



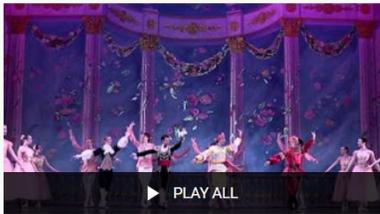
AMERICAN
HARP
SOCIETY, INC.

South Central Region Fall Newsletter

Vincent Pierce
Regional Director

National Notes . . .

 American Harp Journal



Summer 2019 Extras -
Tchaikovsky Cadenzas

9 videos • 37 views • Last updated on Apr 24, 2020

News you can use, from chapters, regions, and national! Exciting opportunities to gather via video conference continue to bring members together, and chapters are hosting meetings and [national programs](#) virtually during the year. New resources are being added regularly to the [AHS](#) and [AHJ](#) YouTube channels, and plans are in place to offer two dynamic national events in June of 2021: the rescheduled [National Conference](#) and the [2021 National Competition](#) finals. Build your community within the AHS and join us as we learn about and serve the harp!

Nominations for new AHS Board members are now open [online](#) **through November 30th**. If you are interested in serving, or you know a colleague who might be well-suited to Board service, please submit your nomination(s) during November. Cycle through the badges on the right side to find "Call for Nominations". You may also download a [paper nomination form](#).

KANSAS

Lyra (Kansas City) Chapter

Meetings & Events

- **8/18/19: Kick-off Gathering** –**Katherine Siochi** joined members of the Lyra Chapter to celebrate a new year and Katherine's new role as the Kansas City Symphony Harpist. This was a potluck event. People who wanted to play the harp were invited to do so.

- **11/2/19: Harp Day**, held at a Kansas City, KS school. Guest artist, **Rachel Brandwein** joined us to help celebrate the life and legacy of dearly departed member, **Jennifer Liebnitz**. There were multiple workshops, including harp maintenance, rhythm, cross strung harp, and music and mental wellness. The day culminated with a concert of three area professional harpists sharing the stage with Rachel Brandwein, to present a concert. Donations were accepted to start a new scholarship fund in the memory of Jennifer Liebnitz.



Rachel Brandwein with student during Master Lessons workshop on Harp Day 2019



Steve Moss providing Harp Maintenance workshop on Harp Day



Betsy Paine with the Cross Strung Harp workshop on Harp Day 2019



Rhythm workshop with Erin Wood at Harp Day 2019



Rachel Brandwein in Concert, celebrating the life of Jennifer Liebnitz at Harp Day 2019

- **2/22/20: Auditions and Evaluations**, held at a Kansas City, KS public school, where they have a harp-in-the-school program, conducted by **Aimee Desotels**. The Auditions and Evaluations was modified from Nationals recommendations and only

held for one day. The Evaluator was **Katherine Siochi**, the principal harpist with the Kansas City Symphony. There were several participants, several of whom were also preparing for the upcoming competition.

- **04/25/2020: Harp Competition**, held virtually due to Covid-19. We had each contestant prepare and submit a video of them performing the piece from their division to the three judges and the moderator. Each of the three judges viewed and evaluated the videos in their own time. The three gathered a week after submissions were due and discussed their findings. From that, they named a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner from each division. Students, especially 1st place winners, were asked to perform on the annual kick-off meeting in August since we were unable to have a live concert of their performance. Usually, the 1st place winners perform a concert following the competition as part of the Spring Meeting.

Wichita Chapter

Meetings and Events

Several Chapter members participated in the Harps for Peace Concert in Topeka. This year it was a mostly virtual event. Several members made a group video and for the event that was held on September 13th.



Lee Miescher, Kathleen Lehman, Lisa Dwornicki, Ann Reddy, and Suzanne Shields making a video for Harps for Peace.

Several Chapter members perform annually for the holiday Illuminations fundraiser at Botanica in Wichita. Last year the performance was on December 27th. This year due to the pandemic, this performance will not be happening.

● ● ●

TEXAS

Austin Chapter

Meetings and events

- South Central Regional Director and Austin Chapter President **Vincent Pierce** hosted a regional Zoom event on Sunday, October 11th at 4PM. **Kathleen Hopkins**, Intermediate I Division winner of the 2019 AHS Competition and Dallas chapter ambassador, and **Mallory McHenry**, doctoral candidate at the University of Texas at Austin, performed. Kathleen performed Renié's "Contemplation" and shared her artwork that is currently hanging in the governor's office. Mallory presented original works and transcriptions of female African-American composers.



Kathleen Hopkins



Mallory McHenry

- Vincent Pierce performed with Austin theater company *ProyectoTeatro* for their Dia de los Muertos celebration on November 2nd, performing Caccini's "Ave Maria" with mezzo-soprano Daniela Holloway and cellist Henna Chou, and dancer and ProyectoTeatro director Luis Ordaz Gutiérrez. Performers and crew were provided COVID tests, so were able to fully and safely participate.



