



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

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Fall 2011 Greetings! How lucky we are to live in the beautiful Northwest. We are having one of our most colorful fall seasons.

Our annual newsletter follows. If any of you have upcoming events that might interest our corner of the world, please email me at harp4u@comcast.net. If you have a local newsletter, please include me on your mailing list. In the meantime, mark your calendars for the following conferences.

NATIONAL NEWS

This is an excerpt from the letter of our new Executive Secretary. This will give you our most up-to-date contact information and introduce you to Ashanti Pretlow.

My name is Ashanti Pretlow, and I am so pleased to be your new Executive Secretary. Over the last few months, I have spent a great deal of time learning more about this association and I have had the distinct opportunity to speak with several AHS members over the phone and via email. This summer has been filled with transition. The AHS is finally settled in our new home in Birmingham, Alabama. With that change, please be sure to update your contact information for the society. For convenience, please find that contact information below.

*American Harp Society
3416 Primm Lane
Birmingham, AL 35216*

*T: (205) 795-7130
E: ExecSecretary@HarpSociety.org*

I am in the office between 8:00am and 5:00pm Central Standard Time Monday through Friday so please, feel free to contact me!

This letter contains some announcements that I am sure you will find useful.

Membership Renewal Notices

As I am sure you have noticed, we are a bit behind schedule with membership renewal notices. Several of you have already mailed in checks or renewed online. As we speak, renewal notices are being printed and mailed to you. If you prefer, you can renew online now. If you would rather not renew online, feel free to wait until you receive your notice from us. Please try to make sure you renew prior to November 15th so that we can make sure we have all of your current information on file for the 2012 Membership Directory and to make sure you are included on the list to receive the next American Harp Journal.

2012 American Harp Society National Conference

The AHS 2012 National Conference will be held at the Marriott Marquis in New York City June 28 - July 3, 2012. We sincerely hope you are making plans to attend this 40th National Conference that also marks the 50th Anniversary of the American Harp Society.

We are building a new site for this conference and anticipate its launch in the next week or so. We will email you once the site is active!

Upcoming Events

Please find several events we believe may be of interest to you below.

- The 2011 Lily Laskine Harp Competition will take place in Paris from 16 to 23 October 2011. The Contest is open to harpists of all nationalities born after 16 October 1981. It also includes a Junior section open to candidates born after 16 October 1996. Contestants are not allowed to compete in both categories.*
- The Dutch Harp Competition is the revolutionary international harp competition hosted in The Netherlands. Open to harpists of all nationalities and ages, the Dutch harp competition emphasizes musical quality and artistry over harp technique. Prizes First prize-- 10,000 euros and concert tour Second prize -- 5,000 euros Third prize -- 2,500 euros Audience prize -- 2,500 Applications are open until 15 November 2011*

In closing, if there is any way I can assist you, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you, Ashanti Pretlow

REGIONAL NEWS

ALASKA

Brayana Jeannet, from Fairbanks is a sophomore at Ball State University. She is enjoying studying music performance with Elizabeth Richter.

Skookums studied music performance last August, in Maine, with Deborah Hensen-Conant and Karen Montanaro. Her focus was on healing music.

Last April, here in Anchorage Skookums was invited to play for the 9th gathering of International Council of the 13 Indigenous Grandmothers. Together the grandmothers unite for sacred prayer lineages from around the world fulfilling many ancient prophecies. She is being sponsored by her musical group, The Deli Llama Orchestra, to take her healing music with the groups' founder to play for the 10th gathering of The Grandmothers for 2 weeks in October. This will be in the rainforest in Brazil. Have harp and CD's will travel!

Harp for sale: Silhouette electric made by Lyon & Healy Shiny ebony; mint condition; tripod stand; case; extra full set of strings; \$3,500 plus shipping. Contact Skookums skooksharp@mac.com (907) 227-2117

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The BC Chapter and West Coast Harp Society hosted the World Harp Congress in Vancouver from July 24-30 at the Sheraton Wall Centre. Concerts, lectures, workshops and master classes were held at numerous venues, all within walking distance. We collaborated with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, who handled most of the festival ticket sales and made this the second week of their summer season. Numerous local and Canadian performers and composers were featured. Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer was the guest of honour for the week. The Pacific Baroque Orchestra accompanied Maxine Eilander's concert. BC composer Michael Conway Baker's Harp Concerto was performed by Canadian harpist Kristan Toczko, to great acclaim.

