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AHS FALL 2009 SOUTHERN REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

Patrice Fisher, Southern Regional Director, 921 Stewart Ct., New Orleans, LA 70119

The American Harp Society has decided to only **print one newsletter per year**. I will be continuing to forward emails that are sent to me at ecoslatinos@gmail.com to all harpists in the Southern Region, for whom I have valid e mail addresses.

I will also post concerts and other events like AHS chapter meetings on our **REGIONAL WEBSITE** at www.myspace.com/ahssouthernregion.

E mail is becoming more and more important as a means of communication with our members. Please send me an **email** to ecoslatinos@gmail.com, so that I can **update your information** and/or add me to your **list of acceptable contacts**. I will only be sending you information about harp events in our region, National AHS business or “harp for sale” in our region. If, at any time, you no longer want to receive emails from AHS, simply send me an email and ask to be removed from our list. **I will not share your email address** with anyone and I always use the Blind Carbon Copy function, so that other recipients cannot see your address. Please also **send me mp3s** of yourself playing the harp. I can post up to 10 music clips, at a time, on our regional web site. These clips are not available for download, but site listeners can contact you, if you **become a friend of our myspace web site**. Other harpists can find you, as our friend, without seeing your e mail address. Simply go to www.myspace.com/ahssouthernregion and click on “Add to Friends.” I have also started **blogs about harp news in each state in our Southern region**. You can add comments on your own or send me news and I will post it. If there is a topic of interest to you, please let me know. There is a **calendar function on the web site**. You can **send me news of upcoming events** and I will post it.

NATIONAL NEWS: We were together **last summer** in **Salt Lake City** for the **AHS Summer Institute**. The Westminster College campus facilities were wonderful. Many friendships were made and renewed the, workshops were well prepared and well received, and the concerts were excellent. The Competition Winners Recital was extraordinary. I especially enjoyed visiting Lyon and Healy West and checking out the new Chicago style harps. Please visit our **"new" updated national website**, <http://www.harpsociety.org> and spread the word to other harpists.

Please plan to attend **the AHS National Conference coming June 30-July 6, 2010 in Tacoma, WA**. We will hear music of Lynn Palmer and Carlos Salzedo, whose 125th anniversary will be celebrated. There will be some fun attractions during the July 4 holiday, too. Pat Wooster has even thought of harp spouse’s activities, so make it a mini-vacation – bring your spouse!

This is also the time for the AHS to collect current data for your local chapter. Please send me your chapter newsletters and add my address to your email list.

American Harp Society Chapter Data Report 2009

Chapter Name:

Chapter Region / Major Cities:

Number of Members in 2008-2009:

2009-2010:

Chapter dues & membership categories & rates:

Officers: please include name, email & contact info

President:

Vice-President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Others, i.e. webmaster:

Chapter Contact: email:

Website address:

Notable Chapter activities:

If you are not the current chapter president, I would very much appreciate knowing who to contact. Similarly, it would be helpful for me to know other active harpists who can provide harps news to make our newsletter more informative.

The New Orleans Chapter of the American Harp Society recently received a \$5000 grant from the American Harp Society to produce a series of **radio interviews** with harpists called **HARPTALK**. The finished interviews, with related music clips, will be broadcast on the Harpestry radio program of KRVS in Lafayette, LA and other National Public Radio stations. The series will also be available on the internet at www.krvs.org. We will also post these interviews on the national American Harp Society web site at <http://www.harpsociety.org> and the Southern regional web site at www.myspace.com/ahssouthernregion. The interviewees were chosen according to the following guidelines:

1. A Louisiana harpist- Catherine Anderson
2. A Classical harpist-Sadie Turner- AHS Concert artist for 2008/09
3. A Latin harpist-Edmar Casteneda.
4. A Celtic harpist-Sue Richards
5. A harpist of historical importance-Henriette Renie, as researched by Dr. Jaymee Haefner, Dallas
6. An American harpist-Robbin Gordon-Cartier
7. An international harpist-Celso Duarte-Mexico
8. A Jazz harpist-Felice Pomeranz
9. A Regional harpist-Barbara Belew
10. A harpist providing services to the field-Mary Radspinner, Melody Music/Kim Rowe-Harp Column
11. A composer-Alfredo Rolando Ortiz
12. Ann Yeung and contemporary.compositions for the harp.

