



A tax-exempt non-profit corporation founded in 1962

Southwestern Region Newsletter

Laura Logan Brandenburg
1400 Rusdell Drive
Irving, TX 75060
harponit@verizon.net

Spring 2015

Greetings!

As I write this, North Texas is in the midst of a deep freeze-- but Spring is just around the corner! And the harpists from Texas, Arizona and New Mexico have been keeping busy. Here are the highlights of Mid-Winter and Spring news from around our great Southwestern Region.

*First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to make plans now to attend the **2015 AHS Summer Institute** at Utah State University in beautiful Logan, Utah, June 21 - 24. The Institute is preceded by the AHS National Competition and the Lyon Healy Awards. The theme of this year's institute is "Furthering Education of Students of all Ages".*

Just a reminder that this is YOUR newsletter – you, the Southwestern Region members of the American Harp Society. Please continue to submit your news, concert announcements, workshops, summer camps and any other harp happenings from around the Region. Those members who are on social media are invited to join our AHS Southwestern Region Facebook group. All are welcome to post pictures, videos, articles, and to share upcoming events.

Wishing you all a very happy Spring!

All the very best,

Laura Logan Brandenburg
Southwestern Region Director
harponit@verizon.net
214.728.1099

Visit the AHS website at www.harpsociety.org. We also welcome you to join the National and Southwest Region Facebook groups.

Austin Chapter

Natalie Teodori, President

www.AustinHarpSociety.org

January 17th, Saturday–AHS Auditions and Evaluations Session 1 with Guest Advisor
Maia Jourde

February 21st, Saturday–AHS Auditions and Evaluations Session 2 with Guest Advisor
Maia Jourde

From the Studio of Delaine Leonard:

On April 18, 2015, the University of Texas Butler School of Music Harp Ensemble will host the second biennial Harp Ensemble Festival and Concert with Austin area ensembles: Round Rock ISD, Girl Scout, and Stone Gate Suzuki Harps. The program includes works by Julia Kay Jamieson and Phala Tracy. Butler student Lydia Villarreal will give a recital in partial fulfillment of a Music and Human Learning degree on March 7, 2015 at the University Catholic Center.

Following a highly successful tour of the Pacific Northwest and California in September and October 2014, the Butler School Harp will host guest artists the American Harp Quartet (Ellie Choate, Delaine Fedson Leonard, Leslie Stratton, and Jacquelyn Venter) in a March 31 concert in Jessen Auditorium. While in Texas, the American Harp Quartet will also perform on April 1, 2015 in Alma Thomas Theater on the Southwestern University campus.

After sixteen years as an extra with the Dallas Opera Orchestra, Delaine Fedson Leonard resigned from the Opera Orchestra to devote more time to her Austin area teaching studios (Butler School of Music, Sarofim School of Fine Arts, and Stone Gate Suzuki), to performing with the American Harp Quartet, and to her collaboration with Mezzo Soprano Kathryn Findlen. It was a great run, and she wishes her colleagues all the best!

Dallas Chapter

Becky Scherschell, President

www.DallasHarpSociety.org

The AHS in Dallas Scholarship Competition took place on Sunday, February 8, at UNT in Denton. The judges of the competition were harpists **Melodie Lib Harris**, **Barbara Biggers**, and **Dr. Jaymee Haefner**. The non-harpist judge was Dr. Mary Karen Clardy of the UNT flute faculty. The judges were impressed with the level of performance in all categories. Volunteers for the event were **Sydney Howell**, **Jennifer Solis**, and **Marisa Spengeman**.

Thanks to **Maia Jourde**, our able Student Events Chair, for organizing the event, and to **Dr. Jaymee Haefner** and UNT for hosting the event.

Huge congratulations go to the following winners of the competition categories and their teachers!

