Danielle Perrett**, a world renowned solo harpist and head of Harp Studies at the London college of Music and Media. Several members studied privately with her and we all enjoyed her spirited presentations. **Dr. Schmidt** commended the young harpists who competed in the Beethoven Club Competition. **Molly O’Roark**, winner of the Germantown Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concerto Competition and the Memphis Youth Symphony Orchestra Young People's Concerto Competition., will play Handel’s Concerto with the **Germantown Symphony Orchestra** on October 18, 2008.

The highlight of the meeting was listening to original arrangements by **Barbara Christensen, Leigh Cromwell, Anne Frye, Erica Ball-Holmes, Sylvia Schmidt and Bill Butner**. Everyone was inspired and thoroughly enjoyed the performances.

This fall we have plans for workshops and concerts given by **Sunita Staneslow**. Sunita's first concert of Celtic, Jewish and French music will be on Friday, November 7 at 7:15 PM at **Germantown United Methodist Church**. Another concert will be at **Chabad Lubavitch Synagogue** on Monday, November 10 at 7:15 PM.

In January 2009, we are looking forward to a **workshop** with **Sue Richards**.

NASHVILLE, posted by **Phyllis Sparks**, harpist1@comcast.net

The **Nashville Chapter of AHS (aka Nashville Harp Society)** has launched a new **website!** Check it out at www.AHSNashville.com or www.NashvilleHarpSociety.com .

The Fall Harp Meeting took place on Sunday, October 25, 2008 at **Eclectic Productions Recording Studio**. Special thanks to **Nick Sparks** for letting us use his facility. We had a **USED MUSIC GARAGE SALE** that was a huge success! Local harpists donated old music to be sold at the meeting to benefit the **Nashville Harp Society Scholarship Fund**. Members had a ball finding all kinds of gems at bargain prices. Special thanks go to **Peg McClennan** for her large harp music collection. Among the harpists who donated are: **Mary Alice Hoepfinger, Licia Jaskunas, and Phyllis Sparks**.

Christa Lambert presented her **Senior Recital** music at the meeting for her upcoming performance in Harton Hall at **Belmont University** in November 14th at 7:30 PM. Other performers included **Rebekah Wallen, Hannah Heinz, and Katie Wiggins**.

Refreshments were supplied by www.NashvilleHarpRental.com. The meeting concluded with a raffle for some music related items. What fun! President **Phyllis Sparks** announced that the spring meeting will include a seminar with **Harp Regulation Specialist Chris Bain**. Our illustrious editor, **LeAnne Harrington** was under the weather that day. We wish her a speedy recovery.

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

Rebekah Wallen played Bach/Grandjany *Giga from Violin Partita No. 2* for the **Judy Loman Master Class** at last June’s **AHS Convention** in Dearborn, MI. She made **finals** for the **Emerging Artist Finalists (age 11–19) Division of the Young Artist's Harp Competition** held July 3–5, 2008. The **Young Artists Harp Seminar** is in Georgia under the direction of **Kimberly Rowe**.

Rebekah Wallen and Hannah Heinz have both been accepted into the **Curb Youth Orchestra** in Nashville, TN.

Kristin Quint won a scholarship to **Blair School of Music** and is playing with the **Blair Repertoire Orchestra**.

Rebekah Heinz presented her **Senior Recital** at **David Libscomb University** in May 2008.

She performed the John Thomas *Adieu To His Native Land*, *Tournier Au Matin*, and Dussek *Sonata in Eb*. Rebekah has also completed Level Seven of ABRSM.

Celtic harpist **Nickie Harte** hosted a large group who came in for the **Tennessee Renaissance Festival** this past spring. The Festival is located 25 miles south of Nashville, TN. She has a new company that has begun selling **Renaissance Shoes**.

OUR CHAPTER MASCOT AND HARP MUSIC LOVER:

Our little **mascot**, a beautiful little sheltie named **Fiona**, recently won her *Performance II Title* in Agility from USDAA and moves up to the *Masters Level*. She also has a shot at making the Nationals for NADAC this next year. If anyone is a dog lover, she has her own feature page on our site!

More News from Memphis: posted by mooremelodies@hotmail.com

Fifteen year old harpist, **Melodie Moore** of Memphis, Tennessee has been chosen as one of the 2008 **Outstanding Young Women of Memphis by Memphis Woman Magazine**. She was also examined and passed with Distinction in **Level 5 Harp and Theory** through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music testing. In August, Melodie was chosen as a harpist for the **Idyllwild Music Festival** in California participating in the Festival Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, and Festival Orchestra with the final concert at the magnificent **Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, California**. The **Memphis Symphony Orchestra** has presented a **special recognition** to Melodie for her support providing concerts in the Cannon Center lobby prior to their performances. Melodie's volunteer spirit provides harp music over 400 hours of service to the community each year.

LOUISIANA

LAFAYETTE: posted by **Bette Vidrine**, bettetheharpy@yahoo.com

Bette Vidrine was a member of the **HARPA 08 tour of Norway** in May and June of 2008. She first visited the Arctic and experienced the midnight sun, then went south to Oslo where she met up with the other 7 harpists with some spouses and friends. They played 7 concerts in two weeks across the southern part of Norway from Oslo to Bergen. It was the experience of a lifetime for Bette.

Bette's student, **Sophia Spallino**, was accepted to **Deborah Henson-Conant's camp** in Maine in June 2008. She learned the theatrical part of earning a living as a musician from one of the greats!

