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Southwestern Region Newsletter

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Fall 2014

Fall Greetings!

It is with great pleasure that I begin my term of service to you, the wonderful members of the Southwestern Region of the American Harp Society, as your new Regional Director. I am honored to know many of you as friends and colleagues already and look forward to getting to know more of you. We are certainly blessed in our Region to have such vibrant and engaged local chapters offering a dazzling array of creative programming, serving our own members, our students and the greater public in a common mission to promote the harp and harp music.

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This is YOUR Fall Newsletter! I am happy to share news from each chapter within the Region. Please submit announcements about upcoming or recent events, recitals, workshops, competitions, student activities, etc. and keep everyone in the Southwestern Region informed of harp happenings in your area.

In between official publications, consider joining our Facebook group at "American Harp Society – Southwest Region". Social media can be a fun, easy, quick and free (who doesn't like that?) way to connect with other harpists and to stay informed of events as they occur. Members are invited to post announcements, pictures and videos – but are asked to keep it relevant to harp-related topics and submit only those items that would be of interest to the broader harp community.

As a friendly reminder, please encourage the members of your local chapters to become members of the national AHS, Inc. to have the full benefits of the Society. By joining, they will receive the American Harp Journal, access to harp insurance, email notifications, and will be able to participate in all activities of the Society including competitions and Summer Conferences and Institutes.

*Mark your calendars now to attend the **2015 Summer Institute, to be held June 21 – 24 at Utah State University in beautiful Logan, Utah!** The 2015 AHS National Competition will be held concurrently with the Institute. The Lyon & Healy Awards will be held just prior to the start of the Institute on June 19 – 20.*

Visit the AHS website at www.harpsociety.org. We also welcome you to join the National and Southwest Region Facebook groups.

Further details about the Institute, National Competition and any other service benefit of the American Harp Society can be found on the extremely helpful and informative website www.HarpSociety.org, which now contains a new membership portal! Please log in to update your contact information, tell us about yourself, and upload a photo. This portal will make it easier for you to contact other AHS, Inc. members, and will help the Society be more connected.

Lastly, I wish you all a wonderful 2014 -2015 season!

All the very best,

Laura Logan Brandenburg
Southwestern Region Director
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214.728.1099

Austin Chapter

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Natalie Teodori, President

www.AustinHarpSociety.org

The Austin Chapter has an exciting season planned for 2014-2015:

September 27th, Saturday, 2:00pm–Austin Harp Society General Membership meeting

October 17th, Friday, 7:00pm, Alexandra Katelyn Mullins Recital

November 16th, Sunday, Cindy Horstman Jazz Workshop

January 17th, Saturday–AHS Auditions and Evaluations Session 1with Guest Advisor

Maia Jourde

February 21st, Saturday–AHS Auditions and Evaluations Session 2 with Guest Advisor

Maia Jourde

Dallas Chapter

Becky Scherschell, President

www.DallasHarpSociety.org

The 2014 – 2015 season opened on Sunday, October 5, 2014, 3:00 p.m. with a program titled: **An Afternoon with Louise Trotter**. This was a special tribute to the legendary and delightful Louise Trotter and featured a recital of her own works and arrangements, as well as a performance by Louise herself. The event took place at the Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northaven Road in Dallas.

MASTERCLASS with Alice Giles: Monday, October 20, 2014, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Voertman Hall, College of Music, UNT
415 Avenue C
Denton, TX 76201

ALICE GILES IN CONCERT: Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 8:00 p.m.
Alice Giles has been celebrated as one of the world's leading solo harpists. Born in Australia, she won First Prize in the 8th Israel International Harp Contest at the age of 21. Since then she has performed extensively both in recital and with orchestras in Europe, America, Australia, and Israel. Tickets for the concert will be available for purchase through www.thempac.com.

Winspear Hall in the Murchison Performing Arts Center at UNT
2100 North I - 35E
Denton, TX 76201

MEETING: Sunday, November 23, 2014, 3:00 p.m. Program: Recital by Grace Browning, Principal Harpist of the Dallas Opera
Grace Browning was the Principal Harpist for the New World Symphony in Miami, and recently was appointed as the Principal Harpist of the Dallas Opera, beginning with the 2014 -15 season. You won't want to miss this opportunity to welcome her to Dallas and hear her wonderful performance.

