



Southwestern Region Newsletter

Jaymee Haefner, 2216 Acorn Bend, Denton, TX 76210
Jaymee.Haefner@unt.edu 940.565.3739

Fall 2013

Greetings!

Every year, I continue to be amazed at the breadth and depth of programs that our Southwestern AHS Chapters host, and this year is no exception! I encourage you to read through the upcoming events in this newsletter, and to consider visiting your "neighbor" chapters for some truly historic events which will be taking place this year.

*Looking ahead to this summer, the 41st National Conference will be held at the Astor Crown Plaza in the French Quarter of New Orleans, **June 22-June 25, 2014**. This year's theme is "Harp Carnivale," and will feature fine chamber performances and small ensembles. The Anne Adams Awards will take place before the National Conference at the Astor Crown Plaza June 20-21, 2014. I look forward to seeing many of you there!*

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I would like to offer special congratulations to Patricia Adams Harris of the Saguaro (Tucson) chapter, as she celebrates 50 years with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra. Please see additional information about her career on page 7-8 of this newsletter.

As a friendly reminder, please encourage the members of your local chapters to become members of the national AHS, Inc. to have the full benefits of the society. By joining, they will receive the American Harp Journal, access to harp insurance, email notifications, and will be able to participate in all activities of the Society including competitions and summer gatherings.

The AHS has a website at www.HarpSociety.org, which contains a new membership portal! Please log in to update your contact information, tell us about yourself, and upload a photo. This portal will make it easier for you to contact other AHS, Inc. members, and will help the Society be more connected. We also welcome you to join us on FaceBook. We publish one annual newsletter for our region, so this newsletter includes information about both past and future chapter events. Please feel free to email details of future happenings to me at jaymee.haefner@unt.edu by October 15, 2013 for inclusion in next year's AHS Southwestern Region newsletter.

Our region certainly has a great many things to celebrate. Thank you for all you do to promote the harp! And, please feel free to contact me anytime. I always enjoy hearing from your chapters and your members, and hope to see many of you in New Orleans for the Conference this summer!

Warmest wishes,

Jaymee Haefner
Southwestern Region Director and National Secretary
jaymee.haefner@unt.edu
940-453-0488 (cel)

Visit the AHS website at www.harpsociety.org. We also welcome you to join the National and Southwest Region FaceBook groups.

Austin Chapter

Lisa Lamb, President
www.AustinHarpSociety.org

The Austin chapter has an exciting season planned for 2013-2014. In October, Therese Honey will present a workshop on Irish and Scottish Traditional Music. The AHS Auditions and Evaluations program will take place in February and March with Rebecca Todaro as our guest adviser. In May, Emily Mitchell and Jaymee Haefner will give a duo concert and masterclass. More information on these events as well as other harp-related concerts in the Austin area can be found on our newly updated website at www.austinharpsociety.org.

Congratulations to all harpists from our region who prepared for the 2013 National Competition!



- **From the studio of Elaine Barber:**

The Girl Scout Harp Ensemble is pleased to welcome two new members, Scout and Willow Goldsmith, bringing our total membership to 7. The GSHE will be participating in the All Out for Scouting event Sun 10/13/2013, and performing at the Summit at Westlake nursing home on 11/20. The GSHE is honored to be invited to perform at the 2014 Austin's Women of Distinction Luncheon in March, and we are in the beginning stages of planning a trip to the AHS National Conference in New Orleans next summer. This past summer Sasha Richie participated in the American Youth Harp Ensemble Summer Institutes in Frederick, MD and Richmond, VA. Jessica Wiedemeier attended the University of Texas Longhorn Harp Camp. Elaine Barber will be performing a series of concerts featuring music written for her by Mississippi composer James Sclater at Cobra Studios in Austin, the Runnels School in Baton Rouge, Reinhardt University in Georgia, and Mississippi College, in support of her new recording, James Sclater: Music for Harp.

