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## MIDWESTERN REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

February 2009

### ***FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR:***

Dear Midwestern Regional Members,

Some of you may know that for family reasons Jennifer Liebnitz, who has been the Midwestern Regional Director for a number of years now, has asked to step down for the remainder of her term. I received a call from AHS President Lucy Scandrett who asked if I would be willing to step in to finish out Jennifer's term. I am glad to do this for Jennifer, and I hope to be of use to you in this capacity.

It has been well over a year since our last newsletter and I am sure that a number of newsworthy things have occurred with our members in the last 12 months. At the most recent AHS Board of Director's meeting in June 2008, a decision was made to produce only one regional paper form newsletter a year and, as much as possible, send it out electronically to those who have email accounts. This decision was made to help save costs and time. This once-a-year newsletter is a chance to share your news, experiences, upcoming events and accomplishments. Paper copies will go to those AHS members who do not have email. To quote our Regional Directors' Coordinator, Jessica Siegel, "communication is an important benefit of membership in the American Harp Society."

If you would like to be part of future email communications, send your email information to me at [Suzanne.Moulton-Gertig@du.edu](mailto: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.

***If you do have an email address and have received this newsletter in paper form, please help us save money by sending your email address to me. See address and directions in the paragraph above. Thanks!***

**Suzanne**

Our annual Regional Newsletter will continue to bring you news and achievements from our members. We encourage you to support fellow harpists and attend harp events. If you are a teacher, introduce your student to opportunities that will inspire them to be better harpists. Organize a concert, gatherings and invite others to come. Your participation will help the chapter grow and prepare more events in the future.

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<b>NATIONAL NEWS</b>
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- 2009 AHS 8th Summer Institute and 18th National Competition will be held in Salt Lake City, UT, at Westminster College, 28 June - 2 July 2009. Co-chairs ShruDeLi Ownbey and David Day (curator of the AHS Archives and World Harp Congress Archives have included in conference registration a field trip to the International Harp Archives at BYU (optional bus fee \$18). See [www.harpsociety.org](http://www.harpsociety.org) for more details.
- 2010 AHS National Conference will be held in Tacoma, Washington at the newly remodeled Murano Hotel, June 30th through July 6th, 2010.
- 11th World Harp Congress will be in Vancouver, Canada, July 24-31, 2011. For those of you who like to plan far ahead - [www.worldharpcongress.org](http://www.worldharpcongress.org)

***Report on the AHS National Conference 2008***  
**Dearborn, Michigan**

*From Christa Grix, Chair:*

The 2008 AHS Conference "Celebrating the Whole Harpist" is a warm and happy memory, thanks to the many artists, presenters, vendors and committee members who made it a success.

Over 400 participants descended upon Dearborn, Michigan for a week that "Celebrated the Whole Harpist." From the pre-conference Anne Adams Awards competition, through the Opening Night Jazz Concert at the world-famous Henry Ford Museum, the collaborative concert with the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, the Alice Chalifoux 100th Birthday Tribute Concert, the workshops on health, wellness and creativity, and culminating with a solo recital by Isabelle Moretti, this was a conference that was enjoyed by all who attended. On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors, especially Lyon & Healy Harps, our Presenting Sponsor, Salvi Harps, Anderson Insurance Group and the Detroit Medical Center for their support. I also thank the conference planning committee for the many hours and expertise that they dedicated to the conference, and especially, I thank all of our guests, whose enthusiasm for the conference made the week so wonderful.

<b><i>IN MEMORIAM</i></b>
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From the New York Region:

Dulcie Barlow (1928-2008)

A Brooklyn-based harpist, teacher, and former board-member for the AHS, Dulcie is fondly remembered for her performances throughout New York City, and especially the fact that she guided so many young harpists into professional careers. Along with her contributions as a performer and teacher, she is fondly remembered for her nurturing personality and expert advice.

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*In Memoriam, cont.*

National:

Alice Chalifoux (1908-2008)

For those in attendance at the AHS Conference in Dearborn, just this-past June, one of the highlights will surely be the extraordinary tribute to Alice Chalifoux. On July 31, 2008, Ms. Chalifoux died at the age of 100. She was the Principal Harpist of The Cleveland Orchestra from 1931-1974 and a renowned teacher.

