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## Southeastern Regional Newsletter 2011

Elisabeth Remy Johnson  
570 Windsor Pkwy NE  
Atlanta, GA 30342  
404-272-4166  
remyjohanson@bellsouth.net



Dear Harpists,

I am happy to share with you the following news from around our region - with 100% of chapters participating in this newsletter! Thank you presidents and secretaries for your hard work in making this possible. As you can see, many exciting things are happening!

As always, we encourage you to promote membership in your chapters. At the Regional Director's meetings last summer, many reasons to join the AHS were discussed, and I would like to share with you the following list that was created at those meetings.

### **14 Reasons to Join the AHS:**

1. Make new friends
2. Lots of playing opportunities
3. Lots of competition opportunities
4. Harp Insurance
5. Receive the AHS journal
6. Discount to harp society events
7. Access to scholarships to camps, institutes, conferences, study
8. Access to the new Grant program
9. Access to harp archives
10. Business networking opportunities
11. Leadership training
12. Access to new music and news in the region and regional events
13. Educational Opportunities
14. Great food at events!

In addition, many ideas for regional events were presented, including the ideas for Regional Chamber Music Festivals, YouTube Events, Regional Skype Meetings, Harp Ensemble Festivals, a Teacher Support Day (to invite teachers to come together to share ideas, curriculum, music, favorite teaching pieces, problems and solutions), and a Community Service Day.

A reminder that there is now only one regional newsletter per year, though we do have short “E-Notes” available throughout the year. (Members may opt out of email newsletters and E-Notes by sending an “Unsubscribe” note to the Regional Director).

Please enjoy reading our region’s news, and best wishes for a great 2012,

Elisabeth Remy Johnson

### **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 him or her in concert. The Music Education Auditions are also a great chapter activity to help the students have musical goals and to improve their 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 will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. We are planning a concert series to include classical pedal harp, jazz pedal harp, lever harp, and chamber music. Artists who have agreed to appear in the series (subject to availability) include **Elizabeth Hainen, Park Stickney, Kim Robertson, and Nancy Allen.** Information will be distributed as details become available.

**Kaila Geisinger**, student of Jan Jennings, won first place in the Advanced I division of the solo harp competition at the Midwest Harp Festival in Tulsa, Okla., in July. She played “Prelude and Toccata” by Grandjany.

**Deborah Wendt**, student of Jan Jennings, competed in the Young Artists Solo Competition at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., on November 20, 2010 and captured third place in the strings division and third place overall in the final round. She will be entering the competition again in November 2011.

**Jennah Moulton** will be competing in the Young Artists Solo Competition at Rollins College in November, 2011. Jennah studies with Jan Jennings.

**Jan Jennings** gave a workshop and concert for the Piedmont Chapter in Mocksville, N.C., in May, 2011. She was a clinician at the Midwest Harp Festival in Tulsa, Okla., in July for the fifth consecutive year. Jan was also a clinician at the University of Redlands Summer Harp Camp in Redlands, Calif. in July. She played during the opening reception and presented a workshop on “Financial Independence for Musicians” at the World Harp Congress in Vancouver. In October, she was a clinician at the Southeastern Harp Weekend in Asheville, N.C., and gave a workshop and performance at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

Several Chapter members including **Jacqueline Ersin**, **Christian Frederick**, **Vicki Garcia**, and **Elizabeth Whitman** attended the World Harp Congress in Vancouver.

**Elizabeth Gerberding** recently released a new CD, “Dream Songs for Little Angels.” It is available on iTunes as well as sold through her website, [www.egharpist.com](http://www.egharpist.com). Elizabeth will be performing Britten’s “A Ceremony of Carols” at Trinity Episcopal Church in Vero Beach on December 9, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. and December 11, 2011, at 3:00 p.m.

St. Andrews Music Conservatory Harp Instructor **Verlon Eason** began another group harp class in October for new students interested in playing the harp. Verlon was featured in the online magazine, “All Casselberry” in their September issue. To read the article, go to [www.ALLCASS.com](http://www.ALLCASS.com).

**Cameron Huster** organized The DeLand Harp Camp at Stetson University from July 24 – 29, 2011. There were eight students ranging in age from a six year old to a nineteen year old. They each learned a solo or duet, along with three ensemble pieces which were all performed beautifully on their concert on the last day of the camp. She now teaches at the Stetson University Community School of the Arts and is a member of the Volusia County Music Teachers Association.

**Elizabeth Richter** was guest artist at our annual recital weekend July 1 – 3, 2011, at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Oviedo. She was featured in a solo concert on July 1. Ms. Richter presented two workshops and a master class on Saturday, July 2. Several vendors had exhibits during the weekend. On July 3, there was a harp ensemble concert featuring patriotic music played by the Chapter members and guests. There were 30 harps in the ensemble. A Marine honor guard presented the colors as the ensemble played the national anthem, led by **Natalie Wendt**. Guest vocalist **Lesly Dumé** sang “God Bless America” with the ensemble. Our guest for 2012 will be **Frank Voltz** and the event will be held July 6 – 8, 2012.

