



Chapter Newsletter

1 December 2010

Pittsburgh Chapter
of the American
Harp Society

Third Annual Holiday Potluck Party

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All Pittsburgh chapter members in good standing are invited to the 3rd annual potluck party, which takes place this year at the home of Denise Ventura, 949 Old Hickory Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA. This is a new location for the party, so please join your fellow chapter members on 23 January 2011 at 5:30pm and welcome in the New Year. All attendees are expected to bring a covered dish to share. Please RSVP to Denise via email (dmventura@verizon.net) **no later** than Thursday, 20 January to let her know what you are bringing.

DIRECTIONS FROM PITTSBURGH:

Follow I279-S toward the Fort Pitt bridge/airport.

Merge onto I376-W and go through the Fort Pitt tunnel.

Take the 1st exit after the tunnel (69-A) for US19-S/Banksville Rd (as you exit, be careful to follow the signs for Banksville Rd/US19. DO NOT get back on the parkway!)



Get in your one-horse open sleigh and join us for the potluck party!

About 2.5 miles down Banksville, bear right at the Y onto Beverly Rd. Follow Beverly for 0.7 miles.

At the T intersection, turn right on Cochran Rd.

Go about 500 feet and make the second left onto Scrubgrass Rd.

Turn left at the first stop sign onto Old Hickory Road. #949 is the next to last house on the right.

Music Education Evaluations

This year's music education evaluations will be held on 12 February, 2011 and 12 March, 2011 in room A-12 of the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University. Adjudicators for the sessions will be announced in an upcoming newsletter.

Each participant will have 10 minutes to perform 2 pieces of contrasting style (etudes are also acceptable), and then will have 5 minutes to speak with the adjudicators. Comments are based on tone, interpretation, memory, rhythm, and stage presence.

For the second session, participants will play the same two pieces and a third piece may be added. Participants are to bring the comments they received at the first session to the second session. A written theory test will also be given.

This is not a competition—no prizes will be awarded. The focus is on IMPROVEMENT between the first and second sessions.

Registration forms will be sent out by 8 January 2010. The deadline to register is **1 February 2010**.

Bridget Kibbey Recital at Carnegie Mellon University

On November 13 and 14, the chapter welcomed Bridget Kibbey to Pittsburgh for a master class and solo harp recital in Alumni Concert Hall at CMU. The recital on the 14th was well attended and featured works by Rameau, Spohr, Fauré, Britten, and Agocs along with arrangements by Bridget. The chapter hosted a reception after the recital which was enjoyed by the entire audience.

On the 13th Bridget presented a 6 1/2 hour master class. Chapter members **Erica Driscoll, Jennifer Kaiser, Sierra Pastel, Rebecca Pfingstl, Jessica Ding, Hannah Piston, Michelle Sunjoo Lee, Sophia Sunha Lee, Dana Schneider, Natalie Severson, Natalie Stafford, Avery Turley, and Vanessa Young** performed in the class. Thank you to **Cheryl Pfingstl** and **Barbara Hicks** for the reception, all

members who donated food, **April Howsare** for decorations and flowers, **Laura Lockard** for publicity, **Becky Yuille** for tickets, programs and posters, **Vanessa Young** for printing posters and concert hall set-up, **Denise Ventura** for box office, and **Gretchen Van Hoesen** and **Jim Gorton** for transportation, housing, meals, organization and master class programs.



Bridget Kibbey delighted the crowd with her performance

Pittsburgh Chapter Goes Hot Pink

Members of our chapter were a featured performing group in Hot Pink Pittsburgh on 12 October. **Erica Driscoll, Sierra Pastel, Natalie Stafford, Natalie Severson, Gretchen Van Hoesen, and Vanessa Young** opened the 10th annual fundraiser with *La Joyeuse* by Rameau, *Two Rags* by Joplin/Pack, and *We Share A Bond* by Lucas Richman. Composer Richman arranged the piece for multiple harps, choir, and soprano just for the occasion. Soprano Laura Very and the Oakland Girls' Chorus joined the chapter for the performance.

Co-hosts for the 10th anniversary concert were Sally Wiggin and Andrew Stockey. Hot Pink Pittsburgh is a very successful fundraiser for breast cancer research and is sponsored by Adagio Health.



Our Chapter members are HOT PINK!

Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton in Recital

Pittsburgh native and chapter member **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** is the current American Harp Society Concert Artist. As such, she will present a recital for the chapter on 17 April 2011 at 5:30pm in Alumni Concert Hall at Carnegie Mellon University. She is sponsored by both our chapter and the National American Harp Society. A reception will follow the concert. More details about this recital will be published in future newsletters.

