

Southern Region News

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Orleans Chapter News	2
Nashville Chapter News	2
AHS 41 st Conference 2014	3
Mississippi Chapter News	3
Memphis Chapter	4
MORE New Orleans News	5
Kentucky News	6
Louisiana Chapter News	7



Support your local Chapters! They are there for YOU.

The American Harp Society is a NON-PROFIT organization.



AHS National Conference 2014 — mark your calendars New Orleans, LA June 22-26, 2014

Check out all our conference details on page 3 of this newsletter!

NEW ORLEANS CHAPTER NEWS:

New Orleans Latin Jazz harpist, **Patrice Fisher**, will travel to Guatemala with her quintet in November, to perform at the Festival del Centro Historico in Guatemala City. She will also work with the harp students of the Arpas En Armonia project, now in its 10th year. Patrice started this harp teaching project in 2003, after the only harp teacher in Guatemala died. This trip is sponsored by the National Association of Latino Arts and Culture.

Patrice toured with her group last summer to 3 cities in Germany, performing her original music for art therapy with Dr. Klaus Lumma of the Institute for Humanistic Psychology. She released a new CD of this music, called "Resilience." It is available on iTunes & through www.cdbaby.com.

Patrice also performed and taught last summer at the Somerset Folk Harp Festival and the New Jersey Folk Festival.

Patrice will be teaching and performing at next summer's AHS National Conference in New Orleans, June 22 through 26, 2014. Come and help us celebrate Harp Carnivale in New Orleans, with 5 days of concerts, classes with world renowned harpists and dozens of harp company

exhibitors.



Eileen Gannon traveled to Derry in Northern Ireland to teach at the week long music camp known as Scoil Éigse. Thirty of Eileen's students from St. Louis Irish Arts also attended the camp and took part in the subsequent competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

Both the Under 18, and Over 18 ensembles placed third in this high profile competition. This fall, Eileen will travel to Waxahachie, Texas to teach at the O'Flaherty Irish Music Retreat. And this spring, Eileen will welcome harpist Sabina McCague, who will be this year's instructor at the St. Louis Tionól.

New Orleans News continued page 5



Nashville Harp Society News



October 28, 2013 8 PM Mario Falcao harpist

World Premiere of
Composer
Michael Kurek's
"Serenade for
Violoncello and Harp"
and "Goodnight Moon"
for soprano and
chamber ensemble.

Blair School of MusicVanderbilt UniversityNashville, TN



Bell Harp Tech

AHS Member Benefits

- Scholarships
- Competitions
- Harp Insurance
- Resources!
- MORE resources!
- AHS Radio Series
- Publications
- Check us out at harpsociety.org

The **FALL MEETING of the Nashville Harp Society**, Monday, October 28th was combined this year with the Premiere of two Michael Kurek pieces composed for harp. Harpist, **Mario Falcao** debuted the pieces on a composer's concert at Blair School of Music on the campus of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Members were invited to meet for dinner at local restaurant Bella Napoli before the program. Mario will perform the works at the upcoming harp conference in New Orleans 2014.

Sarah Crocker has been invited to present a lecture on her research at the National AHS Conference this summer in New Orleans. The topic of the lecture is "Pierre Jamet and the Twentieth-Century Harp Quintet," and as of right now, the date and time for the lecture is Tuesday, June 24, 2014 from 10am-11am in the Iberville Room. She is now teaching harp and musicology courses at MTSU. *Sarah K. Crocker*, *DMA*, Adjunct Professor of Music, Middle Tennessee State University, School of Music, Murfreesboro, TN.

Mary Alice Hoepfinger, former Principal of the Nashville Symphony, played with the Nashville Opera this past fall. She will play Saint-Saens Christmas Oratorio with the Cumberland University Choir in December.

Linda Beuscher, PhD, GNP-BC performed at First Baptist Church Joelton November 3rd with guitarist Ron Dickerson. Ron plays smooth jazz and contemporary gospel. His latest CD is: Just As I Am. Linda and Ron plan to record a CD that combines jazz and traditional hymns.

