



**MIDWESTERN
REGIONAL
NEWSLETTER
2009-2010 Season**

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NATIONAL NEWS BLAST FOR 2010

First things first:



**39th AHS National Conference
June 30 - July 5, 2010 Tacoma, Washington**

► **Detailed Information at:** www.AHSConference.org

General Information about the conference

Our Host and Chair for the event: AHS Greater Seattle Chapter. **Pat Wooster, chair.**

The Host Committee for the 39th National Conference has been hard at work for a number of months now to prepare a great conference for everyone. Amongst a program that is full of sessions and varied in nature, this conference will also celebrate the 125th anniversary of the birth of Carlos Salzedo and will honor especially the Northwest Region's harpist, teacher, and composer Lynne Wainwright Palmer.

From the first Conference day, the program will include recitals of the top competition winners, Celtic music and an opening concert by renowned French harpist **Catherine Michel**. After that, there are workshops, lectures, master classes and more concerts featuring **Judy Loman, Jana Bouskova, Deborah Henson-Conant, Ellie Choate, Paul Baker, Christa Grix, the Duarte family from Mexico**, and many more, plus harp circles, late night jazz, and the premiere of a musical comedy by **Deborah Henson-Conant** at the extraordinary Wurlitzer

Manor. You will hear music in a variety of ensemble settings, collaborating with choir, dance, chamber music, a night of Latin music, and a concerto night as the grand finale.

New this year, the AHS is offering complimentary registration to the first 50 student members (18 or under).

COMPETITION DURING THIS CONFERENCE:

THE ANNE ADAMS AWARDS

The AHS Foundation (Anne Adams) Awards will take place June 30 and July 1. Established in 1990, the Anne Adams Fund makes it possible to present three awards of \$2,000 each for full-time study of harp at a college or university. The awards are enhanced by a \$500 Lyon & Healy gift certificate, and receive awards from the John Escosa Fund to be used for the enhancement and improvement of stage presence. Application with audition CD is due March 25, 2010.

Want to make the conference part of a family/friends vacation?

There's a lot to do in the area. Families can go whale watching, visit the International Museum of Glass, the Tacoma Art Museum, Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Northwest Trek, Mt. Rainier, and, of course, Seattle.

PLEASE NOTE: Updates about the conference will be posted on www.ahsconference.org.

Speaking of updates:

Announcing: The New AHS Website

<http://www.HarpSociety.org>

AHS has a redesigned website with updated content. Please visit the site to discover a variety of resources, including links for you to join the new AHS Facebook page, and announcement about our Radio Interview Series. Now is the opportunity for harpists and students to join the AHS as new members with a discount on dues. Benefits include attending conferences, competitions, *The American Harp Journal*, harp insurance, and numerous scholarships. All the resources are now on our home page.

A World Harp Congress in the Western Hemisphere – 2011

The **11th World Harp Congress** will be in Vancouver, Canada, July 24-31, 2011. This is coming up sooner than you expect. See www.worldharpcongress.org for current details.

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Photo by David Brown, Highlands Ranch, CO. Husband, Father, and Harp Hero.

NEWS FROM MIDWESTERN REGIONAL CHAPTERS

Great Plains Chapter News

Karen Conoán, reporter.

2009 events since the last regional newsletter:

The Great Plains Chapter hosted **Julie Smith** for a Master Class in April (prior to her Lincoln recital). Ms. Smith coached four harp students: **Zach Hurst, Nicole Wilkins, Melissa Srb, and Katherine Stangl**; there were eight observers. Lincoln harp instructor **Heidi Beran** hosted the Master Class at her home.

HARPENING 2009 was scheduled for Saturday, October 31 at First Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. The large ensemble performance (28 harpists) was conducted by Clark Potter, music faculty member at the University of Nebraska. Smaller ensembles on the program are the Omaha Harp Circle, the duo **Margaret Nelson and Jennifer Buehler**, and **students of Heidi Beran**. One large ensemble selection is “New York, New York” arranged by **Anita Clark Jaynes** (a member of the Great Plains Chapter).

Quad City Chapter News

Stephanie Javaux, reporter

On September 15, the Lyrebird Ensemble (**Lillian Lau**, harp; Ellen Huntington, flute) presented a Guest Artist Recital at Augustana College. Works by Nadermann, Tulou, Grandval, Folprecht, Backofen, Bemberg, Jongen, and Alwyn were performed.

