



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

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Fall 2008 Greetings from Seattle,

As we near the end of 2008 we would like to share with you the news from some of our Northwest harpists. If any of you have upcoming events that might interest our corner of the world, please email me at harp4u@comcast.net. We are always looking for future events. May 2009 bring peace and joy to all.

NATIONAL NEWS

2009 AHS 8th Summer Institute and 18th National Competition will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, at Westminster College, June 28th through July 2nd, 2009.

2010 AHS National Conference will be held in Tacoma, Washington at the newly remodeled Murano Hotel, June 30th through July 6th, 2010.

2011 World Harp Congress will be in Vancouver, B.C. We are so fortunate to have these events within driving distance. We will keep you posted as the time gets closer.

Lucy Scandrett, our National AHS president proudly announces the re-release of the Marcel Grandjany "**Music for the Harp**" CD (\$18) and the Marcel Grandjany "**The Teacher**" DVD (\$25). The CD includes "Fantasie on a Theme of Haydn" by Grandjany, "Sonata for Harp" by Hindemith, "Danses Sacrée et Profane" by Debussy, and "Rhapsodie pour la Harpe" by Grandjany. These are available through:

Grandjany Centennial Fund
15 Landsdowne Lane
Rochester, NY 14618-3845
FAX 585-387-8941
www.harpsociety.org

REGIONAL NEWS

OREGON

Portland – Harp Technician Ed Galchick will be in Portland during March 2009 to work on harps. Contact Ed at www.harptweak.com.

Lila Neahring, 15, a student of Bethany Evans, participated in the Lily Laskine Competition in Paris in September. She has completed all ten levels of piano Syllabus with the Oregon Music Teachers Association and has received seven consecutive years of Superior ratings in the harp division of the National Federation of Music Clubs Festivals. The Lily Laskine junior competition this year involved 45 students and a 12 year-old student from California who placed 3rd, the highest an American achieved this year.

Corvallis/Eugene –

October 29 – Grainne Hambly and William Jackson presented their program *Masters of the Celtic Harp* in Corvallis.

November 16 – Martha Griffith performed with Pilar Bradshaw, violin, ElRay Stewart-Cook on organ and 2 sopranos. Repertoire included Grandjany's Aria in Classic Style and Masenet's Meditation from Thais.

Henriette Renié recording re-released on CD! Sally Maxwell and members of the AHS Eugene chapter have finally put together this historical set of recordings in CD form. This is truly a unique compilation of Renié playing her own works. Gleaned over a period of several years, some of these pieces have not been released elsewhere.

November 1 - Harp Day at University of Oregon. In the School of Music in Eugene, University of Oregon alumni hosted an afternoon of workshops, recitals, and lecture demos for harpists of all levels. They featured Sally Maxwell with guest artist Elizabeth Richter in a joint presentation on the legacy of Renie and Salzedo, University of Oregon Alumni Alex Perdew speaking on "Harp Resources," and Riza Hequibal from Anaheim on "An Introduction to Jazz Harp."

January 31 and March 14, 10:00-12:00. Music Education Festival. For those of you who participated last year you know how helpful this event can be. It is a chance to play a piece for a panel of teachers who offer comments. Then six weeks later the same pieces are played once more, plus a new piece, incorporating the suggestions. This is an efficient and non-threatening way for students of all levels to focus on improvement while supporting and learning from their peers. Students who play both days receive a signed certificate from the national AHS. Participants must be members of both national and local Eugene chapter AHS (see below for details). An added fee of \$10.00 goes to help pay for our panel of adjudicators.

MONTANA

Bozeman – December - Alexis Crosby, 11th grade harpist, has just completed a successful run with the "Fantastiks" scored for piano and harp in a recent Montana State University project. Alexis Crosby and Laura Brown, 11th grade harpists, recently played with the Montana State University symphony under the direction of Shuichi Komiyama playing harp parts in Copland's Clarinet concerto, Bernstein's Candide, and Holst's Planets. Sarah Rice, 10th grade harpist, of Lewistown, Montana was a scholarship winner for the "Hand Me Down Some Silver project" in Southwestern Montana which recognizes young composers by honoring their achievements. She has completed two CDs at her young age already and was selected to record one of her original compositions for the Hand Me Down Some Silver CD project II. Her piece is called "Death and Resurrection" a stunning piece that fully explores the full range and sound capabilities of a concert harp. Lexi Monson, 6th grade harpist, is accompanying her middle school choir and doing a terrific job. Her next performance is early December. Faith Mortenson, 6th grade harpist, recently appeared with her Anderson School orchestra playing harp for the concert. Laura Brown will be the harpist for "Amahl and the Night Visitors" in a Cultural Corner concert series. Alexis Crosby will be playing the Nutcracker Cadenza with the high school orchestra in mid December. The Nutcracker ballet is presented every season here in Bozeman. Angela Guthrie returns to Bozeman to play the harp part for that. She is also the harpist for the local symphony and opera company. All of these students received their instruction from Nancy Wilson, local harp teacher. Currently, there are nine harp students in Nancy's studio. Alexis has studied harp pedagogy with Nancy and currently instructs 4 beginning harp students.

