

Chapter of the Year



Performers of the San Jacinto Chapter Recital at Houston Baptist University (Mabee Theatre)

A citation for outstanding achievement was awarded to the Western New York Chapter of the AHS at the Nineteenth National Conference in Winston-Salem, NC, in June. In presenting the award to Margaret Semski, chapter president, Patricia Wooster acknowledged the activities and achievements of the chapter in addition to the dedication and creativity of its members.

The chapter holds monthly harp classes which include performance, critiquing, videotaping, guest speakers and performers. They recently sponsored a workshop by Mildred Dilling and also hold periodic harp maintenance sessions.

One of the most satisfying achievements of the chapter has been to sponsor the 1980 national AHS Conference in Fredonia. Mario Falcao was Conference Chairman for this event.

Under the leadership of Pauline Breneman and Nancy Hulsen, the chapter cooperated with the Orchard Park Music Boosters to raise funds for the purchase of a concert pedal harp for the school district. Each member of the chapter was involved with every aspect of the fund-raising effort which included a "Play it Again" musical flea market

and a benefit concert with members and guest artists performing. Joining three troubadour harps already in the schools, the pedal harp arrived in the spring of 1982, and has been used by the Orchard Park Harp Ensemble in their school and on tours throughout New York and Pennsylvania. This pedal harp project was launched by Vivian Tomb.

A program of harp lessons for adults and children and an accompanying curriculum was also developed by the chapter. They have expanded the repertoire for harp ensemble by commissioning new works by Loren Geiger. These ensemble pieces have been performed with the Orchard Park Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Joseph Wincenc.

In addition to Margaret Semski, president, current chapter officers include Elizabeth Baker, vice-president; Patricia Ruof, secretary; and Rebecca Squire, treasurer. The chapter was nominated for this award by the New York Regional Director, Ruth Papalia. Other AHS chapters may be recommended to the AHS Executive Committee for outstanding achievements through Regional Directors.

Ruth Papalia

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manner of playing. Later that day Susann McDonald coordinated a program of "Homage to Great Harpists," honoring Rosa Balcells (Spain), Phia Berghout (Neth.), Vera Dulova (USSR), Ursula Lentrodt (FRG), and Dora Wagner (FRG). That same evening, a two-part concert proved very popular with the attendees. The first part was a duo harp recital by Vera Dulova and Tatanya Tauer of the USSR. Their presentation was followed by a contrasting program of "The Harp in Pop/Jazz." Performers included Naoko Kubo (Japan), Stella Castellucci (USA), Alfredo Rolando Ortiz (Paraguay/USA), Harvi Griffin (USA), and Master of Ceremonies Eleanor Fell (USA).

"Young Harpists of Austria" and "Harpists of Austria" were featured in separate concerts on the sixth day, as were a charming group of Tyrolean musicians, singers and harpists. The last day included four concerts, scheduled to begin at one hour intervals at various locations throughout Vienna!

Throughout the week the Exhibitors were incorporated as a vital part of the Congress, beginning with a formal opening ceremony in the exhibition area of the Palais Auersperg, complete with music by two Austrian harp ensembles. The Exhibitors were featured in presentations as part of the main program and schedule of events.

The 3rd World Harp Congress was a very full week of intensive immersion in harp and related issues. Attendance certainly was impressive, perhaps marking a new phase in the growth of this organization and event. The 4th World Harp Congress has been scheduled for the summer of 1990.

Watch for the announcement of the location, and make your plans to attend!

Chapter of the Year Award

by Mary Beckman

The announcement of the 1987 winner of the Chapter of the Year Award was made by President Sally Maxwell at the General Membership meeting during the 1987 National Conference at Pittsburgh. The Dallas Chapter was chosen for this honor by the unanimous vote of the Executive Committee.

Molly Hahn, Coordinator of Regional Directors, presided at the Chapter Reciprocal where there was a lively discussion and exchange of ideas among chapter members. Representatives of the Dallas Chapter shared many of their experiences and explained the process used in documenting their activities.

At the closing banquet, Margaret Norman, Southwestern Regional Director, made the decision of the Executive Committee official by presenting the Dallas Chapter with the certificate naming them the Chapter of the Year.

All chapters are encouraged to investigate this award. A copy of the guidelines may be obtained from your Regional Director or by contacting Chapter Chairman Mary Beckman, School of Music, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0246.

recent publications

Recent publications are compiled by the Editor. As a general principle, all music issued within the past three years is eligible; foreign editions, only recently imported to this country, may also be included although their copyrights bear earlier dates. Review copies should be sent to the Editor at 1374 Academy Lane, Teaneck, NJ 07666; a photocopy of the inside title page, together with a page count, may be submitted in lieu of a review copy. Corrections from readers will be welcomed, since it has not been possible in every case to see a copy of the publication.

SOLO

BACH, J. S.

Come, sweet death.

Trans. Marjorie Tyre.

F C Publishing Co., 1987. 5 p.

CAMPANA, José-Luis.

Lust-ich 1 pour harpe seule.

Billaudot, 1986. 10 p.

Theodore Presser, sole selling agent.

FOSTER, Stephen.

A Stephen Foster medley: I dream of Jeanie; Beautiful dreamer; De camptown races.

Arr. John B. Escosa.

F C Publishing Co., 1986. 8 p.

GOVEA, W. M., arr.

Sacred harp: Hymns. 3 vols.

Coach Publications, 1986-87. Ca. 10 p. each vol.

GOVEA, W. M., arr.

Sacred harp: Modern meditation (I).

Coach Publications, 1986. 3 p.

HASSELMANS, Alphonse.

Petite valse, op. 25, pour la harpe.

Billaudot, 1985. 5 p.

Theodore Presser, sole selling agent.

HASSELMANS, Alphonse.

Berceuse pour la harpe.

Billaudot, 1986. 7 p.

Theodore Presser, sole selling agent.

MILLS, Frank.

Music box dancer/Peter Piper.

Arr. Renée Quinn.

Harpress, n.d. 6 p.

MOLNAR, Josef.

Colors: suite for solo harp or multiple harps.

Harpress, 1986. 8 p.

1988 Eastern Pop Harp Seminar

by Felice Pomeranz

The 1988 Eastern Pop Harp Seminar was held 7–12 August at the Boston Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. The event, sponsored by Lyon & Healy Harps and The Gilded Harps of Boston, was the third festival specializing in pop and jazz harp held on the East Coast. Directed by Felice Pomeranz, the seminar offered classes in theory, jazz harmony and arranging, recording, self-promotion, master classes in jazz performance, an electronic harp demonstration, and performance with a group. Featured artists included Stella Castellucci, Eleanor Fell, Deborah Henson-Conant, Carrol McLaughlin, Jack Nebergall (who brought his entire group, The Danny Yale Regency Strings), and special guest artist Robert Maxwell. Cynthia Price-Glynn, who is Professor of Harp at the Boston Conservatory, presented a workshop on Latin rhythms and also performed with her group *Andanzas, Songs of South America*. Lyon & Healy harp technician Peter Wiley gave an informative seminar on harp maintenance and repair.

Each artist was featured in concert in the evenings, and the Seminar was privileged to hear Robert Maxwell present an entire recital entitled "A Potpourri of Popular Music through the Centuries."

A highlight of the week was the 1988 Eastern Pop Harp Competition, with prize money totaling \$2000 donated by Lyon & Healy Harps. The winners were Jan Jennings, first place; Susan Brown, second place; and tied for third place were Carolyn Sykes and Caryn Wunderlich Gott. The four winners were presented in concert at the final gala dinner. Judges for the competition included the artists-in-residence as well as the composer of the "mystery tune," Matthew Marvulgio. Mr. Marvulgio is chairman of the woodwind department at the Berklee School of Music.

Despite the intense heat and humidity throughout the week, the participants were enthusiastic and open-minded to the many new aspects of pop and jazz harp performance discussed at the Seminar. Harpists from several states, Newfoundland, Québec, and Toronto enjoyed sharing ideas and making new friends while studying this new field in harp performance: Pop and Jazz Harp!

Chapter of the Year Award

by Mary Beckman

The Executive Committee found the task of choosing a winner for the 1988 Chapter of the Year Award a real challenge since several chapters submitted such outstanding materials. Once again President Sally Maxwell made the announcement at the General Membership meeting during the 1988 National Conference at Denver. The Los Angeles Chapter was chosen for the honor.

Mary Beckman, Chapter Chairman, presided at the Chapter Reciprocal. Representatives from chapters working toward this award were eager to hear from members of the Los Angeles Chapter who told of their activities for the year. It is heartening to see so many members willing to share ideas with others to promote and strengthen the role of the chapter in the Society.

At the closing banquet, John Escosa, President Elect, made the presentation to the Los Angeles Chapter honoring them as the Chapter of the Year.

All chapters are again encouraged to investigate this award. A copy of the guidelines may be obtained from your Regional Director or by contacting Mary Beckman, School of Music, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0246.

Paraguayan Harps

by Beverly Larson Otfinoski

We traveled to Paraguay for the adoption of our daughter, Martha. In the few weeks before we left on our trip, we researched details about Paraguay from South American travel articles and a few dated books we managed to find at the library. In these was an intriguing piece of information—that the harp was the national instrument of Paraguay.

Paraguay is a small, landlocked country in the center of South America. Its population is primarily mestizos, people of mixed Spanish and Guarani Indian ancestry. How did harps find their way to Paraguay? By the sixteenth century, harps were prominent instruments in Spain, so it was only natural that the early Spanish conquerors of Paraguay brought their harps with them. As early as 1526, harpist Martin Nino arrived in an area that borders present-day Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. The Jesuits, who built a series of missions in Paraguay, also brought harps and taught the native Guarani Indians to make and play them. When the Jesuits were thrown out of the country in 1767, one partial inventory recorded that 100 harps had been found among the other musical instruments at the different missions.

