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North Central Region, American Harp Society
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NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

DEAR HARPIST,

I hope you have recovered from the Holiday Season and are enjoying a beautiful Spring!
Here is news from the North Central Region of the American Harp Society.

Milwaukee Chapter of AHS

Our annual holiday gathering took place January 9 at the home of Cynthia Raatz. We shared a potluck dinner as well as holiday music. We also heard a preview of a recital by Emily Melendes. Emily was the AHS Anne Adams Award Winner in 2012. She is a Graduate of The Butler School Of Music at the University of Texas in Austin. Emily is now studying for her Masters Degree at Juilliard School Of Music. We are all proud of these young women from Wisconsin!

On May 17, 2015 we will have our Spring Chapter Recital at Southminster Presbyterian Church at 4:00pm. The theme for the ensemble section of the recital this year is "Christmas". It will be nice weather, in the Spring, to attend ensemble rehearsals. Plus, we will be ready for next holiday season. (The choice for Solos do not have to be Christmas.)

Chloe Tula, winner of the 2014 Anne Adams Award will also provide music at our Chapter Recital. Chloe is now a Attending Rice University as a Harp Major.

Gabrielle Lammar, high school senior, this year, will present her Senior Recital on May 16, 2015 at Crossroads Community Church in New Berlin Wisconsin at 3:00 PM. The public is welcome to attend both events.

Minnesota Harp Society

On January 25th, 2015, Dr. Marianne Bryan, noted Twin Cities pianist, teacher and judge, regaled members of the Minnesota Chapter of the AHS with anecdotes and advice on subjects ranging from "how to handle stage fright" to "preparing for a college audition" to "writing a good critique." She reminded us that audiences attend live performances to hear something more than good technique. Audiences want to hear passion! To those judging competitions or auditions, she said, "Look for the strongest artist." Not the musician who plays the piece how you would, but the harpist who has strongest intention and conveys it in their performance. To the performer she said, "Don't go out there and think, 'Am I going to be okay?'" or "Am I going to make a mistake?" Go out there knowing that this is your moment."

The Minneapolis VA patients are enjoying the volunteer harpists music provided for them. The hospital owns a harp to be used by those harpists who come to play for the veterans. What a terrific service they provide!

JUBAL (SD) Chapter news

Ann McLaughlin brought her multi-media show Scheherazade home to Sioux Falls. Among other works the show includes a new transcription of Rimsky-Korsakov's tone poem Scheherazade for solo harp with graphics show and a performance of Crown of Ariadne. Ann developed the show as part of her doctoral work in harp performance at the University of Illinois at Champagne/Urbana with Ann Yeung. McLaughlin will give a lecture demonstration at the summer harp institute in Utah this summer.

Dordt College senior Leanna Bentz will present her senior recital May 2 at 3:00 PM in Sioux Center, Iowa. Among the works she will perform are the Britten Suite for Harp, Rennie's transcription of Liszt's Rossignol, Grandjany's Fantasie on a Theme of Haydn, Debussy's Danses Sacree et Profane with string quartet and Caroll McLaughlin's Chrysallis. The recital is free and open to the public.

Anna Vorhes played for Augustana's Mikkelsen Library Winter's Tale on February 1. The event featured readings and live music.

The Jubal Chapter is preparing for the next harp ensemble concert planned for November 2015.

Our National AHS Institute 2015 is coming!

I hope to see some of you at this summer's Institute at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. The setting there is in a tranquil environment in the mountains, 90 minutes north of Salt Lake City. The June 21-24, 2015 Institute will focus on furthering education of students of all ages! There is always something to learn at the Institutes!

The National Competitions and the opening and closing concerts will be held in the award-winning [USU Performance Hall](#). The welcome and farewell receptions will be held in the atrium of this fabulous hall. Bring your cameras!

Sincerely,
Gerry Elliott