



AMERICAN  
HARP  
SOCIETY

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## Southeastern Regional Newsletter 2009

Dear Harpists,

I am happy to share with you the following news from around our region. Also, please note the details for the upcoming conference in Tacoma – I hope to see you there!

Best wishes for a great 2010,

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### ***THE AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY*** ***18<sup>th</sup> National Competition & Anne Adams Awards*** **June 30-July 5, 2010** **Tacoma, Washington**

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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**, **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.

Updates will be posted on [www.ahsconference.org](http://www.ahsconference.org).

### **Congratulations**

**Heidi VanHoesen Gorton**, of Pittsburgh, PA, winner of first prize in the Young Professional Division becomes the new AHS Concert Artist. Heidi is currently studying for her Master's degree at the Juilliard School with Nancy Allen. Other winners of the 18<sup>th</sup> National Competition that are from the Mid Atlantic area are: 5th Place-Advanced Division: **Andrea Mumm** (NJ), 2nd Place-Intermediate I, **Helen Gerhold** (PA), 1st Place Junior Division: **Jessica Ding** (PA), 3rd Place Junior Division: **Hannah Elizabeth Piston** (PA)

## Reminders

The American Harp Society has a new website! [www.harpsociety.org](http://www.harpsociety.org) Check it out. There are many National programs that chapters can participate in, with huge benefits to the membership, but not huge cost to the chapter. The Concert Artist Program will pay the AHS Concert Artist's travel expenses so the chapter can present them in concert. The Music Education Auditions are also a great chapter activity to help the students have goals to work toward and improving musicianship. Every 3 years a chapter can apply to bring in an additional advisor, and the travel expenses of this National Committee guest advisor will be reimbursed.

## Chapter and Area News/Events

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### Central Florida Chapter

(submitted by Jan Jennings)

The Central Florida Chapter has had a busy year. It started January 8, 2009, with a master class with Emily Mitchell and workshop with Robbin Gordon-Cartier.

On January 11, 2009, the Chapter presented a concert by The Three of Harps. The trio consists of Jan Bishop, Ruth Papalia, and Lucy Scandrett. Jan Jennings also played several pieces with the trio. At the conclusion of the concert, Lucy Scandrett, President of the American Harp Society, presented Jan Jennings, President of the Central Florida Chapter, with a certificate and check recognizing the Central Florida Chapter as Chapter of the Year for 2008.

Kayla Mahnken, student of Verlon Eason, performed for the Orlando Music Club Student Honors Recital in January 2009, playing *Pastorale* by Grandjany and *The Lord's Prayer* by Malotte. Kayla played on her new Camac pedal harp. Kayla is currently studying harp at Florida State University with Professor Mary Bridget Roman.

The Chapter welcomed renowned teacher and harpist Susann McDonald for a master class on February 11, 2009.

Haley Rhodside, student of Jan Jennings, was presented in her first solo concert, sponsored by the International Harp Museum, on May 3, 2009. She began her freshman year in August as a harp major studying with Susann McDonald at Indiana University.

Jan Jennings was a clinician at the Midwest Harp Festival in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in July and will be returning again next year, July 18-24, 2010.

The Chapter held our annual recital weekend August 7 – 9, 2009, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo. Stephanie Curcio was guest artist, and was featured in a concert on August 7 that included her husband, Ron Curcio, on piano. Jan Jennings played three of Stephanie's duo arrangements with the guest artist. Mrs. Curcio gave two workshops and a master class on Saturday, August 8. Virginia Harp Center, Paradise Music, and Sweet Harps LLC were exhibitors. On August 9, there was a harp ensemble concert featuring the students of Jan Jennings and guests. As a special treat, Linda Thomssen of Kansas City played violin with Barbara Kraichy of Bonita Springs on harp, performing *Meditation* from "Thais." There were 34 harps in the ensemble and 700 people attended the concert. The ensemble premiered "Powdered Wigs," a harp ensemble piece commissioned by the Chapter and written by Mrs. Curcio. Tristan Rhodside conducted the piece dressed as Mozart. The audience also enjoyed bubbles released during the performance of Mrs. Curcio's "Bubble Waltz."