President Phyllis Sparks was elected the AHS Southern Regional Director in June 2012. Recently, one of her songs was featured on the TV show "Necessary Roughness". In May 2013, Phyllis was the harpist for an orchestral tour in Beijing, Baoding and Xian, China. Among her recording sessions this year, Phyllis performed on the recording of Johnny Mathis' new duets Christmas CD. Phyllis and **Vice President Terri Ott** attended the AHS Summer Institute in Los Angeles, CA in June 2013. Phyllis teaches harp at Tennessee State University and Western Kentucky University.

Phyllis' husband, recording engineer and producer **Nick Sparks**, is recording five musical shows for a theme park in China set to open in 2014. He travels to Hong Kong in December to oversee the shows openings. The Sparks' beautiful sheltie Fiona and Nick are currently filming Season Two episodes of "The Agility Show", a television show about dog agility for the FamilyNet Television Network. Emmy award winners Michael and Dianne Killen are producing the project. The first season debuted in Spring 2013. The Sparks' music ties are featured in the show.

Bell Harp Tech visited Nashville the week of September 16th to work on many of our members harps. It wasn't all work and no play. (See photo to the left)!

Vanderbilt's Winter Harp Ensemble Concert under the direction of **Marion Shaffer** will be on Tuesday. Dec 3, 2013, 8 PM at Turner Recital Hall at Blair School of Music! See six harps onstage playing a wide variety of pieces with composers ranging from Bach to Johnny Marks. This concert will feature solos by several harpists, and special guest **Ann Mills** will be playing a duet for violin and harp. Reception to follow the performance.

The Nashville Harp Society is a local Chapter of the American Harp Society. The aim of AHS 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.

For more information, visit the AHS web-site at www.harpsociety.org

Join us in New Orleans!



2014 American Harp Society 41st National Conference New Orleans June 22-26, 2014

Astor Crown Plaza Hotel in the French Quarter

The American Harp Society 41st National Conference is going to be held in downtown New Orleans, at the Crowne Astor Plaza Hotel, June 22-26, 2014. Leading up to the conference, on June 21, the Anne Adams Awards will take place at University of New Orleans, with harp students from all over the nation competing for three coveted \$2000 college scholarship awards. The winners will perform in the opening recital of the conference, followed by the AHS Concert Artist, Alexandra Katelyn Mullins, first place winner in the Advanced Division competitions this summer at the AHS Summer Institute in Los Angeles. In addition, there will be four days of events, performances, and opportunities to learn more about the harp. There will be two student harp ensembles, one adult harp ensemble, and an all-inclusive harp ensemble formed during the conference, with all conference registrants encouraged to bring their harps and participate. With over 50 harpists from around the country, presenting lectures, master classes, workshops, and world-class recitals, attendees will hear a huge selection of the newest and best harp artists in a myriad of styles and genres. Baltazar Juarez (Mexico City) opens in a solo recital at the St. Louis Cathedral, followed by a Jazz Reception with Carol Robbins (Los Angeles). Established professional harp ensembles such as the Modern Harp Quartet (Detroit), Cafe de la Harpe (Tokoyo), and the Chicago Harp Quartet, as well as winners of the College Harp Ensemble Contest will be featured. A "Harp Fest" will take place in the hotel on the third evening, with five stages featuring harp bands such as **The** Felice Pomeranz Quartet, Riza Printup, Park Stickney, Ellie Choate and the Isosocles Trio, and Motoshi Kosaka. The final evening event is an Orchestra Gala, opening with the Bach Double Piano Concerto transcribed for harps by soloists Marcela Méndez and Maryen Munoz, the Goosens triple concerto performed by the van Hoesen Gorton family, and the Parish Alvars Double Harp Concerto performed by Yiyun Loei and Emily Levin, Bronze Medalist from the USA 2013 International Harp Competition, The evening concludes with a debut of Deborah Henson Conant conducting her own harp concerto, and a New Orleans premier of Stopinski's Symphony for Harp, "Rough Night with a Happy Ending" featuring harpist Elaine Barber. For more details, please see the AHS National Conference web site AHSNationalConference.org.