From the Top, the preeminent showcase for young musicians hosted by acclaimed concert pianist Christopher O'Riley, came to Cedar Rapids on Tuesday May 19 to tape its hit NPR radio program heard weekly on Iowa Public Radio. Chosen from a national pool, local talent for this concert taping included 15-year-old harpist Katherine Siochi from Iowa City performing Impromptu-Caprice by Gabriel Pierné.

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*Quad City, cont.***Senior Recitals:**

Sarah Javaux presented a senior recital on May 30, 2009 at Trinity Episcopal Church in Davenport. **Kristen Vokt** presented a senior recital on June 7, 2009 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport.

Doctoral Recitals:

Erin Ponto presented a solo harp recital as part of her doctoral program at Northwestern University on May 15, 2009 at the Tittle Chapel, First United Methodist Church in Evanston

Members of the Quad Cities Chapter played at Northpark Mall in Davenport on May 9, 2009. In this casual setting, members took turns playing. It was a lot of fun and raised awareness of the harp. They are playing again on Dec. 5th.

HARP DAY 2009, Iowa City. August 15:

Guest harp clinician this year was Des Moines harpist/teacher **Kristin Maahs**, who taught master classes. In addition, Jeffrey Agrell, horn faculty at the University of Iowa, conducted workshops on improvisation games. The day concluded with a group class play-in/improvisation concert.

Lyra Chapter News

Roseanne Gortenburg, reporter.

Upcoming for 2010:

Vice-president **Joan Ferguson** will be performing the Spohr Trio for violin, cello, and harp on 4/8/10 at Hart Recital Hall at UCMO in Warrensburg, Mo.

Other events in 2009 since the last newsletter:

President **Roseanne Gortenburg** performed as part of a Healing Concert with the Sounds of Comfort at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas on Nov. 7.

Treasurer **Chuck Wilson, Michael Oshiver, and Roseanne Gortenburg** entertained at the annual Plaza Art Fair in September.

The Lyra Chapter had a wonderful harp party with all harpists in the area plus the ukulele players at the home of **Julia Schildmayer** in August.

The September membership meeting was held at the home of Secretary **Jennifer Liebnitz**.

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News of former Green Country Chapter Members

Lorelei Barton, reporter

The Midwest Harp Festival - July 19 – 25, 2009:

Celebrated its 10th Anniversary and experienced its largest registrant turn-out in the 10 years. First place winners of the Solo Competition were **Hannah Helbig** and **Christine Welden** of Oklahoma. Second place winners were **Brianna Berg** from Texas and **Devanee Williams** from Kansas. Honorable Mention went to **Zach Hurst** and **Natassia Boening** from Nebraska. The first and second place winners performed on a recital the day following the competition.

2010 Midwest Harp Festival is July 18 - 24. Music for the competition is available from the festival's website beginning Nov. 1, 2009.

The **Salzedo Harp Duo (Nancy Lendrim and Jody Guinn)** performed an outstanding concert in Tulsa at Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church on September 20. They also taught an afternoon master class with 4 harp students playing and gave a pre-concert talk/dessert reception.

Dolce Cantabile Harp Ensemble Performance

8 Tulsa student harpists (High School through College) performed a concert on Nov. 13 of works by Andrès, Challan, Rameau, and Joplin, along with an arrangement of *Faith of Our Fathers* by Tulsan, **Linda Paul**. Included also were chamber works for harp and other instruments.

The ensemble also played at several venues in December including St. Simeons Retirement/Nursing Center and before the Tulsa Youth Symphony in the auditorium lobby.

Upcoming in 2010:

Combined Ensembles - **Tulsa Troubadours** Adult Ensemble and **Dolce Cantabile** will perform together at First Christian Church, Tulsa, on January 24 at 4 pm for the church's Sunday Concert Series. Several harpists will play in the morning service that day as a teaser for the afternoon program.

Mile High Chapter News

Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, reporter.

The Mile High Chapter hosted AHS 2009 Student Evaluations at the home of **Bob Litterell**, Mile High Chapter Treasurer, on April 18th and May 16th. This year's adjudicator was **Ann Marie Liss**. Eighteen students from ages seven through adult members took part in the annual activity.

In August, the chapter, along with the kind help and support of **David and Debbie Kolacny** of Kolacny Music, hosted a solo recital by international artist **Jana Bouskova** at the Cameron Church. The concert was very well attended. The following day, Ms. Bouskova held a master class for Mile High chapter members.

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Mile High Chapter, cont.

