

American Harp Society Founding Board Member

Georgia Vraz

Georgia Vraz was a fervent supporter of the arts. She frequently served on committees to raise money for various institutions including the New York City Opera and the Walter Damrosch Fund, the latter being connected to the Conservatoire Américain established by Walter Damrosch and Francis Casadesus in the Palais de Fontainebleau. Vraz was the Coordinator of the American Branch of the Fontainebleau Society and a long-time board member of The National Federation of Music Clubs. She also commissioned the *Toccata und Passacaglia* for harp solo by Jindřich Feld.

One of the founders of the Greater New York chapter of the AHS, Vraz served as president of the chapter and oversaw many illustrious events. Here are highlights from that chapter's 1967-1968 season during Vraz's presidency: a Gala Concert at Carnegie Hall in honor of Marcel Grandjany's 75th birthday, a recital at the New York Historical Society with tenor William Woodruff and harpist Sam Milligan, a chamber recital at Lincoln Center by flutist Thomas Nyfenger, violist Richard Dickler, and harpist Pearl Chertok, as well as a recital by harpist Susan Jolles and violist Jacob Glick at the National Arts Club.

Her generosity extended so far as to jointly host, along with Don Henry, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the International Harp Festival and Competition in Hartford, Connecticut, all of the visiting jurors for the Hartford Harp Competition for dinner at the Studio Steakhouse in New York.

Georgia Vraz was the first executive secretary of the American Harp Society.



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