Annual Chapter Recital and Business Meeting

Chapter members are invited (and encouraged!) to perform in recital on 1 May 2011 in the PNC Recital Hall of Duquesne University following our annual business meeting. All members are welcome to share their talents by performing any music they would like to play. The suggested theme this year music for flute and harp. Feel free to contact one of the officers for repertoire suggestions and/or help in locating a flutist. A sign-up sheet will be sent out in early April; please watch for more details concerning the meeting, recital, and reception.

PSO Holiday Pops Special Offer

Special Offer for American Harp Society Members!

20 % off all Highmark Holiday Pops performances

Thursday, December 16-7:30 PM
 Friday, December 17-8:00 PM
 Saturday, December 18-2:30 & 8:00 PM
 Sunday, December 19-2:30 & 7:30 PM

Daniel Meyer, conductor
Gretchen Van Hoesen, harp
Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh

Discounted tickets start as low as **\$17.50**.

To order call **412.392.4819**

and mention **American Harp Society**

Highmark Holiday Pops features favorite carols and holiday music with fun surprises and talented special guests. Celebrate

the season with holiday classics like "Hallelujah" from Handel's *Messiah*, "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," "Sleigh Ride" and many more!

This year we have a special treat: Gretchen Van Hoesen will be playing Rousseau's *Variations Pastorales on an Old Christmas Carol* for harp and strings!



Welcome New Members!

The Pittsburgh Chapter cordially welcomes the following new members:

- **Elisabeth Eloranta**
- **Eliana Felder**
- **Kelly Jones**
- **Kate Raffensperger**
- **Melanie Sandrock**

For Sale

PEDAL HARP — Lyon & Healy model 85P. 40 strings, mahogany, built in 2004. Excellent condition. \$8400 or best offer. Price includes dolly, padded cover, and extra strings. Contact Ron Kleiner at 412-567-3657 or ronkleiner@gmail.com.

HARP RECORDS FOR SALE:

Georgia Kelly - Seapeace
 Marisa Robles - 18th Century Harp Concertos
 Alan Stivell - Renaissance of the Celtic Harp
 Nicanor Zabaleta - 18th Century Harp Concertos
 Nicanor Zabaleta - Five Centuries of the Harp (5-record set)
 \$50 for all. janet jai 412-362-7607 or jai@vision-and-values.com

Member News

Miscellaneous

- Bon Voyage to **Jessica Ding** as she and her family spend a semester in Australia! While there, Jessica will continue her lessons with **Gretchen Van Hoesen** via SKYPE, but she also hopes to study with Australia-based teachers Sebastien Lipman and Alice Giles.
- **Janet jai's** book, *Saving Our Public Libraries, Why We Should, How We Can*, will be available around Thanksgiving. This book empowers libraries and those who believe in them with many ways to obtain funding that will keep library doors open. It includes best library fundraising practices, successes, and ideas from more than 50 library experts across the U.S. The book can be purchased through jai's website: www.vision-and-values.com. jai and her publisher will also be allowing any public library to purchase as many copies as it wants at a 20-25% discount so the library can sell it at full price to make some income for the library. If your local library is interested, have them contact jai@vision-and-values.com.

October 2010

October 9 – **Julia Scott** performed *The Moldau* by Bedrich Smetana and *Four Sea Interludes* by Benjamin Britten as Principal Harpist of the Butler Symphony.

October 23 – **Debbie Stackrow** played at a Celebrating Women's Wisdom workshop in the East End of Pittsburgh. The workshops are designed to assist women in the areas of body, mind and spirit. She played during registration and provided some soothing sounds during a lunch break.

October 25 – **Julia Scott** performed Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnole* and Chadwick's *Symphonic Sketches* with the Youngstown State University Symphony Orchestra.

October 26 – **Julia Scott** performed Ravel's orchestration of Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* as Principal Harpist with the Westmoreland County Symphony Orchestra, with Daniel Meyer conducting.

October 29 – **Julia Scott** presented her original arrangement *Three Gentlemen's Carols* for three harps to the Composers' Division of the Tuesday Musical Club.

October 30 – Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra performed Wagner's *Prelude to Die Meistersinger* at the Palace Theatre in Greensburg with **Julia Ann Scott**, Principal Harpist.

November 2010

November 5 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen**, **Julia Scott**, and **Katie Ventura** accompanied the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in Stravinsky's *Scherzo Fantastique*, Susanna Malkki conducting. The concert was repeated November 6.

November 6 – **Dana Schneider** and members of the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony strings performed Debussy's *Danse sacrée et danse profane* live on the Saturday Light Brigade radio show at the Pittsburgh Children's Museum. The performance was repeated on November 7 at the D'Ann Schneider Memorial Fund concert at Seneca Valley High School.

