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Southern Region News

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AHS National Conference
2014

Nashville, Tennessee!

June 30 – July 3rd

Anne Adams Awards
Blair School of Music
June 28-29th, 2014

Don't forget to join AHS
chapters locally as well
as nationally.

**Support your
LOCAL CHAPTER!**

Nashville Chapter: Meeting November 6 with Special Guest Artist Licia Jaskunas

The Fall 2011 meeting of the Nashville Harp Society was held on Sunday, November 6, at 2:00 pm at Woodmont Baptist Church, Nashville.

The doors opened at 1:00 pm for the Atlanta Harp Center Sale in the back lobby. Special guest artist **Licia Jaskunas**, Principal Harpist of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, performed works by Spohr, Grandjany, Glinka, and Ginastera. Pianist Robert Marler of the NSO assisted on piano.

A brief NHS meeting concluded the reception. Following the workshop and meeting, members and guests continued shopping until 4:00 pm. Members were also able to shop on Saturday, November 5th at Eclectic Productions, a local recording studio.

Principal harpist Licia Jaskunas joined The Nashville Symphony in 1998. Licia is a member of the Nashville Harp Society.

OTHER NEWS: NHS will award the Kathryn Sparks Memorial Harp Scholarship to a deserving harpist in Spring 2012! Requirements and applications for KSMS will be announced later in the year. The guest artist for the Spring meeting will be harpist **Maria Luisa Rayan-Ferero**.

The AHS National Conference 2014 will be held in Nashville, Tennessee. NHS is busy making plans for hosting this exciting event.

President **Phyllis Sparks** has been



appointed as Southern Regional Director this year to fill in for Patrice Fisher. She will be the AHS's National Conference Chairman for 2014. Among her many recording sessions this year, Phyllis played Celtic harp for a song that is featured in the major movie release "Soul Surfer". The song is titled "Fire Within" featuring Bethany Hamilton.

Tracy Artz is currently featured in an ad for the Sarah Cannon Cancer Center. She is currently writing a book about her cancer survival experiences. Tracy and her husband Tim are now certified chaplains with Billy Graham's Rapid Response Team.

Pamela Van Slyke's new business "Harp Lingerie and Accessories" is up and running. She has a current ad in the Harp Journal and Harp Column. Her website is harplingerandaccessories.com. *cont pg 4*

New Orleans Chapter

The aim of AHS is to

“...promote and foster the appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument, to encourage the composition of music for the harp and to improve the quality of performance of harpists.

For more information, visit the AHS web-site at www.harpsociety.org/



“A painter
paints pictures
on canvas. But
musicians paint
their pictures
on silence.”
-Leopold
Stokowski

PATRICE FISHER, ecoslatinos@gmail.com.

Louisiana harpist and music teacher, Patrice Fisher and percussionist/producer, Carlos Valladares, traveled to Guatemala, from August 7 to 21, 2011, to perform with local musicians at the 14th Festival Centro Historico. Patrice performed her original compositions, the original compositions of Guatemalan composers and traditional music of Louisiana. with a guest performance by 6 of the harp students of the Guatemala Harp Project and also a guest performance by 35 singers from Instituto Capitan Victor Manuel Barrios Elementary School.

The New Orleans Chapter is hosting a series of concerts and lecture demonstrations, featuring Dr. Alfredo Rolando Ortiz, January 27, 28 and 29, at Covington Holy Trinity Church, Tulane University and E. Jefferson Parish Regional Library. For further details, contact Patrice Fisher at ecoslatinos@gmail.com.

The New Orleans Chapter will host a New Orleans Jazz Harp Weekend at the University of New Orleans, June 8, 9, and 10. For further details, contact Patrice Fisher at ecoslatinos@gmail.com.

