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Southeastern Regional Newsletter

Featuring news from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida

From the Regional Director

Greetings! I hope this letter finds you in the midst of a happy holiday season. We have several exciting events coming up in our region, including the breaking news announcement that the 2016 AHS National Conference will be held in Atlanta! Believe it or not, the southeast has not hosted a national conference for over 30 years, so you will not want to miss it. Mark your calendars for June 30 – July 3, 2016, at Emory University and the Emory Conference Center Hotel.

The American Harp Society National Competition and Institute will be held this summer in Logan, Utah, June 21-24. We hope

many of you (especially students) will attend this always-inspiring event!

As you do your holiday shopping this year, please consider using “AmazonSmile” – a program that donates a percentage of your purchase price at Amazon.com to an organization of your choice (like the American Harp Society!). Details can be found at www.harpsociety.org.

Please read on for information on other events in your area. As always, please “Like” the American Harp Society on Facebook and follow @HarpSociety on Twitter for the most current information.

Happy Harping!
Carolyn Lund

South Carolina Chapter

President: Emily Waggoner

The South Carolina Chapter had a member drive and tea at Hampton Park Baptist Church in September, and added new members to our roster. October 30 we had a harp therapy presentation by Jana Hill and Nona Janowski, both certified harp therapists. This was a well-attended event at Praise Cathedral. We had our 2nd Annual Fall Recital on Nov. 15 at the historic Second Presbyterian Church off Main Street in Greenville, where 17 chapter members performed.

In the February we plan on hosting a local chapter competition for students, with awards given for further harp study, judged by Helen Rifas and Joyce Fankhauser. In March we plan to present a "Harp Giggling" workshop, with segments presented by different area professional harpists, with contracts and legal matters presented by attorney Alan Hill. On April 3-4 we will welcome AHS Concert Artist Alexandra Mullins, who will present a recital and workshop at War Memorial Chapel at BJU.

Harps for sale or rent are listed on our website: www.scharpsociety.com.

Central Florida Chapter

President: Cameron Huster Beck

This has been another exciting year for the Central Florida Chapter! On April 13th, 2014, the Central Florida Chapter invited Claire Jones, former royal harpist to the Prince of Wales, for a weekend of classes which culminated in a concert. She gave a class about warming up and worked with some individuals on ways to see different rhythms. She also gave a session with some “behind the scenes” stories where she talked about her life as Official Harpist to His Royal Highness. On Sunday, April 14, at Broadway United Methodist Church in Orlando, she gave a concert where she performed some of the pieces from her new CD “The Girl with the Golden Harp”. She also performed some pieces with her husband, percussionist Chris Mitchell.

The chapter also held the first Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church Harp Invitational arranged by Barbara Browning on the weekend of August 9-10, 2014. After gathering as a harp ensemble on Saturday, the group also played some selections for the church’s service the next day. After such a successful event, another concert is already scheduled at the church for March 15, 2015.

Meko, The International Harp Museum, and Jan Jennings coordinated a benefit harp ensemble concert where chapter members played at Broadway United Methodist Church on October 12, 2014. The harp chapter uses that church regularly for concerts and wanted to find a way to help them after the church was vandalized this summer. A love offering was taken to help them rebuild and they hope to have the minor damages repaired soon.

Jan Jennings was guest artist at Harp Journeys in Houston, Texas in March, 2014. She was also on the faculty of The Summer Harp Academy in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, this past June. She will return next July 12-19, 2015, along with Elzbieta Szmyt as the featured teachers. From February 27- March 1, she will be the guest artist for the Naples Harp Festival.

Lydia Emmons, 10, a student of Jan Jennings, attended the 2014 Summer Harp Academy in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, from June 29 – July 6, 2014. Two other students of Jan Jennings—Amelia Webb, 12, and Elise Webb, 10, from Oviedo, will be sitting for their Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) certifications in December 2014. Amelia will be presenting for Grade 4 Theory, Grade 4 Piano and Grade 2 Harp. Elise will be presenting for Grade 2 Theory, Grade 2 Piano and Grade 1 Harp.

Danielle Torres, a student of Verlon Eason, was awarded a harp scholarship as a freshman at Rollins College in Orlando for majoring in both harp and business. She also received her Gold Cup for three years of Superiors for harp solo in the Florida Federation of Music Clubs. Maria Pollack, also from Verlon Eason’s studio, was awarded her first Gold Cup for three years of Superior in Harp Solo for Florida Federation of Music Clubs. Two new members of Verlon Eason’s studio, Megan Casey and Lauren Barfield, who formerly studied with Scott Baumer, will also be joining the chapter for the Hanging of the Greens concert this year.