Henna Chou and Vincent Pierce pose in full costume



Henna Chou, Daniela Holloway and Vincent Pierce performing Caccini's 'Ave Maria'

- The Austin chapter of the AHS kicked off their season with a meeting on Sunday, September 7th. Plans are underway for auditions and evaluations, and in December the Austin chapter is hosting a Christmas Harp Extravaganza, with an outdoor, socially-distanced harp ensemble of local harpists of all ages. Participation is open to any harpist who wants to join!



THE AUSTIN
CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN HARP
SOCIETY PROUDLY
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Christmas Harp Extravaganza

Come join harpists throughout the Austin Area for a Socially Distant Ensemble!

Bring your own harp, stool, music stand and music. Since this year is outdoors, please come prepared with clothpins in case it is windy. The music is arranged for one to four harps. Feel free to play one or two hands as ability allows. It is not necessary to play every song, just those you are comfortable with. Teachers are encouraged to bring their students and play along with them. Some of the music can be played as a solo and can be used throughout the holiday season. All music is playable on a lever or pedal harp. Dress is Christmas Casual. All harpists must wear a mask.

DECEMBER 6, 2020
ARRIVE AT 12:00 P.M.
PERFORMANCE AT 1:00 P.M.
MILBURN PARK PAVILION
1901 SUN CHASE BLVD
CEDAR PARK, TX 78613

● FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO OBTAIN MUSIC
PLEASE CONTACT DENISE STIGLICH,
EMAIL DRSTIGLICH@YAHOO.COM
Sign up at: <https://signup.com/go/NQkWdyw>

- **Delaine Fedson Leonard** performed for another season with the Valley Symphony Orchestra in McAllen, TX and after the pandemic, created filmed content to share with season subscribers. She also volunteered prelude and postlude for virtual services at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. In Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, she taught Suzuki Book 2 and 3 teacher development workshops. In lieu of summer Suzuki Teacher Training, she taught sold-out Suzuki Online Seminars in the months of June and July to experienced Suzuki Harp teachers. She continues her quest to train more Suzuki Harp teachers by teaching Every Child Can in Fall 2020.
- This fall, the Butler Harp Studio welcomed MM student **Anna Blauw** from Minnesota. The Butler Harp Studio's project to perform Salzedo's *Bolmimerie* live with dancers and original choreography for a Rainwater Grant Project under the direction of Butler MM candidate **Ellie Yamanaka** turned into a recording project after the pandemic shutdown. The University of Texas Harp Ensemble is now hard at work making a recording with an expected release date of the performance video in Spring 2021.

AHS in Dallas Chapter

September 29, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

Dallas Harpist **Barbara Biggers** in Recital

In collaboration with Mu Phi Epsilon Recital Series

Place: J. Erik Jonsson Central Library Auditorium

Dallas, Texas



Dallas harpist Barbara Biggers

November 17, 2019, 3:00 p.m.

*Masterclass by **Joan Holland**,*

Harp Instructor at Interlochen Arts Academy and University of Michigan

Place: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Student participants were: **Savannah Chun, Nathan Zhou, Sima Galaganov, Sylvia Lu, Kathleen Hopkins, Marian Ma, Evelyn Busby, Zane Mallett**



Joan Holland

February 9, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Celtic Harp Circle

Place: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

Irving, Texas

Leaders/soloists were Celtic Harpers:

Rebekah Passmore, Sarah Copus, Aeryn Richardson, Patrick Thurmond, Laurence Naughton-Furr



Celtic Harp Circle

February 2, and March 1, 2020

Auditions and Evaluations

Place: Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas

Students came to play for advisor, **Alison Read**,

On Feb. 2, and one month later on March 1,

came to play again for advisor Alison Read,

and the AHS National Advisor, **Kela Walton**.

Participants were: **Madeleine Allen, Emily Howard, Elisabeth Henderson, Allison Martin, Rachel Jageman, Genevieve Boots, Cadence Bomgardner, Giselle Menezes, Joselyne Segura, Savannah Chun, Julie Mukaida**



Auditions and Evaluations - Kela Walton and Alison Read adjudicators

October 4, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Celebration of Creativity: Multi Media Recital Presentation of New Music for Harp

Kimberly DeRosa; Crimson Duo: Jaymee Haefner & Matt Milewski; Emily Levin

This was an extremely successful online ZOOM event.



AHS in Dallas first meeting of the 2020-2021 season

November 15, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Lecture-Recital Presentation of Mid-Late 19th c. Compositions by African-American Women Composers, Transcribed for Harp

Mallory McHenry, Doctoral Candidate at University of Texas Austin

Mu Phi Epsilon Recital Series

Dallas, TX 75201

This will be an online event.