Kessler Park United Methodist Church
1215 Turner Ave
Dallas, TX 75208

AHS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION: Sunday, February 8, 2015

Audition times 1:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Repertoire lists for each competition category and further information is listed on the AHS in Dallas website, www.dallasharpsociety.org, or contact your harp teacher for details.

UNT College of Music
415 Avenue C
Denton, TX 76201

MEETING: Sunday, March 1, 2015 3:00 p.m.

Program: Concert by Dallas Jazz Harp Ensemble

Cindy Horstman, Laura Logan Brandenburg and Jennifer Solis will perform works arranged by Cindy including Fantasia on Introduction and Allegro by Ravel, original works, jazz standards, and pop tunes by the Beatles and other favorite artists. This exhilarating afternoon of rhythmic jazz music will have you going home dancing!

Grapevine Library
1201 Municipal Way
Grapevine, TX 76051

MEETING: Sunday, April 19, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

Program: Healing Harp, with Mary LeBus and Carla Siegesmund

Mary will share her experiences with the harp in hospice care, and Carla will reflect on her journey with the harp in therapeutic settings.

Jewish Community Center of Dallas
7900 Northaven Road
Dallas, TX 75230

MEETING: Sunday, May 3, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Program: Annual Student Recital

Performers must be student members or students of members.

First Presbyterian Church of Grapevine
1002 Park Blvd.
Grapevine, TX 76051

Greater Houston Chapter

Terese Weber, President

www.HoustonHarp.org

The chapter's year began February 8 and 9, 2014 with a well-received Alfredo Ortiz workshop and concert with participants in ensemble. On Saturday, April 26, 2014 the Mildred Milligan scholarship auditions were held. Many thanks to our chairman, Judge Terry Ross. The level of playing was uniformly high and all contestants performed well.

Judges were: Sandra Salstrom, Mary-Jane Sinclair, Mary Carol Warwick, Paula Page, Marc Garvin and Dr. Isabelle Ganz.

The winners were:

Level III- Cherie Yaya, a student of Paula Page

Level IV- Dominique Moreno, a student of Emily Mitchell

Level V- Chloe Tula, a student of Paula Page

The Milligan winners were presented in a recital on Sunday, September 14, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Terese Weber.

[For this year's chapter activities and other news, please refer to the chapter website.](#)

Phoenix Chapter

Adrienne Bridgewater, President

Phoenix Chapter Activities 2014:

- During our **January** meeting, a panel discussion was held to explore making a harp arrangement of pop music from a lead sheet or piano arrangement. Published arranger **David Ice**, Russian trained performer **Alla Yashneva** and local jazz harpist, **Jacqi Musselman** gave us tips and suggestions for making music exciting for each of us at our level.
- In February, Chapter Vice President **Alla Yashneva** shared an expose of Russian music for the harp as well as the music education system in Russia.
- A **March** concert featuring 10 premiere young harpists in Metro Phoenix was hosted by **Shelley and Paul Wiest** of HarpsArizona.com.
- In **April** our members enjoyed a decades long tradition of **High Tea and Harp Music** in the lush backyard of Chapter Recording Secretary, **Linda Petersen**.
- **May** is the month of our annual **Spring Recital**. This is a showcase of our Chapter's young students. Hosted by a local retirement home, a large audience of appreciative seniors as well as family and friends enjoy beautiful harp music.
- Our **September** meeting features reports of the various summer activities – The AHS New Orleans Conference, The Lyon & Healy Birthday celebration, and the World Harp Conference in Australia. **David Ice** will present a video of highlights from the Midwest Harp Conference. Featured music is harp duos and ensemble.
- **October** is the time of our annual **Spooktacular Halloween Harp Recital**. Harpists are invited to wear a costume and perform a spooky tune. Halloween music for harp is a wonderful way to explore special effects on the harp. Scary squeaks, creaking doors and flying bats are easy and fun sound effects to achieve on the harp.
- Our **November** meeting featured Chapter Corresponding Secretary **Laura Goldstein** presenting **Harps 'n Tales, a Celtic Story Telling with Harp**. Also in **November** our Chapter hosted for the 7th time, our version of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools

- of Music (ABRSM) exam. Many young student harpists participate in this challenging exam.
- In **December** the Phoenix Chapter traditionally presents a recital of **Holiday Harp Music**. All our members are welcome to perform and we share our music with family, friends and appreciative seniors at a local retirement home.