- **From the studio of Delaine Leonard Fedson:**

Delaine Leonard Fedson continued her term as AHS, Inc. President, and was Vice-Chairman of the 2013 Summer Institute and National Competition at the Colburn School in Los Angeles. While in Los Angeles, she presented with Leslie Stratton Norris and Elaine Pack Litster in the Multi-level Harp Ensemble panel. In April 2013, Yolanda Kondonassis presented master classes at the UT Butler School, and the UT Harp Ensemble hosted harpists from RRISD, AISD, and Eanes ISD in an area-wide Harp Ensemble Festival Concert. Kela Walton collaborated with Delaine in teaching the 2013 Longhorn Music Camp, which had 14 students from five different school districts and three states. Delaine maintained an active performing career throughout the year, performing with the Dallas Opera, Austin and San Antonio Symphonies, Celtic Woman and Zelda touring shows, and as a featured solo artist for the prestigious Butler School Jessen Concert Artist Series. Delaine's collaborators for the Jessen Series Concert were harpist Jacquelyn Venter and mezzo-soprano Kathryn Findlen. In May 2013, three of Delaine's university students received degrees: Sara Watson (BA, Southwestern University), Christine Van Arsdale (MM, Winthrop University), and Meredith McCay (BM, Butler School, UT Austin). Suzuki student Johanna Hein participated in, and won, the Junior Division of the AHS National Competition. Butler School graduate, Lisa Lamb, participated in the Lyon & Healy Awards at the Colburn School, and current Butler School student Emily Melendes was a finalist in the Advanced Division of the AHS National Competition and was awarded Honorable Mention at the Lyon & Healy Awards. Emily Melendes also was a substitute for the New World Symphony and served as the harpist at the Breckenridge Festival for the third consecutive year. Current Butler School graduate student Vincent Pierce was an official 2013 SXSW performer with his band, Les Rav. Region 26 Suzuki students Caitlin Komm won first chair orchestra, and Rebecca Norman and Taylor Hemby won spots (4th & 7th respectively) in the region Harp Ensemble. In Region 18, Grace Neal won first chair middle school orchestra, Marijka Tilton won first chair high school orchestra, and Kayla Bench won first chair in the high school philharmonic orchestra.

- **From the studio of Lisa Lamb:**

Lisa Lamb is the current president of the Austin chapter of the American Harp Society. Recently, her piece "Summer Suite" for flute and harp (lever or pedal) was published by ALRY Publications and her book "Harp Games" became available for purchase through Lyon & Healy. Lisa continues to perform in the Austin Civic Orchestra and maintains an active teaching studio of harp, flute, and music theory students. For the 2013-2014 season, Lisa and Amy Frazier are co-directors of the Young Texas Harp Ensemble. The ensemble is looking forward to performances this December at Anderson High School and the Bob Bullock Museum.

- **From the studio of Kela Walton:**

Kela Walton enjoyed attending the 2013 AHS Summer Institute in LA in June, and is excited to serve as a Director at Large on the Board of Directors for AHS Inc. This fall Kela accepted the position of Adjunct Harp Instructor at Temple College in Temple, TX and she continues to perform with the Temple Symphony Orchestra. Kela began her fifth year teaching in the Round Rock ISD Harp Program this fall, and continues to maintain a private studio at her home in Austin, TX. This past year Kela's students Whitney Souery and Analee Cantu won positions in the TMEA All-State Ensembles after several rounds of auditions in October and November 2012. Whitney, then a high

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school freshman, ranked first in the state and performed principal harp with the TMEA All-State Symphony Orchestra on February 16, 2013. Analee, then a high school junior, performed second harp in the TMEA All-State 5A Concert Band. Last spring Kela Walton & Natalie Teodori co-directed the 4th Annual Round Rock ISD Harp Ensemble Festival; twenty-five RRISD harp students participated in the weekend festival which culminated in a concert on April 6, 2013. Gabbie Bernhard earned a First Division rating on her solo performance at Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools State Music Competition in April. Fourteen students from Kela's studio performed on the first UT Harp Ensemble side-by-side concert at the University of Texas on April 14, 2013. Analee Cantu, Magera Shaw, and Whitney Souery qualified to compete in four events at the UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble Competition in May. Analee and Magera each won silver medals for their respective solo performances and together earned a bronze medal for their duet; Whitney won a gold medal for her solo performance at TSSEC. More news from Kela Walton's studio can be found at www.students.kelaharp.com