Marilyn Rummel and **Lori Pappajohn** designed the opening gala, which was a history of the harp in B.C. illustrated by fantastic slides projected on a big screen at the back of the stage, a taped narration, emcee Jurgen Gothe, and numerous wonderful performances by local and international harpists. The concert opened with Dancers of Damelahamid, native dancers who wowed everyone. The Vancouver harpists, all who performed brilliantly, were **Esther Cannon**, performing *Winter in Vancouver* by **Elizabeth Volpé Bligh** (newly published by The Avondale Press), **Alys Howe**, **Roger Helfrick**, **Albertina Chan**, **Lani Krantz** playing Jin Zhang's *Little Suite for harp and erhu* with Rong Jun, and **Noelle Kelbert**. The entire souvenir program is available to download on our web site www.worldharpcongress2011.com for those who want a copy.

The gorgeous Vancouver photographs were selected by **Lori Pappajohn**.

Elizabeth Volpé Bligh participated in a panel on editing orchestra parts, **Kaori Otake** performed the Damase Concertino for harp and strings with the VSO on the Chamber Concerto concert. **Lori Pappajohn, Alys Howe** and **Janelle Nadeau** performed in Winter Harp. **Alys Howe** also played with Seumas Gagné. **Josh Layne** performed Mozetich's *Songs of Nymphs* in a Coffee Concert. **Stephen and Alison Vardy** did a workshop on amplification and gigging. **Dr. Chris Waltham** gave a lecture on the science of soundboards and acoustics with his colleagues from France, Benjamin Elie and Jean-Loïc Le Carrou. **Heidi Krutzen's** Trio Verlaine premiered the newly-commissioned *Trio for flute, harp and viola* by R. Murray Schafer.

BC Chapter, WCHS members and others very generously loaned their harps and/or their time to volunteer. Without everyone pitching in, we never could have accomplished this.

Our WHC 2011 Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/40860824224/> has many photos posted by the attendees. It is wonderful to be able to look back at the week and see so many happy memories.

We also have a new Facebook Group for our chapter:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/277416348942710/>

Our official web site is members.shaw.ca/bcharpchapter/

Current and future news:

October 1-3, 2011: **Janelle Nadeau** played second harp in the VSO concert of Enescu's Romanian Rhapsody #1 and Ravel's Bolero. She will also be playing in Winter Harp in December.

Oct. 2011 - new Sunshine Coast Harp Circle formed in Gibsons - for info, contact Maureen Bodie at harperist2000@gmail.com

December, 2011: **Esther Cannon** will be making her Winter Harp debut and will be in Willingdon Church's phenomenal Christmas program, Dec. 15-19.

In July, 2012, **Elizabeth Volpé Bligh** will be teaching at the International Harp Workshop in Italy, run by Laura Sofia Carmellino. She will also be teaching along with Gianetta Baril, Judy Loman and Cristian Braga from July 29-August 12, 2012. Details are being finalized about the location and name of the camp, but it will most likely be at the VSO School of Music. Check Elizabeth's web site www.elizabethvolpebligh.com for details in the new year.

Kaori Otake performed for the Cap Classics on October 28 , 2011 featuring works by Bach, Croft, Glinka, Hasselmans, Liszt, Haydn, Chopin and Palmer.

Kaori Otake has a new CD called "Dream"

Fantasie in c minor for Harp op.35.....Louis Spohr

Prayer.....Alphonse Hasselmans

Toccata for Harp.....Ami Maayani

Introduction, Cadenza & Rondo from the Fantasy on Italian Airs.....Elias Parish

Alvars

Sonata in c minor.....Jan Ladislav Dussek
Allegro
Andantino
Rondo Allegro
Siciliana.....Ottorino Respighi
Variations on a Theme of Paganini.....Mikhail Mchedelov
Concert Fantasy on Lara's "Granada"Arr. Carlos Salzedo
Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini (18th Variation).....Sergei Rachmaninoff

*For further information on British Columbia Chapter, please visit our Facebook page:
American Harp Society BC Chapter.*

IDAHO

No news at this time.