Members of the Central Florida Chapter will present our annual “Hanging of the Greens” Christmas harp ensemble concert on Sunday, November 27, 2011, at 3:00 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 program includes 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.

**Harp for sale:**

Triplett Christina with matching lap bar in bubinga, custom Fisher 34 SMS in bubinga with inlaid emerald on forepillar and soundboard art, Venus Prodigy extended soundboard with full L&H decal with matching music stand. All have padded custom cases, tuning keys, extra strings, tons and tons of books, videos, DVDs & CDs. Paid over \$20K for all. Would take \$11,000 for everything. Contact Tammy Lee Bradley, Port St. Lucie, tammyl568@aol.com.

Salvi Aurora, ebony, purchased new in 1976, last regulated in January 2011 by Ed Galchick. Wire strings are 3 years old; asking \$11K. Contact Gretchen Cover, ncoverjr@yahoo.com.

## **Charlotte Chapter**

(submitted by Helen Rifas)

Highlights of the Charlotte Chapter’s 2010-2011 season included our annual Christmas Harp Concerts presented at Central United Methodist Church on December 12 and at the Wells Fargo Atrium in downtown Charlotte on December 20.

Twelve students participated in the AHS Harp Auditions and Evaluations in February and March. These were organized by Betsey Sesler and the advisor was Ben Outen, founding director of the Choir School at St. Peters.

The chapter hosted AHS Concert Artist Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton on February 18 and 19. Heidi gave an evening recital of unusual and stunningly beautiful music and held a masterclass the following morning.

On May 22, members gathered at the home of Hannah Silver to honor Bette and Wolfgang Roth on the occasion of their retirement from the Charlotte Symphony after 40 years playing principal harp and principal second violin. Hannah presented her Book 3 Suzuki recital with a narrative honoring Bette, her teacher.

The 2011-2012 season opened with a workshop on jazz techniques and hymn arranging given by Frank Voltz on September 17. In February 2012, we will present Sivan Magen in concert.

Noteworthy achievements by some of our student members include:

Hannah Silver and Katharine Blanton's performance of the Vivaldi Concerto in D with the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra last spring. Hannah and Katherine are both members of the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Hannah Blalock's performance of the Ravel Introduction and Allegro with the Greensboro Symphony Chamber Ensemble last February. Hannah also placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the advanced division of the AHS Harp Competition in June.

Katelyn Mullins's performance of the Ginastera Concerto with the Charlotte Symphony in March. Katelyn placed first in the advanced division of the AHS Harp Competition in June and won the prize for best performance of Grandjany's Rhapsodie. Katelyn will be performing the Debussy Dances at Queens University in November and will be featured at the Lyon-Healy Hall Concert in Chicago next February along with other AHS competition winners.

## **Georgia Chapter**

(submitted by Carolyn Lund)

On January 28, 2011 at the Cathedral Church of Advent Mid Day Recital and on February 23, 2011 at Ramsey Hall at University of Georgia Faculty Recital Series, the Kimoni Flute and Harp Duo (Monica Hargrave, harp, and Kimberly Scott, flute) gave a world premiere of a work which was commissioned by the ensemble entitled Andean Dreams by composer Shane Lamb. The piece is based on folk tunes from the South American Region.

In February 50 harpists from the Georgia Chapter participated in our second "Really Big Harp Concert". Lynne Aspnes conducted the concert, performing pieces by Albeniz, Joplin, and Ortiz. Plans are already in place for our next ensemble concert in 2012.

Lynne Aspnes also served as the adjudicator for the AHS Music Education Auditions. She and John Wickey (TrueNorth) also performed a duo concert in the spring at the Dekalb Cultural Arts Center.

In October, Australian harpist Alice Giles performed a solo concert at Oglethorpe University. She also gave an insightful master class at The Atlanta Harp Center.

The Salon Series has continued to be an inviting atmosphere in which to perform. Taking place in a member's home, salons provide a relaxed opportunity to socialize and hear other harpists play their latest pieces. One recent salon took place in September, which also served as a general meeting. Several members performed, and Carolyn Lund was inducted as the president of the chapter. She replaced outgoing president Liesl Hagan,

who completed two 2-year terms. Vice president Mary Ann Flinn and Secretary/Treasurer Catherine Rogers were also re-elected.

## **Piedmont Chapter**

(submitted by Frank Voltz)

Sally Duran, Piedmont Chapter President, has been appointed Adjunct Harp Professor at Salem College, Winston-Salem, NC.