December 7 - Nancy Wilson also a professional harpist is actively playing in two churches providing worship music as needed especially during communion times. She has formed a duo with a local music minister, David Johnson, who is a talented organist and pianist. They can be heard regularly playing a variety of music at Hope Lutheran Church during worship services. An upcoming event for them during a Vespers service on Dec. 7 features the new 37 rank pipe organ, the pedal harp and vibraphones playing "Serenade for Christmas Eve" by Conrad Suta.

Helena – Janice Bogy writes about two of her students, Lydia Michel and Tess Michel. Lydia Michel performed the Nutcracker Ballet with the Helena Symphony Orchestra and Queen City Ballet in Helena, MT, and in January will be participating in the Montana Association of Symphony Orchestras' concerto competition. Tess Michel will join Lydia on second harp for Mahler's Symphony No. 9 with the Helena Symphony.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Besides the fact that the World Harp Congress will be held in BC in 2011, the chapter has a website with all of their latest news: <http://members.shaw.ca/bcharpchapter/> Please check it out.

The West Coast Harp Society formed last year to promote harp music in British Columbia and to host the World Harp Congress in 2011 in Vancouver. Kaori Otake did the first fund-raising concert in May, with a virtuoso two-hour solo recital. It has put on workshops and concerts by the Cornwall Harp Ensemble, Kaori Otake, Sunita Staneslow, Alfredo Ortiz, and a Harpists' Tribute to Jurgen Gothe.

Sept. 21, 2008 - The West Coast Harp Society presented "Harpists' Tribute to Jurgen Gothe", a much-loved radio personality in Canada. Emcee Lucie McNeill introduced the nine harpists, five musicians and flamenco dancer Andrea Williams. We began and ended with world premiere arrangements of Rameau's *Fanfarinette*, one by Elizabeth Volpé Bligh and a jazz version by Christa Grix. Other world premieres included a harp duet arrangement of Dvorak's *Song to the Moon* by Elizabeth Volpé Bligh, adapted from her earlier one for flute and harp, and the Chopin Nocturne in C# minor arranged by Lani Krantz. Josh Layne performed his own solo piece, *Rhapsody*. Other harpists who performed were Alys Howe, Kaori Otake, Lani Krantz, Lori Pappajohn, Janelle Nadeau, Blanche Olivar and Christa Grix. The varied program included various styles and musicians, including Chinese (Jin Zhang's erhu and harp duet *A Little Suite*), Spanish, Celtic, jazz, contemporary and classical.

October 2008 - Elizabeth Volpé Bligh, while on a tour through Korea, Macau and China with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, gave master classes in Beijing and Shanghai. The VSO won a Grammy and a Juno for their recording of the Korngold, Walton and Barber Violin Concertos with violinist James Ehnes.

Elizabeth Volpé Bligh recorded a CD of Britten's Ceremony of Carols with the Lyric Singers, which should be available this Christmas. Elizabeth Volpé Bligh plays prominent harp parts in the orchestra in a new CD of opera arias with Ariel Sung. In June, Elizabeth Volpé Bligh was a panelist (subject: Body Awareness and Relaxation at the Harp) at the American Harp Society Conference in Dearborn, Michigan, and was chosen to deliver a speech at Judy Loman's tribute evening. Elizabeth Volpé Bligh's book of harp solos Solos for the Lever or Pedal Harp has been picked up by the Lyon Healy catalogue.

June 2008 - Christ Waltham, our harp-building astro-physicist, gave a talk on acoustics to the Historical Harp Society Conference in Berkeley in early June. His next stop was Paris for the Acoustics'08 conference, jointly organized by the big European and US acoustics societies, in early July. He presented a couple of papers on harps, mostly material that will shortly appear in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. He met Francois Gauthier and Jean-Loic LeCarrou from Le Mans, the only other physicists working on harp acoustics.

Fall 2008 - Josh Layne has just returned from a tour of solo harp recitals called "Harping Through History" through the Pacific Northwest and Europe. He travels and performs extensively.

ALASKA

Anchorage - McKenna Hanson, 16, a student of Joanna Mergler Mayer, played for the Children's Place's Fundraiser banquet. McKenna is 2nd chair harpist with the Anchorage Youth Symphony.

Fairbanks - Dennis Rogers, who plays a Dusty Strings 36 has formed a band called Anam Cara, meaning "the joining together in an ancient and eternal way with the friends of your soul." The band consists of harp, 2 violins, cello, and flute/whistles. In December, 2008, they released their CD, "Music to Drive the Cold Winter Away," consisting of tunes from Ireland, Scotland, England, and the Americas.