Patrice and Carlos also performed and gave a Jazz Improvisation workshop to 13 local Guatemalan harp students, and 10 Salvadoran harp students and teacher at Centro Para El Arte y La Paz, Suchitoto, El Salvador, August 14 and 15. We delivered over 100 harp strings, donated by the World Harp Congress & harpists: Bette Vidrine, Linda Wood Rollo, Mercedes Gomez to the Guatemalan Harp Project & also the Conservatorio Nacional de Musica

The New Orleans Chapter has produced another episode of HarpTalk radio program, featuring Houston harpist, Sadie Turner. You can listen to this program or any of the 7 programs in the series online at <http://harptalk.podomatic.com/> or at the American Harp Society website: <http://www.harpsociety.org/Resources/RadioSeries.asp>

ST Louis, MO

ST LOUIS, MO - Grainne Hambly and William Jackson will be in St. Louis doing workshops throughout the week prior to their concert at 7:30pm on October 22nd. All events to take place at St. Louis Irish Arts, Immaculate Conception School, 2934 Marshall Ave, St. Louis, Missouri 63143. Please contact Eileen Gannon to sign up for workshops:
eileen@gannon.com

Louisville, KY:

Sorry to say we are inactive and have nothing to report.
Maybe next year.....
Rozanna Thompson

We Want You!

We Want You!

To volunteer for NHS!



NOV 2011: NOTE FROM NHS PRESIDENT Phyllis Taylor Sparks

Nashville has been selected to host the 2014 American Harp Society National Conference here in MUSIC CITY from June 30-July 3, 2014! We hope the Hilton Downtown has been selected as the venue. We plan to have some concerts at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center as well. If you are ANYWHERE within our area CONTACT us if you would like to help! We want to represent as many area harpists as we can!

- Phyllis Sparks

**AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

“Will The Circle Be Unbroken”

MUSIC CITY U.S.A.

June 30 - July 3, 2014

The AHS National Conference 2014 in Nashville will provide members of our society and the community at large an opportunity to experience exquisite concerts, incomparable educational classes, and exciting networking possibilities. For many of our local musicians, this may be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This is also an exciting chance for us to showcase Music City and its unique, world-class musicians, recording studios, concert venues, and attractions. Nashville and its strong commitment to the Arts will be promoted at an International level.

We will need volunteers to help with several areas of this exciting event! Planning committees are currently forming, so please send an e-mail to Phyllis at harpist1@comcast.net if you are interested in helping in any facet of the conference!

Let's all play our part in making the AHS National Conference in Nashville an amazing success! Thank you in advance!

Nashville
Grammy
Winners 2010!

Nashville musicians
captured two Grammy
Awards in 2010:

Nick Sparks - Best Pop
Instrumental Album
Recording Engineer

The Nashville
Symphony - Best
Classical Performance

Congratulations!!!

Nashville really is
Music City!



"No one can
whistle a
symphony.
It takes an
orchestra to
play it."

Southern Region News

Phone:
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harpist1@comcast.net

Be sure to SEND US
YOUR NEWS!



New Harp Logo design by
Mike Ott

*“Our goal is to
promote, learn, and
share music for
pedal and Celtic
harp in the Middle
Tennessee
Community.”*

The Nashville Harp Society

Won't you join us?

Ahsnashville.com

Memphis Chapter:

Marion Shaffer will be playing the Debussy Trio and three Mahler orchestral works in Recife, Brazil December 13-19 as part of the Festival Virtuosi. Margaret Wheless will be performing with the Memphis Youth Symphony November 12 at Harding Auditorium.

The *Vanderbilt harp ensemble* (under the direction of Marion Shaffer) in Nashville, TN will give a free concert on Friday, December 9th at 8:00 in Turner Hall at Blair. My pre-college student *Amy Thompson* will give a recital Saturday, Nov. 12 at 4:00 in the Choral Hall at Blair. Everyone is invited!