Mississippi Chapter News:

Grace Halsey will be performing with the Mississippi Symphony on their Bravo Concert series this season.

Mandy Mangrum's private studio will be giving a Christmas concert December 5th at the Mustard Seed, which is a Christian community of adults with developmental disabilities.

Victoria Brodbeck, a senior at Madison Central, just performed with in the school's musical production of Shrek.

Guest harpist, **Dr. Gabriella Werries, and Mandy Mangrum** will perform at
Christ United Methodist in
December for a women's
luncheon.

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it."



AHS Memphis Bill Butler, President

DID YOU KNOW:

Any active Chapter of the American Harp Society may apply for the Chapter of the Year award. The winning chapter will be determined by a majority vote of the **Executive Committee** after they have had an opportunity to evaluate the materials. The announcement will be made at the annual event of the **American Harp** Society, preferably at the General Membership meeting. A \$300 award will be given to the chapter selected as Chapter of the Year, to use for their programs.

> Chapter of the Year Award

Memphis Chapter News

Melodie Moore performed as featured soloist with various orchestras this past year, including orchestras in China and Israel. In addition to being Principal Harpist in seven other orchestras, she was selected as Principal Harpist for the Nashville Praise Symphony and the Nashville Celebration Orchestra. During the spring season, Melodie was recognized by the Memphis Symphony Orchestra for donating her time to provide harp music in the Memphis Cannon Center's east lobby prior to Memphis Symphony Orchestra Masterworks concerts for the past 10 years.

As the recipient of the Rudi E. Scheidt School of Music Creative Achievement Award and Presser Foundation Award, she was named a Presser Scholar in recognition of outstanding achievements in music. In addition, Melodie was a finalist for the College of Communication and Fine Arts Dean's Creative Achievement Award.

She was awarded scholastic honors, including the national leadership and honors organization Sigma Alpha Lambda, Golden Key International Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society, and special recognition as a 20-year-old college graduate. As a new Board Member and Music Director of the Tiara Tea Society, she donates her time in this non-profit organization to provide funds for young ladies needing medical care. Melodie is also the Harp Instructor for the Rudi E. Scheidt University of Memphis Community Music School and begins graduate studies in January.

Memphis Harp Chapter met on Saturday, October 26th in the Performance Hall of Trezevant Manor. Performing were sisters **Anna Clare and Sara Grace Williams**, who are new members of Memphis Youth Symphony, playing the Sibelius Symphony. Their teacher, **Leigh Cromwell**, is working on a repertoire of harp duets, playing several selections at local churches, schools, and will be playing Christmas cantata at First Baptist Church in Desoto, Ms. Both Leigh on harp and **Ron Canipe** on organ played a duet at the meeting.

Harpist **Barbara Christensen** gave a report on her Holyland Harp Tour - and international and cultural experience. Also, she gave a talk on an internet course with Deborah Henson-Conant. Blues - Harp Style - 4-week jumpstart to playing the blues. She explained the logistics of learning via the internet and a brief demonstration of playing the blues.

Bill Butner, harpist, continues to play with a number of orchestras in which the NUTCRACKER and MEDITATION FROM THAIS is coming up.

Bill Butner, President Memphis Harp Chapter

"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." New Orleans News continued Page 5

More New Orleans Chapter News...

HARPTALK RADIO SERIES

The American Harp Society Grant Program has awarded The New Orleans Chapter funds to produce 2 new documentary for radio programs our HarpTalk series, featuring harpists, Sue Richards, (see above) & California jazz harpist Ellie Choate. Ellie is a versatile musician, as likely to be found in the opera or symphony orchestra as on stage with show orchestras backing headline artists. She has worked "behind the scenes" on the musical scores of many motion pictures and other recordings, but has also appeared on camera for movies and television shows. Ellie performs for all kinds of events in many locations in Southern California: from Orange County to Los Angels County, from San Diego to Palm Springs to Santa Barbara; for celebrity-studded high-profile occasions to intimate weddings and dinner parties.