Saguaro Chapter (Tucson)

Vanessa Moxness, President

www.SophiaTucson.org

We have a great line up of events planned for the upcoming year, beginning with a White Elephant sale/fundraiser on Saturday October 11th from 10 am to 12 noon at the home of Trish Harris. Please bring any sheet music or accessories that you'd like to sell to the members. SOPHIA would like to ask for a 10% donation from any sales that occur. Additionally, attendees are welcome to play one solo during this event. We will also participate again in the Little Angels Festival at Armory Park. Rehearsals will take place in October, with the performance on Saturday, November 8th. SOPHIA members will be invited to attend the rehearsals to serve as an audience for the participants. And we are also planning a December event, either a circle where we gather to play Christmas tunes followed by a time to share dessert/socialize or a gathering at Winterhaven to play Christmas carols during their annual celebration. 2015 will include a St. Patrick's Celtic circle/potluck a spring recital for harp students of all ages. More detailed information about all of these events will be forthcoming.

Past events earlier in the year include the following:

Sunday, February 16th at 5:00 p.m.-- dinner at Pastiche restaurant followed by a harp concert at 7 p.m. at Holsclaw Hall on the U of A Campus. Claire Happel, pedal harpist, will be performing in recital with assistant professor of bass Phillip Alejo. Their program will include works by Latin American and Spanish composers (e.g. Ponce, Ginastera, de Falla). Tickets are \$10 at the School of Music's box office.

Saturday, March 1 from 10-12:30 p.m. at the Tucson Symphony Center (2175 N. 6th Ave.)--the Tucson Symphony Orchestra's Flute Viola Harp Trio featuring our own Trish Harris on harp will be performing a "Just for Kids" concert. Join the trio as they take you on a musical journey into an enchanted kingdom! Small children/grandchildren would love this event! Admission is free; suggested donation is \$3 per person. There is ample parking at Symphony Center.

Friday, March 14th and Saturday, March 15th--Scottish fusion lever harper Cheyenne Brown will be conducting workshops in Sahuarita, AZ on learning Scottish music by ear. To register go to www.commongroundonthehill.org and click on "Common Ground on the Border" on their front page.

Sunday, March 16th at 2 p.m.--Cheyenne Brown and Michael Ronstadt (cellist and nephew to Linda Ronstadt) will perform for a SOPHIA house concert. Refreshments and a "meet the artists" session follows the concert. We are sold out of tickets!

Saturday, March 22nd from 11-1:15 p.m.--St. Patrick's celebration circle and potluck! Glazed corned beef, sliced roasted chicken, potatoes with leeks and kale, spinach salad/fruit salad, chocolate cake and more! Bring your harps, your Tunes to Go books, and wear green for this fun event!

Saturday, April 5th from 2-3:30 p.m.--SOPHIA spring recital, open to all types of harps and to all levels. Play pieces/tunes in front of a caring audience! Refreshments will be served following the performances.

San Antonio Chapter

Nelda Etheredge, President

From the studio of Nelda Etheredge:

Annual June 2014 Harp Camp was a success as students learned new ensemble selections and studied music theory for one week.

Rebecca Muller received a rating of 1 at Spring UIL district and Region Solo Contest.

Rhiannon Villarreal received a rating of 1 at Spring UIL district and Region Solo Contest. Rhiannon also won the audition to continue as harpist for Youth Orchestra of San Antonio for 2014-2015 season.

Natalie Rochen and Savannah Lohec from the Houston area have begun Fall Semester at Trinity University and are continuing harp studies with Nelda Etheredge.

Sunday Harp Circle are harping up for Winter Harp Ensemble performance.

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Please mail or email by September 15, 2015 for inclusion in the Fall 2015 Newsletter.

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