The Paraguayan harp differs from its European counterpart. About half the size of the concert harp, the *arpa* is made of cedar, pine, and other native woods. It has 36 strings and is a diatonic instrument limited to a major key and its related minor. New innovations include pegs on the sounding board between the strings of the upper octaves. When the string is pressed against the peg by the player's finger, the half tone is produced. The more traditional Paraguayan harps achieve half tones by the player's pressing against the string on the neck with a metal tuning-key-shaped object, a much more difficult procedure. The harp is played with the fingernails, more a combination of harp and guitar techniques, which produces a bright, powerful sound that is well-suited to the native folk music and dances.

on the cover

by Jane B. Weidensaul

We are indebted to the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California, for permission to use a detail of an elegant manuscript leaf on our cover. The informal title given by the Museum is "Donkey Playing a Harp," more specifically, the leaf is from a Cistercian Antiphonal for High Feasts, made ca. 1260–70, probably from the Cistercian abbey of Cambron, near Mons, in the Diocese of Tournai. The full size of the leaf is 48 × 34.9 cm., and its tempera colors and colored inks were applied on vellum. The Museum waived reproduction rights fees, for which we are also grateful!

After considerable study of the leaf, I was able to determine that the text and chant (written in mature Gregorian notation) are assigned as a responsory for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, celebrated annually on 15 August (and thus highly suitable for our summer issue). One can see the "Ave Maria" at the top of the manuscript, followed by "Vidi speciosam sicut columbam

ascendentem" (I saw her, beautiful, ascending as a dove . . .). The rising dove is clearly portrayed at the left of the manuscript, and a portrait of Mary is contained in the lovely illuminated letter "V"—but why did the unknown artist choose to include the delightful (and obviously happy) donkey playing a harp? Although scribes often took pleasure in adding fanciful illustrations around the borders of their manuscripts, I can surmise that this choice was not merely for the sake of humor. The harp symbolized to the medieval mind many things, but, in general, all music in honor of God. The presence of the humblest of the animal kingdom at the birth of Christ is suggested in the prophecy of Isaiah 1:3: "the ox knoweth its owner and the ass his master's crib." Artists through the ages have regularly included these two in scenes of the Nativity, along with Mary, Joseph, the Infant Jesus, and sometimes the Annunciation to the Shepherds in the background.

It is interesting that there is a sculpture of a donkey playing a harp on the south tower of the Chartres Cathedral which dates from about the same time as our manuscript; it is called "l'âne qui vielle" (the donkey who plays the hurdy-gurdy—but in fact a harp).

reports

Chapter of the Year: The Bay Area Chapter

by Charlotte Wolter and Mavis Cauffman

Two Chapters shared Chapter of the Year honors last spring: the Bay Area Chapter and the San Antonio Chapter. I asked for a report from each, giving details of the activities that earned the selection. The Bay Area Chapter made the deadline for this issue (barely), and the San Antonio Chapter has not yet submitted copy.

—Ed.

The Bay Area Chapter of The American Harp Society serves predominantly San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and the surrounding suburban areas. In actuality, it

extends to the Oregon border and includes northern Nevada and metropolitan Sacramento.

In 1991/1992 our chapter activities were expanded to include a summer newsletter and a successful teachers' workshop in August. Programming continued on a monthly basis with emphasis on the non-professional harpist and the inclusion and co-sponsorship of activities with the adjacent Santa Clara Chapter and the Bay Area Folk Harp Society. Six concerts and five workshops were held.

An intensive membership outreach and requests for student membership did not achieve significant results. Attendance at social/musical events, however, reached over 60%.

We produce a hefty newsletter every other month which everyone enjoys. It has contained problem-solving columns by Jack Nebergall, feature articles, harp concert reviews, cartoons, a Ms. Gliss page for the young set, and

The Bay Area Chapter Officers: back row (l to r), Mavis Cauffman, Charlotte Wolter, Jack Nebergall; front row (l to r), Claudette Lambert, Wendy Tamis



the popular "War Stories"—all contributed by the membership—in addition to the calendar, Market Place, president's letter, and promotional publicity.

We added honorariums and bouquets for our assisting musicians and gifts to our workshop presenters and hostesses. Two fund-raisers increased our income to cover these expanded budget expenses plus concert space rentals, mailing costs, and the establishment of an Educational Fund.

An on-going informal ensemble was begun, open to the entire membership. Five jolly sessions by an enthusiastic group assure its continuation.

We initiated the restructuring of the Inez Stafford Scholarship Auditions and have the event scheduled for spring of 1993.

The 1991/1992 chapter year demonstrated innovation, increased and varied activities, excellent attendance, a high quality newsletter, and great enthusiasm. The Board of Directors were: Charlotte Wolter, President; Wendy Tamis, First Vice President; Jack Nebergall, Second Vice President; Mavis Cauffman, Secretary/Newsletter editor; and Claudette Lambert, Treasurer.

The San Francisco Early Music Society's Medieval Workshop

by Helen Rifas

The Medieval Workshop of the San Francisco Early Music Society was held 26 July to 1 August 1992 on the Dominican College campus in San Rafael, California. The Workshop offered a choice of 29 different classes on various medieval repertoires and instruments taught by a distinguished faculty of virtuoso performers and scholars, including singers Harlan Hokin and Karen Clark Young and members of Ensemble Alcatraz (Shira Kammen, vielle; Kit Higginson, recorder and psaltery; Cheryl Ann Fulton, harp; and Peter Maund, percussion). Evening performances and lectures by faculty supplemented the classes. The harp classes taught by Cheryl Ann Fulton were focused on the principles of medieval rhetoric as they apply to music, interpretation of poetic and musical forms, improvisation and harp techniques which are appropriate to early music, and historical harps. Harpists performed in many of the workshop ensembles. Celtic, folk and lap harps were played as well as historical instruments built by Rainer Thurau, David Cortier, David Brooks, Lynn Lewandowski and Winfried Goerge and these were shared so that all the harpists had an opportunity to try them. Harpists attending the 1992 Workshop were Natalie Cox, Tynowyn French, Eileen Hadidian, Barbara Imhoff, Leonie Jenkins, John Mackay, Helen Rifas and Connie Whiteside. The harpists experienced the oral tradition of early music firsthand by learning an anonymous motet, *Salve Virgo Virginem*, by rote and performing it from memory on the final student recital.



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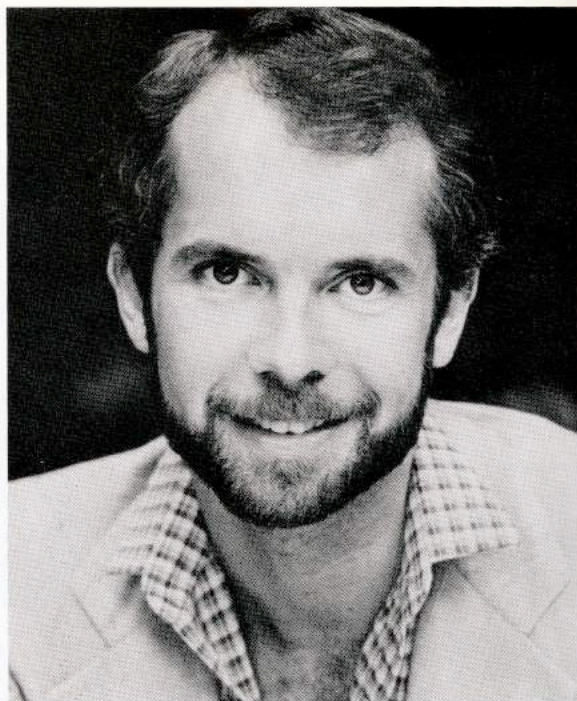
Chapter of the Year: The Los Angeles Chapter

by Paul E. Baker

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Harp Society serves a very wide area including all of Greater Los Angeles and Orange County. Our membership totals over 150 and includes a large number of performing harpists as well as teachers and students.

Because of our location and fine performance venues, we are very lucky to enjoy many of the finest touring harpists of the United States and abroad. In 1992/1993 both Marie-Pierre Langlamet and Nancy Allen were presented in separate concerts at Ambassador Auditorium. Our chapter hosted a reception in honor of Ms. Langlamet and co-sponsored a performance master class with Ms. Allen. AHS Concert Artists Wendy Kerner, harp, and Donna Milanovich, flute (the Glorian Duo), were presented in concert on the campus of UCLA. A program entitled "The Harp of King David," a musical evocation of Hebrew and Sephardic themes, was given by Dominique Piana, harp, and Cantor Gregory Yaroslow, tenor.

Workshops on wedding repertoire and the teaching of the lever harp were part of our educational activities. The annual Music Education Auditions were held in February and March and for the third year we awarded funds from the Valeria Finzi Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund. These monies were originally raised through a two-year fund drive and continue to be added to yearly. This year



Paul E. Baker, President of the Chapter of the Year

we were able to award three scholarships and three honorable mentions to our chapter's students.

Our Annual Spring Fling was held at the home of Stella Castellucci and featured the Jazz Harp Trio of Lori Andrews. This event is held to continue raising funds for our scholarships and is always well attended and enjoyed.

Our other on-going project is the AHS Music Collection at the Brand Library. Many of our members and the estates of some of our finest harpists and teachers have donated to this growing collection of harp music. Sound recordings have recently been added to the collection.

