



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

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Fall 2012 Greetings!

Dear Northwest Harpists,

In June my second and last term as the Northwest Regional Director will come to an end. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you through your harp news these last six years. While serving on the Board of Directors I gained a great deal of respect for all of the many dedicated volunteers who make AHS such a successful organization. The American Harp Society has so much to offer our members: scholarships, national competitions, new harp compositions, the AHS Journal every six months, lower harp insurance, conferences with many workshops, master classes and concerts and the ability to connect with harpists from around the world who share in our appreciation of the harp.

Be sure to check out the updated AHS website at www.harpsociety.org. Also, there is now an AHS Facebook page. Follow the details for the upcoming 10th AHS Summer Institute in Los Angeles (2013) and the 41st National Conference in New Orleans (2014). I hope to see you in Los Angeles or New Orleans. Please keep me on your harp news emails, encourage others to join the Society and continue to enjoy the wonderful world of harp.

Thank you for six wonderful years!

Susi Hussong

NATIONAL NEWS:

The 10th AHS Summer Institute, Competition and Lyon & Healy Awards will take place at the Colburn School, right across the street from Disney Hall in downtown Los Angeles, CA . It will start June 12 with the Lyon and Healy Awards followed by the AHS National Competition on June 15. The Summer Institute "Focus on Friends" takes

place June 18-22 and will focus on chamber music and small jazz and pop ensembles. Coaching and master classes will be offered by well-known harpists including Heidi Lehwalder, Carol Robbins and Paul Baker. There will be world premieres of new music performed as well. Bring the family and enjoy downtown Los Angeles as well as Hollywood, Disneyland, Universal Studios, etc.

REGIONAL NEWS:

ALASKA

Skookums Sonnenschein has been a guest musician for the Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers with her musical group, the Deli Lama Orchestra, in Anchorage Alaska, Brazil, Montana, and Nepal. playing harmony.com is their web site.

When asked if the harpists in Alaska would like to start a chapter, Skookums wrote “We are spread out! Fairbanks is a 6 hour drive in good weather. Juneau is only accessible by air or water as are other coastal towns.”

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The following is news from Vancouver’s Elizabeth Volpe Bligh. In August, the Canadian International Summer Harp Institute had its first session, with faculty Elizabeth Volpé Bligh, Gianetta Baril, Judy Loman and Cristina Braga. Faculty at Celtic Harp Week in Wells in August comprised Maire ni Chathasaigh, Sharlene Wallace and Alys Howe.

Concerts and Festivals:

Judy Loman was in Vancouver in October to perform with soprano Monica Whicher, and many of our harp community attended.

VSO Principal Harpist Elizabeth Volpé Bligh gave a concert of Renaissance music for a fund-raising lunch for the VSO in November, and will be featured in a choral concert with the Trinity Western Choir Dec. 2 at the Chan Centre. The VSO's 2012/13 season has many great concerts with lots of harp, including an all-Spanish season opener, and an all-Tchaikowsky ballet program in October. Elizabeth has commissioned a piece by composer Scott Good which she will perform at the World Harp Congress in 2014 and at the VSO the following season. The VSO will be on tour in the USA from Jan. 23 to Feb. 1. Check www.vancouversymphony.ca for details.

The first BC Youth Harp Festival is set to take place on Vancouver Island, Feb. 2013. Youth harpers - all those 25 years and under will be welcomed to adjudicated solo classes, ensemble classes and an ensemble workshop led by adjudicator Sharlene Wallace

of Toronto. Gathering as many young harpers as possible, the Festival seeks to provide encouragement and opportunities for the growing number of young players in the province. Lever and pedal harps are equally welcomed, and there are some harps available for those who are travelling from greater distances. Send enquiries to: Marilyn Rummel via marilyn@harpcanada.com.

Acclaimed electric rock harpist Deborah Henson-Conant was in Vancouver at the Commodore Oct. 5 performing in the band of legendary rock guitarist Steve Vai. She was playing her strap-on electric harp which was lit up with lights all around it. She was doing some fabulous innovative rock licks and vamps and took a couple of great solos. She's with the band on a four-month tour of North America and Europe.

Patrick Ball will join Winter Harp once again this December in all the concerts except Vancouver.

CD's and DVD's:

Winter Harp's latest CD, *The Bullfighter's Daughter*, will be released in November. The recording is a fiery combination of harps, percussion and bass featuring the passions of Spain. From the Andalusian riding his horse by the thundering sea to the Girl in the Red Skirt dancing in the village square to the exotic rhythms of Tangiers -- you will be transported to another world. Vocals, violin and flute round out these tantalizing arrangements.