MONTANA

No news at this time.

OREGON

Eugene Chapter News:

Harp Society Meeting and Harp Ensemble Day Saturday, Oct. 29th

The University of Oregon School of Music and Dance presented **Harp Ensemble Day** for the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 29th. A group of Willamette Valley harpists presented a short program of Ensemble music at 1:00 p.m. in Beall Hall. Selections included music of Alfredo Rolando Ortiz, Henriette Renié, Marcel Grandjany, Enrique Granados and more. This concert was free and open to the public.

AHS Eugene Chapter meeting will take place on Saturday, Nov. 29th, directly after the ensemble concert, in Beall Hall. On the agenda is election of officers, reviewing the budget, future projects, and the potential Music Education Festival in January.

Other Harp Events in the Area

Kim Robertson with *Ferintosh* in Corvallis, October 13th

Celtic harpist Kim Robertson appeared at the First Presbyterian Church in Corvallis (114 SW 8th) on Thursday Oct. 13 at 7:30 with her new group *Ferintosh*, featuring cellist

Abbey Newton and guest fiddler Rosie Newton. Sponsored by the Corvallis Folk Lore Society, tickets are \$15.00, (\$2.00 discount for CFS members)

Harp and guitar at OSU Laura Zaerr and David Rogers, Oct. 28th

The OSU Music alacarte series featured music from Spain and England with the harp and guitar duo David Rogers and Laura Zaerr. This noon time concert at the OSU MU lounge was free and open to the public. <http://oregonstate.edu/cla/music/music-la-carte-concert-series>

Patrick Ball, Aryeh Frankfurter and Lisa Lynne in Eugene Oct. 29th

The Eugene Hotel (222 East Broadway) hosted Legends of the Celtic Harp on Saturday Oct. 29th at 7:30 pm. Tickets for this unforgettable journey are \$20.00 at the door. For more information call David Helfund at 541-345-3131 helfund2@mindspring.com.

Willamette Valley Symphony, world premier of *Concertino for Harp*.

Saturday November 12th at 7:00 at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, and again in Corvallis on Sunday Nov. 13th at Ashbrook Independent School in Corvallis. The Symphony will present a concert of new American music, including a world premier of *Concertino for Harp* by Harold Owen. Laura Zaerr, harpist for this event, studied composition with Hal Owen as an undergraduate at the University of Oregon. Tickets are adults: \$10, seniors: \$5, College and university students (with ID): \$5, children and young people under 18: free with an accompanying adult.

<http://www.willamettevalleysymphony.org/home/2011-2012-season>

UTAH

Spring Harp Festival 2011

The annual **Spring Harp Festival** was held on May 5, 2011, at Brigham Young University.

Harp Events and News from Universities in Utah

The BYU Harp Solo and Ensemble Concert, under the direction of Nicole Brady and Anamae Anderson, will be held on December 3rd at 7:30pm in the Madsen Recital Hall at the Harris Fine Arts Center. The event is free and all are welcome.

Crimson Harps, the University of Utah Harp Ensemble, under the direction of Cathy Clayton, will be performing at Gardner Hall on December 2 at 7 pm and at Summerhays Music on December 3 at 2 pm.

The Utah State University Music Department is proud to announce a new undergraduate harp performance degree under the direction of Chilali Hugo. Please visit music.usu.edu for information about the program.

New Publications & Website for Sacred Harp Music

The new website www.LDSHarpMusic.com is up and running! This website was created by Julie Gaisford Keyes and Julie Mitton Staples to be a comprehensive source for religious harp music. The music available on this website is appropriate for Latter-day Saints 'religious meetings as well as other Christian denominations' church services. The purpose of this website is to provide inspiring hymn arrangements and sacred music for all harpists at any skill level! For submission requests please email Julie@LDSHarp.com.