Plans have also been finalized for a joint recital between the American Guild of Organists and the Los



A 1992 Board of Directors meeting: (l to r) April Aoki, Bonnie Mohr, Maria Casale, Paul Baker, Ellie Choate and Tina Lenert

Angeles Chapter to be held in May of 1994. Maria Casale will be the performing harpist and a variety of duos and solos will be presented in the joint effort between our two societies. We will also co-sponsor a recital at the Sylvia Woods Harp Center of music for voice and harp.

We have enjoyed a wide variety of activities in the 1992/1993 season and have had unprecedented participation by our members. Our officers were: Paul Baker, President; Ellie Choate, First Vice President; Madeleine Brandli, Second Vice President; April Aoki, Recording Secretary; Tina Lenert, Corresponding Secretary; and Sylvia Ré, Treasurer.

The Lyon & Healy International Jazz and Pop Harpfest

by Carrol McLaughlin

On Tuesday, 24 May 1993, the campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb saw the influx of 150 harpists from all over the world, coming together to share their creative insights, knowledge and the excitement of performing popular and jazz music on the harp.

The occasion was the second International Jazz and Pop Harpfest, an energy-packed five-day event sponsored by Lyon & Healy and directed by Carrol McLaughlin.

This year's festival included competitions, concerts, workshops and jam sessions for both pedal and non-pedal harps.

The prize winners in the non-pedal harp competition were: first place (\$750), Kathy Chanik from Virginia; second place (\$450), Susan Ennen from Minnesota; and third



Non-pedal competition winners: (l to r) Susan Ennen, Janet Harrell (President of Lyon & Healy), Anne Krickel and Kathy Chanik



Pedal harp competition winners: (l to r) Cindy Horstman, Kimberly Rowe, Magali Zsigmond, Janet Harrell, Monika Stadler

place (\$250), Anne Krickel from Georgia. In the pedal harp competition, first place went to Magali Zsigmond from France, with an award of \$1,000; second place to Monika Stadler from Austria, winning \$600, and two third-place winners, Kim Rowe from Michigan and Cindy Horstman from Texas, received \$400 each.

The faculty included many of the most respected and innovative harpists in the pop and jazz fields. Each evening featured two "Showcase Performances" which highlighted outstanding performers from around the world, followed by evening faculty concerts. The opening night featured Showcase Performances by Alberto Sanabria performing on the Paraguayan Harp and Michael O'Shiver from Puerto Rico performing with bass and drums. The evening concert featured Carrol McLaughlin, who presented the world premiere of a composition by N.I.U. jazz professor Antonio Garcia (who shared the performance); and Greg Buchanan, well-known gospel harpist. Tuesday evening's concerts included performances by England's Rupert Parker playing on the Lyon & Healy electric harp, and incorporating sound tracks from his latest CD's; and the jazz duo United Sound, composed of Pegi Engelman-Loose and Bernd Gast (guitar) from Germany. The faculty concert featured Stella Castellucci, highly respected for her elegant use of jazz harmonies, and Sarah Voynow, winner of the 1991 Harpfest pedal harp competition, performing contemporary rock with her rhythm and blues band. Thursday evening's concerts highlighted a harp and guitar jazz duo from Italy, Licia Consoli and Giuseppe Leopizzi, as well as the contemporary original compositions of Laura Zaerr. The faculty presentation was a treat for the musical palate, featuring Kim Robertson and Deborah Henson-Conant, performing both as soloists and joining together for one selection.

REPORTS

Chapter of the Year: The Toronto Chapter

by Susana Remeny-Prentice

The Toronto Chapter of the American Harp Society is a relatively small, but very busy group of individuals. We are fortunate to have two world-famous harp soloists amongst our number of whom we are extraordinarily proud: Judy Loman and Erica Goodman. We are also blessed with other good Classical, Celtic and Jazz harpists, as well as harp teachers in Toronto. As a body, we try our best to contribute to our Canadian musical culture.



Susana Remeny-Prentice

Our 1993-94 season was both fruitful and diversified. On November 21, 1993, the Toronto chapter presented a chamber music concert with guest artists, Gillian Benet and Nicholas Tullier. On December 20, the Toronto Chapter awarded three scholarships to help young and financially deprived students with their future studies. On January 15, the chapter presented a "Scottish Festival," replete with harp, voice, choirs, bagpipe and fiddle. The festival witnessed the premiere of a newly commissioned work for three harps by composer, Milton Barnes. On April 24, the chapter organized a banquet for the membership that we entitled, the "Angel's Banquet." The walls were decorated with harp playing angels created by our member artist, Blain Berdan. Our Celtic harpists, Angela Ottewill and Angels Kaija, along with our jazz harpist, Joanna Jordan, provided the entertainment for the event. Our season ended successfully on May 7 with a recital given by Judy Loman at the Armour Heights Presbyterian Church, supporting the Harp Society Scholarship Fund and the Homes for Adults with Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders (HAADD).

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CHAPTER OF THE YEAR: Central Florida Chapter

Honorable Mention: The Lyra Chapter

by *Becky Scherschell, Publicity Chairman, AHS,
Frank Sledge, and Jennifer Liebnitz*

Under the leadership of Chapter President, Jan Jennings, the Central Florida Chapter of the American Harp Society is the winner of the 1995 Chapter of the Year Award. This award is presented each year to a chapter which has been nominated for its outstanding harp-related activities and contributions. The awards for Chapter of the Year and Honorable Mention were announced at the General Membership Meeting in Greeley, Colorado on 8 June 1995. Honorable Mention was given to the Lyra Chapter of Kansas City, Missouri, Jennifer Liebnitz, Chapter President.

The Central Florida Chapter is an extremely active chapter of only fifteen dedicated members. The members organized and presented a five-day Florida Summer Harp Seminar, which included workshops and presentations given by well-known harpists and craftsmen from throughout the country. A competition was held during the seminar for which two new compositions were commissioned. On a consecutive five nights, harp



Central Florida Chapter Ensemble Performance. 1st row (l to r): Cameron Huster, Ruth Houser, Melody Anglin, Casey Fitzgerald. 2nd row (l to r): Michelle Hassor, Jan Jennings, Trisha Thor. 3rd row: (l to r): Mary Gregory, Jodi Swauger.

concerts were presented and open to the public, exposing a number of individuals to live harp music for the first time through supplemental media coverage on television and local radio stations. Jan Jennings even took her instrument to a radio station and engaged in a "Name that Tune" game with the radio audience, along with providing a "harp request line." Funding for the seminar came from chapter members' successful efforts in acquiring donations and grants from local merchants, including a \$3,000.00 grant from the local Target department store.

Chapter members who were particularly instrumental in insuring the success of all chapter activities were Frank Sledge, Ruth Hauser, Elizabeth Evans and Jan Jennings.



Lyra Chapter: Group Harp Lesson at Kansas City's Scottish Highland Games Harp Tent.

The Lyre Chapter's accomplishments were also outstanding this past year. By sponsoring an evening of Caribbean and jazz music led by Michael O'Shiver, chapter members were able to present the AHS with a generous check for the National Harp Competition Awards in memory of Lyra Chapter founder, Margaret Ling. Additional monies were also available to support the first Lyra Chapter-sponsored harp competition and evaluation program in Kansas City.

A week-long *Festival of the Harp* was organized and presented by chapter members, which involved performances and demonstrations, and concluded with a concert and a master class given by Carrol McLaughlin. Funding for the *Festival* was made possible by members of the chapter who performed for local businesses and gave demonstrations in exchange for needed support and services.

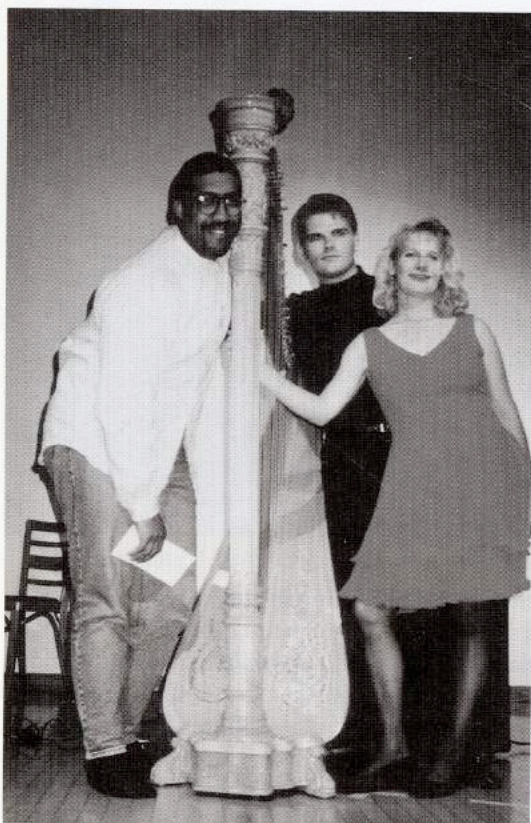
During the last two years, it has been the Lyra Chapter's mission to offer activities that benefit the newest players, rewarding their efforts and progress. Moreover, the chapter has made a concerted effort to make their organization a stage for not only the professional pedal harpists, but also for the folk harpers and student harpists. Their considerable efforts have paid off; in the

past year chapter membership rose from about fifteen members to a laudable thirty-eight paid members.

1995 LYON & HEALY INTERNATIONAL JAZZ AND POP HARPFEST

by Carrol McLaughlin

The Lyon & Healy International Jazz and Pop HARPFEST was held 24-29 May 1995 on the campus of the University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ). Approximately 175 pedal and lever harpists attended the event to enjoy the outstanding ambiance and creative energy offered by seventeen faculty and guest lecturers who performed and taught at the festival.