The VSO just recorded a DVD of a children's concert which includes *Waltz of the Flowers* and *Peter and the Wolf* with Bramwell Tovey narrating and conducting. The VSO recorded Bramwell Tovey's opera *The Inventor* last season, so it should be available for purchase this year.

Couloir, Ariel Barnes cello & Heidi Krutzen harp, had a busy year performing in Canada and the US sharing many new arrangements and three new commissions by Canadian composers Jocelyn Morlock, Glenn Buhr and American composer Baljinder Sekhon. A January performance of these new works was recorded by CBC Radio for national broadcasts on "In Performance" and "The Signal." Couloir is currently recording these new works alongside a beautiful work by Nico Muhly for their first CD "Clear Music."

Last month Couloir recorded a new work, "serere" for cello/harp and electroacoustics by James Maxwell for Ballet Kelowna. "serere" received it's premiere with Kelowna Ballet October 12. It is a vibrant, exciting new work that Couloir looks forward to performing many times! Their fourth commission is currently being composed by renowned Canadian jazz trumpeter, pianist, drummer, and composer Brad Turner.

Couloir is looking forward to many more performances this year including their Prairie Debut tour, tours in Louisiana, and Oklahoma, as well as several festival appearances in the summer. One of their concerts that features harp will take place on

Vetta Chamber Music in March to include Debussy "Danses sacree et profane," Kitka "Sonata for cello and harp," R. Murray Schafer's "Theseus," and one of Couloir's commissions. This concert will be picked up for future broadcast on CBC Radio.

Trio Verlaine, took a small pause this year while Heidi's colleagues Lorna and David moved to Pittsburgh. Lorna as Principal Flute of the Pittsburgh Symphony and David as Associate Professor of Viola and Chamber Music at Carnegie Mellon School of Music. We did get away for a week of concerts and master classes in Scotland including their debut recital for BBC Radio 3! They look forward to recording several of their commissions this year including R. Murray Schafer's "Trio for flute, viola, and harp" and Jeffery Cotton's "Six Departures," as well as performances in and around the Pittsburgh area. Visit Heidi at www.couloir.ca

IDAHO

Shari Pack is our Idaho contact harpist. She teaches harp at BYU-Idaho. This fall semester there are 18 students taking harp lessons and will be giving a recital in December.

Shari also directs a thirteen member Harp Ensemble who will perform in November. They will play 12 pieces, including Gold Bells, which is a new ensemble piece Shari wrote in celebration of her fiftieth wedding anniversary. Shari's website is www.paxharpmusic.com

MONTANA

Angela Espinosa is our AHS contact harpist in Montana. She mentioned that there was a harp conference at Boulder Hot Springs in September 2012. They decided to form the Big Sky Harp Society. Below is some of their information which can be found at bigskyharpociety.yolasite.com/

Big Sky Harp Society - Promoting Appreciation for the Harp in Montana

This site is by and for the folk and pedal harp players of Montana and surrounding states (yes, they do exist!). Here you can find players in your area, harp lessons, harps for sale, upcoming harping events and performances, and much, much more. Keep stopping by, as there will always be something new to find!

The Big Sky Harp Society was formed in September of 2012 during an exciting weekend retreat for harpers and harpists around the state. Living as a harp player in Montana has its unique challenges, as this is a very large, sparsely-populated state, but we are thrilled to form this society to promote the harp, provide connections, facilitate harp events and training, and just have fun together!

Their purpose is to facilitate connections among harp players, provide training in workshops and retreats, and just plain have fun!

OREGON

Laura Zaerr, our Eugene/Corvallis contact harpist wrote that the U of O is purchasing a new Italian arpa doppia from Catherine Campbell. The plan is to use this instrument for the Collegium Musicum, which performs 17th C. Italian opera. This harp will have 3 rows of strings, and will be used as a continuo instrument along with some lutes, and theoretically a theorbo or two. They are updating the historic harp scene in Oregon. Cheryl Anne Fulton will travel to Oregon on April 13th for an Early Harp Day event featuring this new instrument and instruct the members on how it is played. The annual Harp Day was held Nov. 3 at the University of Oregon. Julia Kay Jamieson taught a Fearless Improvisation class. She also wrote a contemporary piece called "Winter Weather Advisory" just for this event. The harp ensemble, featuring alumni of U of O and the Corvallis Harp Team also performed pieces both arranged or composed by Laura Zaerr. Jane Franz talked about A Career in Music Thanatology. The harpists who performed were Noah Brenner, Becca Fletcher, Rachel Fowler, Sharon Gorum, Christianna Hannegan, Kelly Hoff, Lindsey Mitzen; Rachel Petty, Anna Tearse, Rebecca Hilary Smith and Laura Zaerr.

