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New England Regional Newsletter

Fall 2012

New England Regional Director
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A note from your Regional Director

Dear Harpist!

Greetings from New England, where the weather and the politics are never dull! Hope that this newsletter finds you all well and with power and that you managed to elude Hurricane Sandy's wrath! For those not so fortunate, our thoughts and prayers are with you and please let us know if you need help!

I encourage all harpists: students, professionals, and harp enthusiasts to renew or become members of the American Harp Society and enjoy the many benefits available to members. I urge you to become involved in both the National and local chapters, to ensure the Society continues to move in a positive and progressive direction.

Annual dues to both the American Harp Society and your local chapter are important to keep the organization strong. You can access applications and renewals forms online at www.harpsociety.org. National dues are \$35 students, \$50 adults. Please note that officers to both Boston and Connecticut chapters MUST be members of the national AHS.

Please email the Executive Secretary, Ashanti Pretlow, at execsecretary@harpsociety.org or call 205.795.7130 with questions about National dues. Check with your local officers for information about your chapter dues.

The AHS Directory is a great resource to connect with harpists from all over the world. Remember to check your listing in the AHS Directory for accuracy. Any changes can be submitted to our Executive Secretary, Ashanti Pretlow. Please contact Ashanti with email address changes, as well. You can also complete a member profile online at www.harpsociety.org.

There has been lots of activity in the New England area, so let's get to the news! Contributing harpists include Rebecca Bogers, Susan Knapp Thomas, Franziska Huhn, and Ina Zdorovetchi.

National News

2013 Summer Institute, Colburn School, Los Angeles

Lyon & Healy Awards

June 12, 2013 – June 15, 2013

20th American Harp Society, Inc. National Competition

June 15, 2013 – June 18, 2013

10th American Harp Society, Inc. Summer Institute

June 18, 2013 – June 22, 2013

For more information, visit [Harp Society Conference Institute](#)

The Music Education Auditions, coordinated by William Lovelace, are an opportunity to have students participate in a learning, non-competitive performing experience and play for an outside adjudicator. If your chapter is interested in having your students involved in this terrific program, please contact William at UNKNKLS@aol.com. He would love to hear from you!

Boston Chapter

Boston Chapter Officers

Rebecca Bogers - President
ahs.boston@gmail.com

Amanda Romano -
Vice-President
afharp@gmail.com

Boston Harp Festival

The Boston Harp Festival was a great success and was held September 28-September 30. It was organized by harpist, Ina Zdorovetchi. The Festival also featured many Boston Chapter members including, Barbara Poeschl-Edrich and Felice Pomeranz. The events included a final performance with Jazz Harpist, Park Stickney, on Sunday September 30, 2012 at 8pm.

October 1 - included a performance of Debussy's *Danses Sacrée et Profane* by Boston Symphony Orchestra Harpist, Jessica Zhou.

October 6 - Jessica gave a very informative masterclass at New England Conservatory. Several harpists from the Greater New England performed, and it was a wonderful afternoon of high level music making.

November 1 - John Cage Harp Ensemble concert *Postcard from Heaven* was held at the ISGM. See the wonderful recap on the next page!

November 15, 8:00pm - Rita Costanzi in *A Score to Settle* will be held at Boston Conservatory, Suelly Hall.

"This remarkable piece reveals Costanzi as a polished, energetic comic actress." - Vancouver Sun.

Admission is free. For information visit [The Boston Conservatory](#) On **November 14** Rita Costanzi has also graciously agreed to give a masterclass.

Boston Chapter

February 3 and April 14 - Student recitals to be held. Please check [Boston Chapter](#) website for further details.

February 12-13 - Chicago Symphony harpist, Elizabeth Hainen will be at Longy School of Music. Please check [Longy School](#) and [Franziska Huhn](#) for details.

February TBA - Berklee College Jazz Harp Ensemble will perform at the ASTA conference in Providence, RI in late February. More information can be found at [ASTA](#).