Cameron Huster Beck was harp faculty for Stetson University’s annual String Institute in DeLand, Florida, from September 12-13, 2014. She worked with Dana Esposito, who performed Elgar’s “Sospiri” with the String Orchestra and Mendelssohn’s “On Wings of Song” as a duet with a cellist on the culminating concert of the String Institute in Elizabeth Hall.

Kelly Wells, a student of Cameron Beck’s and a senior harp performance major at Stetson University, performed a solo recital in August with works by Hovhaness, Bach, Debussy, and Dittersdorf. She will also perform selections from Saint-Saens’ “Oratorio de Noel” and Patrick Hawe’s “The Call” in collaboration with various vocalists this fall.

The chapter will present a Summer Workshop with Kathleen Bride as their guest artist at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oveido from July 31st to August 1st, 2015. The weekend will include a concert with Kathleen Bride on Friday night, harp ensemble rehearsals and classes on Saturday, followed by a harp ensemble concert with selected soloists and other instrumentalists on Sunday.

Coastal Carolina Chapter

President: Christina Brier

This year, the Coastal Carolina Chapter met monthly with workshops, performances, and harp circle rehearsals. As a newly-formed chapter we are excited about this past year's growth and look forward to our 2014-2015 season.

Highlights of 2013-2014:

- The month of December brought performances by harp circle members for the Dickens Christmas Festival, Southport, NC.
 - In January harp duo Lilac 94 performed a recital and offered a workshop for the harp chapter. Both events were well attended and received.
 - Members of our therapeutic harp group presented the harp to the Thursday Morning Music Club, Rotary Club and numerous other regional community and church educational programs.
 - In March our Celtic Harp group performed a St. Patrick's Day program at The Harp Irish Pub and Restaurant in downtown Wilmington.
 - Our harp circle members performed at the Azalea Festival Garden Tours in April.
 - Also in April, David D'Arville of the Virginia Harp Center offered harp regulation services and harp supplies at our monthly meeting.
 - Throughout the year, members of the chapter offered historic harp music regularly at the Bellamy Mansion, Burgwin-Wright Museum, and the Fort Fisher Museum.
 - The Coastal Carolina chapter has exciting events planned for the 2014-2015 season.
 - In December, the harp circle will be performing for both the Festival of Trees at the Cameron Art Museum and the annual Christmas concert of the Williston Alumni Choir of Wilmington.
 - Our therapeutic harp group will be hosting the MHTP Training Program for bedside therapeutic music certification, beginning in February, 2015.
 - A Spring Sunday afternoon Benefit Concert and Saturday master class is being planned to help raise funding of scholarships for MHTP harp students.
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South Florida Chapter

President: Charlene Conner

The South Florida Chapter, in collaboration with the Music Club of Hollywood, presented a Members Recital at the Anne Kolb Nature Center on May 4, 2014. 12 harpists (Olivia Aleguas, Vince Giudice, Gabriela Gutierrez, Imelda Jean-Piere, Annie Lund, Carolina Maeso, Tal Naider, Angel Raymond, Nick Starr, Nicole Vanden Heuvel, Charlene Conner, and Nancy Ann Gillan) & 2 flutists (Sal Aleguas and Ellie Naider) participated in the well-received recital.

This past summer the Harp Circle of adult students met at the home of Charlene Conner each month and learned 12 ensemble pieces. Their rehearsals culminated in a performance at The Cleveland Clinic of Florida

in Weston on Sept. 13, 2014 which was greatly appreciated by patients, staff, and visitors. Eleven adults participated & 8 were able to play in the performance. Those participating were (performers marked with asterisks) Teva Benschlomo*, Janet Brouchaert*, Vince Giudice*, Joyce Golden, Laurel Grube*, Imelda Jean-Pierre*, Susan Manwaring, Nick Starr, Nicole Vandel Heuvel*, Donna Whitney,* and Charlene Conner*. The Harp Circle has been meeting for a few summers now but this was their first performance. They hope to be able to do more community service in the future.

A meeting took place on Nov. 2 in which elections were held. Those elected were: Charlene Conner - President, Nancy Donohue - Vice-President, Susan Manwaring – Secretary, and Karen Lang - Treasurer. Dr. Glen Arfsten remains our Communications Director who sends us numerous emails throughout the year informing us of harp events in the area, harps for sale and very often shares his wonderful arrangements with us via an attachment to download and enjoy. He keeps us connected and informed and we are most grateful for all he does for our chapter.

Charlotte Chapter

President: Kristin Andes

The Charlotte Chapter of AHS is 53 members strong this year and particularly delighted by several harping events that will be hosted in our area. Y'all come!

