



**AHS MIDWESTERN  
REGIONAL NEWSLETTER**  
Fall 2010—January 2012  
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Dear Members of the Midwest Region of the AHS,

I am happy to represent The Midwest Region of the AHS at the annual Board meetings and through this newsletter. If you have additional information that you would like me to report about your Chapter, please contact me at: [blepkesims@gmail.com](mailto:blepkesims@gmail.com), and I will update your information as soon as possible. The next scheduled Regional Newsletter will be in the fall of 2012.

Meanwhile, I hope everyone had a good 2011 and wish you all the best for a Happy New Year in 2012!

The highlight for the AHS in 2012 will be our conference in New York City from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>, celebrating the Society's 50th Anniversary. We hope that you will plan to attend and stay at the Marriott Marquis, where the conference will be held. All details are on the AHS website at [www.harpsociety.org](http://www.harpsociety.org)

The following are the highlights from the Midwest Chapters for the past year:

**News from the Great Plains Chapter, Nebraska**

**Submitted by** *Karen Conoán, Chapter President*

May 4 through May 8, 2011 The Great Plains Chapter hosted a residency with harpist **Linda Paul** of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The first evening AHS member **Rod Colvin** hosted a "Meet the Artist" reception at his home. The next day Linda gave a presentation and performance during Omaha Public School Jazz Band classes at Beveridge Middle School of the Arts and H.A. Burke High School. She described her experiences as a jazz harpist to the students and she and the combined jazz bands played selections together. Linda performed in concert in both Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska, on a televised Sunday church service, presented a Master Class style workshop to our Chapter, and had a full schedule of private lessons. It was a whirlwind five days that impacted those who already love the harp and people who now know why we love the harp and harp performance!

On alternate years the Great Plains Chapter presents an ensemble harp performance titled "Harpening." The event began in 1989 and is now a highlight in the Midwest harp community. This year for **Harpening 2011** twenty-four harpists from across Nebraska and from Kansas presented the concert at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Twenty-four harpists participated. By adding the number of years of harp performing experience among the group we had a total of more than 350 years of harp experience. The performance was conducted by Dr. Tyler White, director of orchestras at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Many of the

pieces were arranged for our ensemble performance by AHS and Chapter member **Anita Clark Jaynes**, professional harpist and the originator of the first HARPENING. Chapter Vice-President, **Heidi Beran** and her Lincoln studio students planned and coordinated the details of rehearsal, lunch, and concert preparation.

## **News From The Mile High Chapter, Denver, CO**

This January 2012 begins with a wonderful concert in the Denver area. **Courtney Hershey Bress**, Principal Harp, will be performing with the Colorado Symphony on January 28th and 29th. She will be playing Oberthur's *Concertino for Harp and Chamber Orchestra, op. 175*. It should be a fabulous concert!

Later in the spring of 2012, AHS Student evaluations will be: Sat., March 31 and Sat., May 5th.

### **Highlights from 2010-2011 include the following:**

The Mile High Chapter (Colorado) had their biannual **Harpist Showcase** chapter recital on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Denver. Works by Richard Rogers, Fauré, Dello Joio, Houdy, Hasselmans, Ravel, Debussy, Mortari, MacDowell, and Carmen/Spickard were performed by chapter members Gail Brown, Mary Hagen, Susan Spangler, Catrine Watt, Paul Wren, Rosalie Gilbert, Molly Arns, Mariah Daniels, Lynne Abbey-Lee, Rebecca Moritzky, Kristi Bartelson, Carolyn Kuban, and Margot Krimmel.

### **New music and arrangements by our members:**

**Margot Krimmel** has recently finished her harp trio arrangement of Carmen/Spickard's classic surf rock hit, *Pipeline*. It was premiered at the Harpist Showcase. It was also performed at Harp Fantasia 2011.

**Kristi Bartelson** has also written and premiered a harp duo based loosely on the folksong, *Sourwood Mountain*. It had its premiere at the Harpist showcase, also. The AHS-MHC is proud of our compositionally gifted members, Kristi and Margot.

### **Other events and activities:**

In August, 2010, the Mile High Chapter hosted a recital by **Elizabeth Hainen** in Denver at the Cameron Church. Elizabeth was joined by her percussionist husband on the second half of the concert in a performance of the Bernard Andrès *Les Ilets*, five pieces for harp with percussion ad libitum.

The chapter hosted AHS Concert Artist **Heidi Gorton** in a solo recital on February 26, 2011. Heidi played works by Houdy, Tournier, Bach, and Glière to an enthusiastic audience at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Denver.

The chapter had its annual AHS Student Evaluations year in April and May 2010. **Pamela Eldridge** was adjudicator for the evaluations. Participants from the chapter this year were Elise Adamson, Olivia Braun, Janeen Froelich, Molly Karst, Kathleen Murphy, Lucy Sotak, Susan Spangler, Sarah Street, Ashley Tracy, and Nicole Welty.