- **From TMEA Region 26:**

Students from the Round Rock, Georgetown, and Lake Travis areas auditioned for the Region 26 Middle School Orchestra, High School Orchestras, and Harp Ensemble on October 12, 2013. Caitlin Komm (student of Delaine Fedson) won first harp, and Whitney Souery (student of Kela Walton) won second harp in the High School Orchestra. Lizzie Ferguson (student of Natalie Teodori) won first harp and Carolyn Cravey won second harp (student of Kela Walton) in the Middle School Orchestra. The Region 26 Harp Ensemble members in chair order are: Analee Cantu, Magera Shaw, Ariadna Demkov, Rebecca Norman, Gabbie Bernhard, Sydney Rieder, Taylor Hemby, Catherine Wu, Michelle Balconi-Iamica, Logan McDonald, Victoria Kirkwood, and Julianne Dreiling. The Harp Ensemble, under the direction of guest clinician Elaine Barber, and the Region 26 Orchestras perform at 4pm on Saturday November 23, 2013 at the Round Rock ISD Performing Arts Center.

Visit the Austin Chapter's website at
www.AustinHarpSociety.org

Dallas Chapter

Becky Scherschell, President
www.DallasHarpSociety.org

WELCOME to another exciting year with the American Harp Society in Dallas 2013-14 from the Executive Board! Now that fall is upon us, it's time to look forward to another year of programs, events and gatherings. We also are still celebrating our 50th anniversary as a chapter. Enclosed are a Calendar of Events and a Membership Enrollment Form, which is due on November 17, 2013. Membership dues may be paid at our first or second meeting, or mailed.

We have many wonderful harp events this year and hope you will be as excited about them as we are. Our first meeting on Oct 20th will be a program given by the UNT Harp Ensemble, HarpBeats, directed by Dr. Jaymee Haefner. They are a wonderfully diverse and polished group, and it will be a treat to hear them.

AHS in Dallas sponsored a 50th Anniversary Composer Competition earlier this year. We had over 30 new compositions from all over the world entered, which were either for solo harp or featuring the harp. The First Place and Honorable Mention winners were announced on August 1st, and these compositions will be performed at a special recital in March.

AHS in Dallas is sponsoring the amazing harpist, Judy Loman in a 3-day visit to our area in February. Judy was the harpist for the Toronto Symphony for over 40 years. This will be a rare opportunity to hear her in concert, attend or participate in her masterclasses, or have a harp lesson with her.

Emily Mitchell will also be coming to our area in March, sponsored by UNT. She grew up in



Visit the Dallas Chapter's website at
www.DallasHarpSociety.org



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Dallas, and went on to win first prize in the 7th International Harp Competition in Israel. Besides playing a duo recital with Jaymee Haefner at UNT and conducting a masterclass, she will be the evaluator of the second phase of our AHS in Dallas Auditions and Evaluations. This is an incredible opportunity for students!

Please see the enclosed Events Calendar for the full line-up for the year. It's awesome!! Thank you for your support and membership in the American Harp Society in Dallas. You are also invited to visit our interactive website at www.DallasHarpSociety.org for more information, or to contact any board member at info@DallasHarpSociety.org. We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you. Best wishes in this upcoming year!

Sincerely,

Becky Scherschell, President -- Naoko Nakamura, 1st V-Pres.-Programs
 Laurel McConkey, 2nd V-Pres.-Membership -- Jennifer Betzer, Secretary
 Patrick Stanfill, Treasurer -- Maia Jourde, Student Events
 Yumiko Endo Schlaffer, Historian/Webmaster -- Kate Gabriele, Hospitality
 Susan Koskelin, Assistant Secretary -- Carol West, Assistant Hospitality

Greater Houston (San Jacinto) Chapter

Terese Weber, President

www.HoustonHarp.org

Please join us for the next meeting of the Greater Houston Chapter of the American Harp Society on Sunday, October 7 at 3:00. This meeting will be held at the home of Arpi Lamell, 5131 Glenmeadow, Houston, Texas 77096.

There will be an ensemble program featuring Louise Trotter, Emily Mitchell, and other wonderful harpists. The Lyon Healy Style 17 harp that is for sale by the Chapter will be played in the ensemble and will be available for interested buyers to try out after the performance.

The ensemble program will be followed by a Harpers' Bazaar, so clear out your music cabinet and knick-knack shelf and bring in anything harp related that you would like to sell--music, CDs, collectibles, etc. Please mark a price on your items. Proceeds will benefit the Chapter, and our new treasurer, John Gearhart, will be our cashier. (Please note that you are responsible for taking anything of yours that doesn't sell back home with you!)

