

American Harp Society Founding Board Member

Marcel Grandjany

Marcel Georges Lucien Grandjany studied with Henriette Renié, and with Alphonse Hasslemans at the Paris Conservatory. Much of Grandjany's career was spent concertizing in Europe and America; he even gave the opening recital for the American Harp Society 4th National Conference when he was 75 years old.

Grandjany was a renowned teacher, serving as the head of the harp department for the Conservatoire Américain de Fontainebleau until 1935, as the head of the harp department at Julliard from 1938-1975, and establishing the harp department at the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal where he taught for two decades.

A prolific composer, he wrote works for beginning harpists like his *First Grade Pieces For Harp*, as well as works for advanced players, such as his *Aria In Classic Style* (for harp and organ), and one of the warhorses of the solo repertoire, his *Rhapsodie* (based on an Easter chant from the Catholic church). He transcribed many valuable pieces for the harp, particularly well-known among them being the Respighi *Siciliana* and the Francisque *Pavane et Bransles*.

Inspired by a suggestion from Pierre Jamet at the First Israel International Harp Contest, Grandjany invited many harpists living in New York to a meeting at the Lyon & Healy showroom in the Steinway Building on Sunday, December 3rd, 1961. This event marked the beginning of Marcel Grandjany's leadership in establishing the American Harp Society.



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