April 11-14 Bernard Andres will be Boston's special guest with a visit to Berklee College of Music and other locations. Check the [Boston Chapter](#) website for more details.

Postcard to Heaven- 12 member harp ensemble performed at the Gardner Museum November 1, 2012

More than 500 strings and 84 pedals at the Isabelle Stuart Gardner Museum: Celebrating Cage's 100th Birthday at the Isabelle Stuart Gardner Museum in Boston with 12 harps on November 12th was a truly harp-errific event. ISGM's new stage is surrounded by the audience and 12 harpists from AHS, NEC and Longy were spread on the floor and balconies to send their "Postcard from Heaven." They welcomed the audience with 30 minutes of music that contradicted most expectations people may bring to music: no clear melody, harmony or set meter. Instead, the students improvised according to set rules on scales Cage called ragas- sometimes all plucking intensely together, responding to each other or allowing duos to take the lead. At the end, the almost sold - out audience was stunned by the unique experience and did not dare to clap for a number of seconds. Teaching such a wide range of ages and personalities to enjoy such completely different music was a special treat and outrageous fun. Warm thanks to AHS, NEC, Longy, ISGM and the parents for making this harp-extravaganza such a success!

Boston Chapter

www.ahsboston.org

Email:

ahs.boston@gmail.com

Jessica Schaeffer -

Communications

Coordinator

Announcements:

jessschaeffer@gmail.com

Membership Forms:

Marlinda Garcia

marilinda.garcia@gmail.com

Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your AHS-Boston 2009-2010 membership: \$30/adults, \$15/students.

The form can be downloaded from our website

<http://www.ahsboston.org/membership-form>

Please mail your form to Marilinda Garcia, 23 School St, Salem, NH 03079

Website Classifieds

Harp for sale or for rent listings can be now included on your new website.

Please submit your information to ahs.boston@gmail.com

Website Teachers Directory

Listing fee: \$20. Teachers, to have your information listed, please send us your contact information and position to ahs.boston@gmail.com and make sure to mail the fee to Rebecca Bogers.

Connecticut Chapter News

Connecticut Chapter Officers

Susan Knapp Thomas -
President

Wendy Kerner Lucas
Co-Vice President
WKLHarp@gmail.com

Megan Sesma
Co-Vice President
sesma_m@hotmail.com

1. Kathleen Bride, Professor of Harp at the Eastman School of Music, gave a Master Class at the First Congregational Church in Madison CT. 10 young harpists, ages 9-17, attended and performed. A chapter lunch was served in between. Beautifully facilitated by harpist Megan Sesma, the Master Class was a terrific success and a day enjoyed by all.

2. Rebecca Squire has commissioned a piece for Harp Ensemble, "Sparkles," written by composer Tom Duffy of the Yale School of Music, which will be premiered in 4 locations and concerts in December. The performances are as follows:

12/9/12: Premiere at Trinity Church on the green, New Haven, CT 4:00pm with the Trinity Boys Choir

12/16/12: (Composer's church) Mount Carmel Congregational Church, Whitney Ave, Hamden. 10:00 am service

12/22/12: Madison Congregational Church with Trinity Boys Choir. 4:00 pm

4/6/13: MENC E. Division conference, Hartford Convention Center. Time to be determined

For more info contact: Rebecca Squire [by Text-Enhance"at email: Beckeyharp@gmail.com](mailto:Beckeyharp@gmail.com), or [by Text-Enhance"phone:\(203\) 283-1146](tel:(203)283-1146)

3. Susan Knapp Thomas has recently accepted the position of CT Chapter President, and looks forward to serving the local chapter. Wendy Kerner Lucas and Megan Sesma have agreed to serve as co-Vice Presidents; other board positions are in the process of being determined. Those wishing to help, please contact Susan!

Please remember that in order to be an officer you MUST have your AHS membership current and paid for the year!

Looking forward to a year rich with many harp activities! Please come and share the music and we look forward to seeing you at many of these exciting events!

Warm wishes, Felice

Felice Pomeranz
New England Regional Director
AHS Chairman of the Board