Announcing our new slate of officers:

Terese Weber, President -- Kay Martin, Vice-President
 Elizabeth Paine, Secretary -- John Gearhart, Treasurer
 Louise Trotter, President Emeritus

Lubbock Chapter (inactive)

Gail Barber, President

Our most exciting news is that I received a midnight telephone call from my former student, Adriana Horne, about 3 weeks ago, telling me that she had just won the audition for Principal Harp in the National Symphony, Washington, D.C.! I couldn't be happier! She was runner-up for the St. Louis Sym. audition and had won the San Francisco Ballet in July.

*Visit the Houston
 Chapter's website at
www.HoustonHarp.org*

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Adriana came to me in 2002 after not playing the harp for 2 years. She didn't even have one in her house, but wanted to know if I would consider taking her as a student. I had heard her as a winner in the AHS Competition, knew how talented she is and said I would be delighted to have her at TTU.

She entered as a graduate student in the fall of 2002. We immediately got busy and she and her flutist won the Concerto audition with the first movement of the Mozart Concerto. They played it on the Orchestra tour the following spring. We started the repertoire for the ASTA Competition that following fall (2003). We had a great time working on the Tournier: Sonatina #2. We spent hours working on the interpretation (what I enjoy doing most, especially with a student of her caliber). We recorded the tape in my studio. It took a long time- you can't have any edits, so we did each movement several times and ended up polishing it really well. She sent it to ASTA, won Texas, and made it to the National Finals (one of 3 harpists). The Finals were held in Dallas during the spring of 2004. Adriana had a slight memory slip, so another contestant won, but Adriana was the best musician.



Adriana went to Indiana for the doctorate, but she had lessons with me any time she was in this area. Her mother, Debbie, who is a pianist and a delight, came with her and the three of us had a great time. She won the AHS Young Professional Competition in June 2005 after finishing her MM here at TTU in August, 2004. After that she won the 3-year fellowship in the New World Symphony in Miami.

She finished New World about 3-4 years ago and her parents moved back to Nevada at that time. She has been teaching at Dixie College in St. George, Utah since then and preparing for auditions. I knew she would win a big audition. The time has been right! And she has worked hard. Congratulations, Adriana.

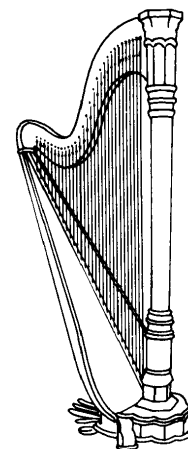
Dr. Gail Barber decided to retire from full-time teaching on May 31, 2013. Her boss hired her back part-time to continue teaching: HARP!! She retired from the Lubbock Symphony in 2010, since she had wonderful graduate students to fill the position. She still plays the Roswell Symphony and Nutcracker performances for Ballet Lubbock. Several harp students have just graduated.

There is scholarship money available for both undergraduate and graduate students. Auditions for the SOM are being held in January and February. You are welcome to arrange a visit at any time- the sooner the better. The university has scholarship money for students with high academic scores. It is best to apply to TTU ASAP during the fall. The scholarship money is first come, first served. The SOM is part of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Please go online and apply to the university (ttu.edu) and to the SOM. Feel free to contact me personally at my land phone: 806-799-3320. I will be happy to visit with you. Janet Ross works with undergraduate applications and scholarships. But harpists should call me personally. www.gailbarber.com Google ttu.edu school of music. Go to Directory for the SOM. We have some websites.

The following students played in the Harp Solo and Ensemble Concert in early May, 2013. Mary Reigner, Mara Garza, Lauren Wessels, Melissa Berger, Rachel Mazzucco, Jenny Kirk Miller, Cassandra Lowe, Hugh Crow.

Cassandra finished her MM in Music Ed, Hugh Crow finished with a BA in Music and a BA in History, Melissa Berger is now student teaching in Houston and will graduate in December. Both Rachel and Jenny are now working on their doctoral degrees. Lauren Wessels is a senior working on her BM in Harp Performance. Mara Garza is a sophomore working on a BM in Harp Performance and TC. She is very talented and is doing very well academically. Jenny, Rachel, and Lauren all were asked to play with the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra last season. Lauren played a violin concerto by a composer named Leshnoss.

