



American Harp Society Midcentral Regional Newsletter

Fall 2008 - 2009

featuring the chapters & members of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio

Our aim is to promote and foster the appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument, to encourage the composition of music for the harp and to improve the quality of performance of harpists.

<http://www.harpsociety.org>

From the Regional Director:

One of the most memorable events this summer was meeting many of you at our National Conference in Dearborn, Michigan. It was an inspiring week of concerts and workshops which featured countless talented harpists from our region. I want to personally thank Christa Grix, outgoing regional director for her dedication as the conference chair, as well as the entire conference committee for being exceptional hosts and volunteers.

Our annual Regional Newsletter will continue to bring you news and achievements from our members. We encourage you to support fellow harpists and attend harp events. If you are a teacher, introduce your student to opportunities that will inspire them to be better harpists. Organize a concert, gatherings and invite others to come. Contact information for various local chapters are included. Your participation will help the chapter grow and prepare more events in the future.

We want to hear from all of you. Please feel free to send me an email with submission for future newsletters, especially for those in areas without a chapter. Stay in touch!

*Sincerely,
Lillian Lau*

Lillharp@gmail.com phone: 812.391.0730 520 W Aldine Ave, #509, Chicago, IL 60657

Report on the AHS National Conference 2008
Dearborn, Michigan

From Christa Grix, Chair:

The 2008 AHS Conference "Celebrating the Whole Harpist" is a warm and happy memory, thanks to the many artists, presenters, vendors and committee members who made it a success.

Over 400 participants descended upon Dearborn, Michigan for a week that Celebrated the Whole Harpist. From the pre-conference Anne Adams Awards competition, through the Opening Night Jazz Concert at the world-famous Henry Ford Museum, the collaborative concert with the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, the Alice Chalifoux 100th Birthday Tribute Concert, the workshops on health, wellness and creativity, and culminating with a solo recital by Isabelle Moretti, this was a conference that was enjoyed by all who attended. On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors, especially Lyon & Healy Harps, our Presenting Sponsor, Salvi Harps, Anderson Insurance Group and the Detroit Medical Center for their support. I also thank the conference planning committee for the many hours and expertise that they dedicated to the conference, and especially, I thank all of our guests, whose enthusiasm for the conference made the week so wonderful.

Upcoming Conference / Summer Institute

www.harpsociety.org

2009 Salt Lake City, Utah 8th Summer Institute, 18th National Competition

~ Westminster College 6.28.2009 - 7.2.2009 saltlakeahs@gmail.com

You will find full days of classes and concerts all located on the beautiful and pedestrian friendly campus of Westminster College. Mark your calendars and save the dates. There will be a one-day field trip to the International Harp Archives included.

<http://harpsociety.org/conference/summer.html>

New Release from the AHS

Marcel Grandjany: "Music for the Harp" CD "The Teacher" DVD

CD includes "Fantasie on a Theme of Haydn" by Grandjany, "Sonata for Harp" by Hindemith, "Danses Sacree et Profane" by Debussy, and "Rhapsodie" by Grandjany.

Available for purchase from music suppliers.

Harp Listing & Requests

(from the Chicago area)

~ Lyon & Healy Folk Harp available for rent. 630.291.9090 or aka_thebish@hotmail.com

~ Wanted to purchase: used full tension, floor standing lever harp. Barb Fackler 630.665.6098 harpist@hornandharp.com

~ For Sale: Salvi semi-grand pedal harp, ebony. Sue McKenzie, 847.639.2172

~ For Sale: Lyon & Healy Folk Harp, Troubadour & 43 string pedal harp. James Sanders 847.329.9630, james99tam@aol.com

Central Illinois - Roslyn Rensch Chapter

Chapter Region / Cities: Urbana, Champaign, IL
Contact: Julia Jamieson, 217.390.6474, harphands@hotmail.com, president

Chapter Activities:

Student recital at local nursing home are planned twice a year, the last one was held in March 2008.

Our latest new activity is including an open and informal harp jam at the end of chapter meetings.