The New Orleans Harp Society Annual Fall Student Recital will be held December 14, 2013, 7:00 p.m., LaFargues Pianos, 1828 Veterans Memorial Blvd, in Metairie. The concert is free and open to the public.

Christmas Chamber Concert at St. Louis Cathedral, Tuesday, December 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m. featuring the Musaica Chamber Ensemble and harpist **Catherine Anderson**. This concert is free and open to the public.

There are 10 musicians (half of them harpists!) meeting at Ochsner Hospital in New Orleans in order to be certified with the Music for Healing and Transition Program. Module 1 was held September 7-8, 2013. Module 2 will take place November 30-December 1, 2013, Module 3 March 1-2, 2014, Module 4 May 25-26, 2014, and Module 5 August 30-September 1, 2014. If interested in joining, please contact Area Coordinator Cathy Anderson at cathharp@aol.com.

The **New Orleans Chapter Annual Harp Concert, Strings of Hope**, will take place on January 26, 2014, 2:00 p.m., at the East Jefferson Public Library, 4747 W Napoleon Ave, Metairie, Louisiana. Regional harpists of all ages and levels and invited to join in the performance, with a rehearsal taking place during a workshop the day before, January 25, 10:00 a.m., at the West Metairie Library. Ms. Richards will also join members of the New Orleans Chapter in a performance at Ochsner Hospital on Friday, January 24, 2014. The residency is made possible by grants from the American Harp Society Grant Program and the New Orleans Arts Council. To receive more information or volunteer for the event, please contact Patrice Fisher at ecoslatinos@gmail.com.

Sue Richards is an internationally known performer, teacher, composer & author. Sue has recorded dozens of CDs & has entertained audiences throughout the U.S. & Europe. After studying the concert harp in Ohio with Lucy Lewis & Jean Harriman, Sue turned to the Celtic harp & the Irish/Scottish traditional music of her heritage.

Sue has sat in with The Chieftains & appeared on A Prairie Home Companion. She has performed in Scotland at Celtic Connections in Glasgow & at Edinburgh International Harp Festival. She recently toured Norway & Sweden with the Harpa ensemble. Sue can be heard on dozens of recordings, both solo, with Ceoltoiri & with Grammy-nominated Ensemble Galilei, a group performing Celtic, Early & Original music. As a member of EG, she has written music & performed in 2 multi-media shows, A Universe of Dreams & First Person: Stories from the Edge of the World, the latter sponsored by the National Geographic Society. In addition to multiple Wammie awards, Sue has won the American National Scottish Harp Championship 4 times & is now a Scottish Harp Society of America (SHSA) Distinguished Judge. She has also served as president of SHSA, as well as of the Washington, DC, Folk Harp Society. Sue has taught at the Alaska Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival and at the Summerkeys Music School in Maine. She currently offers private lessons in the Washington, DC, area, and directs and teaches in the harp program at the summer Ohio Scottish Arts School in Oberlin, Ohio.

The **Louisiana Music Teachers Association Harp Rally** will be held on March 22, 2014. Our Guest Adjudicator will be **Emily Mitchell**, world-renowned teacher and performer from the Houston area. **Ms. Mitchell and Jaymee Haefner**, last year's Harp Rally judge, will conduct a master class later that afternoon, and perform in a Harp Duo concert the following day, March 23, 2:00 p.m., as a part of the Trinity Episcopal Church Recital Series. All are welcome. For more information, contact Cathy Anderson, cathharp@aol.com.

An acknowledged concert recitalist and chamber musician, **Emily Mitchell's** 30-year career includes her popular recordings for RCA Victor, teaching on the artist faculty of New York University, touring the USA for Community Concerts and Columbia Artists, and as an established name in the television, motion picture and recording studios of NYC. Relocated to Houston, Mitchell teaches at Stephen F. Austin State University. Azica Records released her 2012 recording, *Garden in Harp*, compositions by Gary Schocker. Albany Records released her 2013 CD, *A Harp for Christmas*, from Schocker's *Joy to the World* carol arrangements. Mitchell's CD, *A Harp for Christmas*, Vol. 2, from Schocker's *In the Moon of Wintertime*, will be released 2014. Mitchell has served on the AHS Board of Directors and was chair of the AHS 40th National Conference in NYC. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music with Performer's Certificate and an Associate of the Royal College of Music, her teachers were Julia Herrmann Edwards, Eileen Malone, and Marisa Robles. Mitchell was awarded First Prize at the 7th International Harp Contest, 1979. www.emilymitchell.com