Emmy Rathgeber and Deborah Wendt, students of Jan Jennings, are competing in the Young Artists Solo Competition at Rollins College on November 21, 2009. Good luck to both!

Members of the Central Florida Chapter will play in a harp ensemble concert on Sunday, November 29, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. at Broadway United Methodist Church, 406 E. Amelia St., Orlando, Fla., 32803. The concert will be free and open to the public. The theme is the "Hanging of the Greens" and will include dialogue by Pastor Clare Chance between musical selections explaining the symbolism of the Christmas decorations. There will be a reception with refreshments following the concert.

Pat Bair, Nici Haerter, and Jan Jennings will perform as the Marching Harp Band in the Winter Park Christmas Parade on December 5, 2009.

Harp students of Verlon Eason received Superior ratings for harp solo at the 2009 Florida Federation Music Festival. Congratulations to Tabitha Lennox and Kayla Mahnken for their outstanding performances!

A new website will be going up soon, [www.simpleelegancebyverlon.com](http://www.simpleelegancebyverlon.com), displaying a beautiful new line of distinctive harp home décor by Verlon Eason.

Verlon Eason has completed her third harp CD, "Silhouette of Strings." CD's are sold through her website, [www.verloneason.com](http://www.verloneason.com), or through [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com).

Harp for sale: Thormahlen Swan Lever Harp - Rosewood, 36-string, nylon & gut strings. Barely used; beautiful sound. Includes tuning key, additional set of strings, rosewood music stand, adjustable seat, harp hand truck for moving, original carrying case, and shipping box. Contact Jan Hutchins at 407-923-4334.

## **Georgia Chapter**

(submitted by Liesl Hagan)

The Georgia AHS chapter has re-elected officers Liesl Hagan (President), Mary Ann Flinn (Vice President), and Catherine Rogers (Secretary/Treasurer) for the next 2-year term. We have a busy and exciting fall and spring ahead!

On November 7, Frank Voltz visited the Atlanta Harp Center and presented 2 hands-on workshops: "Geography of the Harp," which explored ways to increase speed and agility by focusing on string and finger spacing, and "From Hymnal to Harp," where participants learned to create jazzy arrangements of traditional hymns. Frank also gave a wonderful concert enjoyed by both harpists and non-harpists.

On November 12, Elisabeth Remy Johnson was awarded the Atlanta Business Chronicle's "Up and Comers" Award, also known as the '40 under 40' award, recognizing 40 young community leaders making a difference in Atlanta. Elisabeth was nominated by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, in recognition of her work with their Talent Development Program for African-American and Latino youth, and teaching and outreach in schools and community centers.

On January 24, we will have a chapter meeting and a program featuring students from the Urban Youth Harp Ensemble's Harp Academy at Carver, where ASO principal harpist Elisabeth Remy Johnson has pioneered a harp program for inner city high school students. We are excited to work with Carolyn Lund,

the UYHE's new harp instructor, who recently graduated with a masters degree in harp performance from the University of Arizona.

This coming March 19-21, we will be pleased to host ReGroup (duo Lynne Aspnes and John Wickey) for a concert that will be open to the public. Lynn also plans to give a master class at the Atlanta Harp Center while she is in town.

In February and March, we will conduct the yearly AHS Music Education Auditions with local harpist Deidre Augustin and violinist Elonia Varfi as co-adjudicators. The response in past years has been tremendous, and we look forward to a full slate of students participating again in 2010.

Also, in March, Angelica Hairston (student of Elisabeth Remy Johnson) will be representing the state of Georgia in the regional (South East) competition in the Omega Psi Phi Talent Hunt. Angelica was also selected as the only harpist for the National High School Honors Orchestra.

#### HARPS FOR SALE IN ATLANTA:

Beautiful Lyon and Healy Salzedo model #8778 for sale.