CATEGORY I **Sarika Ahire**, student of **Jennifer Solis**

(open to ages 12 and under), lever harp only

Cash Prize: \$100

Required piece: *Berceuse and Rondo* by Michael Amorosi

CATEGORY II **Marian Ma**, student of **Yumiko Schlaffer**

(open to ages 15 and under), pedal harp

Cash Prize: \$150

Required piece: *Sonatina #3 in B Flat* by F. J. Naderman

CATEGORY III **Ashley Fong**, student of **Yumiko Endo Schlaffer**

(open to age 18 and under), pedal harp

Cash Prize: \$200

Required piece: *Jazz Band* by Marcel Tournier

CATEGORY IV **Adam Phan**, student of **Dr. Laura Logan Brandenburg**

(open to age 23 and under), pedal harp

Cash Prize: \$250

Required piece: *Sonata for Harp* by Paul Hindemith

From the Frisco ISD Harp Program:

The following harp students were selected to participate in the All-State Orchestra in San Antonio this year. They are **Ashley Fong**-11th grade, and student of **Yumiko Endo Schlaffer**, **Michelle Tong**-10th grade, and student of both **Yumiko** and **Jeff Walters**, and **Paulina Delgadillo**-9th grade, and student of **Young Park**. Congratulations on their great accomplishment!

From the studio of Patricia Diers:

Harp student **Elizabeth Baldwin** received a Superior rating for her solo performed at the Plano ISD UIL Competition in February. Way to go, Elizabeth!

From the studio of Kimberly DeRosa:

Evelyn Busby prepared for and participated in the AHS in Dallas Student Scholarship Competition in February. **Arya Knapp** is currently preparing for her Junior Recital in April. **Kimberly's** student studio recital will be held in April.

From the studio of Dr. Jaymee Haefner:

This has been an exciting year at UNT. **The HarpBeats** were selected as the winners of the AHS ensemble competition, and were featured during the AHS National Conference in New Orleans.

Jaymee Haefner also gave two performances at the AHS Conference with *Crimson* (violin/harp) and *Better Than One* (harp duo with **Emily Mitchell**), plus a music theory presentation. Dr. Haefner also gave a presentation at the World Harp Congress in Sydney, Australia, and judged the International Harp Competition of Italy. In September 2014, Dr. Haefner performed the *Ginastera Concerto* with the UNT Symphony Orchestra.

The HarpBeats are working on their first CD recording, which includes original compositions and arrangements for the ensemble.

In 2014, UNT was the recipient of a generous donation from alumnus **David Williams**—four historic harps which date from the 17th and 18th centuries.

UNT was pleased to host two harp competitions in 2015—the Dallas AHS Student Scholarship Competition and the Lewisville Lake Symphony International Concerto Competition for strings and harp.

As was mentioned earlier, **Alice Giles** came to the campus of UNT and gave a recital and a masterclass in October. AHS in Dallas helped to sponsor her, and 3 students were chosen from UNT and 3 from our Dallas Chapter to play for her at the masterclass. The following students were chosen to play for her: students from UNT (**Dr. Haefner's** students) were **Jennifer Betzer**, **Danielle Cordray**, and **Megan Kruitbosch**; students representing our Chapter were **Ashley Fong**-student of **Yumiko Endo Schlaffer**, **Tobias Kroll**-student of **Maia Jourde**, and **Bailey-Siamone Mason**-student of **Naoko Nakamura**.

From the studio of Cindy Horstman:

Cindy Horstman and Michael Medina-2tone-were interviewed in the January issue of the *International Musician Magazine* for the American Federation of Musicians.

<http://internationalmusician.org/harp-and-bass-duo-2tone-brings-a-fresh-sound-to-the-stage/>

They recently did a workshop on arranging for **Dr. Jaymee Haefner's** students at UNT, and will be coaching them on recording Cindy's jazz ensemble arrangement of Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro*.

Cindy has been arranging and composing jazz based pieces for harp ensemble. All of her pieces can be viewed and purchased on the Harp Column Music website. She recently coached **Robbin Gordon Cartier's** ensemble in Brooklyn, was the guest conductor for the TMEA harp ensemble in Roundrock, TX who premiered Cindy's original piece, *Snow Daze*, and will be the guest conductor at the UT Longhorn Band Camp in June with **Delaine Leonard**.

Cindy Horstman has also been arranging pieces for the **Dallas Jazz Harp Ensemble** consisting of **Cindy**, **Laura Logan Brandenburg**, and **Jennifer Solis** with special guest

on bass and percussion, Michael Medina. They will be performing for our Chapter on March 1.

See Cindy's upcoming performances in the following pages.