GUATEMALA HARP PROJECT - Patrice Fisher, President of the New Orleans Harp Society, started the Guatemala Harp Teaching Project in 2003 and travels there twice each year with her Guatemalan husband, Carlos Valladares. She will teach and perform with the 25 local harp students, delivering donated harp supplies of strings, music and materials to build harps for the project. A \$20 donation will pay for one harp lesson for 20 kids in Guatemala City. Harpists from the United States volunteer their time to travel and teach harp workshops, from time to time. The most advanced local Guatemalan students, Brendy Escalante (25) and Amilcar Montufar (26) have become teachers for the younger students. In November, Patrice and Carlos traveled to Guatemala with 90 harp books, strings, and funds to construct a 40-string harp. These supplies were donated by the New Orleans Celtic Harp Ensemble, Somerset Harp Festival, Sue Richards, Karen Kimmet, Betsy Baker Smith, Karla Williams, the Puget Sound Harp Society, and Houston harpists Louise Trotter and Ivonne Douma. Please send your tax-deductible donations to Patrice Fisher, 921 Stewart Ct. New Orleans, LA 70119.

Kentucky News
Page 6

On November 1-2, **Nancy Bick Clark** was in Elizabethtown, KY teaching at the Heartland Dulclmer Club Fall Festival. It was the first time they added harp to the classes. A number of instruments jammed on Friday night. Then the instructors taught four classes on Saturday. A concert was given "in the round" in the evening. First, the Festival Director Lorinda Jones, who plays harp and dulcimers, directed a string orchestra with youth in the violin, viola and cello section and then members of the Club playing mountain dulcimer, hammer dulcimer and Celtic harp. It was a large stage, and the orchestra nearly filled the stage. The instructors came out immediately after and played two rounds of tunes through the evening. There were about a dozen people in each harp workshop during the day. The subjects included Beginning Harp, Sacred Harp for Harp Ensemble, "Catchy" Tunes, and Appalachian Fiddle Tunes for Harps and Other Instruments. The fiddle tune group included harps, dulcimers, hammer dulcimer, and autoharp.

On September 14, the **Clark & Jones Trio** played at the Cincinnati Celtic Festival in downtown Cincinnati with the Clark & Jones Trio - Frank Clark on bodhran/vocals and Jude Jones on fiddle and guitar. The Trio has two public holiday concerts coming up.

SUNDAY DEC. 8 - 1:30-3:00 pm- CLARK & JONES TRIO - 15th Annual Holiday Performance at Lane Library, Hamilton. Clark & Jones Trio comprising Nancy Bick Clark - Celtic Harp/recorder/dulcimer, Jude Jones, violin/guitar, and Frank Clark bodrhan/vocals. Free concert along with the Hamilton German Village Christmas walk. The Lane Library is located at the corner of N. 3rd and Buckeye Streets. Third Street intersects High Street. (513) 894-7156. From I-75 north, Take Exit # 24, which is Highway 129 west. It becomes High Street west of Rt. 4. Continue into downtown Hamilton. Turn right on N. 3rd Street and go about a half mile. There is a parking lot on the right just before you get to the library. This is a very interesting historic building, which was under renovation in 2007-2008. We'll be playing in the octagonal room. http://www.lanepl.org/hamilton.htm

SATURDAY DEC. 21 - 4:00 pm - CLARK & JONES TRIO - Sixth Annual Celtic Winter Solstice Concert - Church of the Redeemer Chapel, 2944 Erie Avenue (at Paxton) Cincinnati, OH 45208 (Hyde Park - corner of Erie & Paxton). We will be playing some unusual carols and songs from around the world for Christmas, Chanukah and the yuletide traditions on Celtic harp, violin, bodhran drum, recorder, dulcimer, guitar and other percussion. The concert is free and open to the public. 513-321-6700. You can park on Erie or Paxton Avenues and walk in at the Erie Ave. door. There is also a door on Paxton right near Erie. For directions, please click on this link: http://www.redeemer-cincy.org/.