November 12 – **Hannah Piston** and **Dana Schneider** recorded Debussy's *Clair de Lune* for two harps at the WQED-FM studios for later broadcast on November 16 and 17.

November 12 – **Julia Scott** taught multiple harp workshops to elementary age children at the Mooncrest After-School Program.

November 18 – **Suzanne Hershey** played at Oxford Centre in their main lobby from 11:30 until 1:30 pm. She will be there again on December 16 from 11:30 until 1:30 pm.

November 20 – **Vanessa Young** and **Natalie Severson** performed Lutoslawski's *Chain 3*, Ranjbaran's Violin Concerto, and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* (arr. Ravel) at Soldiers and Sailors Hall in Oakland with the CMU Philharmonic under the baton of Ronald Zollman.

November 21 – **Julia Ann Scott** was featured with Kerrith Livengood, flutist, on the Alia Musica Fall Chamber Concert Series at the Frick Fine Arts Auditorium in a performance of Alan Hovhaness's *Garden of Adonis*.

November 26 – **Julia Scott** will perform Christmas music in the foyer of Fifth Avenue Place from 12 - 2 PM. She will repeat her performance on December 8, 12 – 2pm.

November 27 – **Hannah Piston** and **Dana Schneider** performed Debussy's *Clair de Lune* for two harps live on the Saturday Light Brigade radio show.

November 29 – **Julia Scott** was interviewed live on WBUT 1050 AM (a Butler radio station) at 1:30 PM about her upcoming appearance with her eight member harp ensemble, HarpFX, which will be featured front stage with the Butler Symphony on December 4th.

November 30 – at 8:15 AM, **Julia Scott** appeared on the morning program of WYSR in a phone interview discussing the upcoming performance and repertoire of HarpFX with the Butler Symphony.

December 2010

December 1 – **Katie Ventura** will perform with Chicago's Park Ridge Civic Orchestra in their Holiday Pops Concert, Victor Muenzer conducting. Works to be performed include Tchaikovsky's *Suite* from the *Nutcracker*, Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kije*, and other holiday arrangements.

Member News (continued)

December 2 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will perform Berber's *Medea* at 7:30pm with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra at the Bushnell Center for the Arts in Hartford, CT. The concert will be repeated December 3, 4, and 5.

December 3 – **Natalie Stafford** joins the CMU Philharmonic under the direction of Robert Page for their Holiday Concert broadcast live from Rangos Hall, CMU.

December 4 - at 7:30 PM, the eight-member harp ensemble HarpFX will be the featured performer with the Butler Symphony Orchestra of Butler, PA, conducted by Betsy Charles. Chapter members **Craig Johnson, Helen Rudd, Julia Scott, and Rebecca Yuille** are members of the ensemble along with Samantha Dreyer, Gabrielle Esposito, Lana Greenawald, and Emily Hayes. HarpFX will accompany the orchestra in Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and Vaughan William's *Greensleeves*. Miss Scott has orchestrated several of the pieces the group will play with the symphony, including *Silent Night, Three French Carols* and *Jingle Bells*. Also, HarpFX will perform *Three Gentlemen's Carols*, an original arrangement by Miss Scott. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$5 for students, and are available at <http://butlersymphony.org/> or by calling the symphony office at 724-283-1402. Concerts are held at the Butler Area Intermediate High School Auditorium, 551 Fairground Hill Road, Butler, PA, 16001.



December 9 – **Katie Ventura** will be playing in the pit for the Pittsburgh CLO's *A Musical Christmas Carol*. The show runs from the 9th through the 23rd at the Byham Theatre. More information can be found at www.pittsburghclo.org. For tickets, call 412-456-6666.

December 11 - **Sophia Sunha Lee**, harpist and Celeste Simpson, flutist will perform Ibert's *Entr'acte* and Datschkovsky's *Danza Mexicana* at the Three Rivers Young Peoples' Orchestra Chamber Music Recital at Alumni Concert Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. The recital begins at 3:45pm.

December 11 - **Julia Ann Scott** will perform *The Nutcracker* by Tchaikovsky with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra and the Laurel Ballet at the Palace Theatre in Greensburg, PA, with Thomas Hong conducting. Performances are scheduled for 3:00 and 8:00 PM, and on December 12th at 3:00 PM. Tickets are available via website at: <http://www.westmorelandsymphony.org/ticket.asp>.

December 12 - Students of **Lucy Scandrett** will present an Advent Harp Ensemble Concert at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary of North American Martyrs Catholic Church, Monroeville. Chapter members performing are **Alexis Balog, Becky Mitchell, Julianna Peebles, and Rebecca Pfingstl**. Everyone is invited. Please contact Lucy for details.