I THANK all of you, who have sent your news and look forward a year of harp events. And I need your materials for next year's newsletter by next October 10.

KENTUCKY, posted by Elaine Cook, harpline@hotmail.com

AHS - Lexington Chapter:

Lexington Talent Education Harpist presented a **Recital at the Lexington country Place Assisted Living Center** on November 8th - Joelle Toews, Janna Young, Ashley Su., Tiana The, Kylah Rymond, Fiona Mowbray, Elaine Cook

Janna Young presented a **Suzuki Book One Graduation Recital** on September 3rd for guests in her home. **Ashley Su** presented a **Suzuki Book One Graduation Recital** on August 29th at the Liberty Ridge Retirement Community. See Ashley on Facebook!

Mary Deicher performs with the **University of Kentucky Symphony Orchestra**. This semester she has performed the Strauss Four Last Songs, Strauss Death and Transfiguration, Mahler Symphony No. 1, Tchaikovsky Capriccio Italian, Copland Dances from Rodeo and several pieces by Mark O'Connor.

This Fall season, **Elaine Cook** has performed with the **Lexington Philharmonic Percussion Concerto** by Schwantner, Suite from Much ado about Nothing by Korngold. Elaine will do annual performances of Ceremony of Carols by Britten and Dancing Day by Rutter.

Arlene Rector and Merrilee Elliott, Harp & Flute Duo, presented a faculty recital at **Transylvania University** with works by Ibert, Persichetti and Larry Barnes.

COVINGTON, KY, Posted by Nancy Bick Clark, lionsbrd@one.net

On Saturday, November 14, the **Cincinnati Harpers' Robin**, a group of nine harpers, performed a concert "An American Harvest" at the **Kenton County Public Library**, Mary Ann Mongan Branch in **Covington, KY**. The group is coordinated by **Lindsey Duncan**. The concert featured tunes ranging from traditional Appalachian to jazz, show tunes and originals by group members. The music was all arranged by four of the group's members: **Rebecca Bromwell, Nancy Bick Clark, Lindsey Duncan, and Angie Wright**. The Harper's Robin will be performing at the same library on March 27, 2009.

Nancy Bick Clark, as part of the **Clark & Jones Trio**, is giving a **Celtic Winter Solstice** concert on Sunday, December 20 at the **Church of the Redeemer** in Cincinnati, OH. The trio comprises Nancy on Celtic harp, dulcimer, recorder and vocals; Jude Jones on violin, guitar and vocals; and Frank Clark on bodhran and vocals. The trio is also performing at the **Lane Library** in Hamilton, OH on December 6.

LOUISIANA

LAFAYETTE: posted by **Bette Vidrine**, bettetheharpy@yahoo.com

The Bayou Harp Circle, Lafayette, LA, has continued its monthly meetings throughout the year and is greatly enjoying them. They will present their **5th Annual Harps for the Holidays Concert** on Wed., Dec. 16, at 7 PM at the Affiliated Blind of Louisiana in Lafayette. This concert also serves as a fundraiser for the Affiliated Blind school.

The Bayou Harp Circle will also be playing Christmas music at **Noel Acadien au Village**, a Christmas light festival at Acadian Village, on Dec. 11th and 19th, in the Acadian Village Chapel.

Bayou Harp Circle and the **New Orleans Celtic Harp Ensemble** got together for fun and music on Nov. 14th to play at the **Renaissance Festival** held in Hammond, LA. These two groups always enjoy melding their two ensembles in music and friendship.

Anyone interested in joining or playing with the **Bayou Harp Circle** can call **Bette Vidrine** at 337-255-3622 or email her at bettetheharpy@yahoo.com.