Nashville Chapter News CONTINUED:

Lisa Rhea “I completed the Music for Healing and Transition Program (MHTP) in June in Atlanta as I am pursuing certification as a music practitioner with the harp. I am currently completing my required internship (supervised volunteer) hours at St. Thomas Hospital on the step down unit, Parthenon Pavilion Psychiatric Alzheimer and Geriatric units and Alive Hospice.

Mallory Clouse captured 3rd Place, Senoir Individual Division at the 2011 International Future Problem Soling Competition in LaCrosse, WI. Mallory is a former recipient of the Kathryn Sparks Memorial Harp Scholarship.

Maggie Clouse graduated in May 2011 from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN. She will be performing Christmas Eve services with choir at a church in Bowling Green, KY.

Nick Sparks, husband of our President, won a Grammy this past year as recording engineer on “Best Pop Instrumental Album” for Larry Carlton’s “Take Your Pick”. He is currently in the studio recording music for Hershey Theme Park, Holiday World, Fontanel Dinner Theatre and several cruise lines.

Bobbi Jackson performed for Burt High School Memorial 2011, Black History Week -Fort Campbell, KY, NAACP Banquet-Clarksville, TN, Delta Sorority, Rite of Passing - Bruce Convention Center, Business Fair - Bruce Center, Pioneers birthday party, and Christmas at Community Chapel at Fort Campbell, KY.

Kristin Quint received the Blair School of Music College Preparatory Certificate from Vanderbilt University’s Pre-College Program. This past summer she attended Interlochen Music Camp and was Principal Harp in the World Youth Symphony for all six weeks.

Blair Webber, *Kristin Quint* and *Hannah Heinz* were the 2011 Kathryn Sparks Memorial Harp Scholarship recipients. Congratulations!

Ooops - Did we miss your information? Contact harpist1@comcast.net and send it in! We want to know all about you and what you are doing. Let’s keep our harp community growing by promoting our local chapters and each other.



Southern Region News

Phone:
615.333.0804

E-mail:
harpist1@comcast.net

Be sure to SEND US
YOUR NEWS!

Won't you join us?

Contact the American
Harp Society now!

HarpSociety.org



Memphis Area: continued from page 4

The IRIS Orchestra December 3 concert will feature **Elizabeth Hainen**, harp. Elizabeth is Principal Harpist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and a highly sought after soloist and chamber musician. She will be performing two concerti on this program:

CAPLET *Conte fantastique*, after Poe's *The Mask of the Red Death*
for Harp and Strings

DEBUSSY *Danse sacrée et Danse profane* for Harp and Strings

The concert is being held at the Germantown Performing Arts Centre 1801 Exeter Rd. Germantown, TN 38138 at 8:00 PM Saturday December 3, 2011. For more information on Elizabeth's visit and the concert please call me directly at 215-805-2906. For tickets contact the GPAC box office at 901-751-7500.

Mississippi Chapter:

Amanda Mangrum – (*new President*) The MS Chapter of the AHS held a meeting on August 20th to talk about upcoming events in the harp community around the state as well as to let people know Grace Halsey passed on the title of President to me. There were 10 people in attendance for the meeting.

Amanda Mangrum is the new adjunct harp professor at Belhaven University in Jackson, MS.

Grace Halsey and Mandy Mangrum performed the Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique* with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra on October 29, 2011

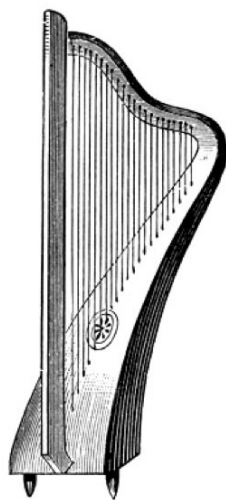
Grace Halsey will perform works by Gershwin and Cole Porter with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra on November 19, 2011

Mandy Mangrum will perform Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* with the choir of St. Andrews Episcopal Church on December 24, 2011.