December 24 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen** joins Randolph Kelly, David Premo, and Donald Wilkins for the Christmas Eve service at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. The music begins at 10:30pm and the service at 11pm. Works by Busser, Reger, Wood, and Rousseau will be performed.

December 24 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will perform at Fox Chapel Episcopal Church with Dennis O'Boyle and Clark Bedford at the 10:30 pm Christmas Eve service.

December 25 - **Julia Scott** will play for the 11 AM Mass at St. Alexis Catholic Church in Wexford, PA.

January 2011

January 1 – **Suzanne Hershey** will perform all day at the Duquesne Club, downtown.

January 22 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will host a master class in room A-2 of the College of Fine Arts building at Carnegie Mellon University. The class will begin at 1pm. Please contact Ms. Van Hoesen if you plan to attend.

January 30 – At 7pm, **Vanessa Young** will present a solo recital at Carnegie Mellon University's Kresge Recital Hall. This recital is a requirement for the completion of a Master's degree in music. Vanessa will perform works by Jolivet, Renié, Dalvimare, and Mozart.

February 2011

February 8 - 7:00 to 9:00 PM - Meeting of the Officers and Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AHS at Panera Restaurant in Oakland, 3800 Forbes Avenue, near the "O" Oakland Original. The back room has been reserved for the meeting. There is on street parking available. *Please note that this is a different Panera than usual.*

February 8 – **Vanessa Young** will perform in *Camelot* with the Pittsburgh Public Theater at the O'Reilly Theater at 8:00pm. Performances run through February 12.

February 12 – **Hannah Stater** and **Sunjoo Lee** will participate in the TRYPO Play-a-thon at Ross Park Mall from 11am to 3:30 pm.

February 19 – As the AHS Concert Artist, **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will present a solo harp recital in Charlotte NC. She will also present a master class for local students.

February 25 – AHS Concert Artist **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will present a lecture, master class, and solo recital in Denver, CO.

February 26 – At 2pm, **Dana Schneider, Hannah Piston, Natalie Severson, and Natalie Stafford** will perform Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony under the baton of Lawrence Loh at Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts. Admission is free.

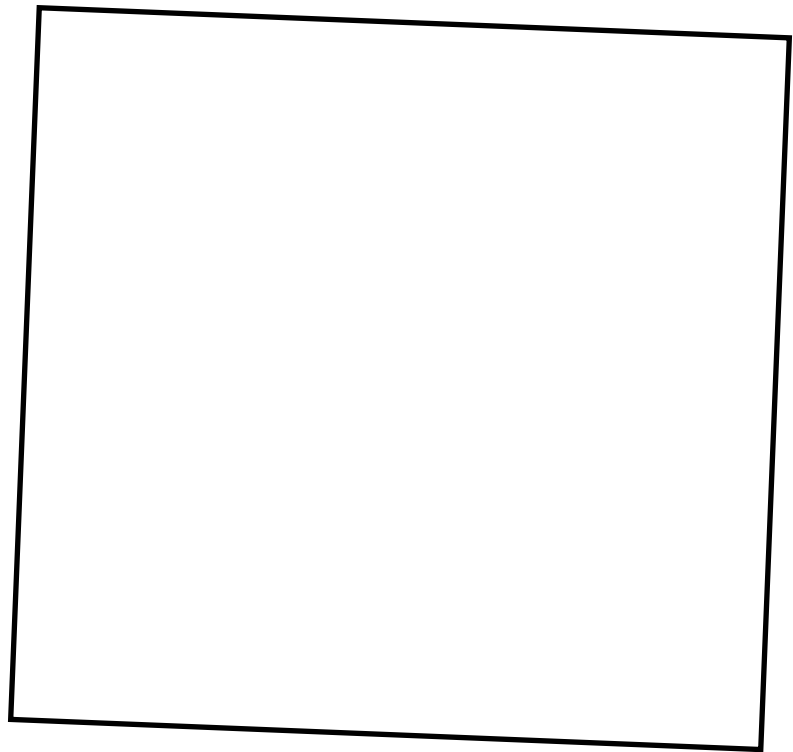
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We're on the Web!

www.orgsites.com/pa/harpsocietypittsburgh/



Pittsburgh Chapter Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President—Gretchen Van Hoesen

Vice President—Vanessa Young

Treasurer—Denise Ventura

Secretary—Rebecca Yuille

Board Members:

April Howsare

Richard LeBeau

Laura Lockard

Cheryl Pfingstl

Lucy Scandrett



*Don't let your holiday season get too
hectic!*