Ann Borden recorded a CD with Immigrant's Daughter called, "The Winter Moon." This project featured Grammy-award winner Rhiannon Giddens. Ann is recording her next CD with Immigrant's Daughter, to be released early next year.

On May 7, 2011, Jan Jennings presented two workshops and a solo concert for the Piedmont Chapter at First United Methodist Church in Mocksville, NC. Jan's interpretations of pop tunes, movie themes, Broadway show tunes, and love songs charmed the audience.

Frank Voltz has been very busy this year as a performer and clinician at harp conferences around the country and in Canada.

On May 13 - 15, 2011, Frank Voltz was a guest performer and clinician for The Harp Gathering, an annual harp conference held at Sauder Village, Archbold, OH. This is Frank's fourth consecutive year as a presenter. Each year, Frank writes an ensemble piece for the event. This year the ensemble performed his arrangement of "Can-Can" by Jacques Offenbach for four pedal or lever harps. Frank has been invited back next year (May 18-20, 2012). All are welcome to join the fun!

On June 14, 2011, Frank Voltz performed at a Relay for Life benefit fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The event was held at First United Methodist Church in Mocksville, NC. Over 200 people attended the event.

On August 12 - 14, Frank Voltz was a guest performer and clinician for a harp conference at the Franciscan Life Process Center in Lowell, MI. Frank performed on a historic 1915 gold Lyon & Healy Style 15, a new Lewis Creek 38-string lever harp, and the center's Yamaha concert grand piano.

On September 13, Frank Voltz was a guest performer and clinician for the Charlotte Chapter of the American Harp Society at Christ Covenant Presbyterian Church in Matthews, NC. Frank played a short concert between the two morning workshops and then joined many attendees afterwards for lunch.

On September 30, Frank Voltz was a guest performer and clinician at the Northern Lights Harp Festival at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. This was Frank's first international performance. He performed his Gospel jazz, original compositions, and pop set on a 40-string Lyon & Healy Prelude.

On October 7 - 9, Frank Voltz was a guest performer and clinician at the Southeastern Harp Weekend at Lutheridge Conference Center in Arden, NC. This conference attracted 159 attendees and a hall packed with harp vendors. His "Dolly

Parton Medley" stole the show! Join us next year for this annual event.

On October 12, Christina Tourin, founder and director of the International Harp Therapy Program, presented a workshop at Wake Forest Medical Center and concert at Wake Forest University Chapel.

On October 13, Frank Voltz recorded harp tracks for Martha Bassett's upcoming Christmas CD release.

On October 20, Sally Duran performed the world premiere of "Chorus Angelorum" by Tom Shelton, a work commissioned by the Guilford County School system in memory of all those who died on 9/11. The performance was held at Grimsley High School in Greensboro, NC.

On December 11, Sally Duran will be featured on King Moravian Church's Christmas Pageant CD project.

Ann Borden, Piedmont Chapter Vice President and Social Chairperson, is planning social and networking meetings at alternative venues (e.g., Childress Vineyards). Stay tuned for our next event!

## South Florida Chapter

(submitted by Kay Kemper)

### **2010-2011 Harp Happenings:**

**From the studio of Charlene Conner...**Two of my students participated in the National Federation of Music Clubs District Festival. Nicole Lamas received an Excellent in the Harp Solo category and Colleen Murray received an Excellent in the Harp Concerto category. Colleen went on to also receive an Excellent at the Florida State Junior Convention in Jacksonville, and then played the entire "Concerto in D major" by Vivaldi/Moore with the South Florida Youth Symphony that same weekend.

In May, eight of my students performed solos, duos and quartets at the Hidden Hollow Harpfest. Also in May, Nicole Lamas performed at the graduation ceremony of Archbishop McCarthy High School, (she was only a junior at the time).

**From the studio of Kay Kemper...**Last December Beryl Mancuso and Susan Manwaring spread some Christmas Cheer at the Boca Raton Rehab Center in Boca Raton and the Villa Madonna Facility in Lake Worth by playing harp and flute duets. Both have hopes of doing the same again for Christmas 2011 with Susan playing both flute and harp, though not at the same time.

**And...**about 15 adult harpists joined together during the summer of 2010 to form a "Harp Circle". Meeting only on the last Saturday of each month from June to September, fun and music making was enjoyed by all.

**Submitted by Glen Arfsten...**The Harp Circle ensemble presented a recital in the Boca

Chase Clubhouse on 27 March. (We have used their facility for rehearsal.) The program featured solos, duets and large ensembles. Harpists participating included: Bill van Patten, Charlene Conner, Glen Arfsten, Vince Giudice, Beryl Mancuso and Susan Manwaring.

## **Southwest Florida Chapter**

(submitted by Leslie Gregory)

The Southwest Florida Chapter has a newly formed chapter harp ensemble that gets together on a monthly basis, to play “just for fun”. In addition, the chapter has many exciting events in the works, which will be announced as details are finalized.