She also substituted for Gail Barber in the Roswell Symphony. Lauren Wessels will play with the TTU Symphony on October 27. She will perform Danse Macabre and Night on Bald Mountain. Rachel Mazzucco played Principal harp in the Lubbock Symphony during 2012-2013. She played the Mahler Symphony #1. She also played the Ravel: Pavane. Rachel and Jenny each played a performance of Ravel: Alborada del gracioso with the Amarillo Symphony.



During the Lubbock Symphony auditions for 2013-2014, Jenny and Rachel tied. They will probably



HARP. Height, 5 ft. 8 in.

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alternate playing Principal. They played the Mahler Symphony #2 in September. They will play Death and Transfiguration and Shostakovich #5 during March and May. Jenny has also been performing with the Amarillo Opera. She played *Candide* during the spring and just played Donizetti: *Lucia de L.* She also played Puccini: *Madame Butterfly*. Jenny will play a new work next week: *I Remember* (based on Ann Frank's Diary) by Michael Cohen. The other instruments are: voice, flute and cello. She will also perform it on her first Doctoral Recital. Rachel is working on a piece by Takemitsu for Flute, Viola and Harp called 'Twas Wind.'

Phoenix Chapter

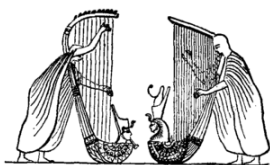
Adrienne Bridgewater, President

The Phoenix Chapter kicked off the new year with a meeting dedicated to learning about how to read music on an ipad or tablet. Chapter member and techno wizard David Ice gave attendees an interactive tutorial on how to scan and download sheet music to a portable device. He showed us a foot pedal (no, we really don't need one more, do we?) that enables us to "turn the page" and answered the question, "Do you still need a harp stand light?" The answer is "Only if you want to see your strings in the dark." Oh these details!

Contributed by Dr. Shelley B. Wiest:

The February 2013 meeting of the Phoenix Chapter of the American Harp Society was hosted by WieStudios at the home of Paul and Shelley Wiest. Dr. Heidi Tims Hernandez, previous member of HarpFusion under the leadership of world-acclaimed harpist Dr. Carrol McLaughlin, provided an outstanding recital of classical, sacred, and current harp music. Seventy-four people attended the meeting including nationally recognized harpist Phyllis Peters from Reading, PA. After the meeting, many students played the instruments in the gallery of WieStudios and were educated on harp care and moving harps by Phoenix harp technician Keith McLaughlin.

- Our March meeting was held at the home of Phoenix Chapter Vice President, Alla Yashneva. The focus was on the young harpist and 25 attendees welcomed a 7 year old prize winning Canadian harpist. All the young harpists had the opportunity to perform and learn about harp repertoire.
- In April we attended our annual Tea in the beautiful backyard of member Linda Petersen. Many harpists performed a variety of music while we enjoyed delectable treats.
- May is the month of the Spring Recital. Twenty three harpists performed solos and duos followed by a reception.
- At our September meeting, harpist and videographer David Ice presented an entertaining expose of the technical aspects of creating musical film.
- At the October meeting, members dug out our Spooky Tunes to demonstrate how special effects create the sounds of menacing knocks, creaking doors and flying bats to demonstrate how the harp is the scariest of all instruments. This meeting is always such a Graveyard Smash!
- In November, the Phoenix Chapter hosted our version of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) exams. Sixteen harpists performed the required music to receive comments from judge Patti Adams Harris.
- Local nonprofit, The Harp Foundation held their annual fundraiser, Harps in the Garden, to support efforts to provide healing harp music in local hospitals. Attendees were greeted by the sounds of the folk harp ensemble, High Desert Harpers, led by Clara Arnold. The harp quartet, Iceman Group, performed a varied program of music including a medley of music themes from the movie, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Malaguena*, and a fast frolicsome medley of cartoon themes arranged by David Ice.
- December is the month we share our holiday music with the residents of a local retirement community. Young and old harpists performed solo and ensemble holiday favorites.