From *The Harp Column*:

Michael Rado (1954-2008)

Michael Rado, age 54, passed away suddenly at his home on August 28, 2008. At the time of his death Michael was the Principal Harpist with the San Francisco Opera center, The Western Opera Orchestra and Principal Harpist with the Santa Rosa Symphony. He was also the Acting Principal Harpist with the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra and played each season with the San Francisco Opera, the San Francisco Ballet and San Francisco Symphony.

Reported by Jude Mollenhauer, Columbus, OH:

Lucile Jennings (1930-2008)

Lucile Jennings, a friend and colleague to many, died tragically in an automobile accident near her home in Athens County, Ohio on Sunday, September 21st. She had been a long-time faculty member of Ohio University, where she was known for her musical talents on the harp, as well as for her tireless activism for those in need. Her indomitable spirit led her to travel the world for study, work and adventure. She earned degrees from the University of Alabama and the University of Texas, El Paso, and also studied with Alice Chalifoux at the Cleveland Institute of Music. This education led to her receiving a Fulbright grant to study harp with Lily Laskine for two years at the Conservatoire National de Musique in Paris. Upon her return to the States, she studied music therapy at Florida State University before moving to Ohio University in Athens. There she taught harp and music theory, while also managing the school library's listening lab.

While possessing a keen ear for all classical music, her passion for harp composition also stretched from traditional Irish to Paraguayan folk to modern and experimental. Her dedication to the harp and its history led her to found and create the Harp Repository for the American Harp Society, which is located in the United States Library of Congress. She was an active member of the AHS, attending numerous annual and biennial conferences; she was also a member of the Columbus Chapter.

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<b>NEWS FROM MIDWESTERN REGIONAL CHAPTERS</b>
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### **Great Plains Chapter News**

*Upcoming:*

The Great Plains Chapter welcomes home one of its own:

Native Nebraskan Julie Smith, currently harpist of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra and recent feature on the cover of *Harp Column Magazine*, will perform in Recital on Monday, April 6, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Christ United Methodist Church, 4530 A Street, Lincoln, NE 68510.

The Great Plains Chapter (Midwest Region) presents its seventh annual Area Harp Recital on Sunday, March 8. The program begins at 3:00 PM at the Fogelstrom Chapel of Immanuel Village, 6757 Newport Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68152-2150. A wide range of harp repertoire will be presented by students of instructors Mary Bircher, Heidi Heunefeld, Robin Purchas and Karen Conoán.

*Past Events:*

Christina Tourin presented Master Classes in Lincoln, Nebraska and Omaha, Nebraska on June 10 and June 12, 2008, respectively. Twenty harpists attended Ms. Tourin's presentations. The emphasis was "Meeting and Mastering the Modes," and techniques in harp therapy.

### **Green Country Chapter**

We are saddened to hear that Tulsa's Green Country Chapter has been dissolved. We urge AHS members who are former members of this chapter to send us news of your personal harp activities.

### **Lyra Chapter News**

*Upcoming:*

The Lyra Chapter has approximately 15 participants for the Student Auditions and Evaluations program, the second half of which will be held on February 21, 2009.

We are currently in the beginning stages of setting up a lending library for chapter members. We are planning on having all levels of music, orchestral parts, and books.

Chapter member Phaedra Miller is very busy organizing a trip to Chicago to tour the factory and attend the concert at the Lyon & Healy concert hall. She is also sponsoring *Harp at the Lake* summer camp.

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*Chapter News, cont.* –Lyra Chapter

Vice-president, Joan Ferguson will be performing Respighi's *Pines of Rome* with the Lee's Summit Symphony in March.

Carrol McLaughlin will be here with our chapter from 13-14 February.

*Past Events:*

We were delighted to have Alfredo Rolando Ortiz here conducting a workshop. Kansas City was the host for the National Flute Association convention in August. Harpist Jim Palmer beautifully arranged two Debussy works for 2 flutes, 2 alto flutes, and 2 harps. The ensemble including Roseanne Gortenburg, second harp, performed at one of the workshops.

### **Mile High Chapter News**

*Upcoming:*

The 2009 Student Evaluations for the Mile High Chapter will take place on April 18<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>. This year's adjudicator will be Ann Marie Liss.