Other Nashville Area Harpist News: continued from page 4

Amy McKinney – "I am "trying" to finish my masters of music education at Belmont and wrote a thesis entitled: *Beginning Harp in Beginning Orchestra*. One thing I found difficult in my research was that harp programs in the US are limited in schools. I could only find 10 documented programs. I teach middle school string orchestra and play harp, too. Unfortunately, injuries to my hands and shoulder have put me on the sideline for a while, but my spirit is still there. My thesis was from my point of view as being an orchestra director and a harpist. I would be interested in helping develop curriculum for middle school harp students to be incorporated within a middle school orchestra. Although string class is primarily bowed instruments, they each have different things to overcome like fingerings and shifting of which only the violin and viola are similar. I could truly see a harp fitting in." :)

New Orleans Chapter continued from page 2



The New Orleans Harp Society Fall 2011 Student recital will have several performances this Holiday season, featuring a 15 member harp ensemble performing Christmas Carols, as well as our traditional solos and chamber pieces. These events are all open to the public and free of charge.

Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m., Tulane University School of Music, Dixon Hall Annex

Saturday, December 3, 2:30 p.m., East Bank Regional Public Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie, LA 70001

Sunday, December 18, 3:00 p.m., St. Lukes United Methodist Church, 5875 Canal Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70124

Sunday, December 18, 7:30 p.m., The Ozanam Inn, 843 Camp St., New Orleans, LA 70130

Wednesday, December 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Clearview Mall, 4436 Veterans Memorial Boulevard, Kenner, Louisiana

Monday, December 26, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Clearview Mall

Upcoming dates for 2012:

The Musica Chamber Ensemble celebrates their 5-year Anniversary with a concert featuring their founding members, including harpist Catherine Anderson and her husband, David Anderson, with two performances of the Anderson Dance Suite for Bass and Harp. The concerts are January 19, 7:30, Munholland United Methodist Church, Metairie, Louisiana; Sunday, January 22, 1:30 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Covington, Louisiana; and Sunday, March 11, 3:00 p.m., St. Johns Episcopal Church, Thibadeau, Louisiana.

Also in March be sure to plan to attend the Jefferson Performing Arts production of "Light in the Piazza", a delightful Broadway show with a score featuring the harp beautifully.

Dates are March 16, 17, and 18. Check the JPAS website for ticket information, or call Catherine Anderson, (504), 782-6531.

AHS Foundation is a non profit [509(a)(3)] organization in which donations are held for specific educational projects.



For more information, visit the AHS web-site at www.harpsociety.org/

SOUTHERN REGION NEWS *continued* page 7

St. Louis, Missouri

Gateway Chapter

Chapter Region/Cities: St. Louis, MO and suburbs

Contact: Terri Langerak – President terri@harp singer.net
Ayako Watanabe – Vice President watanatbes@sbcglobal.net
Eileen Gannon – Treasurer eileengannon@gmail.com
Candace Anderson – Secretary cca4music@gmail.com

Laura Hearne

The Gateway Chapter lost founding member Laura Hearne, who passed away on February 18, 2011. A well-known harpist, Laura performed with the staff orchestra for KMOX, The St. Louis, Symphony, The Muny, and the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra. She was an Owen Miller Recipient; a lifetime achievement of the musicians Union. Mrs. Hearne began harp lessons at the age of 11 with the St. Louis Symphony harpist Madam Graziella Pampari. In 1949 and 1950, she traveled with Madam Pampari to Italy for times of concentrated study. Mrs. Hearne studied with Madam Pampari until 1950 when she graduated from the St. Louis Institute of Music. Laura taught harp for over 50 years.

Fall Salon

The Fall Salon of the St. Louis Harp Society was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 2, 2011 at the home of Eileen Gannon. Ayako and Haruka Watanabe performed for members on the Harp and Violin.