Saguaro Chapter (Tucson)

Vanessa Moxness, President

www.SophiaTucson.org

SOPHIA Events: (Saguaro - Old Pueblo Harpers in Arizona)

We have an exciting line up of events planned for the new year, beginning with a circle on September 22, the first day of autumn, that focuses on songs involving the things of the fall season, including: "Turkey in the Straw", "Harvest Home", "Last Rose of Summer", and "Autumn Leaves". Apple pie and whipped cream will be served. We will also participate again in the Little Angels Procession at Armory Park. Rehearsals will take place several times in October, with the performance on Saturday, November 3rd. SOPHIA members will be invited to attend the rehearsals to serve as an audience for the participants. SOPHIA will also sponsor the appearance of harpist Alexandra Mullins, American Harp Society's Young Concert Artist, in November. And in mid-December our popular annual Christmas party and circle/dessert will take place.

Past events for 2013 are outlined in the calendar below:

- Sunday, January 13 at 7 p.m.-- Sunday Jazz Jam at the Old Pueblo Grill featuring Chris Vivona on harp, Rob Boone on trombone/keys, Jack Wood on upright acoustic bass and Pete Swan on drums.
- Thursday, February 28th at 7:30 p.m.--Field trip to attend the Bridget Kibbey Harp Concert at Crowder Hall. Tickets are \$40 reg. admission, \$35 for students and children.
- Saturday, March 2nd at 11 a.m.--Celtic circle playing Irish and Scottish tunes, and a potluck after we play! Corned beef and cabbage, sliced chicken breast, Irish carrots, new potatoes, Irish cookies and more! Bring your harps, your Tunes to Go books and wear green for this pre-St. Patty's Day gathering!
- Friday, May 17th at 5 p.m.--Lorna Govier's long-awaited release party/concert at the Auld Dubliner Pub for her new CD "The Bright Green Bough". Dinner and socializing, followed by her solo harp performance at 6 p.m.
- Sunday, July 21st at 2 p.m. at St. Phillips in the Hills Episcopal Church--The Christine Vivona Jazz Quartet featuring Chris on harp, Rob Boone on trombone and acoustic piano, Cory Boone on drums and Jack Wood on upright bass.
- Tuesday, July 23rd--William Jackson workshop "Arranging Pipe and Fiddle Tunes for Harp" at 6 p.m. followed by Grainne Hambly lecture/recital entitled "History of the Harp in Ireland" at 7:30 p.m. Each workshop will last 90 minutes and costs \$35 each or \$60 for two.
- Wednesday, July 24th at 8 p.m.--Grainne Hambly and William Jackson, masters of Irish and Scottish music for the harp, will give a house concert. Seating is limited, and reservations are required. A donation of \$15 will be collected at this event.

SOPHIA would also like to take this opportunity to profile Patricia Harris, a wonderful artist who is a member of our group. Patricia began her harp studies at the age of eight with her mother Anne Adams, principal harpist with the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Opera. She continued her education at the University of Arizona and eventually earned bachelor's, master's and music education degrees. Patricia has been Principal Harpist with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra for 50 years, and in this capacity has performed with groups all over Arizona and California, including the Mendocino Music Festival Orchestra, the Flagstaff Festival Orchestra, the Arizona Opera Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and the Phoenix Symphony. She has also performed under the baton of Arthur Fiedler, John Williams and Marvin Hamlisch, and has worked with many great classical and popular performing guest artists. In addition to the tremendously wide-ranging repertoire and exciting challenges that she enjoys with the symphony, she is also active with the TSO Harp Trio, an ensemble that performs at community events and at outreach programs for children. Patricia also plays harp in many musical venues including classical, popular, sacred and small ensemble. This variety also includes her regular performances at St. Philips in the Hills Church, as well as wedding engagements and other social events. In addition, she is on the roster of the Arizona Commission for the Arts, works with the Anne Adams Awards



S.O.P.H.I.A.

Visit the Saguaro
Chapter's website
at [www.Sophia
Tucson.org](http://www.SophiaTucson.org)

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(which provide financial assistance for harp students), has made several recordings including her acclaimed "Two Harps as One" featuring Patricia and her mother, assists with the Tucson chapter of the American Harp Society, is on the board of the American Harp Society Foundation, and also enjoys teaching, with students ranging in age from eight to over eighty years old. She has helped many students fulfill their dreams of playing the harp, both as amateurs and as professionals. Patricia Harris is well respected and well-loved in the Tucson community and beyond. She is a harpist who has devoted her life to sharing harp music with others. In honor of her 50th year with the Tucson Symphony, the Tucson Chapter of the American Harp Society (SOPHIA) would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to her!