From the studio of Maia Jourde:

N.Y.A.A. Harp Ensemble (Not Your Average Angels) performed an hour concert to a record crowd on November 29th at the Fort Worth Central Library. The ensemble is comprised of past and present students of **Maia Jourde**. Performing on this concert were **Tobias Kroll, Jessica Hilton, Anna Mitchell, Shannon Quinn, Jennifer Betzer, Maggie Thompson, Marriette Kershner, Wade Smith, Adelene Slade, and Elaine Hildebrand**. The ensemble included pieces arranged by local harpist, **Jeff Walters**. The library invited the ensemble back for a return concert, date TBD.

From the studio of Sydney Howell:

Sydney Howell performed in 4 performances of her 38th year of The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival at University Christian Church, Fort Worth. February 22 she performed with the Abilene Philharmonic Symphony in Abilene. She was chosen to be featured in an article on "Women of Distinction" published by *The National Association of Distinguished Professionals*. *Weatherford Now* magazine featured her in their February issue. On April 26, Sydney taught masterclasses for **Kristin Gram's** harp students at the Suzuki Music in Dallas School. Her student, **Caley Moore**, performed in the AHS Student Recital in May. **Sydney** took the first Teacher Training class in *Suzuki Book 5* at the Utah Suzuki Institute in July. Sydney continues teaching in her home studio in Parker County students from Fort Worth, Weatherford, Peaster, Azle, Keene, Decatur, Burleson, and Alvarado. Her student, **Rachel Jageman**, performed with other Suzuki harpists at the Suzuki Celebration Concert on Oct. 11. On the same day, **Sydney** was performing at a museum in Oklahoma City. **Brittany Doyle** and **Claire Shannon** were spectacular as a duo for several Youth Orchestra events, as well as playing concerts with the Fort Worth Youth Orchestra. **Claire** graduated from high school and won a scholarship to a conservatory in Nashville, where she is learning the arts of writing, arranging, and recording church music. **Dani Pepin** has the distinction of being the first harpist in her middle school orchestra. Sydney presented her students in recital on Dec. 14 at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth.

News about **Mary LeBus**: **Mary** was featured in a news story on KERA about being a music practitioner with the harp at Baylor Medical Center. Here's the link:

<http://breakthroughs.kera.org/palliative-care-with-a-soundtrack/> Keep up the good work, Mary!

News about **HarpEssence Harp Ensemble**: A very nice article was published in the Dallas Morning News Neighborsgo section on Dec 19, 2014 about the local harp ensemble HarpEssence. This ensemble is made up of harpists in the area who started playing the harp as adults, and originally got together to play for fun. They are now

“gigging” ensemble musicians. Members of HarpEssence are **Susan Koskelin, Grace Johnson, Stan Guy, Joan McCord, and Linda Mudd**. Here’s the link:
dfwliving.com/dallas-area-harpists-find-fellowship-through-ensemble-raise-public-awareness

David Williams Donates his Valued Collection of Historical Harps to UNT

David Williams, retired harpist with the Dallas Opera Orchestra and the Fort Worth Symphony, and owner of Williams Harp Gallery in Oak Leaf, TX, has donated his collection of historical harps to the University of North Texas harp studio under the direction of **Dr Jaymee Haefner**. **David** is a UNT alumnus (M.M. 1976) having studied harp with **Charles Kleinsteuber**.

David has spent much of his life collecting, building, and rebuilding harps, and this is a collection of harps he has acquired, and restored himself, including woodworking, gilding, painting and rebuilding the actions.

The oldest of the four harps is dated about 1770 and was built by Jean Henri Naderman. It is a single-action crochet harp. The next oldest is also a single-action Naderman crochet harp and is dated about 1780. The third oldest harp is a single-action ram’s head harp made by Sebastian Erard, dated 1816. The youngest of the four is dated 1836 and was made by Erard’s nephew, Pierre-Orphee Erard. It is a double-action harp, and includes an 8th pedal to control a shutter which opens and closes the sound holes in the back of the harp.

David has two more harps which he will give to UNT by the end of the year, which will complete his donation.

The four harps have been on display at two concerts this Fall, 2014, and will continue to be shown whenever possible.