Pedal Harp Competition Winners: Calvin Stokes, Michael Walls, and Evelyn Huber

before the competition). The level and quality of performance by the competitors was extremely high. Winners in the pedal competition were: First Place, Calvin Stokes, Jr. (Cleveland, OH); Second Place, Michael Walls (Jacksonville, FL); and Third Place, Evelyn Huber (Germany). Lever competition prize winners were: First Place, Sharlene Wallace (Ontario, Canada); Second Place, Mitch Landy (Oakland, CA); and Third Place, Rebekah Raff (Chatsworth, CA).

The HARPFEST scheduled theory classes in the morning and a myriad of workshops in the afternoon on such topics as improvisation, making arrangements, reading a lead sheet, professionalism, Latin music, copyrights and the business side of music, computer software



Lever Harp Competition Winners: Rebekah Raff, Sharlene Walls, and Mitch Landy

for music, and many other fascinating subjects. In addition to a choice of simultaneously occurring lectures, "Hands-On" workshops were offered that allowed harpists to try out the information that the instructor was presenting.

Guest artists and faculty performing and teaching at the HARPFEST represented some of the finest artists in the harp world. In addition to giving lectures and "Hands-On" workshops, faculty members also gave private lessons and performed in one of three evening concerts. Featuring alumni harpists from the University of Arizona, the first evening concert also included outstanding performances by Park Stickney and Liza Rey (performing with a jazz trio), and HARPFEST Director Carrol McLaughlin. That evening's concert marked the inaugural appearance in performance of a new Lyon & Healy Electric Harp that was donated to the University of Arizona by Jack Nebergall in memory of John Escosa. Also performing that evening was the University of Arizona's eleven-harp ensemble, HarpFusion. Included on the program was the premiere of HarpFusion's new music video, and the world premiere of *CAGADouble-D C*, written by Park Stickney for electric harp and harp ensemble. Friday evening's concert featured wonderful performances by three artists: Ray Pool (pedal and lever harps), Sylvia Woods (lever harp), and Susan Mazer (in a trio with winds and percussion). Hosted by Eleanor Fell, a special HARPFEST celebration was held Saturday evening to celebrate Jack Nebergall's contributions to the harp world. Many HARPFEST faculty members and close friends of Jack's honored him, and musical presentations were made by Penny Beavers and Ray Pool. Sunday evening's concert sparkled with the musical energies of Kim Robertson (lever harp), Stella Castellucci (electric harp), and Harvi Griffin (electric harp). At the final banquet, harpists enjoyed listening and dancing to

MetroHarp, The American Harp Society's Chapter of the Year (1995-96)

by Ray Pool

The 1995-96 season for MetroHarp (the Metropolitan Chapter of New York) contained programs by harpists of national and international acclaim, which, combined with student opportunities, filled the calendar with something for everyone. Membership for the year totaled 114. Average attendance was approximately 80. Programs and events for the year included the following.

Emily Mitchell, international competition winner, recording artist, touring soloist and university faculty member, performed a solo concert for an audience of 85 at the season's first meeting, held in the loft apartment of MetroHarp Vice-President, Dr. Jasmin Cowin.

Lucien Thomson, life-long disciple of Marcel Grandjany, was assisted by harpists Sarah Bullen of The New York Philharmonic, Sally Foster, veteran of many Broadway show orchestras, and Susan Jolles, associate member of The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and one of New York's busiest freelancers. The subject at hand was the teaching repertoire of Marcel Grandjany. A special listing of various publications by Mr. Grandjany was prepared for this meeting. Selections from each volume were announced and performed by the three guest harpists.

Jennifer Hault, Concert Artist Designate of The American Harp Society, was presented in solo concert at The Greenwich House Music School. Ticket sales were dramatic for this event. MetroHarp member Dulcie Barlow is the national coordinator of the Concert Artist Program for the AHS.

The Music Education Auditions and Evaluations were presented in February and March. The National Administrator of the program for The American Harp Society is our local member Lucien Thomson. He

served as adjudicator for these two events, assisted by Sally Foster. Participants received certificates at the final meeting of the season.

The Golkin Education Awards were initiated by devoted members Diane and Dewey Golkin. American students from New York, New Jersey, and Kansas were joined by others from Greece, France, Russia, and Canada who qualified for this program by being either a resident or a full-time student in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, or Rhode Island. (The success of the program has caused it to be extended to include students and residents of Pennsylvania for the current year.) A total of \$4,400 was distributed to eight finalists on 27 April.

The final meeting of the season was a presentation by Lucile Lawrence concerning her pedagogy as influenced by Carlos Salzedo, with whom she was closely associated. Joined by another cast of New York professionals including Nina Kellman, Sara Cutler, Beth Robinson, Ray Pool, and Cynthia Otis, and also assisted by Boston harpist Elizabeth Morse and eleven-year-old student Mary-Elizabeth Sutherland, Miss Lawrence led the audience through an afternoon of samples from publications bearing her name along with that of Salzedo.

The American Harp Society was founded in 1962. Marcel Grandjany was Chairman of the Founding Committee. Lucile Lawrence was the first President from 1962 until 1966. She was followed by Lucien Thomson during the years 1966-68. What an honor it was to have these personalities and their colleagues comprise such a large part of this year's program. This report of the 1995-96 season of MetroHarp is prepared with thanks to the many members who offered performances or financial support throughout the year.

Mr. Pool was the President of the Chapter during this outstanding year.

—Ed.



Lucien Thomson and Sally Foster at the Music Education Evaluations

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Pittsburgh, American Harp Society's Chapter of the Year, 1996-97

by Lucy Scandrett

The 1996-97 season for the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AHS was a time of historical, educational, international and community significance. The city of Pittsburgh offers the chapter of more than 60 members many venues of magnificent architecture. These settings of inspiration combined with enthusiastic members, a supportive community and many outstanding visiting harpists provided an exciting year for us.

The first event of the season was a program and workshop on the Alexander Technique, presented by Maribeth Knaub, a professor of voice at Slippery Rock University and a certified instructor of the Alexander Technique at Duquesne University. She gave an informative, helpful and practical demonstration and, as the mother of harpist and chapter member Marissa Knaub, she was able to give specific relaxation tips for the harpist.

The spectacular Tiffany stained-glass windows of Calvary United Methodist Church in an historic section of Pittsburgh were the backdrop for the second program, "Celestial Strings." The harp ensemble recital was part of the Tiffany Series presented by the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society and featured chapter harpists Lee-Fei Chen, Megan Landfair, Elizabeth Keagle Markey, Anne-Marguerite Michaud, Lucy Scandrett, Frances Duffy Snyder and Gretchen Van Hoesen. They were assisted by Heidi Gorton, James Gorton, Robert Hamrick, James Markey, John Scandrett and Lara Scandrett. Chapter members also presented harp ensemble programs at Benedum Center and Heinz Hall during the holidays.

In January, Lucile Lawrence came and gave a master class at Chatham College. A special highlight of the day was a celebration in honor of Miss Lawrence's 90th birthday.

The next event featured Ray Pool and his workshop "Harmony for Harp." This workshop, also presented at Chatham College, was actually two presentations: the workshop and a performance presentation by Ray of the new Lyon & Healy electric harp which L&H kindly shipped to Pittsburgh just for this program. Ray showed his versatility by demonstrating the many sounds and effects that could be produced on the electric harp and then showed what could be done on a lever harp using a Dusty Strings instrument provided by chapter member Richard LeBeau.

Kathleen Bride, Professor of Harp at Eastman School of Music, presented a Master Class at Chatham College in the spring and, on the following day, performed with organist John Walker, formerly of Riverside Church in NYC, and the choir at Shadyside Presbyterian Church.

The chapter also presented several outreach programs for the Pittsburgh community. One program featured French harpist Chantal Thomas d'Hoste, who lives in Paris and performed at the 1990 World Harp Congress. Chantal played at a special service at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Sewickley, PA, for the Verland Foundation, a home for the severely retarded. In France, Chantal frequently performs for similar organizations. Chapter members also performed at senior citizen and assisted living facilities and a special ensemble program was given at St. Barnabas Senior Care Community in memory of Pittsburgh chapter charter member, Charlotte Marie Davis.

The honor of being named Chapter of the Year truly goes to each member of the chapter. As president I give special thanks to the other officers: Anne-Marguerite Michaud, Kathleen Richardson and Suzanne Finfinger.



Master Class and birthday celebration with Lucile Lawrence

THE AHS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 1997-1998 THE MINNESOTA CHAPTER

by Kathy McCarthy, Chapter Historian

WOW! What great news! Frances Miller called Cathy Victorsen, our chapter president, from the AHS conference in Baton Rouge to tell her that our Minnesota chapter had won Chapter of the Year. How exciting!

This past year we had a lot going on and a little something for everyone. Four wonderful newsletters were edited by Mary Michael Schneekloth, who is a whiz at computers. We had snazzy layouts with calendars of events; descriptive notes about prior meetings for those who missed them; meticulous treasurer reports from Jann Stein; and maps with directions to each meeting. We always hold our meetings in a different chapter member's home in the Twin Cities.

Chapter meetings were held in September, November, and May. They are always fun to attend because we always learn something new. It's a great time for socializing because where else can one talk about harp "stuff" for hours and not have a listener's eyes glaze over in boredom! September's meeting was about "Sharpening Your Business Skills" with copies of contracts, ideas and promotional materials shared. Vice President Andrea Stern baked delicious scones for a traditional English High Tea in her home for our early November meeting. We dressed in our holiday finery and took turns playing favorite harp music. On a warm Sunday evening in May, our program focus was harp accessories and transportation systems. It was so much fun sharing our great ideas. Karen Kunzman demonstrated the "contraption" designed by husband, Jim. It made loading and unloading the harp from her Toyota Previa a one-woman show. As a professional organizer, Karen also shared her harp suitcase. Inside she has everything needed for a job: bench, music stand, light, strings, rug, shoes, tuner, and

music. Terry Gibson discovered soft CD cases were an inexpensive, lightweight, convenient way to carry extra sets of harp strings. The cases come in various sizes, perfect for lap harp to pedal harp. Sue Johnson made stretchy wheel covers to protect carpeting from snow and slush clinging to the wheels of her harp transporter system. This is the wonderful harp cart designed by our own Cindy Schultz's dad.