All Through the Night -CD recording- with harpist Julie Gaisford Keyes and flautist Steve Alder features beloved, time-honored songs woven into peaceful, whispering lullabies. These are original arrangements by Emmy-award-winning composer Kurt Bestor. The CD is available in Deseret Book, Lyon Healy West and www.LDSHarpMusic.com

Chanson-CD recording- with harpist Tamara Oswald with flautist Jeannine Goeckeritz. Both are instrumentalists with the Orchestra at Temple Square. For more information about this CD go to www.harpandblue.com.

Recitals and Concerts

Students of Julie Gaisford Keyes will play a solo harp recital with featured selections from her publication "Harpy Halloween: 13 Spooktacular Solos" on November 5, 2011, Bountiful Library.

Students of Janet Peterson and Anamae Anderson will perform a fun Halloween Harp Ensemble concert with several local harpists in November. Contact those teachers for details.

Students of Julie Staples will perform in a Christmas Harp Ensemble concert in December. They regularly volunteer playing harp at Aspen Senior Center and Jamestown Senior Living where they will also give several Christmas concerts in December.

Elizabeth White, the current AHS Concert Artist, will be performing an evening concert during the Suzuki Institute in Libby Gardner Hall (more details to follow).

Cynthia Douglass, Celtic harpist, taught a harp workshop October 1 called "Mapping the Music for Sight-reading and Memorization." There will also be another workshop on December 1. For more information email Cynthia@cynthiadouglass.com

For further information, contact Utah Chapter's Facebook page: American Harp Society Utah Chapter.

WASHINGTON

The Greater Seattle chapter held its fall meeting on Oct. 2. Guest speaker was Brad Buckles of brides.com who talked about effective ways to use the internet, especially Facebook and Twitter, for marketing oneself. Guest performer was high school senior Casey Pinckney, student of Gwen Lyons Baker, who performed part of the program for her upcoming senior recital.

Margaret Shelton, 2011 graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, where she was a student of Patricia Wooster, is in the midst of a year of working with harpists in various countries around the world. A Watson Fellowship winner, Margaret spent two months in China studying kong hou with Lin Wu. Next she goes to Hong Kong and eventually to Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, France, Spain, Ireland, the UK and Paraguay. Much of Margaret's focus during her travels will be on the varied styles and history of folk harp instruments and folk harp music in various regions of the world.

Chapter member Leslie McMichael has premiered her new 3-harp score, commissioned by Northwest Film Forum for its recent children's film festival, for the silent film "A Little Princess" starring Mary Pickford. In 2007 Leslie wrote a 3-harp score for the silent film version of "Peter Pan" which she has since performed in Washington State and Oregon as well as Oklahoma City and Houston. "Leslie's score, though traditional in many ways and entirely faithful to the film, is filled with razzle-dazzle and a sly mischief that is the perfect complement to Peter Pan's onscreen antics. Her meticulous and heartfelt performance is not only a tremendous musical accomplishment; it is also an athletic feat as she seamlessly switches back and forth between Celtic, electric and concert harps during the 102 minute film."

-Liz Shepherd, Northwest Film Forum, Seattle

Chapter president and skilled Scottish harper Judith Cummings made her annual trip home to Scotland where she visited family and taught at a summer harp camp, which she does each year. Shortly after her return, her old friend and inspiration, Irish harper Maire ni Chathasaigh, arrived for a visit and to present a house workshop and concert at Judith's. Listening to Maire rip off those ornaments at top speed is always amazing.

On Oct. 9, Casey Pinckney, 18, presented a delightful senior recital, playing pedal harp, lever harp and piano, and including classical music and several of her own jazz arrangements. One member wrote, "The audience couldn't keep from clapping! Returning to the pedal harp for Mancini's *Pink Panther* theme, she rocked a lively end to a great program." Casey currently attends classes at Bellevue College and hopes to transfer to the U. of Washington to study math. Her local fans hopes she keeps playing and arranging!

For further information, visit our website: www.ahsseattle.org

WYOMING

No news at this time.