



NORTHWESTERN REGION
Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon,
Utah, Washington, Wyoming,
British Columbia

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Fall 2009 Greetings from Seattle,

As we near the end of 2009 we would like to share with you the news from some of our Northwest harpists. If any of you have upcoming events that might interest our corner of the world, please email me at harp4u@comcast.net. We are always looking for future events.

NATIONAL NEWS

2011 World Harp Congress will be in Vancouver, B.C. We are so fortunate to have these events within driving distance. We will keep you posted as the time gets closer.

2010 AHS Conference in Tacoma

In 1996 The World Harp Congress was in Tacoma and the Folk Harp Conference was in Olympia. Now Tacoma, the City of Destiny, is preparing to welcome back halos of harpists at the 2010 American Harp Society Conference June 30-July 5.

The Anne Adams Audition Awards will take place June 30 and July 1. On July 2 you can dive right in to wonderful harp music and hear the Anne Adams contest winners at 1:30, the winner of the AHS 18th National Competition at 4:00, a concert of Celtic music at 5:15, and the opening concert by Catherine Michel at 8:00. What better way to start a conference?

After that it's off to the races with workshops, lectures, master classes and more concerts, Judy Loman, Jana Bouskava, (Alice Giles?), Deborah Henson-Conant, Ellie Choate, Paul Baker, Christa Grix, the Duarte family from Mexico, and many more, plus harp circles, late night jazz, and the premiere of a musical comedy by Deborah Henson-Conant at the extraordinary Wurlitzer Manor. There'll be music for choir and harp, chamber group and harp, harp and dance, a night of Latin music, and a concerto night as the grand finale.

Bringing family? They can go whale watching, visit the International Museum of Glass, the Tacoma Art Museum, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Northwest Trek, Mt. Rainier, and, of course, Seattle.

Keep an eye on the conference website, www.ahsconference.org, for updates.

REGIONAL NEWS

OREGON

Portland – Harp Technician Ed Galchick will be in Portland during March 2009 to work on harps. Contact Ed at www.harptweak.com.

Lila Neahring, 15, a student of Bethany Evans, participated in the Lily Laskine Competition in Paris in September. She has completed all ten levels of piano Syllabus with the Oregon Music Teachers Association and has received seven consecutive years of Superior ratings in the harp division of the National Federation of Music Clubs Festivals. The Lily Laskine junior competition this year involved 45 students and a 12 year-old student from California who placed 3rd, the highest an American achieved this year.

Corvallis/Eugene –

Park Stickney and Rüdiger Oppermann

CONCERT: *Tuesday, September 29, 7:30 pm, First Congregational Church, Corvallis*
WORKSHOP: *Monday, September 28, First Presbyterian Church, Corvallis.*

Park Stickney is one of the best jazz harpists in the world. He has performed throughout the world, and has taught at several institutions and festivals, including the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Lausanne Conservatoire. He frequently performs as a duo with Rüdiger Oppermann, who is often described as an “electro-Celtic” harpist. He performs music from many different folk traditions, including music of Africa and India.

DOUGLAS RIOTH MASTER CLASS

Sunday, October 11, 3 pm, Portland State University XSB Room 115

The Oregon chapter of the American String Teachers Association will be sponsoring a master class with Douglas Rioth, principal harpist with the San Francisco Symphony. In addition, he will spend some time discussing harp cadenzas from the orchestral literature. Participants must be members of ASTA (or a student of a teacher who belongs to ASTA). For more information, contact Denise Fujikawa at dmfujikawa@earthlink.net.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON HARP DAY and FALL HARP SOCIETY MEETING
Saturday, October 24

This year's Harp Day will include workshops by Laura Zaerr (on the single-action harp) and Ken Wannberg (music editor for John Williams, on music and the harp in the movies). There will also be a workshop on Bodymapping by Marieke Schuurs. Bodymapping helps musicians to be more aware of how their bodies function, and how best to achieve a posture that is practical both musically and physically. The evening concert will feature Kate Petak from Portland. We will also hold our first Eugene Chapter meeting of the school year. Events will begin at 9:15am. For more information on Harp Day and registration, contact Laura Zaerr at lauraz@peak.org or (541) 757-8313.