Upcoming Announcement:

2009 Summer Harp Class with Ann Yeung - June 11-13, 2009

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Visit <http://www.music.uiuc.edu/outreach/harpclass.html> for a video of Julia Kay Jamieson's "Animal Parade" for harp ensemble commissioned for and premiered at the 2007 Summer Harp Class.

2008 News:

February: Julia Kay Jamieson performed the Concierto di Aranjuez by Rodrigo with the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

March: HarpCore 4 (Julia Kay Jamieson, Charles Lynch, Chen-Yu Huang and Molly McKenzie) performed in Georgia and in Illinois.

June: Julia Kay Jamieson gave a chamber recital featuring works by Ravel, Leese, Fine and Yun.

July: Stefanie Pansch performed for the Caterpillar Retirees' Club in Decatur, IL.

Chicago Chapter

Chapter Region / Cities: Chicago, IL and suburbs
Contact: Laura Fako, secretary, 630-876-2663, Lauraharpist@aol.com

2008 News:

~September: Celtic Fest, Harp Tent

October: The Great Lakes Harpers Folk Harp Conference was held at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb. Contact Jean Humphrey for future information: BigHarper@aol.com

~October: Harpist Mark Brewer and guitarist Jason Deroche gave a recital of solo classical music and collaborated on music by Bach, Scarlatti and Martini at St. John's Lutheran Church in La Grange, IL.

~October: Faye Seeman was featured as the guest soloist playing Gustavo Leone's "Como un Sueno" and Ravel's "Introduction and Allegro" with the Harp College Orchestra, Palatine, IL

~October: The Irish American Heritage Center presented an Irish wire harp event featuring Carl Johnson on the Irish wire strung harp and Kelly Yoakam on her research on O'Carolan and the ancient bards. Contact the Heritage Center for future events: <http://www.irish-american.org/>

~October: Thirteen harp students from Lillian Lau's studio performed for a retirement

community, including AHS members Chelsea Jordan, Mindy McDonald & Hannah Young. The recital featured works by Bach, Debussy, Salzedo, Durand.

~October: Carl Johnson performed with Amy Shoemaker and her band at Bills Blues in Evanston, IL

~November: Faye Seeman was featured as the guest soloist with the Chicago Sinfonietta playing Ravel's "Introduction and Allegro" at Orchestra Hall in Chicago, IL

~Faye Seeman is pleased to report her students graduating from Wheaton College Conservatory, as well as graduate opportunities at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL

~November: The annual Chicago North Shore Student Recital was held on Thursday, November 6 at the Alice Millar Chapel on the campus of Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

~November: Hee Jeong Yoon, student of Liz Cifani, presented her final Doctorate Recital at Northwestern University.

Upcoming Announcement:

Lyon & Healy Hall: <http://www.lyonhealy.com/hall> or 1-800-595-4tix

Maria Krushevskaya performed at the Lyon & Healy Hall, Chicago, IL in October, 2008 as part of their concert series. Future concerts include Elizabeth Hainen, Angel Padilla Crespo, Marcia Dickstein, Anna Verkholtantseva and Judy Loman.

February 2, 2009, 3:00pm: The Lyrebird Ensemble, featuring harpist Lillian Lau and flutist Ellen Huntington will perform a recital to include rarely performed pieces composed for flute & harp. North Park Covenant Church, 5250 N Christiana Ave, Chicago, IL

New Recordings & Publications:

Sarah Bullen of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra has published "*Principal Harp Book 2*", a guidebook on orchestral excerpts, practical advice and CD recording of excerpts by Bruckner, Chabrier, Debussy, Donizetti, Ravel, Rimsky-Korsakov, Strauss, Wagner, Weber. Each principal harp part includes practical markings and useful comments. Assistant editor, Lillian Lau. Available from Vanderbilt Music Co., 1.800.533.7200, vanderbiltmusic.com

ZigZag Jazz Harp Quartet with Faye Seeman, harp Kelly Brand, piano Kelly Sill, bass and Jon Deitemyer, drums released their first CD "*Caught*" featuring original compositions, jazz standards and free improvisation. CD is available from iTunes, CD Baby, iTunes, call/email Faye 847.202.3236, kitharatrio@comcast.net

Quad City Chapter

The new Quad City Chapter was formed in 2008. Activities are held near Rock Island in Western Illinois and Davenport in Eastern Iowa. Harpist interested can contact Sarah Javaux of Silvis, IL for more information.