UTAH

Julie Staples, our Utah Chapter contact harpist, sent the following.

"This has been an exciting year for our chapter with many concerts and events! Here are some of the highlights for the past year, 2012.

Spring Harp Festival 2012

We held our annual **Spring Harp Festival** on May 5, 2012 at Brigham Young University. We congratulate all of the students who were prepared to participate in this great event. This was our largest year so far with over 220 harpists who played and represented over 30 teachers. Harpists were scheduled in orchestra rooms E-250 and E-251 as well as in the Madsen Recital Hall between 9a.m. and 6p.m. We appreciate the dedication of the many judges, Room Monitors, Festival Coordinators and many additional volunteers who helped the event run smoothly. It is amazing how many practice, teaching and volunteer hours go into such a big event!

Save the Date-the Spring Harp Festival 2013 is scheduled for May 4, 2012 and the honors recital will be the following Saturday, May 11, 2013.

Honors Recital 2012

The Chapter held three very successful Honors Recitals, Saturday, May 12, 2012 at Lyon Healy West in Salt Lake City. This year the AHS-UT Chapter awarded 33 first trophies (15 points), 10 second trophies (30 points) to Emily Brown, Kristen Denney, Katrina Jones, Rebekah Kirkham, Kelly Lau, Sarah Livingston, Julie Ann Norman, Erika Rosen, Arrie Strom and Lyndsay Wheeler and 4 third trophies (45 points) which were awarded to Katie Damon, Caroline Richards, Mischael Staples & Isabela Maria Versteeg. Congratulations to all of these harpists, we would like to commend you for your dedication to your harp studies!

Rosalie Pratt Award 2011

This year the chapter presented the Rosalie Pratt Award which is a scholarship awarded to harpist who show great promise on the harp. It can be used to pay for harp lessons, harp rentals, or harp music and supplies. This year four student harpists were given the award which helped them to continue their harp studies for this year. We commend them for their dedication to their harp studies.

If you are interested in donating to the Rosalie Pratt Award please email julie@LDSharp.com. We welcome any donations including harps, harp music, harp supplies etc...which can be shared with our chapter members.

Recital Series 2012

This year we had our second annual afternoon 'Mini-Recital' series on Festival day. This was a **short recital with lecture/discussion** given by harpist Chilali Hugo, instructor of harp at Utah State University. It was a fabulous event where she played several solo works including Britten's Suite for Harp as well as highlights from the Ginastera Harp Concerto. She also discussed new music major options for harpist at Utah State University. It was very informative and helpful to many of our younger harpists to learn about options in the music field.

Master Classes sponsored by Lyon and Healy

Park Stickney, world traveling jazz harpists and Professor of Jazz Harp at the Royal Academy of Music taught jazz harp lessons and master classes on October 12-13 at Lyon and Healy West. He shared great ideas on jazz harp playing. He also performed in the Libby Gardner Hall. One of the Highlights of his concert was his jazzy rendition of Debussy's Dances which you can also find on YouTube.

SouthwestHarp Festival-Recital 2012

On Oct. 20th at 7:30 p.m. in the Eccles Concert Hall at Dixie State College in St. George, Utah two award-winning harpists performed a harp duo recital as part of the Southwest Utah Harp Festival. The two performers and harp teachers, Adriana Horne and Megan Landfair, hosted this event in hopes of introducing the harp to the communities of Southwest Utah. It is great to see the harp reaching many of the communities in Southern Utah to foster an appreciation for this beautiful instrument.

Temple Square Recital Series 2012

This year Julie Gaisford Keyes, harpists, performed at the Assembly Hall on Temple Square with her brother and cellist, Daniel Gaisford. They played several favorites including Meditation from Thais and The Swan. She also released her second CD, Morning Has Broken, with Flautist Steve Alder which can be found at Desert Book Stores.

New Website for Sacred Harp Music

We would like to announce a new website for sacred harp music. Please visit us at www.LDSHarpMusic.com. 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."

WASHINGTON

This year the Greater Seattle AHS chapter continued to have about 125 members who are leading very active harp lives, some of which you can read about below.