LAURA ZAERR PERFORMS LYRA ANGELICA

Thursday, November 5, 7:30 pm, Crescent Valley High School Auditorium, Corvallis (4444 NW Highland Dr.)

Laura Zaerr will be performing two movements of William Alwyn's *Lyra Angelica*, a concerto for harp with string orchestra, with the Crescent Valley High School Orchestra. Tickets are available at the door.

MUSIC EDUCATION FESTIVAL

Dates to be Announced, late January & mid March 2010

For those of you not familiar with the program, it is a chance to play a piece or two for a panel of harp teachers who offer comments. Then six weeks later the same pieces are played once more, plus a new piece, incorporating the suggestions. This is an efficient and non-threatening way for students of all levels to focus on improvement while supporting and learning from their peers. Exact dates will be forthcoming in early January. If you are interested in participating, contact Jeralee Stewart at (541) 341-1309. Exact dates will be forthcoming in early January.

MONTANA

No news at this time

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Josh Layne will be performing with the Salt Spring Singers on Dec. 5 and 6, 2009. He'll accompany them for Britten's ever popular Ceremony of Carols, plus Conrad Susa's Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest. Josh writes "This is a piece I heard in 2007 on NPR. Scored for harp, guitar, marimba, and SATB choir, it stuck with me and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to perform it. You can listen to the performance that I heard (with Lynne Aspnes on harp) by going to the Welcome Christmas from American Public Media site and clicking on the December 2007 archive http://americanpublicmedia.publicradio.org/programs/welcome_xmas/programs/. The Susa starts at the 11 minute mark. Provided there is a marimbist available, I think it makes a welcome addition to Ceremony of Carols and Rutter's Dancing Day."

Kaori Otake will be playing Nutcracker with Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra and the Goh Ballet from Dec. 17-20 at the Centre for Performing Arts, 777 Homer Street, Vancouver .

April, 2009: Board of World Harp Congress came to Vancouver for meetings and to view the venues for the World harp Congress in Vancouver in 2011; Kaori Otake hosted a party for them and performed solo.

- Willy Postma gave a master class at Kaori Otake's home.

May, 2009:

-Mehinda Heartt organized a fund-raising concert for the 11th World Harp Congress in Vancouver in 2011, featuring harpist/composers performing their own music. Elizabeth Volpé Bligh, Josh Layne, Clare Morgan and Mehinda Heartt contributed their eclectic styles at Celtic Traditions to a sold-out house. Elizabeth premiered the latest addition to her suite of Vancouver pieces, *Winter in Vancouver*.

-Elizabeth Volpé Bligh and Lani Krantz went on tour with the Vancouver Symphony to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec City, and the orchestra received rave reviews and standing ovations at all four cities. There were harp parts in almost every single piece, such as Debussy's *Afternoon of a Faun*, Shostakovich's *Fifth Symphony*, Rachmaninoff's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*, Stravinsky's *Petrouchka* and Jeff Ryan's *The Linearity of Light*. Last fall, the VSO toured to China, Korea and Macau with Heidi Krutzen on second harp in harp-heavy programs which included Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*.

July 2009-Elizabeth Volpé Bligh taught at Pacific Harp Institute again this summer, though it was challenging with a broken left foot.

Sept. 2009 - Chris Waltham has just finished building a replica of a Gothic harp. It's a copy of the Boston MFA harp and the plans came from there. Pictures are on (and can be copied from): <http://framst-waltham.ca/chris/wood/music/index.html>

ALASKA

Skookums Sonnenschein is traveling to Rocheport Mo to record with the Dali Lama's chosen person who chants and also plays all of the Tibetan singing bowls, including the Dali Lama's most precious medicine bowl. They will also be playing in the greater community during this 10 day visit in early October.