Our chapter also sponsored separate harp events for two world class harpists. The first was Monika Stadler, a native of Austria. She came to Minnesota the last weekend in January and was a guest in Cathy Victorsen's and my homes. The weather cooperated so we could actually give her a warm welcome. (Hey, temperatures in the 20's are warm for January!) Cathy had met Monika at the Pop and Jazz Harpfest in California where Monika was a showcase performer. She is now actively pursuing opportunities to teach and perform in the U.S.

Cathy presented the idea to our board of bringing Ms. Stadler to Minnesota. She also submitted a request to Northwestern College to sponsor Monika's concert and workshops and then made the contacts with her through a Massachusetts contact person. After sending a promotional CD to Minnesota Public Radio, Cathy convinced them to do both phone and live interviews with Monika.

The two concerts were well attended. The audiences thoroughly enjoyed Ms. Stadler's sensational lyrical style in both jazz standards and in her own compositions. There was a reception at the college following her Friday night concert there. The college was also the site of an all-day Saturday harp workshop. The other concert was held at Ginkgo's Coffeehouse where she played to



Many of the students from the Minnesota Chapter who participated in the annual music evaluations for harp students in the Twin Cities



Monika Stadler at Gingko's Coffee House

a full house. Sunita Staneslow provided expert feedback on settings for harp sound quality at this amplified performance.

Our other famous harpist, Kim Robertson, came in March, 1998, just in time for St. Patrick's Day. Kim played her wonderful Celtic and original music. As an encore, the audience joined Kim in singing the lovely lullaby, *Tender Shepherd*, while she softly strolled offstage, gently plucking the melody on her lap harp. Kim's workshop was attended by many harpists of all ages, including Mary Schneekloth's baby girl, our youngest participant. "Developing Personal Style" was Kim's focus and also became our own.

Music Education Auditions continue to be a high priority event for our chapter since its inception. This is an opportunity for harpists of any age or ability to perform before two musicians (non-harpists) and receive feedback on what the musician is hearing with suggestions for improvement. The harpists come back in six weeks with the music memorized and again receive feedback. Both sessions are recorded. Music theory tests are administered, both written and oral. Certificates are issued by the AHS and signed by Lucien Thomson. Many thanks go to Frances Miller, who sets up and coordinates the event; her husband, Grieg Aspnes, who does all the recording; Gaylord Stauffer, who makes out the schedules; and Betty Dahlgren, who keeps all the harps in tune. They have been the mainstays of this valuable annual event.



Kim Robertson in concert

The Children's Hospital Association North Oaks Guild conducts an annual Christmas Idea House Tour every November. Two or three North Oaks, Minnesota homes are opened to the public and decorated by local florist, specialty, and designer shops. The AHS Minnesota chapter has provided holiday music for the popular two-day event since 1994. One harp is set up in a home so no harp transportation is necessary. It's a great opportunity for brushing up on Christmas tunes, playing in a background setting, contributing to a worthy cause, and providing exposure for this beautiful instrument to the general public.

As you can see, we have a lot going on here in Minnesota. We have informative newsletters, fun and educational chapter meetings, special events with world famous harpists giving both concerts and workshops, harp evaluation encouraging musical growth, and opportunities to support a charitable event and, at the same time, promote the harp. AHS—MINNESOTA CHAPTER—THE BEST!



Andrea Stern, Cathy Victorsen, and Sue Johnson at the 1997 December meeting

AHS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 1998–1999 DALLAS CHAPTER

by Laurel McConkey, Chapter President

The 1998–99 year was an outstanding one for the Dallas Chapter of the American Harp Society. We increased membership from around 70 to over 100, sponsored our first ever harp competition, brought in Alice Chalifoux for a master class, had a special program exploring the harps and music of Asia, offered a seminar on harp-related injuries, gave students several opportunities to perform in public and had two wonderful recitals by area ensembles.

To start the year on the right note, our September meeting featured a recital by Syrinx, with Laura Logan, harp and Kelly Bolam Shea, flute. They performed *Andante in C*, K. 315 by Mozart, *Sonata* by Damase, *Idylle* and *Allegretto*, Op. 116 by Godard and *Suite Antique* by Rutter. It was a truly memorable performance with exquisite playing by both women.

In November Dr. Caryl Semmler presented a seminar on harp related injuries, based in part on her survey which many of us took in January 1997, with the results published in the March 1998 issue of *Medical Problems Of Performing Artists*, Vol. 13, No. 1. It was quite interesting to learn that almost all harpists suffer from aches and pains brought on by playing the instrument. Suggestions were made for ways to alleviate some of our problems, although old habits die hard.

Back by popular demand was our Thanksgiving Festival Concert, organized by Nancy Hurrell and featuring the students of Patricia Diers, Denise Holland, Sydney Howell, Nancy Hurrell and Jill Levy. It is truly an amazing sight to see forty harpists performing on harps ranging in size from lap harps to troubadours to full-sized pedal harps. The students first performed in

individual studio ensembles, then in a spectacular grand finale with everyone. It was certainly one of our most enjoyable programs and very beneficial for all who participated.

The ever-popular AHS Auditions and Evaluations, organized by Denise Holland, were conducted in late January, with the second installment one month later. This is always such a wonderful opportunity for students to get valuable input from a music professional other than their teacher, and is designed to encourage and inspire students of all ages and experience. Each participant receives a Certificate of Participation from AHS upon completion of both installments. (President's Note: I took part in this so long ago that my certificate was signed by Marcel Grandjany!)

In March, Eva Murphy presented an incredible program on the instruments and music of Asia. While performing as a harpist at the Palace Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, Eva scoured area flea markets for instruments. She also studied the koto. In her presentation she demonstrated how to play the koto and talked about all her unusual harps and other instruments. She also showed several videos explaining traditional koto playing, Japanese opera and theater, and other Japanese instruments. It was quite an education for those in attendance, for Eva not only taught us about the music, but the culture as well.

Also in March, we were privileged to have Alice Chalifoux present a seminar on *Success in Teaching the Harp*. Topics included recommended books and strengthening exercises, making practice time count, and overcoming technique problems and weaknesses. It was



The Dallas Chapter with Alice Chalifoux


attended by harpists from throughout the region. The seminar was professionally recorded and is available for purchase from the Dallas Chapter.

Our first harp scholarship competition was held on April 17, 1999. It was a great success! All twelve students who auditioned played very well. Advanced Level Winners Mary-Margaret Buchanan and Jasmin Jawad and Intermediate Level Winner Karen Abrahamson were especially impressive. The competition was open to students between the ages of 12 to 18 who were members of the Dallas Chapter of AHS. Required repertoire for the Intermediate Level (Troubadour or Pedal Harp) was *Ground in F* by Purcell/Thomson, *Petite Etude* by Van Veacht Rogers or *Trois Pièces Faciles* by Grandjany and a free choice. The requirements for the Advanced Level (Pedal Harp) were *Chanson dans la nuit* by Salzedo, *Solfeggetto* by C.P.E. Bach/Miller and a free choice. Each student played one required piece and a free choice from memory. Judges were Edna McClintock, local harpist and teacher, and Hector Guzman, conductor of the Plano Symphony. Laurel McConkey, organizer of the competition, made sure that the event ran smoothly. Awards were \$150 for Intermediate Level and \$250 for Advanced Level. Because both Mary-Margaret and Jasmin were so outstanding at the Advanced Level, it was decided to create an honorable mention award for Jasmin, with a \$100 prize. Each student that competed received a copy of the judges' notes and a Certificate of Participation. The competition was so successful that it will be repeated in the future.

"Octavia," our local professional harp ensemble, performed in April at the Dallas Public Library as part of the Mu Phi Epsilon Sunday Concert Series. This popular group consists of Laura Logan, director, and Jill Roberts Levy, Alison Read, Barbara Kirchoff, Leslie Bluhm, Sydney Payne Howell, Naoko Nakamura Stromberg and Becky Scherschell. They performed unique arrangements of familiar ensemble works, as well as selections not often heard. The Dallas Chapter tries to participate each year in the Sunday Concert Series, since it is such a great opportunity to present harp music to the public.

Our annual student recital is traditionally held on the first Sunday in May. This year twenty-three students participated, representing six teachers. We can always count on a full house of proud family members and friends for our student recital. It is a rewarding way to end each year.

1998-99 was a stellar year for the Dallas Chapter. We succeeded in promoting the harp among both harpists and the general public and explored new avenues for our group. We are proud and honored to be selected as Chapter of the Year. Our chapter will continue to offer its members a wide selection of programs and opportunities for growth in the future.



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AHS Chapter of the Year: Santa Barbara, California

by Marion J. Smith, President (1994–2000)



Santa Barbara Chapter

We are honored to receive this award and wish to thank the Board of Directors of the American Harp Society. The 1999-2000 year was an exciting one for the Santa Barbara Chapter of the AHS. Our meetings and activities reflected the goals of our organization as we helped our sister chapter, Conejo Valley, publicize their AHS Concert Artist Joanna Jordan program in September, presented music awards to deserving young harp students, and provided a recital by Maria Casale, world renowned harpist as a fund-raiser in which she played a new composition for harp by David Avshalomov. Throughout the year, a smaller group within our chapter has brought harp music to the community on a non-profit basis. The Channel Islands Harp Ensemble has chosen to rehearse regularly and present a variety of harp music played on pedal and celtic harps.