NEW ORLEANS, posted by Patrice Fisher, ecoslatinos@gmail.com

The **New Orleans Chapter** sponsored a **student recital** on October 30 at the **Home of Meme Coniglio**, followed by a Halloween reception New Orleans.

The **New Orleans Celtic Harp Ensemble** will perform several **concerts** this fall:

Renaissance Festival in Hammond, LA. Sat. November 14, 9:30am and 11:30am

Trinity Artists Series, 1329 Jackson Ave. New Orleans, LA, December 20, 5:30pm.

Historic Christmas Festival, downtown Mandeville, LA, December 12.

Preservation Resource Center Holiday Home Tour, New Orleans, LA, December 13.

New Orleans harpist, **Patrice Fisher**, travelled to many cities and countries this summer to perform, including: **New York, Brazil and Guatemala**. In Guatemala, she performed with some of the students of the **Guatemalan Harp Teaching Project** at the **Festival Centro Historico**, in **Guatemala City**.



She also performed in **Aracaju, Brazil** on the live DVD recording of **Brazilian musicians, Chiko and Rogerio and Lateiros Curupira**. She will perform on November 21, 3:30pm at **Fiesta Latina**, at **Zephyr Stadium in Harahan, LA** with visiting Mexican musicians, **Javier Cabrera, Miguel Martinez and Alejandro Chavez**. Patrice will be a featured performer/teacher for the **Washington Area Folk Harp Society** on April 10, 2010 and the **International Folk Harp Society HarpCon 2010** in St. Louis in August 2010.

[New Orleans Chapter meeting minutes](#), posted by Jean Matkin, jeanwx@gmail.com

The **October meeting** of the New Orleans chapter of the American Harp Society was held on Monday, October 26, at the home of Cathy Anderson. Present were Patrice Fisher, Cathy Anderson, Jean Matkin, and Ivonne Douma. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM. The first topic of discussion was the coming appearance of **Heidi Van Hoesen**, National winner of the Concert Artist competition, who will perform at Trinity at 5 PM on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010. Cathy will ask Barbara Martin if she can provide housing on Friday and Saturday preceding the concert. If Barbara does not have space available, Ivonne will provide a room for her.

We then discussed having a **masterclass** on Saturday morning, Jan. 23, at Dixon Hall Annex, with a fee of \$15 for beginners and \$20 for intermediate and above students. Cathy will contact the Baton Rouge chapter to see if they want to have a performance or a masterclass later on Saturday. It is not certain at this time if Ms. Van Hoesen will arrive on Friday or Saturday. Cathy will ask Michaela to put together a flyer for the Trinity recital. Distribution would be up to each member to handle. After the Trinity concert we may have a reception for her or perhaps take her out to dinner.

The next topic was a discussion of the **Harp Rally**, which will be held in **Baton Rouge** this spring, probably in late March. Rebecca Todaro will be the Chair. The Judge has not yet been selected. Cathy is re-writing the syllabus for the rally in that the one previously used for the Harp Rally was considerably more difficult than that used for other music students.

On December 20 the **Trinity Sunday series program will present harp students** on the second half of the performance. The first half will be by brass performers. Patrice will present her students and N.O.C.H.E.

Our **next meeting** will be held on **Monday evening, Nov. 23, at 7 PM**, at Patrice Fisher's house. There will be no December meeting. The **January meeting** will be a social instead of a business meeting, and will be held on **Monday, January 4**, at Patrice's house at 921 Stewart Ct, NOLA.

Everyone should bring a dish; Patrice will coordinate the menu, and all guests will be invited to play. As an alternative, if Patrice's house is not ready, the event will be held at Ivonne's house & will be strictly a social.