IDAHO

April – A Harp Festival was held in Coeur d'Alene ID, organized by Leslie Stratton Norris. 53 harpists from ages 8 to 80 attended the weekend and enjoyed time practicing together, workshops, and seminars. Harpists came from Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon, and are from professional players to kids just starting to learn. Our final concert was performed to a packed church of harp admirers - around 300 people.

November - Julia Robison in Boise hosted a Harp Ensemble event where adults and school age students joined to present a concert for the community. Julia's church welcomed the event, and the audience enjoyed a program of classical and popular ensemble arrangements. Leslie Stratton Norris came south from Coeur d'Alene, and rehearsed, conducted and played along with the group of 10 harpists.

WASHINGTON

Ruth S. Mar Harp Recital

Saturday, September 19, 2009 - 3:00 pm

Lake Washington United Methodist Church

Ruth will be playing selections from Scarlatti, Krumpholtz, Yedid, Salzedo, Hindemith, Bach, Rennie, and Palmer.

Private Lessons with Deborah Henson-Conant

October 20-21-22-23, 2009

Call Mark to arrange your time slot. 425-485-6743

Deborah Henson-Conant Musical

Friday, October 23, 2009 - 8:00 pm

Daniels Recital Hall, 811 5th Ave., Seattle

Pre-Broadway Musical Preview of Deborah Henson-Conant's new musical comedy featuring harps! *In the Wings!*

Greater Seattle Chapter Harp Day!

First Chapter Meeting

Saturday, October 24th, 2009 - 12:00 pm

St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Renton

First Chapter Meeting and Introduction to the Tacoma Conference 2010

Deborah Henson-Conant Workshop

Saturday, October 24, 2009 - 1:00-6:00 pm

Learn to Play The Blues Workshop, continue what we learned last time Deborah was here!

Patti Warden and Heidi Dunlap

November 2, 2009, 7:30 pm

Edmonds Center for the Arts

Patti Warden and Heidi Dunlap will be playing the harp parts in Gustav Holst's *The Planets*, in a concert to be given by the Cascade Symphony. Tickets are available at the orchestra's website, www.cascadeshymphony.org.

Concert featuring the music of Meg Mann

Saturday, November 14, 2009 - 3:00 pm

Daniels Recital Hall

Come hear music from the award winning composer, including *Cottonwood Seeds*, with orchestra conducted by Mark Andersen.

Yolanda Kondonassis Concert

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Gonzaga University in Spokane

Yolanda with full orchestra playing the Ginastera. More details to come.

Crescendo! Christmas Concerts

Thursdays, December 10 & 17, 2009

12:00 pm - Daniels Recital Hall

Two concerts featuring harp, organ, handbells, and voice. Each concert will be different and will feature harpists from our chapter.

Workshop with world famous Louise Trotter

Saturday, February 6, 2010 - 2:00 pm

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Renton

<http://www.louisetrotter.com/>

Louise Trotter Concert

Sunday, February 7, 2010 - 3:00 pm

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Renton

<http://www.louisetrotter.com/>

Adjudications First Session with Earecka Trazinga Moody

Saturday and Sunday, February 26 & 27

Resurrection Lutheran Church,

Des Moines

Schedule to follow

A Fun Day for Harp Students featuring Susi Hussong and Mark Andersen

Date to be determined, 2010

Workshops on Improvisation, Playing by Ear, Harmonizing, and Dalcroze

Adjudications Second Session with Earecka Trazinga Moody

Saturday and Sunday, April 24 & 25, 2010

Resurrection Lutheran Church,

Des Moines

Schedule to follow

Chapter Meeting, Recital, and Scholarship Award

Saturday, June 5, 2010 - 2:00 pm

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Renton