We are a relatively small chapter, with average attendance of twenty to thirty at our meetings. Traditionally our meetings are held in October, December, March and May, and usually consist of live

harp music, a brief business meeting and a social time when members "connect" with others of similar interests.

Throughout the year we try to keep chapter members aware of harp events. We were happy to work on publicizing the Joanna Jordan Concert in Westlake in September, and a number of us attended, enjoying the great talent and versatility of the artist.

We have a music awards committee to encourage our student participation. Students must be recommended by their teachers and must write an essay, "Why I like to play the harp." Two of our award winners played at our December meeting. Some of our adult members play for various local community groups throughout the year, especially at Christmas and St. Patrick's Day. Our Channel Islands Ensemble has brought harp music to hospitals, libraries, museums, schools, and retirement communities in the last three years.

The highlight of our year was our fund raising concert in April featuring Maria Casale. Ms. Casale presented a beautiful program to a highly appreciative audience. The world premiere of *Sonata for the Harp* by David Avshalomov was received with great enthusiasm. The composer was in the audience and joined Maria for more praise at the close of the program. After the concert, we added some twenty new names to our mailing list. It was a great experience to work together to present this magnificent harpist to a welcoming community and to provide for our scholarship fund. The members of the Santa Barbara Chapter of the AHS look forward with great anticipation to the year 2000-2001!

AHS Chapter of the Year: Charlotte, North Carolina

by Robert L. Kennedy, President



PHOTO BY: JOHN DAUGHTRY, KPC PHOTOGRAPHY

Charlotte Chapter

The Charlotte, North Carolina Chapter of the American Harp Society feels very honored to have received the "Chapter of the Year" Award in June 2000. This year we celebrated our twenty-fifth anniversary. In June, 1974, seven harpists met to form a chapter of the American Harp Society, Inc. Present that day were Linda Booth, founder and first president (1974-1977), Ron Canipe, second president (1978-1979), Elizabeth Clark, third president (1980-1981), and four of Linda's students. The Charlotte Chapter received its charter from the American Harp Society on October 1, 1974.

The membership total for 1999-2000 was 67. Forty-three of these were members of the American Harp Society. On October 3, 1999, the Charlotte Chapter presented a twenty-fifth anniversary concert at St. Gabriel's Catholic Church. The Charlotte Chapter Ensemble, conducted by Robert L. Kennedy; Central Piedmont Community College Folk Harp Ensemble, directed by Christine Van Arsdale; Carolina Youth Ensemble, directed by Betsey Sesler; and Suzuki Harps

of Charlotte, directed by Bette Roth, performed for an audience of over 500.

Eight meetings were held during the year including Music Education, Stages I and II under the leadership of Betsey Sesler. In March, a "Focus on Youth" concert was presented. Our young harpists are very active in chapter activities. Also, during the year, many of our members performed in concert for orchestras, churches, schools, business functions, weddings, receptions and parties.

We had two other special events of note. In April 2000, Paul Hurst was the featured soloist in a chapter concert. Paul also presented a workshop for the chapter and taught private lessons. A special feature in August was a performance at Bethel Presbyterian Church by a family of three generations of harpists: Lara Scandrett, Lucy Clark Scandrett, and Elizabeth Clark. Robert L. Kennedy is Minister of Music at the church.

The Charlotte Chapter is grateful to the staff, officers and Board of the AHS for their guidance, outstanding leadership and member support.

Runner-up Chapter of the Year: Charm City

by Diana Gumas



PHOTO BY: DIANA GUMAS

Baltimore Harpfest Scholarship winners with Alice Chalifoux (center)

The Charm City Chapter of the American Harp Society hosted Baltimore Harpfest 2000 from May 5-7, 2000. The festival began with scholarship auditions. Twenty talented young harpists played for a panel of judges, and six of those harpists were awarded monetary scholarships and an opportunity to participate in a master class with Alice Chalifoux. The scholarship recipients were Anna Odell, Leah Hess, Ebyan Zanini, Sara Franke, Cara Fleck, and Alyson Auton. The festival concluded with a concert by harpist Mindy Cletcher and flutist Edward Schultz.

Ray Pool was the guest clinician for the festival. Mr. Pool presented a seminar for all levels and ages involving basic theory, reading from lead sheets, improvisation with lead sheets, and modulating between keys. He also performed a concert on Saturday evening for a packed house of harpists and residents from Oak Crest

Village Retirement Community. In addition to attending Mr. Pool's workshop and concert, harpists had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of workshops including beginning, intermediate and advanced harp ensembles, harp maintenance, sacred/wedding music for the harp, and jazz harp. There was also an amplification seminar. We also held Music Education Auditions with many participating. And finally, many also had an opportunity to have their harps regulated by Ed Galchick, and to browse among the wide variety of harps, music and accessories for sale.

On Sunday, Baltimore Harpfest 2000 concluded with a solo and ensemble concert, followed by a final massed harp ensemble concert and awards ceremony. For more information on Harpfest 2001, visit our website at <http://www.charmcityharp.org>

Chapter of the Year: Charm City

by Eileen Mason, Chapter President

The Charm City Chapter of the American Harp Society acknowledges with appreciation the award granted us as Chapter of the Year 2001. This honor recognizes the efforts of our members in the variety and creativity of our programs.

Our chapter was founded with the intent of introducing ourselves to each other, generating discussion on our activities, such as gigs, business related items, etc., having our own performance forum, and promoting the harp to members of our community. Early meetings included the above subjects, an occasional outside speaker, and our now annual Harpfest. Harpfest has grown from a day-long get-together to a two-day event that now includes recitals, a competition, exhibits by many vendors who often bring instruments, a broad range of workshops, MEA's, Master Classes, children's activities and culminates with a harp ensemble concert that consists of all participants.

In addition, we were able, in 2000-2001, to sponsor and promote a concert and Master Class presented by Alice Giles at the newly opened Main Theater at the Washington, D.C., Mormon Temple Visitors Center, as well as two student recitals at the Oak Crest Retirement Community in Baltimore, the location of Harpfest for the last five years.

The impetus of the student recitals is twofold: to give our students a performance opportunity and to give our gift of music back to the retirement community who so generously allows us use of its campus convention facility for an entire weekend as public service to us and the residents. As in past years, our final meeting is a party in which we thank ourselves for our efforts. ☺

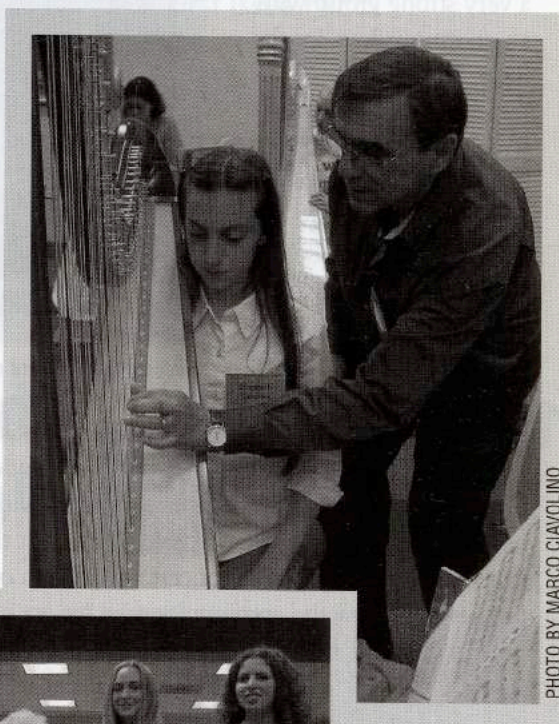


PHOTO BY MARCO CIAVOLINO

(top) Alfredo Rolando Ortiz demonstrates a Latin American harp technique to Elizabeth Ciavolino at a Baltimore Harpfest workshop



PHOTO BY MARCO CIAVOLINO

2002 Harpfest scholarship recipients with Master Class Instructor Alice Chalifoux:
Back row—I to r: Sierra Zaid Shamer, Diana Elliott, Alice Chalifoux, Sara Franke, Lindsay Buffington
Front row (honorable mentions)—I to r: Sara Magill, MariaLisa Itzoe, Cara Fleck, Clare O'Reilly, Ebyan Zanini

Runner-up Chapter of the Year: Santa Barbara

by Dr. Iraida Poberezhnaya, Chapter President

Our Santa Barbara Chapter includes about twenty members and friends, pedal and folk harp players, professionals and beginners, but despite our small number, I have to say that we have a very strong group with an enormous love for the harp.

Last year we had two major events organized by our Chapter in addition to our regular meetings.

Almost every member and every student participated in our December 2000

Christmas concert. There were ensembles and solo

performances. Rebekah Scogin, local harp teacher and performer, introduced her Santa Barbara Harp Consortium, which included her five harp students along with other instrumentalists. Channel Islands Harp Ensemble, a group of four harpists, a flutist, violinist and violist, played familiar songs. Lynette Johnson played her *Pavanna*, for which she received a prize at the 2000 French International Competition for Harp Compositions. Part of our concert was shown on our local TV channel, allowing us to come together for the first time and to show the community who we are and what we do.

Our second most memorable event last year was the Santa Barbara Harp Festival.