**Publications:**

**Suzanne Moulton-Gertig**'s article "The End of a Friendship—The End of a Genre: Prokofiev, Eleonora Damskaya, and the Harp" was published in the Winter 2011 issue (Vol. 22, no.4) of *The American Harp Journal*. She has begun her eighth year writing the "Recent Publications and Recordings" column for the *Journal*, as well.

**Members at College:**

**Rosalie Gilbert** played her final masters recital at the University of Colorado-Boulder. **Kristi Bartelson** has returned to CU-Boulder, also, and is finishing her master's degree in harp performance.

**Molly Arns** played her senior recital in February in partial fulfillment of her bachelors in harp performance at the University of Denver. She will receive a Senior Recital of Distinction Award in May at the DU Annual Awards Convocation. **Mariah Daniels**, a sophomore harp major at DU, performed a harp duo work on Molly's senior recital, also. Mariah has been accepted to DU's Cherrington Global Scholars Program and will study in London Fall Quarter of 2011.

DU welcomed **Rebecca Moritzky** into the harp program at DU. Rebecca also performs with the Denver Young Artist Orchestra, and gave her Suzuki Book V recital in October 2010. She was on tour with the DYAO in Germany and Austria this past summer and performed at the World Harp Congress this past summer in Vancouver with the Suzuki Harp Group led by **Mary Kay Waddington**.

Congratulations to **Mary Kay Waddington** and many of her students for performing at the World Harp Congress this past summer 2011 in Vancouver, Washington.

**Harp Fantasia October 22, 2011**

The Mile High Chapter held their Biannual "Harp Fantasia", a multi-harp ensemble concert, at the Lakewood Cultural Center, on October 22, 2011. Works by Colorado harpist/composers featured included compositions by **Lynne Abbey-Lee**, **Margot Krimmel**, and former Colorado harpist **Phala Tracy**. Conductors were **Mary Keener**, **Barbara Lepke-Sims**, **Paul Crowley**, **Suzanne Moulton-Gertig**, **Lynne Abbey Lee** with stage manager **Paul Wren**. About 45 harpists of all levels and abilities participated to the sold-out house.

The Mile High Chapter members are very active in Colorado, performing in numerous Colorado ensembles including, but not limited to, the Arapahoe Philharmonic, Aurora Symphony, Colorado Chamber Players, Colorado Springs Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Denver Philharmonic, Evergreen Chamber Orchestra, Jefferson Symphony, Lakewood Symphony, Littleton Symphony, Lonetree Symphony, Mountain Chamber Music Society, Musica Sacra Chamber Orchestra, and Denver Young Artists Orchestra.

## **Additional News:**

**Barbara W. Lepke-Sims**, recently released a new CD, "*Music for the Heart from the Heart... Soothing melodies to comfort the soul.*" Pieces include "Elegy" by Colorado **Kathy Bundock Moore** and several pieces by Frank Voltz, Rhett Barnwell and Harper Tasche, among others. The CD is 56 minutes of calm, relaxing harp music. Barb has been trained as a therapeutic musician through MHTP (Music for Healing and Transition Program) and currently plays for patients by the bedside at Children's Hospital and St. Anthony's Hospital. The CD is an outgrowth from her experiences.

Barbara also performed a major recital in November 2010 at Regis University, where she teaches. Included on the program were the Debussy *Danses*. She performed the *Ceremony of Carols* and the *Seven Joys of Christmas* with the Colorado Chorale this past December 2011.

Congratulations to **Ann Marie Liss** for second place in the Young Professional Division of the AHS national competitions this past June. She has also performed several recitals this past year.

Congratulations to **Emily Levin** for being one of the winners of the Anne Adams Award winners in 2010.

## **News from Oklahoma submitted by Lorelei Barton**

**November 13** - *Lurica Krautter*, a senior at Augustine Christian Academy, won the Bartlesville Symphony's Young Artist Competition. She will perform the "Debussy Danses" with them on February 12. Lurica will also play 2nd harp with the Bartlesville Symphony on January 21.

**November 17** - *Tulsa Harp Ensemble*, formerly *Dolce Cantabile Harp Ensemble*, performed at Gilcrease Museum of Art. This ensemble is a combination of teens and adults. The *Dolce Cantabile* was all high school and college age for many years.

**December 5 and 10** - Tulsa Harp Ensemble also performed Christmas music before the Tulsa Youth Symphonies and the Signature Symphony concerts.

**The University of Tulsa** is building their harp department by having recently purchased a new *L&H Style 100* to accompany their brand new multi-million dollar performing arts center which houses TU's school of music. Very exciting for the Tulsa arts community.

**The Midwest Harp Festival**, a non-profit and internationally recognized, will be July 22 - 29, 2012 with clinicians Elizabeth Richter, Faye Seeman, Mary Bircher and Jan Jennings. Special guest performer is Becky Nissen, 1999 winner of the Lyon and Healy International Pop and Jazz competition. In its 12th year, the week-long festival offers a College and Career Bound program, ensemble, master class, solo competition, workshops, and free concerts. Our goal is to reinforce and help develop skills with methods of high standards, but in a relaxed atmosphere. We generally have a good balance of all levels of playing and all ages attend.

[www.midwestharpfestival.org](http://www.midwestharpfestival.org).