Fifth Harp Fantasia Held in October 2009. On 24 October, the Mile High Chapter held a concert of harp ensemble music at the Lakewood Cultural Center to a 316-seat capacity crowd. Forty-seven harpists performed as a mass ensemble and divided into three separate groups performing works by Biggs, Waddington, Schumann, Stork, Saint-Saëns, Andrès, Loesser, Curcio, Press, A. Lloyd Webber, Badelt, and P. D. Paradies. The chapter was pleased to perform three works arranged by harpists in our area. Performed were **Lynne Abbey-Lee**'s arrangements of Pietro Domenico von Paradies' *Toccata* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Music of the Night" from *Phantom of the Opera*, as well as **Rachel Ellins**' arrangement of the theme from *the Pirates of the Caribbean* by Klaus Badelt.

Chapter member Lynne Abbey-Lee performed the Kitka *Fresco of St. Sophia Cathedral of Kiev* with the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra on October 25, 2009.

New chapter officers are now installed for 2009-2011: Pres. Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, V. Pres. Janet Rinaldi, Sec. Mary Keener, Treas. Bob Litterell, and Member-at-Large Lynne Abbey-Lee.

Many of our chapter members are active performing in Colorado ensembles including, but not limited to, the:

Arapahoe Philharmonic, Aurora Symphony, Colorado Chamber Players, Colorado Springs Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Denver Philharmonic, Evergreen Chamber Orchestra, Jefferson Symphony, Lakewood Symphony, Littleton Symphony, Lonetree Symphony, Mountain Chamber Music Society, and Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra.

In Competition and at School:

Chapter Members **Carrie Brown** and **Molly Arns** competed in the AHS National Competition and the Lyon & Healy Awards, respectively. Carrie finished 4th place in the Intermediate I Division.

Former Mile High Chapter member **Emily Levin**, now studying at Indiana University, won the Irena Kaganovsky Prize for the best performance of Henriette Renié's *Piece Symphonique en trois épisodes*, in Stage II of the International Competition in Israel. She also placed third in the Young Professional Division of the AHS National Competition, and Honorable Mention in the Lyon & Healy Awards.

Other Colorado harpists placing in the AHS National Competition Intermediate I Division were **Kinsey McNevin** (1st Place, and the Stockton Prize) and **Kira Krupa** (3rd Place)

Molly Arns performed her junior recital at the Univ. of Denver on November 15, playing works of Bach, Palmer and Salzedo. **Mariah Daniels** performed her Senior Recital at the Denver School of the Arts in May and is now a freshman harp student at the Univ. of Denver.

We welcome new Univ. of CO masters student **Rosalie Gilbert** to the Mile High Chapter. Rosie is a graduate of Cleveland Institute of Music.

Harps for Sale

For Sale: Thormahlen Swan 36-string cherry lever harp strung in concert gut. Beautiful full sound. Comes with padded case. \$3,400.00. Call Jill at 563 355 9909 for more information or go to the Thormahlen web site to see photos www.thorharp.com.

WHAT'S UP? WHAT CAN WE DO?

THE BAD NEWS:

Last year, when I was writing and calling chapter chairs asking about membership and activities, common to the conversations were comments like, “We don’t do much in our chapter,” or “We have a hard time getting all together to do things.” One chapter former president confirmed that the chapter had dissolved, but individuals would still like to be connected by receiving the electronic newsletter. I could do that. Another chair’s email box was continually full and would not accept posts. Neither did that chair answer phone calls. My hands were tied.



THE GOOD NEWS:

but it has the potential. . . .See below:

Is this a harp chapter meeting? Probably not,

There may be something that can be done about the problem. While it is, for better or worse, a fact that our present day level of work expectations that were not so omnipresent thirty years ago (computers applications, for example, while making document creation faster and easier, also ramp up the expectations for faster and more communication), suck up our time, we find ourselves doing more to get through our day, our week, our season, and, as a result, we communicate less in a meaningful fashion with those around us. Face-to-face harp chapter communication is one of the victims of our own very busy lives. Hopefully, some of the chapter activities reported in this newsletter may help chapters who are struggling to put together activities for their chapters. Call one another, get together, if only to catch up with your colleagues’ news. Have your students get together and play = it’s a meeting.

The next newsletter will be in the Fall of 2010. Please send news of you or your chapter to me at suzanne.moulton-gertig@du.edu with a SUBJECT LINE that includes “AHS-Midwest” in it. I receive about 200 emails a day, with an inordinate amount of spam. I want to be sure that I recognize your post. It is difficult to pry news from you all, so please be more forthcoming! Much appreciated! If I missed some news from a chapter, my sincere apologies; it was inadvertent.

If you have received this newsletter, you have been identified as a chapter member somewhere here in the Midwestern Region. I you have received this from a friend who is a member and would like to be part of future email communications, send your email information to me with the same instructions, as in the paragraph above.