The **Bayou Harp Circle of Lafayette, LA**, has played this year at the **Louisiana Renfest** in Hammond, LA; and some nursing homes. They are planning and rehearsing for their Christmas concert on Dec. 14th. This is an annual fundraiser for the **Affiliated Blind of Louisiana**, a school for people who become visually impaired or blind as adults.

Bayou Harp Circle will also play at the **Christmas Light Festival** at Acadian Village. This is a fundraiser to support the work of Acadian Village, a tourist attraction of an old Acadian town which supports the Lafayette Area Retarded Citizens, giving them jobs and a decent place to live.

Anyone interested in joining or playing with the **Bayou Harp Circle** can call **Bette Vidrine** at 337-255-3622 or email her at bettetheharpy@yahoo.com.

NEW ORLEANS, posted by Patrice Fisher, ecoslatinos@gmail.com

The **New Orleans Chapter** will sponsor a **student recital** on November 22, followed by afternoon tea and harp music, at the **Ritz Carlton Hotel**, 900 Canal St. New Orleans.

The **New Orleans Celtic Harp Ensemble** performed several **concerts** this fall, including:

St. Dominic's Church, New Orleans, LA, October 12.

New Heights Therapy Center for Handicapped Kids, Folsom, LA, November 2.

Vianne's Tea House, afternoon tea, Mandeville, LA, November 2.

Preservation Resource Center Holiday home Tour, New Orleans, LA, December 14.

New Orleans harpist, **Patrice Fisher**, travelled to many cities and countries this summer to perform, including: **France, New York, Brazil and Guatemala**. In Guatemala, she performed with some of the students of the **Guatemalan Harp Teaching Project** at the **Festival Centro Historico**, in **Guatemala City**, in August. Patrice also taught a **class** in Improvisation at the **American Harp Society National Conference in Detroit**, in June.

LAKE CHARLES, submitted by **Barbara Belew**, bbelew@mcneese.edu

2008 has been a challenging year for the **Louisiana Chapter** of AHS!

Two members, **Lynette Babineaux** and **Katie Evans** participated in the **State Harp Rally** of Louisiana Music Teachers Association in **New Orleans** April 5. **Lynette**, a student of Barbara Belew, was named **winner** in her level. **Katie**, at that time a student of **Patricia Horvath**, now is a freshman piano pedagogy major at **McNeese State University** and is a student of Barbara's.

We gave our annual **Spring Concert** - all ensemble music this year on May 4 in **McNeese State University's Ralph Squires Recital Hall**, with an appreciative audience.

Vice-president, **Barbara Belew**, who has recovered nicely from the surgery for her broken right elbow, represented the chapter and MSU at the **National Harp Conference** in **Detroit/Dearborn, Michigan**, in June.

Several members were involved in **McNeese's Ninth Annual Harp Camp** in August, some as campers and some serving with Director, **Miss Belew**, on the camp staff. Staffers included our chapter president, **Patty Horvath** as Assistant Director, **Lynette Babineaux** and **Katie Evans**. Former member, **Mike Collet**, was our camp technician, helping to keep some 28-29 harps in tune and repaired as needed.

Right in the midst of all this, and the beginning of school, came two unwelcome guests, **Hurricanes, Gustav and Ike**, causing us to move harps to safer locations and close school twice! (We're still not all "back to normal")

Barbara and **Patty** presented their second **harp-duo recital** on September 21, as the first program in the Fall Faculty and **Guest Artist Series** of **MSU's Department of Performing Arts**. They continue to enjoy working on duos, and are slated to perform for a holiday-season wedding in neighboring **Jennings, LA**. They also had played, as a duo, for a special tea, hosted by the new principal of **R.W. Vincent Elementary School in Sulphur** on July 10.

Marlene Mullenix recently presented pre-service music at her church, the **First United Methodist Church** in Lake Charles.

Barbara has performed twice this fall with the **Lake Charles Symphony**, playing Mahler's First Symphony in October and Copland's Lincoln Portrait in November.

Former chapter member **Rebecca Pippin** of Baton Rouge has been sidelined lately, due to her husband's gradual recovery from a case of West Nile Virus. Our prayers go out to Roger and Rebecca.

Plans are underway to host the **2009 Rally on March 21**, at **McNeese** and to "pull it all together" for the **chapter's Spring Concert**, slated for March 8. We hope also to have other events this next year. Contact **Barbara Belew**, bbelew@mcneese.edu.

As a P.S., if you want to include it: We all are excited that president, **Patty**, will be a new mom in mid-spring, with her due date slated in early April.

MISSOURI

Harpist **Amy Camie** is continuing to spread the word about the **healing power of music** through her presentation, "**Vibrational Awareness**." She has shared over 76 presentations with local, regional and national audiences of nurses, social workers, medical management professionals, cancer care providers, hospice/grief volunteers and case managers, community organizers, university students and conference attendees. The **Scientific Arts Foundation**, which **Amy** founded and is Executive Director, is seeking funding for their medically approved clinical trial exploring the impact of her **solo harp Cd, "The Magic Mirror"** on stress factors in adults receiving chemotherapy treatment for cancer. For more information visit: www.scientificartsfoundation.org Finally, **Amy** shares music each week at **St. John's Mercy Medical Center** as part of their **Healing Therapies program** for cancer patients, twice a month at the **David C. Pratt Cancer Center** and she was also 'sponsored' by **St. John's Hospice** into 4 area nursing homes to do 1-hour concerts as part of **National Hospice Awareness Month**. For more information, visit: www.amycamie.com