February 7, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

American Harp Society Concert Artist Recital

Caroline Wilkins, AHS Concert Artist 2019-2021

Mu Phi Epsilon Recital Series

Dallas, TX 75201

This will be an online event.

March 7, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Pop Goes the Harp

Showcase recital in a café setting featuring local pop harpists **Cindy Horstman, Becky Scherschell, Patricia Diers, Laurel McConkey, Sydney Howell, and Jennifer Betzer**

Location TBA, and could be an online event.

April 10-11, 2021, 1:00- 5:30 pm (both days)

Jazz and Improv Workshop and Concert

Julia Kay Jamieson, Guest Artist

Place: Lamb of God Lutheran Church

Flower Mound, TX 75028

Two workshops, open to adults and youth on pedal and lever harp, will feature two ensemble arrangements by Julia Kay Jamieson: *Kitties!* and *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

April 24, 2021

Julia Herrmann Edwards Student Scholarship Competition & Gail Barber Prize Scholarship Competition

These competitions will run simultaneously. The **Julia Herrmann Edwards** Student Scholarship Competition honors Ms. Edwards, who was a long-time Dallas Symphony harpist, and our Chapter founder, and awards prizes to the best performances of music written or edited by Marcel Grandjany, her teacher. The **Gail Barber** Prize Scholarship Competition honors Ms. Barber, and awards a prize for the best performance of a composition written or arranged by Ms. Barber.

Naoko Nakamura, Student Events Chair

Tarrant County College Northeast Campus, Hurst, Texas

May 2, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Spring Student Recital

Naoko Nakamura, Student Events Chair

Location TBA

OTHER LOCAL EVENTS

November 8, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Juan Riveros, harpist

Grand Prize Winner of the 2020 Lewisville Lake Symphony International Competition for Strings and Harp, performing Debussy *Dances Sacree et Profane* and Ravel *Introduction and Allegro*

This will be a streamed broadcast. Tickets and information available at:

<https://www.lewisvillesymphony.org/>

Chapter News

In May of 2020, the Board of Directors sponsored an AHS in Dallas Cares Grant to help support its members who were unemployed due to COVID-19. Each recipient was asked to fill out an application form and apply for a grant for up to \$250. Grants were awarded in June, 2020.

The AHSD Board of Directors also decided to let each member in good standing from the 2019-2020 season remain a member for the 2020-2021 season without having to pay for the new season. This was to encourage all members to continue their memberships in spite of COVID-19 financial hardship.

Each September, a day called North Texas Giving Day, sponsored by the Communities Foundation of Texas is set aside for anyone who wants to donate to non-profit organizations. The American Harp Society was given generous donations this year, and the Board of Directors voted to give a portion of the donations to the DFW Musicians COVID-19 Relief Fund, to help all musicians in the area.

From the Frisco ISD Harp Program:

Frisco ISD is celebrating its success in having six harp students selected to participate in the All State Orchestras in San Antonio in February, 2020. Six is the maximum number of students that their region can provide, and this is the fifth time in a row that Frisco ISD achieved this maximum number of students.

Congratulations to the All State harpists, **Isabel Tu**, student of **Jennifer Betzer** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**, **Marian Ma**, student of **Yumiko Schlaffer**, **Christopher Minn**, student of **Haley Hodson** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**, **Kathleen Hopkins**, student of **Emily Levin** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**, **Sarika Ahire**, student of **Yong Park** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**, and **Jasmine Liew**, student of **Jennifer Betzer** and **Leanna Johnson**.

From the studio of Maia Jourde:

Tessa Goodyear performed with the TMEA Region 5 Orchestra.

Megan Brown's harp ensemble composition "Mood" has advanced to State Level in the PTA Reflections. Nearly 60,000 students participate in the program annually and less than 3% advance to state level. The studio ensemble will be performing "Mood" at the studio's spring concert.

The Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra hosted its first HarpFest on February 1, 2020, which was planned and directed by **Emily Levin**, Dallas Symphony Orchestra harpist. The participants, high school harpists, had the opportunity to participate in harp ensemble, masterclasses, mock auditions, and solo and ensemble performances. The faculty consisted of: **Barbara Biggers**, **Laura Brandenburg**, **Cheryl Losey Feder**, **Karen Abrahamson Thomas**, **Jaymee Haefner**, **Naoko Nakamura** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**.

From the combined studios of Kimberly DeRosa, Laura Brandenburg, Cindy Horstman:

The Dallas Jazz Harp Ensemble has recently performed at the Sammons Center for the Arts, Harp Journeys Festival (**Kimberly DeRosa**, founder and director), Eastfield College, and will be a featured performer at the American Harp Society National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The group consists of **Cindy Horstman**, **Laura Brandenburg**, **Kimberly**

DeRosa (pictured in that order), and Michael Medina, bass.