Across the river:

AHS GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER AND ITS FALL ACTIVITIES

The American Harp Society
Greater Cincinnati Chapter reactivated over the summer.
New officers were elected:
Alaina Graiser, President,
Nancy Blck Clark, Vice
President, and Kimberly
Cooper, Secretary/Treasurer.
Since the election, the group
hosted a meeting where
members informally shared
tunes. Small harps were
brought in for everyone to try a
group improvisation.

On November 16, the AHS Greater Cincinnati Chapter is hosting harpist **Alexandra Mullins,** who won Grand Prize in the AHS competition.

"Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent."

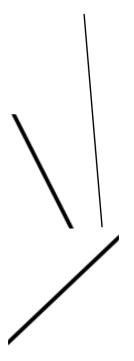
Victor Hugo

AHS Louisiana Patricia Horvath, President

Don't forget to send in your e-news to harpist1@comcast.net for our annual regional newsletter and periodic e-news! You can also post your news on the AHS and Southern Regional FACEBOOK pages.

Keep us updated on your concerts, recitals, life events, chapter meetings, guest artists, and any other accomplishments you wish to share.
Remember the AHS is FOR YOU.

Southern Regional Director Phyllis Taylor Sparks



Louisiana Chapter News

Just this past weekend, on November 9, we had our most recent meeting, a Dutch Treat luncheon at Ryan's in Lake Charles. **Valerie Green**, one of our members, reported on the 2011 World Harp Congress in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, which we had hoped she would be able to do last year! She told of the many, quite varied programs and workshops she attended, plus the fabulous concerts she heard. She also was fortunate to get to interview several VIP's to be featured on her wonderful weekly radio show, Harpistry, heard on KRVS, Lafayette and Lake Charles (FM 88.7).

Chapter president **Patricia (Patty) Horvath** and vice-president **Barbara Belew** gave their 7th annual duo concert at McNeese State University's Performing Arts Theatre on October 27, 2013, featuring music from the early 17th century to the present day. Many of the works were arrangements, of course, but the program ended with a charming duo, "Ballet of the Butterflies" by Louise Trotter, which proved to be an audience pleaser.

We all were pleased with the success of McNeese State University's 14th annual Harp Camp, held July 29 through August 2, for which Barbara serves as Director, with Patty as Assistant Director. Several chapter members also are Camp staffers. An unexpected rise in registration (to 22 participants) sent us on a real "treasure hunt" to have enough harps!

Patty has played for a number of area occasions, including a special event for the Red Tent organization (a fine supportive group for women), held November 8, at L'Auberge Casino Resort, and for several other affairs.

Two of our members, Barbara and secretary-treasurer **Lynette Babineaux** traveled to Lafayette October 5, meeting Valerie there, to hear an excellent guest artist program by **Bridget Kibbey**, which was well attended and thoroughly appreciated.

We hosted the Louisiana Music Teachers Association's annual State Harp Rally at McNeese in March, with **Dr. Jaymee Haefner** of the University of North Texas as our excellent adjudicator. Barbara chaired the event, assisted by **Patty, Lynette, Carla Breaux and Nancy Herington**, and two of our members participated, **Lynette and Maria Dupre'**, who won first place in her level.

Our annual chapter ensemble concert, which was presented in April, included some eight members: Lynette, Carla, Maria, Katie Evans, Carlyn Fullington, Gaylyn Fullington, Patty and Barbara. Featured soloists were Lynette and Maria, whom we surprised with her trophy, won at the Rally.

Currently in the planning stage, this year's spring concert likely will be presented in March, in our usual venue, Ralph Squires Recital Hall on the McNeese campus. We hope to have some new arrangements by former member **David Stockstill**.

We are excited to have several new members: **Sloane Churchman, Carlyn Fullington, Gaylyn Fullington and Barbara Swan**. Welcome to them all!