Rachel Van Voorhees has been named harp consultant to the **Blue Lake Summer Music Camp in Michigan**. This wonderful summer program has four two week sessions each summer with private harp lessons, chamber music, theory classes, orchestras and bands, harp ensembles, repertoire classes and many performance opportunities. There are four harp teachers, a beautiful harp facility and pedal harps are provided. There are over 60 students that study harp there each summer. For more information, please contact Blue Lake at www.bluelake.org or Rachel Van Voorhees at RachelVV@aol.com. The **American Wind Symphony** has appointed **Rachel Van Voorhees** to head the harp department for the **Winds in the Bayou Program** in St. James Parish, LA. **Christmas New Orleans Style** will present **Rachel Van Voorhees** in concert at St. Louis Cathedral on Sunday, December 6th. The concert entitled Rachel Van Voorhees and Friends will feature the University of New Orleans Choir and Louisiana Philharmonic. Concertmaster Joseph Meyer and Principal Flutist Ryan Rice. The concert is free.

BATON ROUGE, posted by **Rebecca Todaro** at rebeccatheharpist@msn.com



The Runnels School, a preschool through grade 12 private school in Baton Rouge has added harp to their elective curriculum and is offered as a year long, daily class to 4th through 12th grade. **Rebecca Todaro** is the harp teacher and is thrilled to develop a tradition of harp study at the Runnels School. Harp lessons have been offered at the school, by Rebecca Todaro, for the past two years as an extra curricular activity. Interest in the harp has been so strong that the first classes have ten new students! In addition to this program Ms. Todaro continues to teach privately, and freelance. **Harp Technician, Peter Wiley returns to Baton Rouge in February 2010**, contact Rebecca at rebeccatheharpist@msn.com to secure your regulation with this master technician.

LAKE CHARLES, submitted by **Barbara Belew**, bbelew@mcneese.edu

Fall, 2008 through 2009 has been a challenge for the Louisiana Chapter! We began by supporting our president, **Patty Horvath**, in her pregnancy, as she performed with duo partner **Barbara Belew**, our vice-president, in their second duo recital on September 21, 2008. They also played a "major production" wedding in the nearby town of Jennings, which was Patty's last performance before her big event.

We were saddened as our former president (way back when) and long-time secretary/treasurer, **Jeanne Thomson**, died on April 7, 2009, at the age of 80 and ½ years. She had been basically house-bound since the middle of 2008. Many of the AHS folks will remember her as the little lady with a big smile.

2009 found us, as a small chapter, working hard to keep everything going! We hosted the **2009 Louisiana Music Teachers Association's State Harp Rally** on March 14, at McNeese State University. Only two teachers were represented, **Cathy Anderson** of Metairie and **Barbara Belew** of Lake Charles, who coordinated the Rally events.

There were five winners: **April Simmons** (Prep A level), **Alyssa Kortright** (Prep B), **Marisa Spengeman** (Level II), all students of Cathy's, and Louisiana Chapter members **Lynette Babineaux** of Lake Charles (Adult I) and **Katie Evans** of Sulphur (Level I), both students of Barbara's, with **Alyssa named as Outstanding Harpist**. We were especially pleased to have as our adjudicators **Rebecca Pippin of Baton Rouge** and **Dr. Charlotte Mizener** of Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. They also held a very helpful masterclass following the Rally events.

Our **annual spring ensemble concert** was presented on March 8, by an abbreviated group of performers. Soloists on this occasion were **Lynette and Katie**, with a trio work cancelled due to Patty's impending "birthing." A chamber work performed included, as our guests: violinist Audra Gruspier of Lake Charles and 'cellist Carly Thurman of The Woodlands, Texas, both McNeese students, along with Barbara, presenting an adaptation of Tournier's "Promenade a L'Automne."

Our next **Chapter Recital** is slated at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 14, 2010, in Ralph Squires Recital Hall on the McNeese campus. We all are looking forward to the completion of the new addition to the Shearman Fine Arts Center, which soon will be ready for the installation of all new equipment. It includes a 500-seat, acoustically balanced auditorium! Won't that be great?

