

The American Harp Society
Midwestern Regional Newsletter, Winter/Spring 2014

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AHS National Conference, June 20-26th 2014, New Orleans, LA

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in New Orleans! It is an easy airplane ride or drive from the Midwest to New Orleans! The conferences are a wonderful way to make new friends, reconnect with former friends, learn about some fantastic music and hear some fabulous harpists! It is also a great way to visit a new area of the U.S.

Please refer to the AHS website for a listing of all of the wonderful performers. Amongst those listed is Colorado's very own Principal Harpist with the Colorado Symphony, performing with Kathleen Bride in their Duo Classique.

Barbara Lepke-Sims will also represent the region giving a workshop on the profession of Live Therapeutic Music.

Just click on the link to find out all about how to register! www.ahsconference.org



News from Kansas:

Wichita Chapter; Suzanne Shields, President, suzannels@cox.net

The Prairie Wind Harp Ensemble and the Wichita Harp Ensemble combined to perform at the Scottish Festival in McPherson, KS in September. We had a record number of 14 harps at the event under the direction of RoJean Loucks.

Faith O'Neal was the featured harpist in the Guild Hall Players performance of "The Fantasticks" in Wichita.

Suzanne Shields gave a concert of Holiday Harp Music from Around the World at the Coutts Art Museum in Eldorado, KS to a capacity crowd.

Gretchen Jones and Jillian Lamm performed with the Newton, KS Symphony on "Afternoon of a Faun" on their fall concert.

The Wichita Harp Ensemble under the direction of Suzanne Shields was one of the featured performance groups for the Bontanica Wichita Gardens' Illuminations, a holiday fundraising event.

Jane Hyde is in her 29th year as the first harpist with The Wichita Symphony.

The Chapter had their fall meeting in October. Several members and their students performed for the group.

Lyra (Kansas City); Manijéh René Pickard, President, salzedo.harpist@gmail.com

The KC Lyra Chapter held their fall meeting on August 25, 2013. They announced Manijéh Pickard as President, Joan Ferguson as Vice President, Kara Gibson as Second VP, Elizabeth Valle as Secretary, and Chuck Wilson as Treasurer. Later, Stephen Pickard joined the team to help develop a website for the KC Lyra Chapter.

On January 17th, 2014, the KC Lyra Chapter announced the completion of their website. For more information, visit www.kcharpchapter.com.

The KC Lyra Chapter held Auditions & Evaluations on February 22nd, 2014 at the Bell Cultural Events Center on the campus of MidAmerica Nazarene University.

The Heartland Harp Ensemble, consisting of KC locals Wesley Kelly, Rachel Browne, and Emily Jaeger, gave a performance at Johnson County Community College on February 24th, 2014.

Local harpist Sr, Holy Hope along with a few others gave an afternoon concert of sacred and classical chamber music on March 1st, 2014 at the Visitation Parish in Kansas City.

Irish harpist Cormac de Barra gave a performance at the University of Kansas on March 11th, 2014.

News from Nebraska:

We have very sad news from Nebraska. President of the Great Plains Chapter, Karen Conoan, just recent passed away on April 27, 2014.

Karen E. Conoán



Conoán, Karen E.

Apr 4, 1949 - Apr 27, 2014

Karen (Orr) Conoán died peacefully on April 27, 2014 at her home in La Vista, surrounded by her loving family. She was known to many throughout the Omaha area as a harpist and music educator whose career spanned over 40 years. Karen started her study of the harp at Omaha North High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from Wayne State College. She taught band and vocal music to students from kindergarten through high school. Later she became a string specialist for the Omaha Public Schools and taught harp lessons privately. For more than 25 years Karen was the music director and worship coordinator for St. Columbkille Parish in Papillion. During this time, she earned the degree Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University. She was on the faculty of the Saint Cecilia Institute for Sacred Liturgy, Music and the Arts and she was appointed Harpist to the late Archbishop Daniel Sheehan. Many viewers enjoyed the harp music she provided for Mass for Shut-Ins on television. Her Catholic faith was a central pillar of her life. As a freelance harpist, Karen performed for hundreds if not thousands of weddings and special events during her 40-year career. She also played with numerous ensembles including the Hastings Symphony, Orchestra Omaha, UNO Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Omaha Community Playhouse, Papillion-La Vista Community Theater, and the Omaha Harp Circle. She established the Community Carol Concert that is presented every December in Papillion. She was the president of the Great Plains Chapter of the American Harp Society. Karen was an enthusiastic supporter of Sue's Stepper-ettes when her daughters were baton twirlers. She enjoyed traveling and had visited Russia, Rome, England, France, Panama, Canada, Mexico, and many parts of the United States. She also enjoyed gardening and had a great appreciation for the beauty of nature. Although she was a woman of many accomplishments, Karen was a modest person whose greatest pride was her family. She thoroughly enjoyed life with her beloved family above all else. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, John; her mother, Esther Orr; son, Michael; daughter Carolyn and husband Brian Harvey; son Kenneth and wife Gina; daughter Tricia and husband Ron McIntosh; brothers Tom, John, and Lynn and sister Sue; and seven grandchildren. She also leaves behind many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her father Clinton Orr and her infant sons, Robert and James.

Anita Clark Jaynes wrote:

Karen died on April 27th after battling brain cancer for one year. Her last public performance was at Christmas time when she played informally at a public library.