AHS Concert Artist Alexandra Katelyn Mullins will offer a recital on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015, 3 p.m., at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church (300 Pineville-Matthews Rd., Matthews, NC 28105) with a reception following. A member of the Charlotte AHS chapter, Katelyn has received awards including First Place in the Advanced and Young Professional Divisions of AHS, First Place in the Lyon and Healy Awards and was featured in L&H's 150th anniversary celebration master class program, First Place in the 18th Petar Konjovic Serbian International Harp Competition, First Place in the Jacobs School of Music [Indiana University] Concerto Competition, and Prize Winner in the 2013 USA International Harp Competition. Currently a student of Susann McDonald, Katelyn has concertized in 15 cities as AHS's Young Concert Artist and spent five weeks this summer, with a grant from IU's summer college, studying Celtic street music in Ireland and Scotland. You don't have to travel that far to hear her! Come to Matthews on January 10. The freewill offering will benefit AHS-Charlotte's educational fund. Katelyn will offer limited master classes opportunities. Contact Bette Roth at betroth@bellsouth.net for more information.

Chapter member and Licensed Clinical Social Worker Kathleen Blackwell-Plank has integrated therapeutic music into the care that Hospice and Palliative Care of Cabarrus County (NC) offers. With funding from the Cabarrus Arts Council, the ninth annual Interlude Music workshop, "Integrative Healing and Therapeutic Music in Hospice Care," will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at McKinnon Hospice Center (5003 Hospice Ln., Kannapolis, NC 28081). Janie Alexander, MSN, RN, CMP (Certified Music Practitioner), and teacher with the Music for Healing and Transition Program, will serve as harp clinician and therapeutic musician. Joseph Judge, Director of Choral Activities and Assistant Professor of Music at Pfeiffer University, will serve as vocal clinician. In addition to building repertoire of therapeutic music for use in hospice and healthcare settings, participants will have an opportunity to learn about and experience other integrative modalities such as aroma therapy and healing touch. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will participate in a brief concert at the adjacent Tucker Hospice House. For more information contact Kathleen at 704-403-5226 or Kathleen.Blackwell-Plank@hpccc.org.

The chapter is sponsoring five holiday ensemble concerts in the area during December. Auditions and Evaluations will be held Jan. 31 and Feb. 28, 2015.

HARP FOR SALE: Lyon & Healy 23 Gold, S# 4053, very good original condition, beautiful warm sound. The harps with 4000 numbers are sought after since they were made during the "Golden Age" of Lyon & Healy (in the 1940s). \$24,900. Transport covers, bench, and wooden shipping trunk included. Contact Wolfgang Roth at rothduo@bellsouth.net.

Georgia Chapter

President: John Wickey

The Young Performers' Concerto Debut was a unique opportunity for young harpists to take their first steps as a concerto soloist in Georgia's famed Spivey Hall in Morrow, Georgia. Nine participants performed Vivaldi's Concerto in D Major as arranged by Kathy Bundock Moore as an ensemble with the Southern Crescent Youth Symphony on April 15, 2014. To help educate the public about the harp, the Atlanta Harp Ensemble featuring students of Susan Bennett Brady performed in the lobby prior to the concert.

Participants demonstrated their mastery of the piece by audition and attended a coaching session sponsored by the AHS Grants Program. The coaches were Susan Bennett Brady, Ellen Foster, Calista Koch, and Nella Rigell. Our impartial adjudicator was Kathryn Trice. The concerto soloists were: Madeline Chen, LeAndra Douds, Sara Hancock, Ariel Inigo, Katie O'Shaughnessy, Beautiful Sheriff, Teresa Sheppard, Kimberly Walker, and Abigail Wheeler.

The Georgia Chapter hosts a biennial harp concert featuring as many as 60 harps on stage with a large audience. The 2015 Mega Harp Concert will be a great way to showcase our instrument to the local public is one of the rare times that our harp community comes together as a large group: students, professionals, adult aficionados, and sometimes a few harpers - all playing together. It is also an important part of maintaining and renewing chapter membership as all participants must be members of the Georgia Chapter.

The planning has already begun and music has been chosen for the concert. This year we have a special treat: Elisabeth Remy-Johnson and Christina Smith, principal harp and flute (respectively) with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, will perform the 2nd movement of the Mozart Flute & Harp Concerto with the ensemble playing an arrangement of the accompaniment. Rehearsals will begin in January of 2015 throughout the Atlanta area, directed by local teachers who donate their time. The concert takes place on March 1, 2015, at Roswell First Presbyterian Church.