Another major event was the **10th anniversary McNeese Harp Camp**, held July 28 through August 1, with a total of 31 campers and a somewhat abbreviated staff of seven, including chapter members **Barbara (Director), Patty and Lynette**, along with former member **Mike Collet**. Master **Richard Ferencks Horvath, Jr.**, who made his appearance on April 1, by C-section, was considered by many to be our camp "mascot," and we surprised his mom and dad with a presentation of a very small camp t-shirt after the camp ended.

Chapter vice-president **Barbara** played recently for the joint (three chapters) **Delta Kappa Gamma Society International initiation ceremony**, and in a special program featuring all the **MSU bands**, when she played with the **Wind Symphony**. She also played with **Rebecca Pippin** in the November concert by the **Lake Charles Symphony**. These two expect to participate in two more programs this season.

Patty has recently performed for the third time at a **seasonal open house event** presented by an Orange, Texas, florist, who has requested her services on a yearly basis.

She and Barbara have slated their next **duo program** for 3:00 p.m. March 7, 2010.

Marlene Mullenix of Moss Bluff continues to play both organ (She's a fine organist.) and harp for various events, including weddings.

We hope to grow the chapter in the next few years. We have one new member, a McNeese Harp Camper, who now is taking lessons with Barbara, **Nancy Herington** of Elton. Welcome, Nancy!

MISSOURI, submitted by Elaine Sweeney, elainesw@sbcglobal.net On Sunday October 25, a large group of members of the **Gateway/St. Louis Chapter** held a **meeting** at the home of Laura Hearne, where **Frances Tietov**, principal harp of the St. Louis Symphony, gave an informative presentation on all aspects of being an orchestral harpist. As part of her talk, Ms. Tietov demonstrated the process she uses for learning new music. Since there are times when she has had only two weeks to learn complicated parts, and times when she has never heard the music before, her approach is very systematic. It was intriguing to look on handouts of excerpts of new music and hear the interpretations she had developed. Music performed by Cheryl Trusty and Sue Druckenmiller added to the enjoyment of refreshments and socializing. Pictures attached.



TENNESSEE: Sixteen year old, Melodie Moore of Memphis, Tennessee was chosen from preliminary auditions as a finalist in the 2009 Orpheum Star Search contest. It was an exciting finals night where she received the star treatment from a dressing room to hair & makeup and performed on the Orpheum stage! Melodie also had the privilege to present a concert in the 2009 Memphis Summer Music Series. Her travels throughout the summer included studies and concerts in the U.S. and Canada. She also visited England and France for studies and also presented a concert while in France. Her travels and activities were featured on various radio and television programs. Busy with high-school studies, she is also the Principal Harpist with the University of Memphis Symphony Orchestra as well as various chamber groups. The U of M orchestra concerts in the past two months have included Sibelius Symphony No. 1, Wagner's Overture to the Flying Dutchmen, and the Prokofiev Symphony No. 5, Op. 100. She is also Principal Harpist in newly formed youth symphony program for Memphis and surrounding areas called the Mid-South Young People's Orchestras. This program includes orchestras for beginner through advanced string groups and a full symphony orchestra. A large portion of her time continues to be spent in theatrical performances, harpist for Kirby Woods Baptist Church, and volunteering for non-profit groups as well as nursing homes and hospitals.

NASHVILLE, posted by **Phyllis Sparks**, harpist1@comcast.net phone 615.333.0804
Nashville Harp Society Fall 2009 Meeting

The **Fall 2009 meeting** of the American Harp Society, Nashville chapter, was held Sunday, October 25 at Ward Recital Hall on the campus of Lipscomb University in Nashville. Our featured guest was **Kimberly Rowe**, a renowned harpist based out of Philadelphia. Ms. Rowe is an accomplished performer and teacher, as well the founder and **editor of Harp Column magazine**, the harp community's largest independently produced publication. In addition, Ms. Rowe is co-founder and on the faculty of **Young Artists Harp Seminar**, a two week summer camp for talented young harpists. Ms. Rowe has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Baltimore Symphony, and regularly appears with the Network for New Music. She teaches harp at Rowan University in New Jersey, and also serves on the faculty at Saratoga Harp Colony and Temple University. Ms. Rowe also serves as a private instructor to some of the most talented young harpists in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas.