Contact: Sarah Javaux, 309.792.2035, sjavaux@juno.com, vice pres. / newsletter editor

Michiana Chapter

Chapter Region / Cities: N. Indiana, S. Michigan

Contact: Ramona Kim, 574.612.3765, rkharapist@yahoo.com, Elkhart, IN,
president

2008 News:

Brooke Rowland, age 14 and a student of Suzann Davids, was a co-winner at the Elkhart Symphony Concerto Competition held in January. She also tied for first place in the Emerging Artist division of the YAHS Competition held in Rabun Gap, GA, in July.

West Michigan Chapter

Chapter Region: Grand Rapids, Lansing, Muskegon, Holland, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, MI

Contact: Richard Hagan, 616.891.9784, richardlhagan@charter.net, sec./treas.

2008 News:

A New Chapter has been formed in the West Michigan area. Chapter president is Sister Mary Margaret. The chapter plans to sponsor at least one workshop a year. The first meeting of the chapter was held on October 25th, making plans for a roundtable discussion of music for the holidays, moderated by Alison Reese. Please contact the chapter for future events.

News from Columbus, Ohio

Lucile Jennings (1930 -2008), friend and colleague to many, died tragically in an automobile accident near her home in Athens County, Ohio on Sunday, September 21st. She had been a long-time faculty member of Ohio University, where she was known for her musical talents on the harp, as well as for her tireless activism for those in need. Her indomitable spirit led her to travel the world for study, work and adventure. She earned degrees from the University of Alabama and the University of Texas, El Paso, and also studied with Alice Chalifoux at the Cleveland Institute of Music. This education led to her receiving a Fulbright grant to study harp with Lily Laskine for two years at the Conservatoire National de Musique in Paris. Upon her return to the States, she studied music therapy at Florida State University before moving to Ohio University in Athens. There she taught harp and music theory, while also managing the school library's listening lab.

While possessing a keen ear for all classical music, her passion for harp composition also stretched from traditional Irish to Paraguayan folk to modern and experimental. Her dedication to the harp and its history led her to found and create the Harp Repository for the American Harp Society, which is located in the United States Library of Congress. She was an active member of the AHS, attending numerous annual and biennial conferences; she was also a member of the Columbus Chapter.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, November 1st at the Galbreath Chapel on the Ohio University campus. The Lyric Harp Duo (Jude Mollenhauer and Yan Ni) played a half-hour of Prelude music. This consisted of works relevant to Lucile, specifically the Duos by Joseph Hinner which she had edited and published in 1999, as well as French-related music that she especially liked. The service opened and closed with two recorded pieces from a Recital that Lucile had performed ten years ago in the same Galbreath Chapel. Her three sons and one grandson read beautiful tributes, and her other three grandsons performed separate guitar solos. Close friends from near and far added very meaningful commemorations, and Jude also played solo harp music directly relating to Lucile's life. The Memorial was very well attended by her family, friends, colleagues and students -- past and present.

submitted by Jude Mollenhauer, Columbus, Ohio

Dayton Chapter

Chapter Region / Cities: Dayton, Ohio

Contact: Bobbie Strobhar, 937.376.4608, tstrobhar@aol.com, vice pres.

2008 News:

The Dayton Area Harp Ensemble (DAHE) performed a huge concert at the Dayton Art Institute as part of the Dayton Art Institute's Twilight Concerts.

DAHE will be performing three "Harpin' Holiday" Concerts Sunday, Nov 30, Sunday, Dec 7, and Sunday, Jan 5. There will be nine harps, flute, violin, cello, and percussion. DAHE is the oldest ensemble in the area performing for 28 years. It was originated by the late Joan Seymour.

Trisha Pence has been asked again this year to perform with the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra for the 2008-2009 season. Trisha is a student of Bobbie Strobhar and Ulli Brinksmeier.

Please continue to visit the [AHS Website](http://www.harpsociety.org), www.harpsociety.org for information on Harp Instrument Insurance, application for Scholarship & Award Opportunities.