In excellent condition. Appraised, completely restrung, and regulated this summer! The harp is 25 years old and has been owned by Cristi Slate for the past nine years (was originally owned by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra). This harp has a lovely, clear sound quality. Price negotiable. Please contact Cristi Slate with any questions at [crslate@gmail.com](mailto:crslate@gmail.com) or 404-428-0272.

Lyon and Healy Troubadour IV - Price: \$2,950

Natural blonde finish with dark honey sound board. Serial #7986, custom-built in 1999. Performance levers. In excellent condition, very resonant. 2nd owner, professionally maintained. Includes tuning key and holder, Fishman SBT-HP, Harpware chemise dust cover, L&H black and gold cover, and "Trouble Shooting Your Lever Harp" book by David Kolacny. Contact Julie Albertson at [harp@mindspring.com](mailto:harp@mindspring.com) or 770-410-1903.

Blevins Encore 34 string walnut harp - Price: \$1,200

This harp is 5 years old and was used for the MHTP program. The Encore, 20 lb 49" h x 12" w, has concert string spacing and tension, a low bass note two full octaves below middle c, and a full set of Loveland levers. This is a perfect instrument for a beginner or for someone to use in a hospital or nursing home. Current price for the Encore is \$2160, asking price \$1200. Please contact Mary Ann Flinn at 404-351-4613 or [maflinn@bellsouth.net](mailto:maflinn@bellsouth.net).

Lyon and Healy Style 23 natural - Price: \$21,900

Bought new in 2000, Serial #13592. Warm, full sound. Rarely moved, regulated annually. Includes 3-piece blue L&H cover and extra set of strings. Unable to move it anymore due to health reasons. Contact Nell Morris at 706-855-7073, 706-831-0150, or [amorris119@comcast.net](mailto:amorris119@comcast.net).

## South Florida Chapter

(submitted by Anne Barbara Akerson and Kay Kemper)

Late 2008 through 2009 has generated a series of highlight performances from students, teachers and performers as well as workshops and concerts from visiting artists.

In February, student harpists Nicole Lamas and Sofia Perez won prizes in their respective divisions at the Florida Federation of Music Clubs Festival. Through the year, highschool students Michelle Villar and Danielle Levine have each played several concerts with their school band and orchestra. University of Miami senior, Arielle Galant, won second place in the Bruce Hornsby songwriting competition, singing and accompanying herself with back-up vocals and rhythm.

Newly certified Harp Therapist Lisa Dolinger Green, has been reaching out into the community giving presentations on the benefits of therapeutic harp music. Our adult students, Tom Veale, Brian Davie, Barbara Newman, Imelda Jean-Pierre, Janet Broughten, Nick Starr and Beryl Mancuso are active sharing their music in their respective churches, performing solos and accompanying choirs as called upon.

On May 3rd, a highly successful Chapter (North) Recital was held at Church of the Palms in Delray Beach. Organized by Nancy Ann Gillan and Charlene Connor, the program opened with 25 players participating in a harp ensemble directed by Michael Lazzaro. The performance of "Chariots of Fire" was well received and placed on YouTube (permission not granted by the Chapter).

HarpFeste, in January, at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Boca Raton, featured Frank Voltz and Rhett Barnwell and was co-sponsored with the Virginia Harp Center. Saturday was reserved for workshops and rehearsals preparing for a Gala Concert on Sunday afternoon.

Alfredo Rolando Ortiz visited in October charming us with two workshops and an informal recital, all within a six hour time span!

The University of Miami hosted Master Classes and performances by Corky Hale and Carlos Reyes.

Also in May, Stacey Berkley was featured in concert with her husband, Tim Devine and a full band. She has also just released a new CD "Real Harpists Have Curves".

Charlene Connor performed the "Ceremony of Carols" several times in Ft. Lauderdale and has been active performing in a wide variety of concert events.

Deborah Fleischer will perform the Mozart "Concerto for Flute and Harp" with the Key West Pops on December 30.