Ms. Rowe treated the Nashville Harp Society to a **splendid performance** of several pieces, including Handel's "Theme and Variations," "Sonatine" by Tournier, and Andres' "Absidioles." Ms. Rowe also performed an arrangement of Albeniz' "Granada" by McDonald and Wood. Of special note is the fact that Ms. Susann McDonald was in the

audience for the performance and was a surprise special guest of AHS Nashville. Following her performance, Ms. Rowe conducted a **harp workshop** for the AHS Nashville membership and their guests. Ms. Rowe offered some very insightful advice to the attendees concerning **“How to Get the Most From Your Harp Lessons”** and also conducted a question and answer session. Ms. McDonald was kind enough to offer some additional comments, reinforcing the points made by Ms. Rowe. Doors opened at 1pm for a pre-sale of used music and CDs, and a silent auction was held for several items, with all proceeds benefiting the AHS Nashville scholarship fund. At the conclusion of the workshop, Ms. Rowe was kind enough to continue to answer questions from some of the members and pose for pictures while everyone enjoyed refreshments. Several drawings were held, with Katie Wiggins winning the CB Artistry Harp Regulation, and Judy Kundert winning a Starbucks gift card. Special thanks to all who made the AHS Nashville Fall 2009 meeting a resounding success, and to Licia Jaskunas for the use of her harp for Ms. Rowe's performance. Thanks to our growing list of sponsors including CD Artistry (Chris Bain, harp technician), Nashville Harp Rental, Eclectic Productions, and Canvasondemand.com.

AHS Nashville MEMBER news:

Phyllis Taylor Sparks new Christmas CD, *A Special Celtic Harp Christmas*, was released in Fall 2009. The CD is available from CDBaby.com and also for download on itunes, among other sites. This is her seventh CD on Voyager Records. Two of her original songs *Caribbean Carol* and *Harp For The Holidays*, were released on Coldwater Creek's Christmas CD's volumes I and II. Distribution is through the World Wide Media Group.

This past summer **Kristin Quint** attended the *Kimberly Rowe Young Artists Harp Seminar* in Georgia. **Bekah Wallen** attended the *Kimberly Rowe Saratoga Harp Camp*.

Kristin Quint has won a scholarship to continue her study of theory and performance at Blair Music School. She is performing in the Curb Youth Orchestra along with **Bekah Wallen**.

New member, **BettyAshtonAndrews**, held Master Classes this past summer at St. Bartholomew's Church in Nashville, TN. The class was titled: *Music and Meditation: Instrumental songwriting as an act of prayer and worship*.

Hannah Heinz and Bekah Wallen will be performing with the Middle TN State University Orchestra next month performing *Debussy's Afternoon of a Faun*.

Rebekah Heinz performed her senior piano and harp recital at Ward Hall in May at David Lipscomb University in Nashville.

Bobbie Jackson received the Fort Campbell Appreciation Award for her harp Performance during Black History Month on February 9, 2009 from Garrison Commander Col Frederick Swope in FT Campbell, KY.

Nickie Harte continues with her successful Renaissance Shoe Company. The shoes are available at various Renaissance Fairs around the country. What great HARP SHOES!

ALABAMA

Submitted by Jeanne O'Connell, BOBXJOC@aol.com: Jeanne is **still on the look out for a Celtic harp**. The one's you sent me were either sold by the time the parent's of my student acted or something else happened. We are still eager to get a different model than what she has.

Submitted by John Coker, jcoker@usouthal.edu: I would like to sell my Salvi Erard, which has just been regulated on every string in the zone of tolerance. (One never says, "to perfection," since that's impossible.) I will be selling it for \$7500.00, which is less than I paid for it, and doesn't include the new strings and regulation. Perhaps you know someone who is interested. (I have another devious scheme in the works, by the way.)