Pat Jaeger has published a new arrangement called "Adagio", a free adaptation from the second movement of Rachmaninoff's 2nd piano concerto. Pat has been teaching harp for 60 years in the Seattle area.

Twyla Eddins-Worthy cut two new albums (www.twylaeddins.com) and member Anna Wengreen issued her first CD www.annacatemusic.com/. Some other members with CDs are **Stella Benson, Nancy Heins, Susi Hussong, Gwen Lyons, Meg Mann, Susan McLain, Leslie McMichael, Ruthann Ritchie and Monica Schley.**

Catherine Barrett is one of the harpists in a November/December (2011) Harp Column article called "Booked in a Bad Economy", and one of our youth members, **Casey Pinckney**, is quoted several times in the Summer 2012 issue of the American Harp Journal article "The Time is Right for Jazz Harp." In August Casey, 18, student of **Gwen Lyons**, gave a graduation recital, including some of her own jazz compositions and arrangements, after receiving her Associates degree from Bellevue College. Now she is at Seattle U. studying math. **Susan McLain's** lesson with student Karen Ford on Salzedo technique was chosen by Harp Column (July/August) as one of the 33 best harp videos on YouTube.

Ruth Mar was the adjudicator for the thirteen students participating in our annual winter sessions. Ruth also played the Mozart *Flute and Harp Concerto* with the Rainier Symphony. As well, Ruth is the guiding light behind The Parnassus Project, which performed its inaugural concert for an emerging music series.

Leslie McMichael continues to travel around the country, including NY, MD and KY, providing the live music she composed for three harps - pedal, electric and Celtic - to accompany the silent films "Peter Pan" and "A Little Princess." (http://pluckmusic.com/silent_films.php.) Her Peter Pan CD was selected for broadcast on the nationally syndicated radio program The Score. Host and producer Edmund Stone featured two selections from Leslie's harp score on the show's latest edition devoted to New Scores for Silent Films.

Rachel Rigsby (14) was one of 11 solo and ensemble acts by students age 14-24 selected to perform in More Music @ the Moore. She played one of her own compositions.

Patricia Wooster and husband, Jim, traveled to Cuba with the Northwest Sinfonietta, attending various musical performances, working with students at a school for the deaf, and distributing harp music books, CDs and desperately needed harp strings. Pat gave a wonderful report at our fall meeting.

Also at the fall meeting, **Margaret Shelton** described and showed photos from her glorious 'round-the-world, year-long trip on a Watson Fellowship. She met, played with and learned from harp players and harp makers in about 20 countries, and even made a small harp that fit in her backpack!

The chapter awarded \$500 scholarships to **Joseph Lachman**, now in Japan for a year, and **Vanessa Stovall**. Both are students of **Susi Hussong**.

Students **Arthur Man**, **Alec Sjöholm**, **Emmeran Povorny** and teacher **Mark Andersen** were performers at the spring meeting in our first "Guys Play Harp, Too," our version of the "Real Men Play Harp" concert at last spring's Dutch Harp Festival. **Rachel Rigsby**, **Vanessa Stovall**, **Anika Patel**, **Natacha Braunstein**, **Victoria Garcia** and **Charlene Chin** also played.

Charlene Chin won first prize; **Rosalie Boyle**, third prize; and **Victoria Garcia** and **Natalie Skerlong** superior composite rating at the State Solo Harp competition sponsored by the Washington Music Educators Association.

Margaret Davis, student of **John Carrington**, was accepted at Juilliard. She gave a senior recital in June, sometimes in duo with her mother on violin and brother on trumpet.

Cassie Reinbolt was the tour harpist with the Ung Symfoni, a youth orchestra from Bergen, Norway, that concertized in Western Washington March 30 to April 6.

Harp Spectrum's director, **Joyce Rice**, posted an article on the Dilling model single-action harp.

Catherine Barrett performed Debussy's *Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp* and *After*

Syrinx this summer at the "Mozart at Monteux" festival in Hancock, ME

The chapter sponsored a November weekend with **Julia Kay Jamieson**, whom many saw at the 2010 Tacoma conference when she played in the delightful HarpCore 4. Julia led workshops in creative teaching and improv, held a master class and directed an ensemble rehearsal for one of her pieces, "between my balloon and the moon" which was also played in her concert the next day. On Sunday her concert included Ellington, Piazzola, Jamieson and others, played on pedal and Dilling single-action harps.

The Greater Seattle Chapter's website is www.ahsSeattle.org. They also have started a Facebook page.

WYOMING

No news at this time