We decided to follow the tradition of the Charm City Chapter, which is known for its annual Harpfests. The idea of a festival was not only to show our own skills, but to bring in harpists from out of town to share their talent, knowledge and the love of music. The younger generation participated in scholarship auditions and harp ensembles. The one-day festival was open to and designed for the general public as well. The *Harp Therapy* workshop, presented by Gale Saunders and *Music in Medicine* by Amy Kanner, M.D. were very popular. Other workshops included: *Harp Care and Maintenance* by Dale Barco; *Improvisation* by Christine Holvick; *Paraguayan Harp* by Allegra Hardulfi; *Sacred Music on the Harp* by Marion Smith; *Creative Muffling Technique and Harmonies for non-pedal harp* by Lynette Johnson. Despite its being our first festival, it was a great success. We received many compliments from participants, and what is more important, they want to return next year. This filled us, organizers of the festival, with pride and joy. We also are thankful to every participant, vendor and volunteer who helped with organization of the festival. Among the performers were Rebekah Scogin with *Renaissance, Baroque and Celtic Music*; Susan Allen, Professor of Harp and Associate Dean of the California Institute of the Art's School of Music, and graduate student Rebekah Raff with *Music of 19th and 20th centuries*; Dr. Iraida Poberezhnaya with *Romantic Period in the music for harp*; Paul Baker with *Jazz and Popular music for harp*; Ignacio Lopez with *Latin-American Music on Paraguayan harp*; and Lynette Johnson with *Early music, classical and original works for non-pedal harp*.

By the time this appears, our Chapter will have presented our second festival from April 6—7, 2002. ☺☺



A recital by members of the Santa Barbara Chapter

Chapter of the Year: Los Angeles

by Elaine Litster, former Chapter President

The Los Angeles Chapter of the AHS was delighted to be named co-winner of the Chapter of the Year Award for 2002. We spent a busy year providing events and activities to benefit members of all ages and interests. Our season began in September as we made plans for a concert and master class by Chantal Mathieu. The events of September 11 curtailed Chantal's travels, but the chapter didn't skip a beat.

In November, a workshop/panel discussion was presented detailing how to produce, package and sell your own CD or recording. A week later, Grace Cloutier from New York gave a house concert and led an interesting discussion of the 14th International Harp Competition in Israel.

December brought twenty-three harpists converging at the Santa Anita Mall to present the fourth annual mass harp performance. The music list was published well in advance, and harpists from all over Southern California met to serenade the crowds. Arrangements by chapter members Ellie Choate and Bonnie Mohr were featured, and Elaine Litster, chapter president, coordinated and conducted the event.

After the holiday flurry, chapter members gratefully gathered for an "unwinding" harp party at the home of Tina Lenert. The Music Education program began in February and featured twenty-nine participants. February also featured a gathering for beginning adult



Carolyn Sykes and Elaine Litster



Bringing the Christmas spirit to the Santa Anita Mall

harpists. The Valeria Finzi Scholarship Auditions were held in April and twenty-one participants vied for over two thousand dollars in scholarship funds.

Spring also featured outstanding concerts. Isabelle Moretti gave a highly

acclaimed master class and concert in April at Mt. Saint Mary's College. In May, Carolyn Sykes, chapter vice president, coordinated a contemporary music concert featuring several local harpists performing works composed within the last thirty years. The concert included three premières.

The traditional Spring Fling was held in May at the home of Judy Abel in Malibu. The event featured the performances of past Finzi scholarship recipients. Madeleine Brandli was honored for her many years of scholarship and Music Education coordination. Alberto Finzi was honored for his generous financial support. ☺

Chapter of the Year: Central Florida

by Jan Jennings, Chapter Secretary/Treasurer



Front row: Miss McDonald, Haley Rhodside.
Back row: Stephanie Short, Emily Toelcke, Cameron Huster,
Michelle Bonn, Shirley Willis, Elizabeth White.

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The Central Florida Chapter was honored to be recognized as co-winner of the Chapter of the Year Award for 2002. Under the leadership of President Miriam Gentle, our enthusiastic members participated in numerous events to promote the harp and share our love of the instrument.

Highlights of the year included a weekend with guest artist Elzbieta Szymt in August. "Ela" gave a marvelous solo concert and presented a workshop and master class. She also played in a recital featuring twelve students of Jan Jennings.

First Vice President Annette Short organized an incredible Harp Extravaganza in September. A standing-room only crowd of more than seven hundred people packed the auditorium to hear more than fifty harpists and a flute choir perform. It truly was an extravaganza!

Our members also presented a couple of Christmas programs at a department store and church as fundraisers for the chapter.

In April, Susann McDonald gave a master class for the chapter. Twenty-four observers and seven participants attended the event.

Many more exciting events are planned for the upcoming year. As our chapter continues to grow, we look forward to the opportunity to learn, exchange ideas, and generate interest in the harp throughout the entire community. ☺☺

AHS Chapter of the Year 2003–2004

Philadelphia Chapter

by Alison Simpson, Chapter President and Cheryl Dungan Cunningham, Chapter Treasurer

Last June, the Philadelphia Chapter was awarded Chapter of the Year by AHS President William Lovelace in recognition of our “Outstanding Contributions to the harp and its community.” The year 2003–2004 was a busy one for us. In addition to the 2004 Conference committee’s ongoing work, the Chapter hosted several events, including two in October 2003. The first was an afternoon conversation with Lucile Lawrence. Several young harpists played, and we had a chance to see and hear a legend practice her art. Particularly moving was a video that Dewey Owens brought featuring Miss Lawrence performing on TV in 1953 at the height of her art. Our second October event was a magnificent concert by Erica Goodman and Trio Lyra. Their long relationship as friends and colleagues was evident in their virtuosic ensemble.

In January, we held a Student Concerto Competition. Twenty-six students competed for the right to perform with the Philadelphia Young Artist Orchestra at the 2004 Conference, often competing on more than one work. The difficult job of selecting the winners was ably made by judges Linda Wood Rollo, Bob Capanna and Heidi Lehwalder. The day after the competition, Linda Wood Rollo gave a masterclass for intermediate level harpists, which was truly inspiring to both the students and the audience. Kristie Withers, AHS Concert Artist, was our guest in April. The audience was thrilled to hear this poised and accomplished young harpist in a superb recital.

In addition to our meetings and ongoing semi-annual newsletter, the Philadelphia Chapter has been active with fundraising projects. The *Harp Ornaments* Christmas CD project was created by the chapter as a way to fund special events for the 36th National Conference. Twelve harpists contributed their talents to create the sixteen tracks on the CD, with Kim Rowe donating her artistic skills to create the graph-



L to R: Cheryl Dungan Cunningham—Conference Co-chair, Benjamin Franklin, Alison Simpson—Conference Co-chair

ics. Carol Thompson used her legal expertise to secure the required mechanical licenses. Projects funded by the CD included three new works commissioned by the Chapter for the 2004 Conference: James Primosch’s *Five New Sacred Songs*, Kevin Kaska’s *Knights of the Red Branch*, and Murray Boren’s *Lexicon*. The historical re-enactors seen throughout the conference, the Fralinger Mummer String Band quartet at Saturday’s “Philadelphia Meal,” the choreographer and dancers for the performance of *Bolmimerie*, and the lapel pins given to conference attendees were all underwritten by this project. Funds from the CD also allowed us to start further fundraising projects, including the “Ben Franklin” shirts and Byer’s Choice commemorative figurines seen at the conference. In addition, a donation of one dollar for each CD sold has been made to the Salvation Army.

In conjunction with its planning and preparations for the 2004 National Conference, the Chapter applied for and was awarded two grants. The first was from the Philadelphia Music Project to subsidize in part the commission of a work by James Primosch, composer at the University of Pennsylvania, to be premiered by the Jubal Trio at the conference. The second was from the Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, which underwrote the majority of the cost of having the Jubal Trio perform this work. Chapter members Carol Thompson and Helen Henry spent many hours preparing and submit-

ting these applications.

Working with the family of the late Edna Phillips, we were able to locate several of the manuscripts for some of the more than twenty works commissioned by Ms. Phillips with her husband, Samuel Rosenbaum, making it possible for several of these works to be performed at the 2004 AHS National Conference. Through the efforts of the chapter, Ms. Phillip's children, Joan Solaun and David Hugh Rosenbaum both made generous contributions to help defray the expense of performing some of these commissions at the conference.

Our mission is to continue the great tradition begun by Carlos Salzedo at the Curtis Institute, and continued by Edna Phillips, Marilyn Costello and many others. With over 175 members, the Philadelphia Chapter is excited to be able to encourage local students, bring quality performances, new repertoire, and a new awareness of the harp to the greater Philadelphia area. We feel honored and privileged to have our efforts recognized by being named Chapter of the Year by the American Harp Society. ♪



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AHS Chapter of the Year: Two Honorable Mentions

by Elizabeth Huntley

In June, the Board of Directors of the American Harp Society honored two additional chapters for their outstanding work this year.

The Greater Seattle Chapter of the AHS, Susi Hussong, president, was awarded Chapter of the Year: Honorable Mention. In the past two years, the chapter's membership has more than doubled. This active chapter has held an activity each month (except December and the summer vacation months). Their varied activities this past year included a student workshop, an ensemble workshop, a workshop with visiting artist Ray Pool, regulations with Peter Wiley, AHS student adjudications and a weekend with guest artist Judy Loman, including a concert, a master class and a teachers' workshop. The charter newsletter is mailed to members four times per year. And the chapter has commissioned a new work by Lynne Palmer which is to be premiered by Judy Loman when completed.

