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Southeastern Regional Newsletter

Featuring news from North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida

From the Regional Director:

Greetings! As your newly appointed Regional Director, I am delighted to hear of so many exciting harp events happening in the southeast. I hope you will enjoy reading about the many successes of our neighboring chapters. I am also happy to report that all of the active chapters in the region participated in compiling this newsletter.

I hope many of you were able to join the American Harp Society in celebrating its 50th Anniversary at the conference in New York City this past summer. The next conference will be held a little closer to home – New Orleans! Mark your calendars now to attend June 22-24, 2014. Also, the next AHS Summer Institute and National Competition will be June 18-22, 2013, in Los Angeles.

The American Harp Society web site (www.harpsociety.org) has recently been

updated. Now you can create a profile, manage your account, and see several new features.

Please also “Like” the new AHS Facebook page! It’s a great way to hear news from other chapters and members, and also share your own items of interest with other harpists.

The American Harp Journal is now accepting submissions for publication. If you have an article to contribute, please see the instructions on the AHS web site under “Publications”.

This newsletter is published once a year, and if you would have any news you would like to be included next time, please send the details to me by October 15, 2013. Also, please feel free to contact me if I can help your chapter in any way.

Warmest wishes,

Carolyn Lund

Charlotte Chapter

Submitted by Pamela Mullins

In February 2012, our chapter sponsored a concert and master class by Sivan Magen. In March 2012, Delaine Fedson visited our chapter, worked with our young Suzuki students in a class, and taught private lessons.

Sebastien Mitchell, student of Bette Roth (and her grandson) wrote an original composition for the harp through the Reflections Program and won first place in his school and honorable mention at the district level. At the time Sebastien was in first grade.

Julia Van Patter and Katherine Blanton, students of Bette Roth, participated in the Young Artist Harp Competition in Rabun Gap, GA this summer. Julia won third place in the competition. Caroline Violante attended the Young Artist Harp Seminar in Rabun Gap.

Tamar Rowe, student of Bette Roth, received a partial scholarship to attend the Interlochen Summer Music Camp.

Bette Roth and Julia Van Patter went on a mission trip to Peru and took a small lap harp for children to play on. Julia accompanied on the harp.

Katelyn Mullins, Jacobs Music Scholarship for full merit scholarship to Indiana University, is studying harp with Susann McDonald. Katelyn also participated in the Netherlands International Harp competition in March of 2012.

The Charlotte Chapter kicked off the year with a basic harp maintenance workshop. Wolfgang Roth talked about harp maintenance and new CSO harpist, Andrea Mumm, gave a quick course in tuning & transporting harps. Bette Roth told students all they need to know about strings and stage presence, and Katherine Blanton performed. The meeting ended with an ice cream social.

The Charlotte Chapter is dedicating the 2012 - 2013 year to welcoming our new Charlotte Symphony Harpist, Andrea Mumm. Sunday, November 4, 2012, Andrea was the featured artist in a chapter-sponsored concert, which was part of the St. Ann Catholic Church Concert Series. Katherine Blanton was the featured young artist on this concert. Andrea will also be featured in a Chapter ensemble concert March 17, 2013.

Leah Reeder and Tamar Rowe are harpists for the Charlotte Symphony Youth Orchestra. Olivia Reeder and Arynne Cole are the Junior Youth Orchestra harpists. All girls are students of Bette Roth.

The Roth Harp Studio Suzuki Class performed at the Musical Petting Zoo an hour before the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra Lollipop Children's Concert, November 10, 2012, as well as the ImagineOn Children's Theater.

Kristin Andes has heard from about 6 people who are interested in therapeutic harp and is planning to begin an outreach to our community. Kristin Andes attended the Southeaster Harp Week-end in Asheville the last weekend of October and came away with much enthusiasm and some great ideas!!!

Our chapter is planning a joyful Christmas celebration with six community concerts.

In January and February 2013, *we think* we are celebrating the 25th consecutive year of offering Auditions and Evaluations in our area.

Georgia Chapter

Submitted by Carolyn Lund

The Georgia Chapter is busily preparing for our third Georgia Chapter Harp Ensemble Concert on Feb. 24, 2013 at Roswell Presbyterian Church. Held every other year, these concerts have been wonderful at bringing the harp community in Georgia together and also reaching out to new audiences. We have over 50 harpists who will be participating this year, performing pieces by Ravel, Renie, Massenet, and others.

Our annual Music Education Auditions were held in February and March, with nearly 20 students participating. Valerie Whitman served as the adjudicator, and the students were edified by her very knowledgeable, supportive influence.

We have enjoyed holding "Harp Salons" every few months. All chapter members are invited to come, perform a piece they are working on, or just listen to others. This informal setting has proven to be very encouraging and a great way to meet other harpists in the area.

The Atlanta Harp Center Ensemble, directed by John Wickey, was recently formed in September. The first concert was on Nov. 17, and featured works by Salzedo, Ravel, and several original arrangements by John Wickey. The 9-member ensemble looks forward to more concerts in the future.