Karen was the president of the Great Plains Chapter. Pat Barnes is the treasurer. The chapter has been quite loosely organized yet we have managed to sponsor some nice events.

On November 9, 2013 we hosted Stephen Hartman from Phoenix (formerly with Lyon & Healy in Chicago). We had a day of workshops including an ensemble student recital and Stephen presented an evening concert (all in Omaha). The concert was underwritten by Mrs. Dona Hurst. She is the mother of Lou Hurst and grandmother of Zach Hurst.

On April 25, 2014 we hosted a performance by Julie Smith Phillips in Lincoln. We are looking forward to a performance by Alice Giles with the Lincoln Symphony in the fall and plan to organize an event around that.

On April 4, 2014 there was a studio recital by students of Mary Bircher and Karen Larsen.

In February, Mary Bircher and Kathleen Wychulis presented a duo recital in Sioux City, IA. They gave us a preview performance in Omaha. Mary Bircher and Arlis Dowling are active in therapeutic musicianship. Both hold certificates as therapeutic musicians.

Thank you for your interest in Karen. I met her when I started studying the harp at the age of 11. She was our teacher's star pupil and I always looked up to her. I'm 61 now so it was a 50-year friendship. We played duo gigs now and then. I play with Orchestra Omaha (a community orchestra) and she played 2nd harp whenever needed. We were close friends and I miss her terribly.

All the best,
Anita Clark Jaynes

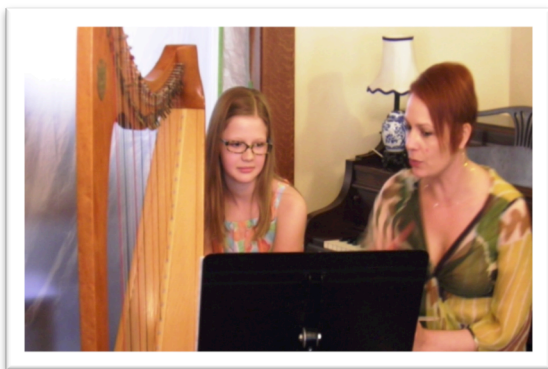
News from Colorado:

Mile High Chapter

Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, Secretary, submitted the Chapter's report. In the report it was mentioned that the Mile High Chapter held Student Evaluations this spring.

Here are pictures of several of the students, in addition to the pictures which are in the newsletter.

Please click on the attached Mile High Chapter Newsletter to see all of their information.





***Wishing everyone a wonderful 2014!
Hope to see you in New Orleans!!!!***

Mile High Chapter News - Colorado

Harp Fantasia 2013

The Mile High Chapter held its biannual multi-harp concert – *Harp Fantasia* – on Sat., Oct. 26, 2013 at the Lakewood Cultural Center to a sold out crowd. Thirty-nine harpists took the stage this year playing fifteen works, including four compositions arranged by Mile High Chapter members Kathy Bundock Moore and Lynn Abbey-Lee. Conductors for the groups performing this year were Paul Crowley, Pamela Eldridge, Lynne Abbey-Lee, and Suzanne Moulton-Gertig. The concert was dedicated to long-time member of both the Mile High Chapter and American Harp Society, Bob Litterell, who died earlier in the year.



Harp Fantasia 2013. Lakewood Cultural Center, Lakewood, CO.

Annual Music Education Auditions (2014 Student Evaluations)

This spring, the Mile High Chapter is holding its annual AHS Student Evaluations. Member and Colorado Symphony Harpist Courtney Hershey Bress is the adjudicator this year. At the time of this writing, the first evaluation has already taken place (April 26, 2014), with the second set for May 17th at the home of Catherine Rands in Denver. Five students are taking part this year: James Hinshaw, Lucy Kate Steinmeir, Marie Handy, Lauren Wilson, and Aden Harrison.



2014 Adjudicator Courtney Hershey Bress with student Aden Harrison.

Continued, next page

Mile High Chapter, continued

Senior Recital

Member Rebecca Moritzky gave her Senior Recital at the University of Denver on March 29, 2014 playing solo works of Salzedo, Grandjany, Malotte, Debussy, Tarrega, and harp duets with fellow harp major Rebecca Schaefer by Prokofiev, Dandrieu, and Paradies.



Rebecca Moritzky



Rebecca Schaefer

Retirement, or Passing on the Harp Key

Member Suzanne Moulton-Gertig is retiring from the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music's faculty where she has taught harp and music graduate studies since 1990. Her replacement will be Ann Marie Liss. Ann Marie holds a Diplôme Supérieure de Concertiste (Doctorate of Musical Arts) from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris where she studied with Isabelle Perrin.



Ann Marie Liss



Suzanne Moulton-Gertig

The Mile High Chapter Board

Along with this year's activities, the Mile High Chapter Board is planning next year's regular activities, including the biannual chapter recital (*Harpist Showcase*) in October, a Visiting Artist Concert and Masterclass in the winter, and the annual student evaluations in the spring as formal events for the chapter. The 2013-15 Chapter Board Officers are: Paul Wren, *President & Website Manager*; Deb Kolacny, *V. President*; Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, *Secretary & Listserve Manager*; Catherine Rands, *Treasurer*; and Jodie Wiepking, *Member-at-Large*.