What a generous and thoughtful gift, **David!**

Listed are all of the remaining programs sponsored by AHS in Dallas for the remaining school year.

1. **Concert by Dallas Jazz Harp Ensemble-Sunday, March 1, 2015, 3:00 p.m.**
Grapevine Library
1201 Municipal Way, Grapevine, TX 76051
Cindy Horstman, Laura Logan Brandenburg, and Jennifer Solis will perform works arranged by **Cindy** including *Fantasia on Introduction and Allegro* by Ravel, original works, jazz standards, and pop tunes by the Beatles and other favorite artists. This exhilarating afternoon of rhythmic jazz music will have you going home dancing!
1. **Myriad Trio in Concert - Saturday, March 14, 2015, 2:00 p.m.** O’Donnell Hall at Meadows School of Music, SMU 6101 Bishop, Dallas, TX 75275
Julie Smith, harp / Demarre McGill, flute / Che-Yen Chang, viola

<http://www.themyriadtrio.com>

Free Admission

2. **Healing Harp, with Mary LeBus and Carla Siegesmund - Sunday, April 19, 2015, 3:00 p.m.**

Jewish Community Center of Dallas

7900 Northaven Road, Dallas, TX 75230

Mary will share her experiences with the harp in hospice care, and **Carla** will reflect on her journey with the harp in therapeutic settings.

3. **Annual Student Recital - Sunday, May 3, 2015, 3:00 p.m.**

First Presbyterian Church of Grapevine

1002 Park Blvd.

Grapevine, TX 76051

Upcoming Performances and Events in DFW Area

Mary LeBus is performing Celtic, Contemporary, and Classical Harp Music every 1st Saturday of the month at the Generator Coffee House, 11:30-1:30.

<http://generatorcoffee.com/about/>

Cindy Horstman and Michael Medina—2tone will perform

~April 19, 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Main Street Festival, Sundance Square
Fort Worth, free admission

~April 25, 1:00 pm. Denton Art and Jazz Festival, free admission

~May 5, Chapel Hill, TX-clinics for the middle school and high school students through the Texas Commission on the Arts

The Dallas Jazz Harp Ensemble with Cindy Horstman, Laura Logan Brandenburg, and Jennifer Solis with special guest on bass and percussion, Michael Medina will be performing a free concert

~ March 18, Eastfield College, 12:30, Room F117 (Recital Hall)

The **TCU Summer Harp Workshop** is scheduled for June 10 & 11 on the beautiful Texas Christian University campus. The workshop is open to young pedal harpists, 8th grade and above, intermediate to advanced level, as well as being open to adult auditors. In addition to harp ensemble and solo masterclass, this year's workshop offerings include "Glissando 101" and "The Historical Harp". Ensemble repertoire this year is: Les Tourbillons by Dandrieu/Salzedo, The Ash Grove (2 harps) by Burton, Lieutenant Macquire by Chenette and Triptic Dance by Beauchant. Registration information can be found at www.music.tcu.edu/smi.asp. For further information, contact Dr. Laura Brandenburg, Director of the TCU Summer Harp Workshop at l.logan@tcu.edu.

Greater Houston Chapter

Terese Weber, President

www.HoustonHarp.org

Kimberly DeRosa will be directing the 16th Houston Summer Harp Festival at Houston Baptist University, July 20-25. Our theme this year is "A Harp filled Year", and is for incoming 6th graders through graduated high school seniors. For more information visit www.houstonsummerharpfestival.com or contact Kimberly at kimberlyharp@gmail.com. Join the fun as we perform in harp ensembles, participate in workshops, and learn the history of our instrument. On-campus housing is available. Scholarships are offered.

From the Studio of Emily Mitchell:

My news is that I'm preparing to go to NYC to record my fourth CD of Gary Schocker music in April. Dr. Jaymee Haefner will be included as we are making the debut recording of Schocker's *Better Than One* and *Snow* for harp duo. Other debut recording materials on the CD will include a new trio, *Sonata* for flute, cello & harp, *Angelsong* for flute and harp and *My Kingdom for a Harp* and *Aria and Changes* for solo harp.