Afternoon Concert

Presented by

Ayako and Haruka Watanabe

Meditation ----- **Jules Massenet**
Aria in Classic Style ----- **Marcel Grandjany**

This piece was commissioned by Mrs. Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge (1864 – 1953). Mrs. Sprague was an [American](#) pianist and patron of music, especially of [chamber music](#). She inherited a considerable amount of money from her parents, which she used for the promotion of chamber music. Marcel Grandjany (1891-1975) was a French born harpist and composer and was appointed head of the harp department at the [Juilliard School of Music](#) in 1938 where he taught until his death in 1975. Ayako Watanabe performed this piece at the funeral of Harp Society Member Laura Hearnes, at the request of her family. It was Mrs. Hearnes favorite piece.

Fantasy # 3 ----- **Haruka Watanabe**

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Based on the Japanese Koto

Song of the Shinabué ----- Haruka Watanabe

Written by Mr. Watanabe at his mother's death. The Shinabué is a Japanese Bamboo Flute.

President **Terri Langerak** is the harp instructor at the Central Visual and Performing Arts High School in the St. Louis Public School District. She was also appointed Adjunct Professor of Harp at the University of Missouri – St. Louis this year. Plans are in the works to publish the arrangements from her new CD *MidWinter's Canon*. *MidWinter's Canon* along with her other recordings *Zen Breakfast* and *Cynical Serenity* are available at her website www.harpsinger.net. Also new to her website is a video of Terri playing her original song *Journey to Serenity*. Terri continues to play jazz, rock, and originals throughout the St. Louis area.

Vice President **Ayoko Watanabe** reports her most memorable concerts for 2011 were the Japanese Festival performances with husband Haruka Watanabe and son Kaoru Watanabe. Kaoru Watanabe is a player of Japanese Flute and Drums and specializes in improvisations. Ayoko's greatest challenge was to improvise on harp. The Watanabe's presented four concerts, each concert a different program. Ayoko's training emphasized learning music to play any time, any where, and any place. These concerts required improvising the pieces all the time.

Treasurer **Eileen Gannon** taught workshops and performed at The Catskills Irish Arts Week, The Augusta Heritage Festival in West Virginia and at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in Cavan, Ireland. This coming April she will be performing at the St. Louis Tionol, and The North American Comhaltas Convention. Eileen's students will be competing in the qualifying Midwest Fleadh in Chicago.

Eileen continues to provide her students and interested area harpist and harpers with great opportunities. Michael Rooney visited St. Louis in April to participate in the St. Louis Tionol. In his workshop, Michael shared his unique approach to arranging and accompaniment. Michael's performance at the evening Tionol with fiddle player Oisín MacDiarmada was stellar.

In October, St. Louis was fortunate to host The Masters of the Celtic Harp for several days of workshops and concerts. Grainne Hambly taught several Irish

harp workshops and William Jackson gave a Scottish harp workshop and a Music Therapy with the Harp presentation. Their concert, which took place at

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the St. Louis Irish Arts school, was described by some in the audience as a "religious experience."

Recording Artist and Professional Speaker **Amy Camie** will be performing with the Town and Country Orchestra March 11, 2012 an orchestration of her CD *Dreams* and Debussy's *Dances*.

Sue Druckenmiller will be playing at the First Free Evangelical Church's production of *Let All Heaven Rejoice* – Dessert Theater 2011. The Production will be the second week of December on week nights and the week end. Sue's CD *Healing Harp: Harp Melodies to Dream By* is available for purchase at her website.

Harpists **Hannah Kehe, Eva Murphy Morley,** and **Elaine Sweeney** will be part of the Florissant Valley and St. Charles Symphony's presentation of Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique*. This is the first time these two orchestras have presented this work, which calls for two harps.

Harp For Sale

A 34 string lever harp *Luchair: from Slingoharps.com*. is currently available for \$4200.00 or \$100.00 a month rent to own. If you are interested in trying out the harp contact Eileen Gannon at eileengannon@gmail.com

The Gateway Chapter looks forward to 2012 events which include a Spring Tea and the Annual Student Recital.