A new chapter, only one year old, was also recog-

nized by the AHS Board of Directors. The Sierra Foothills Chapter, Laura Hoffman, president, was designated Chapter of the Year: Honorable Mention for their strong first year. In the short time of their existence, the chapter membership has increased eight-fold and ten members have purchased harps. The chapter has held monthly meetings/harp ensemble rehearsals. The efforts of the harp ensemble culminated with a sold-out Mother's Day Harp Ensemble Concert, which not only raised money for the chapter, but also created great community awareness and support for the participating harpists and the chapter. In addition, the chapter sponsored a workshop by San Francisco harp technician Mike Lewis. They also commissioned a local artist to create a harp wind chime which is being successfully sold as a chapter fund raiser.

The AHS Board of Directors salutes these chapters and their hardworking members. ☺☺

Wickersham Award

Established in the AHS Foundation in 1995, the Wickersham Award is to help students pursuing the study of music therapy using the harp. Based on musical promise, financial need and plans for study, the award was presented to Linda Ann Titera of Fair Oaks, CA. Linda was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and grew up in a musical environment, playing both piano and clarinet and then later, the harp.

Linda was accepted in the music therapy program at Utah State University. She writes: "I hope to make a difference in the world both by helping others experience the healing power of music, and by teaching others who will in turn touch many lives. I know the harp is an exceptional instrument for use in music therapy." ☺☺



Linda Titera, Winner, Wickersham Award 2004

American Harp Society Chapter of the Year

Mile High Chapter: Denver, Colorado

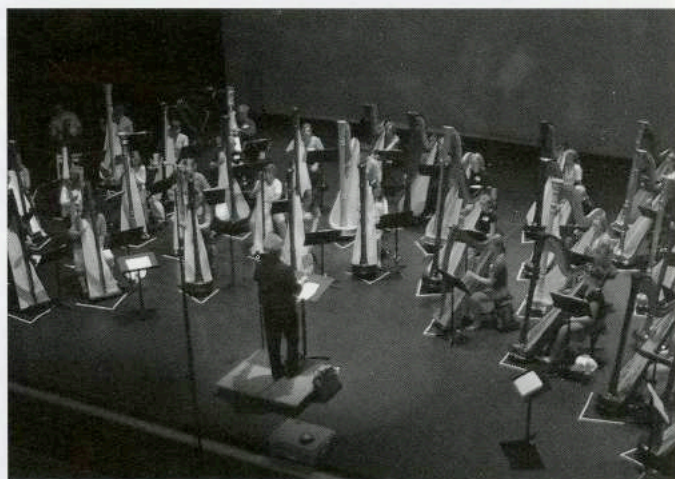
By Barbara W. Lepke-Sims

2005-2006 was a banner year for the Mile High Chapter of the American Harp Society. We saw our membership grow to more than seventy active members. Participation spanned the generations from young students and teenagers to adult students and professional harpists. We had over eleven events including offering the AHS Music Education Auditions in the spring.

This was the year of concerts...going to concerts, presenting and promoting concerts with the highlight of presenting a "Harp Fantasia" concert featuring a fifty-person harp ensemble concert presented at the Lakewood Cultural Center in October 2005. It was a sold-out concert in a 320 seat auditorium. We received wonderful coverage in the newspaper and it was so popular that approximately 100 people had to be turned away at the door! Our participants ranged from elementary age to adult seniors, from beginning to advanced. We were excited to have Robert Kennedy, choral, harp and hand bell conductor from North Carolina, as our guest conductor. He did a great job meshing all of the personalities and abilities into a cohesive ensemble so that we all played to the best of our abilities. We presented three different ensemble groups organized by ability. The concert ended with the entire ensemble playing five pieces together as a grand finale. The audience especially loved our fifty-person harp ensemble version of "Chariots of Fire." Not only did we thrill our sold out audience and challenge ourselves, but from the proceeds of this concert, we were able to donate \$400 to the harpist victims of Hurricane Katrina.

In Denver, there is good collaboration amongst many of the harpists, businesses and the community. Many of our concerts which were presented throughout the year were presented in conjunction with Kolacny Music, and one concert was presented in collaboration with the Celtic Harp Society. We presented a variety of concerts featuring solo classical harp, duo harps, jazz harp, master classes and workshops. Some of the featured performers were Louise Trotter, Park Stickney, Deborah Henson-Conant, Courtney Hershey Bress, James Pinkerton, Frank Voltz, Kathleen Bride, Skaila Kanga, Maria Luisa Ryan-Forero, Amy Tsuei and Carolyn Kuban. We think the members of the Denver community became more aware of the harp and developed a greater appreciation for our instrument, thanks to the many performances.

I would like to personally thank each member of the Mile High Chapter who participated in, volunteered for, or helped with one of these special events. When we all work together, so many positive things can happen. This was indeed an exceptional year for the Mile High Chapter, and one none of us will soon forget!



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AHS Chapter of the Year

The New Orleans Chapter: Two Years after Hurricane Katrina

by Patrice Fisher, former New Orleans Chapter President

When the summer comes in New Orleans and things slow down to a swamp pace, it is natural to reflect on how things have gone in the past year. This is especially significant for me, living in New Orleans, two years after Hurricane Katrina. There have been profound changes for many of us, since August 29, 2005. It has been one of the most difficult times of my life. But now I can find more reasons to hope than to despair.

Here are some of the things our New Orleans Chapter of the American Harp Society has done for our community since Hurricane Katrina:

1. We have collected and given away five lever harps, donated by Camac Harps of France.
2. We have collected \$13,429 in donations and paid out \$9,950 in artist fees to twenty-seven Louisiana and Gulf Coast harpists.
3. We have collected and given away 598 music books.
4. We have given out thirty-seven gift certificates, totaling \$3,250, to Louisiana and Gulf Coast harpists to replace harp supplies and music.
5. We have produced twenty-two harp ensemble concerts throughout our region, employing twenty-seven Louisiana and Gulf Coast harpists.
6. We have collected and given away 501 harp strings.
7. We have collected and given away many boxes of clothes and harp supplies, such as harp carts, tuning keys, key holders, tapes, and CDs.
8. We have given out \$1,350 in grants to harp students to help them pay their harp rental fees.
9. To commemorate our struggles this past year, we have commissioned and performed a new composition for harp, *Merci*, by Nancy Burtchaell.
10. We felt almost normal, when we were able to sponsor a master class by visiting harpist, Ann Yeung, at Tulane University, in New Orleans, in October 2006, and a concert by visiting harpist, Kimberly Hauser, in March 2007.
11. Our new President, Catherine Anderson, presented a much-needed master class for us on harp maintenance and repair.
12. I am using the Camac lever harp that was donated to me to teach a free harp class at St. Anna's Church for low income students.

Things have not gotten better as quickly as we hoped. We measure our progress in small increments. The day I took my first hot shower at home in more than a year was a great day for me. The amount of work that I have as a harpist has not yet returned to normal, but I have reached a "new normal," where relationships are more important to me than the number of jobs that I have. Ironically, I have more students than ever before. The harpists in our community have bonded in a way that I have not seen before in my thirty-two-year career as a professional harpist.

I have always believed more in community than in competition. I think we have excelled this past year in improving our community in ways that we have never before attempted. When people ask me, "How are things going in New Orleans?," I can now tell them, "You don't have to worry about us so much. We have turned the corner. We are going to be okay."

For more information, please go to our web site at www.harpnola.org. Thank you for all your help and good luck to all of you. We will never forget what you did for us. ♪

AHS Chapter of the Year: Central Florida

by Jan Jennings

The Central Florida Chapter had a very active year filled with meetings, concerts, workshops and visiting guest artists.

We hosted our annual workshop and recital weekend from August 10-12, 2007. The event was held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo for the sixth consecutive year under the supervision of Scott Baumer. The guest artist was Elzbieta Szmyt, Associate Professor of Music at Indiana University, Jacobs School of Music. "Ela" presented a solo concert on Friday evening. On Saturday, she taught two workshops and a master class. In addition, Dr. Roslyn Rensch-Noah gave her wonderful slide presentation on the history of the harp. Exercise physiologist Marie Artman offered informal posture evaluations to participants and gave exercise suggestions.

Forty-three harpists attended the workshops, and exhibitors were Harp Designs by Verlon, Harps Unlimited International, and Virginia Harp Center. Harp technician Ivan Gardner did harp regulations throughout the weekend.

On Sunday, there was a twenty-eight harp ensemble concert featuring the students of Jan Jennings, ten guests, and Ms. Szmyt. Receptions were held after both the Friday evening and Sunday afternoon concerts. The combined attendance for both concerts was over 400, thanks to some great publicity.

On October 21, 2007, the Chapter hosted a workshop and concert by Paul Hurst, in conjunction with the International Harp Museum. A lovely reception was held after the concert. There were twenty-four participants in the workshop held at the Broadway United Methodist Church in Orlando.

Chapter members were inspired by a performance of the Boieldieu Concerto by Elizabeth Hainen and the Lake Sumter Chamber Orchestra on November 13, 2007, at Church on the Square in The Villages. Sylvia Woods was our guest for a concert and workshop on Sunday, January 27, 2008, at the Broadway United Methodist Church. Forty-five harpists participated in the workshop following a reception.

Volunteers from the Chapter helped the International Harp Museum present a concert by Evelia Taborda, Marisela González, and Meko on May 24, 2008.

The members of the Central Florida Chapter are hard-working and enthusiastic. Our volunteers made all these programs possible. The workshops benefited area harpists and the concerts helped to promote the harp to the general public in Central Florida. We are honored to be selected as the Chapter of the Year!



From left: Elzbieta Szmyt, Jan Jennings



From left: Sylvia Woods, Meko



Paul Hurst



From left: Jeanette Heydt, Dorothy Curry, Louise Dotson, Elizabeth Hainen, Susan Bright, Katy Callaghan, Jan Jennings