Judy Loman served as a wonderful guest artist at The Young Artists Harp Seminar last summer in Rabun Gap, Georgia. She will be returning as the guest artist again in 2013. For more information, visit www.harpseminar.com.

The 2012 North Dekalb County Bach Competition included a harp category for the first time. Madeline Chen, student of John Wickey, won first place in the elementary division. Ahran Lee, student of Ellen Foster, won first place in the intermediate division, and Amanda Melton, student of Susan Brady, won first place in the advanced division.

Tinsley Stokes, student of Susan Brady, won the Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra audition this year. Naomi Cohen, also a student of Susan Brady, won the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra audition.

The TrueNorth Harp Duo (comprised of Georgia chapter member John Wickey and Lynne Aspnes), gave AHS chapter recitals in San Francisco and Los Angeles in November, 2012. The duo was also the featured artist in a Central New York concert/workshop in October.

The Atlanta Harp Center hosted a Holiday Music Event on September 16, and featured solos by Lisa Handman and Carolyn Lund. The harp center also hosted a concert/workshop with Grainne Hambly and Billy Jackson on October 20th.

Southwest Florida Chapter

Submitted by Leslie Gregory

In 2012, the Southwest Florida Chapter celebrated its 18th anniversary. We are proud of our long history and look forward to a bright future. In October, our chapter hosted a fascinating "hands on" harp seminar presented by a local accredited performance hypnotherapist who assisted us with memorization skills and performance success.

Our Harp Circle Ensemble, formed in 2011, continues to meet monthly, exploring new music while celebrating our joy of playing together. This December we will present our 2nd annual community concert at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates Holiday Nights in Fort Myers, FL. We have also been invited to play for a women's Christmas luncheon at a local country club.

Two future workshops are planned using SKYPE technology to link us with our presenter. Our annual workshop will be held January 26, featuring guest artist Tasha Robinson, soloist and symphony orchestra harpist.

Central Florida Chapter

Submitted by Jan Jennings

The Central Florida Chapter is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with a concert series. We had Park Stickney, jazz harp, on February 19. Elizabeth Hainen, solo classical harp, on April 1, Kim Robertson, Celtic harp, on September 23, and finished with Nancy Allen and chamber ensemble on November 18. Kim Robertson also did a workshop. It has been an incredible experience to have some of the top players here for our Silver Anniversary.

Kaila Geisinger spent four weeks studying at a harp academy this summer in Nice, France with renowned harpists Sylvain Blassel, Emmanuel Ceysson, Marie Pierre Langlamet, and Elizabeth Fontan Binoche. Lessons were conducted in both private and master class fashion. She heard Emmanuel Ceysson and Marie Pierre Langlamet in concert. Kaila was selected to perform Caplet's *Divertissement* and Grandjany's *Prelude* and *Toccata* at the Conservatoire National à Rayonnement Régional de Nice's concert hall. Kaila is a student of Jan Jennings.

Jennah Moulton, student of Jan Jennings, competed in the Young Artists Solo Competition at Rollins College in November, 2011, and placed second in the strings division. She also received an Honorable Mention in the Space Coast Pops Young Artists Competition in 2012.

Jan Jennings was guest clinician and performer for the HarpArts Adult Harp Retreat in Helen, Ga., in June. She was guest artist for the New Orleans Jazz & Pop Harp Weekend in June, 2012, and a clinician at the Midwest Harp Festival in Tulsa, Okla., in July for the sixth consecutive year. She will give a concert for the Nashville Chapter in Tennessee on November 4. In 2013, she will be teaching and performing at Beginning in the Middle in Williamsburg, Va., and returning to Tulsa for the Midwest Harp Festival.

Haley Rhodeside, a senior studying with Susann McDonald at Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, is preparing for the USA International Harp Competition next summer. She is working at Vanderbilt Music.

Verlon Eason encourages harpists or harp lovers to check out her website, www.verloneason.com for a wide array of great harp gifts...perfect for holiday or birthday gifts!

Cameron Huster performed the Boildieu *Concerto* with the Stetson University Chamber Orchestra on September 14. The second annual DeLand Harp Camp was held at Stetson University from July 23rd to July 27th under the direction of Cameron Huster. Ms. Huster played Grandjany's *Aria in Classic Style* with organ professor Dr. Boyd Jones and Reade's *Victorian Kitchen Garden Suite* with clarinet professor Dr. Lynn Musco on August 28th for Stetson University's "Friends of Music" concert. She also participated in the Sigma Alpha Iota Instrument Petting Zoo on September 29th which helped introduce children to the harp for the first time. Two of her students, Sienna Turner and Zarah Walters, were chosen to perform for the Volusia County Music Teachers Association concert last May. Another student, Kayla Mahnken, performed parts of Vaughan Williams' *Five Variants on Dives and Lazarus* with the St. Andrew's Chamber Orchestra on October 21st. Kelly Wells, a sophomore harp minor at Stetson, played the *Adagietto* from Mahler's Symphony 5 with the Stetson University Chamber Orchestra on November 6th.