Chapter President, Kay Kemper performed three concertos, with three different groups in three different venues, within a six week period (her own edition of Handel "Concerto in B flat", Saint-Saens "Morceau de Concert" and Ravel's "Introduction and Allegro").

In July, she participated in the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival and performed the Ravel "Sonatine en Trio", "Fantaisie in A Major for Violin and Harp" by Saint-Saens, and Florent Schmitt "Suite in Rocaille, Op. 84".

We are in the process of collecting oral histories from our local elder harpists. So far, we have interviewed Edy Tobias, Patrice Lieb and Elsa Jennings. Each story is as unique as is imaginable. From a convent school start, moving a harp in a rumble seat, touring the USA in an Airstream, a Fulbright to study with Phia Bergout in Amsterdam and playing with Judith Lieber in the Israel Philharmonic!

We are saddened by the passing of Myor Rosen on March 13th. Since retiring as principal harpist with the New York Philharmonic, a position he held from 1960-1987, Mr. Rosen has lived in our area. Charlene Conner and Rebecca Newman played his Memorial Service in Pompano Beach.

## Southwest Florida Chapter

(submitted by Barbara Kraichy)

The Southwest Florida Harp Chapter AHS has been rehearsing and preparing for their Fourth Annual "For the Love of Harps" to be held February 5-7, 2010 at the North Naples United Methodist Church in Naples, Florida.

Elzbieta Szmyt, associate professor of Harp with Susann McDonald at Indiana University will be our guest artist. In addition to giving private lessons and a solo recital, Ela will present workshops and give a Master Class.

"Harps n Sync", the chapter Harp Ensemble will perform works by Moussorgsky, Ravel, Bizet, Copland, Lehar, Lecuona as well as Popular Selections. In addition they will accompany Elzbieta on Smetana's Moldau playing the orchestral accompaniment. Two student Harpists will also play solos on the Harp Ensemble Concert, part of the North Naples United Methodist Church Concert Series.

"For the Love of Harps" will also include Vendors: Virginia Harp Center, International Harps, Michigan Harp Center, Designs by Verlon and other Vendors. We invite Harpists to attend. For further information visit our Website: [SWFLAHARP.ORG](http://SWFLAHARP.ORG)

In addition to "For the Love of Harps", Harps n Sync will perform on two other Church Concert Series. March 20, 2010 7:00PM Messiah Lutheran Church in North Ft. Myers and March 21, 2010 at Noon at The First Presbyterian Church in Bonita Springs, Florida. These concert programs have yet to be finalized, but will include some of the February concert selections along with other additions.

Several Chapter members are quite active playing harp professionally in the area. Dickie Fleisher is Principal Harpist with the Naples Philharmonic. He is playing a harp duo concert with Janelle House and a flute ensemble on November 8, 2009 at the North Naples United Methodist Church. Kayo Ishimaru, Dickie's wife, is Principal Harpist with the Jacksonville Symphony as well as harpist with the Grant Park Symphony in Chicago during the summer.

Barbara Kraichy plays harp with violinist Ron Erickson (Kraichy and Erickson Duo) They give concerts and freelance. Barbara will also be harpist with the Charlotte Symphony (Florida) and she and Ron will be performing with the Charlotte Chorale.

Laura Lou Roth and Leslie Gregory freelance in the area. Laura Lou is featured with her harp students, and assisted by Barbara Kraichy for the annual Christmas Walk on 3rd Street and 5th avenue in downtown Naples.

Active harp teachers include Dickie Fleisher, Kayo Ishimaru, Barbara Kraichy, Leslie Gregory and Laura Lou Roth.

We're very proud of our student members: Kelly Wells, Justine Tiu, Danielle Namour and Damara Chauduri. Kelly and Justine were given scholarships from the chapter for summer harp study at Music Camps. Danielle is harpist for both the Naples and Ft Myers Youth Orchestra. Damara was featured in the Naples High School paper and plays with the Naples High and Barron Collier High School Orchestras.