



AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY

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North Central Regional Newsletter Fall, 2008

Greetings,

We had snow yesterday so the Holiday Season is not far away. I hope you had a restful summer and are all geared up for a busy December. From the replies I received I think the economy has hit us very hard. The Regional Directors will only be putting out one newsletter a year from now on. I appreciate all the news you have sent me for the last five years. This is my last letter, and it has been good to receive first hand information on your events. I shall miss it!

Cheers,
Kitty Eliason

2008 AHS NATIONAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 23-26, 2008

The conference in Detroit was very successful. It was good to see many members from our region attending. The theme of the conference was the whole harpist. There were many sessions on how to keep our bodies in shape for the strenuous job of being a harpist.

News From Minnesota

Kathy Kienzle attended the 10th World Harp Congress held in Amsterdam. Kathy and her flutist partner, **Michele Frisch**, performed commissioned works from their new recording. This included a composition by **Daniel Sturm**, Kathy's husband.

In October there was a performance of the Berlioz *Te Deum*, with VocalEssence, St. Olaf Choir and fourteen harpists, under the direction of **Philip Brunelle** and **Anton Armstrong**.

The Minnesota Chapter will be performing for open houses in several locations including A Victorian Christmas open house at the historic Burwell House in Minnetonka, and the White Bear Lake Historical Society.

On May 16th, 2009 the Minnesota Chapter will perform at the James J. Hill House in Saint Paul. Anyone interested is invited to join in what is to be a large ensemble of harpists. This is a public outreach program.

Elinor Niemisto played Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* with the Rochester Minnesota Orchestra on November 16th at the Mayo Civic Center. Elinor has an exciting ensemble of six harpists at St. Olaf College this year, and they are hoping for opportunities to perform.

In the music room of one of the Linden Hills Mansions in Little Falls, Minnesota, **Sharon Kimball**, with **Alexander Ames**, **Amy Filipczak**, **Rita Hacker** and **Hannah Kellerman** presented an hour of harp ensemble music. The concert, which was held on September 12, 2008 at 8:30 p.m., featured the music from the *Healing Harps Books I, II and III*. The music was well received and the harpists answered many questions about their harps following the concert.

News from Wisconsin

On March 7th, 2009 **Victoria Drake** will present a recital at Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church. She is a former student of Jeanne Henderson. She currently lives in New York City.

Kim Robertson was an instructor at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee **Stringalong Weekend** held at Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc

News from South Dakota

Anna Vorhes attended the World Harp Congress in Amsterdam in July where she heard incredible new music, and superb performances of old favorites of harp literature. There were also exhibits of the various types of harps used around the world and through history. While she was there she roomed with her former student **Jaymee Schmuck Haefner**. Dr. Haefner is the harp teacher at the University of North Texas in Denton after finishing a master's degree in harp with **Dr. Carol McLaughlin** and a doctorate in harp at the University of Indiana Bloomington with **Susann McDonald**.

The Augustana College (Sioux Falls) Band programmed a work written in honor of James and Alice Keene on November 7, 2008. Assisting Augustana harp student **Erin Holland** were **James Pischke** from Lincoln High School and **Alexandra Stanley** from Washington High School along with Augustana harp professor **Anna Vorhes**. They will also present the work at the Augustana Band Festival November 15, 2008. Anna Vorhes met Alice Keene and played under the direction of Jim Keene in the University of Arizona Wind Ensemble in Tucson where they were all there in the early 1980's.

Julie Ann Smith will join the South Dakota Symphony to present the Ginastera Harp Concerto on January 10, 2009. Julie Ann is one of the rising stars on the harp world. Ticket information is available at www.sdsymphony.org.

Erin Holland will play for a reception for the Boe forum special guest, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, when she comes to Augustana to speak.

Anna Vorhes' husband, Dwayne Sandberg, died in March after a brief battle with cancer. They had been married thirty-three years. One of Anna's favorite stories about Dwayne involved being backstage at the arts showcase concert in North Dakota. Dwayne was helping move the harp when one of the other artists started waxing ecstatic about how wonderful the harp sounds. The artist turned to Dwayne and said, "It must be heaven to listen to her practice!" With a complete straight face, Dwayne answered, "Nope. I can't take the swear words." Only another harpist would recognize how that can be, even if the words don't ever come out of our mouths!

Harpist Cindy Alvine Phillips married Jerome Zechmann in April 2008. She has moved to Olympia, Washington. You can reach her by e-mail at cynthiazechmann@comcast.net or by mail at 8545 Island View Ct NE, Olympia, Washington 98506.

Harps for sale

Camac Petite Classique lever harp

38 strings, mahogany, 5' tall, easy to carry

9 years old, 2 owners, very good condition, but needs tuning

Comparable to Lyon & Healy Prelude 38 lever harp

Ideal student harp

Asking price: \$2,800, includes custom-made carrying case, extra strings, and tuning key.

Contact: (651) 699-6172 or rgiusti2@hotmail.com

Lyon & Healy 85 petite, with extended sounding board

Natural color, great condition, extra strings and tuning wrench

Some brand-new pedal harp music, three piece blue Lyon & Healy case

Barcus Berry built-in pick up and pre-amp

Marilyn Johnson (507) 345-3863

Future Event:

The American Harp Society Institute will be held at Westminster College, Salt Lake City On June 28th to July 2nd, 2009. There will be interesting workshops, concerts and the Society harp competition held every two years. It is an excellent opportunity to hear many young performers, and really get to hear different interpretations of the same work. The Institute is not just interesting to the young people, it has something for everyone.