IDAHO

April – A Harp Festival was held in Coeur d'Alene ID, organized by Leslie Stratton Norris. 53 harpists from ages 8 to 80 attended the weekend and enjoyed time practicing together, workshops, and seminars. Harpists came from Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon, and are from professional players to kids just starting to learn. Our final concert was performed to a packed church of harp admirers - around 300 people.

November - Julia Robison in Boise hosted a Harp Ensemble event where adults and school age students joined to present a concert for the community. Julia's church welcomed the event, and the audience enjoyed a program of classical and popular ensemble arrangements. Leslie Stratton Norris came south from Coeur d'Alene, and rehearsed, conducted and played along with the group of 10 harpists.

WASHINGTON

Our new chapter officers are:

President: Mark Andersen	emarka@mac.com	425-485-6743
Vice President: Susi Hussong	harp4u@comcast.net	206-783-9493
Secretary: Lyn Thomas	LynThomas@comcast.net	425-869-7919
Treasurer: Crystal Oman	cao2416@comcast.net	253-845-3661
Membership: Carol Levin	Carol.Levin@ppgnw.org	206-783-4999
Historian: Joyce Rice	JoyceRice@seanet.com	206-937-0778

We are very excited to announce the creation of our website www.ahsseattle.org. Thanks to Lynn and Mark Andersen for the hours they spent getting this up and running. Please visit us!

We held a harp composition competition. The entries will be performed by the student members at our spring meeting. The winning composition will receive a cash prize and be published and televised in Seattle and New York.

Joseph Lachman, the recipient of our scholarship award can be seen on YouTube playing Debussy's Clair de Lune.

November 22nd – Our chapter honored Lynne Waynewright Palmer as she celebrated her 90th birthday, and our chapter marked its 40th anniversary.

The pieces performed were either written by or transcribed by Lynne Waynewright Palmer.

Gavotte in G Minor J.S. Bach

Performed by Canto Mio (Alexandra Mariani, Charlene Chin, Lisa Mothersbaugh, Natalie Skerlong)

Prelude in C Prokofiev

Performed by Heidi Dunlap, Patti Warden, and Pat Wooster

Carol of the Bells arr. Palmer

Sonatina in C Clementi (Lynne Palmer transcription)

Parade Palmer

Performed by Tealah Hill, Adrienne Fletcher, and Moriah Zimmerman

Little Suite (one movement) (harp and flute)

Trivilenade (harp and flute)

Performed by Alison Austin, harp, and Roberta Montana, flute

Sarabande and Gigue from the Classical Suite for Harp Alone Palmer

Performed by Alison Austin

Prelude from Classical Suite for Harp Alone Palmer

Baby Pictures Palmer

Performed by John Carrington

Night and Day Porter arr. Palmer/Scott

Ebb Tide

Somewhere My Love

Performed by Kippy Scott

Ragtime Chimes Palmer

Performed by Canto Mio

November 16 – Ashley Wong, student of Heidi Lehwalder, performed a chamber music recital at the University of Washington, including works by Persichetti, Faure, Devienne, Nielsen, and Debussy.

January – Ruth Mar, graduate student of Heidi Lehwalder, was one of three winners of the UW concerto competition and performed the Ginastera Harp Concerto with the UW orchestra.

November 30 - Pacific Harp Institute Ensembles, with director Alison Austin, performed their annual "From Our Hearts through Our Hands" holiday concert in Bellevue.

December 2 – The Northwest Harp Ensemble in Seattle, directed by Susi Hussong, gave their holiday concert featuring 10 of our AHS members.

December 9 – Margaret Shelton, student of Patricia Wooster, performed Britten's Ceremony of Carols with the Vivace Choir, aboard the Christmas Ship. In January 2009 she traveled to Italy with The Birth of Christ, directed by Andrew Miller to perform for the Pope.

December 21 - The University of Puget Sound Community Music Program presented the South Sound Strings Harp Ensemble in a Christmas Concert, directed by Patricia Wooster. The program included arrangements of Christmas favorites for the entire ensemble of 18 harpists, as well as featured pieces for solo, duo and trio harp. The ensemble performed the premiere of At the Manger, for harp, oboe and violin, by Robert Martin, resident composer for South Sound Strings.

January 30 – Kippy Lou Scott presented a workshop entitled "Memorizing Tunes Quickly, playing from your head, not your music stand." She was also the AHS adjudicator this year.

March 18 – At 7 PM Deborah Henson-Conant will present a concert at the Triple Door in Seattle.

March 20 – Deborah Henson-Conant will give workshops at Dusty Strings.

March 21 – Deborah Henson-Conant will give a workshop for our AHS members. Contact Mark Andersen at emarka@mac.com for more info

April 17-20 - World-renowned harpist Yolanda Kondonassis joins the High Strung chamber group in *The Celestial Dimension*, a presentation highlighting the transporting nature of harp music and featuring pieces by Debussy, Takemitsu and others. Venues include the Fremont Abbey, Yesler Community Center, Bastyr University Chapel and Golden Gardens Bathhouse. Times and details may be found at www.simplemeasures.org.