Frank Voltz was the guest artist at our annual recital weekend July 6 – 8, 2012, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo. He was featured in a solo concert on July 6 in which he played lever and pedal harp and piano. Mr. Voltz presented two workshops and a master class on Saturday, July 7. On July 8, there was a harp ensemble concert featuring Frank Voltz's arrangements played by the Chapter members and guests. The Moulton family, Jack, Jennah, and Naomi, danced a beautiful ballet number during "Waltz of the Flowers." We had professional dancers join us during "Strolling through the Strings" and "Can-Can", and Mike Garcia appeared as "The Lone Ranger" and Allende Franco appeared as "Tonto" during a skit before the "William Tell Overture." There were 22 harps in the ensemble.

Members of the Central Florida Chapter will present our annual "Hanging of the Greens" Christmas harp ensemble concert on Sunday, December 2, 2012, 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.

Harps for sale:

Dusty Strings 36-String lever harp in bubinga, approx. 6 yrs. old and in mint condition. Includes almost complete extra set of strings, matching bubinga tuner, dust cover and thick padded transport case. Asking \$4,200. Contact Roxanne Baggott at (407) 925-1248.

Lyon & Healy Gold Style 11, natural quilted maple, with 3 piece transport set, padded dust cover, and tuning key. Purchased July 2008, not played after 2009. Regulated May 2009 in my home by L&H, the harp has never been moved. Almost a full set of strings included, including wires. Natural L&H Mahler music stand available. Asking \$45K (current new price is \$52,500). Contact Michele Johnson at (407) 970-4819, keno6319@yahoo.com.

Lyon & Healy Ogden, Natural, with padded cover and tuning key. Full set of Performance Levers. Strung with Bow brand gut. Purchased October 2007. Played for less than a year. \$2,100. Manhasset Voyager music stand, padded keyboard bench, and Korg tuner available. Contact Michele Johnson at (407) 970-4819, keno6319@yahoo.com.

South Florida Chapter

Submitted by Charlene Conner

The South Florida Chapter of the American Harp Society has had many activities this past year. In April we had two Member Recitals. The first one was at the Hollywood Branch Library cosponsored by the Music Club of Hollywood Florida & Friends of the Hollywood Libraries. Participating members were Olivia Aleguas (with her father on flute), Vince Giudice (also playing tenor recorder), Gabriela Gutierrez, Nicole Lamas, Colleen Murray, Nancy Palmer, Charlene Conner & Deborah Fleisher.

The second concert was at the Waterberry Clubhouse in Boca Raton where we often meet in the summer for our Harp Circle gatherings graciously hosted by Susan Manwaring. Participating members were Glen Arfsten, Charlene Conner, Nancy Ann Gillan, Vince Giudice, Beryl Mancuso & Susan Manwaring (also on flute). Both concerts featured solos, duos & large ensembles.

In May we had a meeting & held elections at the home of Charlene Conner in which the following new officers were elected: Charlene Conner-President, Stacey Berkley-Vice-President, and Susan Manwaring-Secretary. Karen Lang continues to be Treasurer & Dr. Glen Arfsten continues to be our Email Correspondent who keeps us informed about harp concerts, harps for sale, harp news & is extremely generous in sharing his arrangements with our members that we can download & enjoy.

During the summer we met once a month for informal harp circles and in September internationally known harpist Alfredo Rolando Ortiz presented workshops on Latin & South American rhythms & techniques & also on performing & preventing injury. Alfredo's wife Luz Marina also came & brought many of her items from her harp jewelry collection with which to tempt & entice us all. It was a fun day at the home of Charlene Conner where pedal, lever, Paraguayan & Arpa Llanera harps & harpists from the tri-county area gathered to learn & exchange ideas. We look forward to another season full of harp events throughout south Florida.

Piedmont Chapter

Submitted by Frank Voltz

On Monday, October 29, 2012, Sally Duran, current harp professor at Salem College and President of the Piedmont Chapter of the AHS, and Frank Voltz, nationally acclaimed concert harpist, performed harp solos and duets at Arbor Acres, a United Methodist retirement community located in Winston-Salem, NC. The concert celebrated Hazel Nading's generous donation of her gold Lyon & Healy Style 17 (1947) to Salem College for use by young harp students. The program was performed on Hazel's harp and on the Lyon & Healy Salzedo (1931) donated by Hazel's harp instructor at Salem College, Eleanor Guthrie. Several students of Sally Duran also performed on the program including Amelia Gerlach, Hannah Hicks, Bethany Malchuck, Miracle Thomas, and Nia Williams. The event was well attended by faculty and administrators from Salem College and many friends and guests. Hazel graduated Cum Laude from the Salem College School of Music in 1946. Through the years, Hazel played with the Winston-Salem Symphony, for weddings and receptions, and in churches. As a resident at Arbor Acres, she has performed three solo Christmas harp concerts and was a member of the Sharps and Flats with whom she performed on the harp as well.