San Antonio Chapter

Nelda Etheredge, President

September 29, 2013 the AHS San Antonio Chapter hosted an amazing concert - the guest artist was Alexandra Mullins, winner of the AHS competition and making her AHS Concert Artist. The concert was held at the University of Incarnate Word. We wish Alexandra the best! This is a concert worth hosting!

- From the studio of Nelda Etheredge:

Ms. Etheredge's student Rhiannon Villarreal earned a First Division rating for her harp solo performances in the Region's Junior High School UIL Solo & Ensemble Competition in April 2013 and qualified to participate in the UIL Texas State Solo & Ensemble Competition in May which she was rated a I rating. In February 2013 Rebecca Muller qualified to compete at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools State Music Competition where she earned a First Division rating for her solo performance in April. June: Rhiannon Villarreal auditioned for the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio and won the position of harpist for the YOSA Symphonietta. July - Ms. Etheredge held a full week summer harp camp in her studio which focused on theory and ensemble. Attending were 12 students from the San Antonio area who study with Ms. Etheredge.

- From the studio of Alice Spero Keene:

In March of 2013 the San Antonio NISD school district invited Alice Keene and her harp student s (of that school district) to perform with the Brandeis High School Dance Department at the Teacher of the Year Award Ceremony. The result was 29 ballet dancers pirouetting around 3 harps placed center stage. The vision and sound was very special! Fifth grade elementary students Isabella Lorente & Jocelyn Epstein played their first orchestra concert on May 20, 2013. May 30 was the ANNUAL STUDIO HARP RECITAL presented by Alice S Keene. All students played solos and duets. It was held at Claudia Taylor Johnson High School. Participating students were: Sage Adams, Joy Arnold, Sarah Baron, Jordan Bell, Heather Chambers, Madeline Davis, Katie Doderer, Jocelyn Epstein Kathryn Horton, Alyson Lippincott, Isabella Lorente, Alexandra McCoy, Riana Martin, Marisa Pena-Alfaro, Mikayla Simonsen and guest University of North Texas student, Sonja Westberg. MS Keene had several students attend summer harp camps. In June, Katie Doderer & Marisa Pena Alfaro went to the University of Texas. Alexandra McCoy & Heather Chambers spent a week at Houston Baptist University in July. The students returned gained confidence, improved technique and new friends that also play the harp! Alice Keene held 2 summer harp 'DAY CAMPS' in her home this past July and August. The camps were for the younger students not able to attend camp but needing experience with other harpists in a class setting. Emphasis was on technique, how to practice and rhythm.

- In August, harpist Sonja Westberg was the harp clinician for the Ronald Reagan High School orchestra camp. The fall studio class was held at Alice's home on Saturday September 7th. All MS Keene's students performed a prepared solo. The winner the Summer Harp Practice Contest was announced. The cash awards went to Madeline Davis (high school) and Sarah Baron (8th grade & under). Besides the usual orchestra concerts for school some additional fall student activity events include: Duet\trio performances for NEISD Children's Concerts by Alyson Lippincott, Mikayla Simonsen; Marisa Pena Alfaro, Sarah Baron & MS Keene. Coker United Methodist Church Orchestra harpist is Madeline Davis. (She also plays 2nd violin when there is no harp part). Sonja Westberg was "principal harpist" for Mrs. Keene's son's wedding October 11. Alice joined Sonja for the recessional (from the balcony) with F. Voltz's GLORIA! What fun.
- Alice Keene has some December events: December 8, Texas Children's Choir.....Ceremony of Carols; December 9, MacArthur High School Orchestras Christmas Concert; December 10, Brandeis High School Choral Concert; December 15 Windcrest CCLDS Ceremony of Carols

2014 News

Please mail or email by October 15, 2014 for inclusion in the Fall 2014 Newsletter.

Jaymee Haefner • 2216 Acorn Bend • Denton, TX 76210 • 940-808-0895 • jaymee.haefner@unt.edu