I'm playing a faculty concert at SFA this Weds., Mar. 4 at 7 pm in Cole Auditorium (Saint-Saëns *The Swan* and Villa-Lobos *Black Swan* for cello & harp; Tournier *Deux Préludes Romantiques* and Arvo Pärt *Spiegel im Spiegel* for violin & harp; Arthur Foote *At Dusk* for flute, cello, harp, Ibert *Deux Interludes* for flute, violin, harp and *Entr'Acte* for flute and harp.

I was invited as one of two presenters at the Washington Folk Harp Society last November (2014) in Gettysburg, PA. The Southeastern Harp Weekend has engaged me as a presenter in Asheville, NC, Oct 23-25, 2015.

I continue to build the harp studio at Stephen F Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX, and my private studio at home in Cypress, TX.

Phoenix Chapter

Adrienne Bridgewater, President

In January the Phoenix Chapter partnered with Arizona State University to host Maria Luisa Rayan in concert and a Master Class. ASU students and harpists from Phoenix and Tucson benefited from Ms Rayan's gracious and insightful suggestions. Kudos to ASU Harp Professor Julie Smith Philips for arranging for Ms Rayan's visit.

Arranging pop music for the harp was the topic for our chapter's January meeting.

Published arranger, David Ice gave tips for his approach to arranging for the harp and a discussion ensued about how best to play the many repeated notes so prevalent in pop music melodies today.

February's meeting featured a video of highlights from the Midwest Harp Conference as well as music for the harp and other instruments. Attendees were treated to a Bizet piece for harp and flute played by Linnea Weicht and her sister.

Adrienne Bridgewater and Jacqi Musselman improvised in a pentatonic scale with harp and native American Flute. Adrienne played and sang Deborah Henson-Conant's The Nightingale and David Ice played excerpts from Sondheim's musical, Follies, with a recording of the orchestra.

In March, the Phoenix Chapter partners with Harps Arizona to present Stephen Hartman in recital. Mr. Hartman will perform a diverse selection of music showcasing his impressive talent.

In April, ASU harp students Emma Quinn, Amy Buescher will present Graduate and Junior recitals, respectively, and at the end of the month the entire harp studio will be featured in a harp recital on campus.

On the Sunday following Easter, Linda Petersen will host our annual Spring Tea.

On May 2nd our Chapter will present a Spring Recital at a local retirement home featuring harp students.

Saguaro Chapter (Tucson)

Vanessa Moxness, President

www.SophiaTucson.org

SOPHIA's mid-winter events included a leadership meeting held on Tuesday January 6th to plan events for winter and spring, and a Valentine's celebration held on Sunday, February 22nd where our members wore red or pink and played solos of love songs or duets, any style. Delicious refreshments were provided by the hostess, Patricia Harris. Our upcoming events this spring include a St. Patrick's celebration to be held Saturday, March 14th at the home of Rebecca Foreman, where we will wear green, play Irish songs in an ensemble format from the text Tunes to Go, and enjoy a wonderful potluck that focuses on Irish dishes. Our final event in spring will be a formal student/adult recital to be held in a meeting room of Udall Park, with refreshments following the performances. Rebecca Foreman will also present a mini program entitled "Special Moments for the Harp in Opera" where she will play four of the most interesting excerpts which she prepared for a recent Arizona Opera audition: the cadenza from "Lucia di Lammermoor" (Donizetti), the cadenza from "Aida" (Verdi), the love scene from "La Boheme" (Puccini), and "Magic Fire Music" from the "Ring Cycle" (Wagner).

San Antonio Chapter

Nelda Etheredge, President

From the Studio of Alice Spero Keene:

Currently 13 students are privately studying harp with Ms. Keene. Alice hosted studio master classes on September 27 and January 10. Additional studio classes are scheduled for this spring. The annual recital will be held in May with all students performing solos and harp ensemble selections. Student harpist Madeline Davis is the harpist for Coker United Methodist Church orchestra. She also performed with the Heart of Texas Band in concert this past November. On January 17, Miss Davis competed in and was a winner of the San Antonio College Home School Solo Competition. Alice S. Keen was a guest harpist on February 12 at TMEA with the Texas A & M University Wind Symphony under the direction of Dr. Timothy Rhea. On March 12, Ms. Keene will join the Texas Lutheran University Wind Ensemble, Beth Bronk Director.