Dallas Jazz Harp Ensemble - Cindy Horstman, Laura Brandenburg, and Kimberly DeRosa (pictured in that order)

From the Studio of **Cindy Horstman**:

Cindy has been busy performing with, conducting, and writing/arranging for the Brookhaven College Harp Ensemble and the Dallas Jazz Harp Ensemble. The Brookhaven College ensemble had various performances on campus and for The Samaritan Inn's annual "Inn Bloom" fundraiser where harpist, **Elizabeth Smart**, was the guest speaker. They also performed a collaborative concert with Vivace (the Brookhaven College madrigal group) at the Museum of Biblical Arts in Dallas that included arrangements of classical and jazz pieces by Cindy. The 13-member group consists of: **Angela Glover, Stan Guy, Grace Johnson, Ceci Lagarenne, Angela Pajoohi, Cynthia Raehl, Tenesa Rasmussen, Jo'anna Snowden, Linda Stiles, Sally Stobaugh, Katherine Taylor, Carla Siegesmund, and Linda Whitaker.**

Cindy will be giving a workshop at the AHS National Conference in Orlando on "Creating Fun Arrangements for Solo Harp" and coaching the members of the attendee ensemble.



Brookhaven College Harp Ensemble

Meetings & Events

November 17, 2019

- **Rachel Lee Hall** Masterclass and Recital. In collaboration with the Houston Symphony, the GHC presented Ima Hogg competition winner Rachel Lee Hall in a masterclass and recital. She gave a wonderful recital of music by Debussy, Tournier, and Bach, and 6 area harp students performed for her in an engaging and instructive masterclass.



Rachel Lee Hall Masterclass. From Left to Right: Joseph Cangemi, Sydney Gray, Rachel Lee Hall, Lauren Budoff, Miranda Rinaldi, Nora Navarro.

January 5, 2020

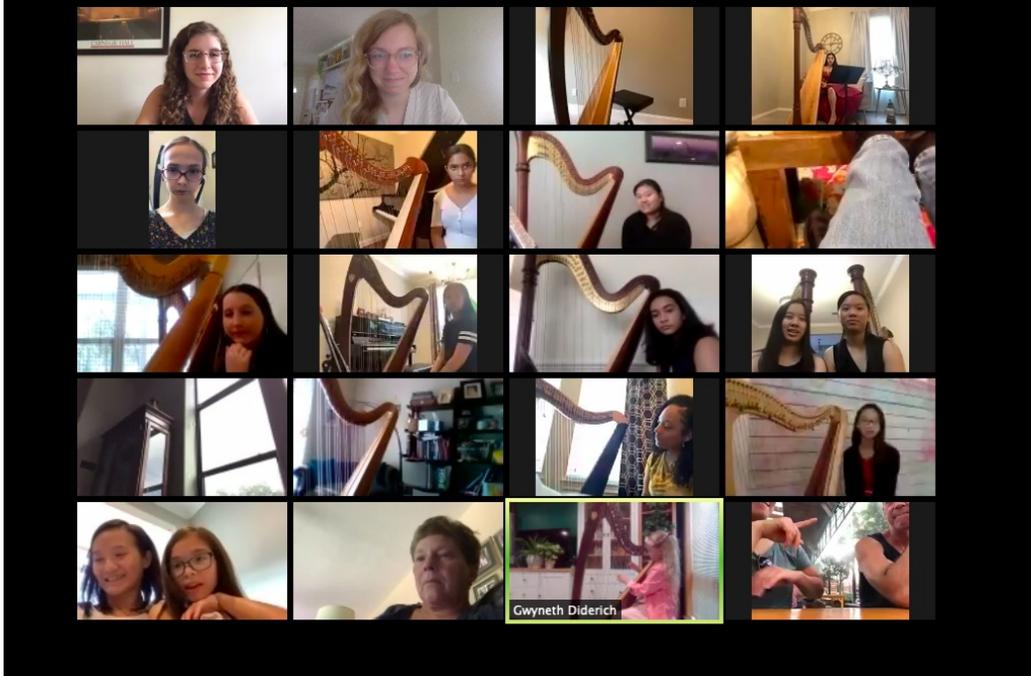
- **GHC New Year's Party.** Our annual social gathering to ring in the new year and celebrate the successful completion of the busy holiday season.

July 12, 2020

- **Virtual Harp Info Session:** around 30 harpists joined a Zoom call to discuss strategies for successful virtual performing and teaching. The discussion was led by **Kela Walton.**

August 30, 2020

- **Virtual Student Recital.** 17 students from the Greater Houston area performed solos live on Zoom for their friends, family, and fellow harpists.



GHC Virtual Student Recital

West Texas Chapter

Season planning meeting: October 25th 3:00 on Zoom