The Mile High Chapter and Kolacny Music will host harpist Anna Verkholtantseva and violinist Alexander Trostiansky, who will perform in recital at the Cameron Church on 22 March 2009 at 7:00 pm which follows their concert in Chicago at the Lyon & Healy concert hall.

Emily Levin will perform the Ginastera *Harp Concerto* with the Denver Young Artists Orchestra this spring.

Mariah Daniels will be the harpist for Colorado All State Orchestra on 15 February to be held in Fort Collins, CO this year. She will also be performing her senior recital at Denver School of the Arts in April.

DU harpist Molly Arns will be the harpist for the University of Denver Opera production of *Carmen* 23-26 April 2009 at the Gates Concert Hall.

Don Hilsberg will perform the Debussy *Dances* with the Arapahoe Philharmonic Orchestra on May 15, 2009 at the South Suburban Christian Church in Littleton, CO.

Plans are now underway for the Oct. 2009 Harp Fantasia, which has become a biannual event. The last Fantasia held in 2007 assembled over 50 harpists for the event, which was played to a sold out audience at the Lakewood Cultural Center. Performing were three groups of harpists in beginning, intermediate and advanced groupings; the University of Denver Harp Ensemble; and a combined group of all participants.

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*Chapter News, cont.* – Mile High Chapter

*Past Events:*

The Mile High Chapter held its Bi-Annual Harpist Showcase Recital at the Cameron Church in Denver on October 11, 2008. Ten harpists performed works of Albeniz, Grandjany, Kurt Gillmann, Salzedo, Tournier, Andrès, and traditional Irish works. Performers included Chelsea Spence, Molly Arns, Suzanne Moulton-Gertig, Lynne Abbey-Lee, Susan Spangler, Mary Hagen, Carolyn Kuban, Hannah Seaman, Mariah Daniels, and Heidi Roche.

Students of Barbara Lepke-Sims and some members of the Mile High Chapter performed the Murray Boren arrangements of Linda Wood's *Processional* and Susann McDonald's *Toccata (Sabre Danse)* with the Musica Sacra orchestra on 9 November 2008.

**Harps for Sale in Colorado**

New Lyon & Healy 85CG. Mahogany finish  
 2 used Lyon & Healy 85CG's Mahogany finish  
 All available at: Kolacny Music, 1900 S. Broadway, Denver, CO  
 Call for further information on these instruments:  
 Toll free 1-800-870-3167

**Quad City Chapter News**

*Upcoming:*

Chapter member Katie Thom is organizing harpists to play at the South Park Mall, Yonkers, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Columbian Harpist Edmar Castaneda will perform his two concerts of Latin jazz and traditional Columbian music at the Deere-Wyman House, 817 11th Ave. Moline, IL. The first performance will be on Friday, February 13, 2009. He will also perform February 21 at Wallenburg Hall, Augustana College.

The chapter is taking a trip in the spring to Chicago to hear Judy Loman in concert at the Lyon and Healy concert hall on April 25, 2009.

Quad City Chapter will be presenting a Chapter Recital on May 17 at 3:00 pm. The location will be announced soon. Please contact Sarah Javaux to sign-up at [sjavaux@juno.com](mailto:sjavaux@juno.com)

On February 24, 2009, Sarah Javaux will be performing the Handel *Concerto in B-flat* with St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA. She will also be giving her senior recital on May 30, 2009 at 2:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Ch., Davenport, IA.

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*Chapter News, cont.*

### **Harps for Sale in Iowa**

New Lyon & Healy 85 Petite pedal harp. \$9,295.00

Used Troubadour harp. \$2,995.00

Both available at: Griggs Music Store, 3849 N Brady St., Davenport, IA 52806

PH: (563) 391-9000 [griggsmusic.com](http://griggsmusic.com) *Cont.*

### **Wichita Chapter News**

*Upcoming:*

The Wichita Chapter is planning a Chapter Recital at 2:30, March 22, 2009, at the St. James Episcopal Church in Wichita. The recital will feature harp solos, harp ensembles, and harp with other instruments.

*Past Events:*

Suzanne Shields gave a program on Christmas with the Celtic Harp for the Brown Bag Concert Series at the Couatts Museum in El Dorado, KS on Dec 16, 2008.