

# Chapter Newsletter

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## Special points of interest:

- Harp Tasting
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## We're Having a Harp Tasting!

What is a "harp tasting?" It is a blind test that allows the audience to hear and compare the sounds of several harps. The test is conducted behind a curtain, so that listeners cannot see what brand or model harp is being "tasted." One person will play the same piece on each harp, and the audience will try to guess which harp it is. Listeners will have evaluation sheets that they can use strictly for their own purposes. Since everyone has their own likes and dislikes, there are no winners or losers. It is all for fun!

The Pittsburgh Chapter is hosting a harp tasting at 3pm on Sunday, March 18, 2012 in the Aspinwall United Presbyterian Church, 299 Center Avenue, Aspinwall, PA. The church has a fabulous acoustic and an ELEVATOR to the sanctuary – no steps! The event is free and open to the public. Both members and non-members are welcome to bring a harp for "tasting," or just to come and enjoy themselves. To keep it interesting, let's try to get as many different makes and models of harps as we can: lever or pedal, large or small.

Let's not forget food. We *always* have food! Bring a dish to share with everyone afterward down in the church kitchen.

If you or someone you know would like to bring a harp, please contact Becky Yuille at 724-453-1292 or email [ryuille@zoominternet.net](mailto:ryuille@zoominternet.net).



Harp Tasting at Sauder Village

## Pittsburgh Symphony Concerto Competition Open to Harpists

A solo debut with the PSO...in your dreams, right? Not anymore! The Pittsburgh Symphony is having a concerto competition. The competition is open to ten different types of instruments, including the harp. Entrants are asked to perform either the Debussy *Dances* or Handel's *Concerto in B-Flat*. You must be at least 18 to enter, videos must be under 10 minutes in length, and the deadline for submission is 11:59 pm EDT on March 22, 2012. The grand prize winner will receive \$10,000 and a solo performance with the orchestra under the direction of Manfred Honeck. For more information and eligibility rules follow this link: [http://psoculturaldistrict.org/psoc\\_home/web/concerto-competition](http://psoculturaldistrict.org/psoc_home/web/concerto-competition).

Brush up your concerto, submit your video, and then get your friends to watch and vote. Public voting begins April 13, and the live auditions are June 11. Break a leg!

## Chapter Recital and Business Meeting

Our annual business meeting and chapter recital is scheduled for Sunday, May 6, 2012, at Hope Lutheran Church in Forest Hills. The address for the church is 353 Ridge Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. We will start the business meeting at 3pm. Topics for discussion include a recap of the year's events and plans for next year. Certificates of Completion for Music Education participants will be given out during the meeting. When the meeting is finished, we will enjoy our recital, followed by—you guessed it—a reception.

ALL chapter members are welcome to share their talents by performing in the recital. A harp will be provided or you may bring your own. The recital is free and open to the public. Friends, family, all are invited to attend. We extend a special welcome to the Hope Lutheran congregation. Contact Becky Yuille (724-453-1292 or [ryuille@zoominternet.net](mailto:ryuille@zoominternet.net)) if you want to play in the recital. Craig Johnson is coordinating the reception. Contact him (412-720-3158 or [arpaflauto@aol.com](mailto:arpaflauto@aol.com)) and let him know what goodies you plan to bring.

## Music Education Evaluations

Our Auditions and Evaluations program, affectionately known as "Music Ed," is under way. Eighteen people performed in the first session with adjudicators Kenneth Karsh and George Rau on March 3, and by now everyone is hard at work polishing their pieces for the second session.

The second session will be on April 14 (please note new date) with Kenneth Karsh, George Rau, and Mark Fromm as adjudicators. Both sessions are held at Perry Highway Lutheran Church in Wexford, PA.

The Auditions and Evaluations program started in 1968, and consists of two sessions held four to six weeks apart. The program is for harp students of all ages, particularly those at the

beginner and intermediate level. The goal of this program is to focus on the improvement the harpist makes from the first session to the next. This is neither a competition nor an audition in the traditional sense. No prizes are awarded, but everyone who completes the program will receive a certificate from the American Harp Society. The certificates will be given out at the chapter meeting on May 6.

***"The Auditions and Evaluations program is designed for all students, particularly those at the beginner or intermediate level."***



Emily Hayes, Kenneth Karsh, and George Rau

## Holiday Ensemble Concert

Once again, our Holiday Harp Ensemble concert was a huge success. Eighteen harpists performed beautifully before a large crowd in the PPG Wintergarden on Sunday, December 18.

Elizabeth Heath Charles conducted us in a delightful selection of new and old holiday favorites. She was a hit with the audience as she introduced each piece and explained a little about what to expect. She excelled in keeping the audience engaged and making them feel part of the festivities.



The 2011 Pittsburgh Holiday Harp Ensemble

Craig Johnson gave an informative discussion on the types of harps onstage, pointing out the differences between pedal and lever harps for the edification of the audience.

Performing in the concert were Alexis Balog, Marin Busselberg, Emily Hayes, Haley Hoffman, Craig Johnson, Sophia Sunha Lee, Patricia Lemer, Katarina McCaffrey, Laura Owsiany, Sage Po, Hailey Reisinger, Lucy Scandrett, Julia Ann Scott, Natalie Severson, Sandra Smailier, Debbie Stackrow, Avery Turley, and Rebecca Yuille.

Thank you to all of the parents for transporting student members to and from the rehearsals and the concert. Special thanks to Lou Manoli for standing outside in the cold to help people unload their harps, Lorri Hayes for taking fabulous pictures, and Stephanie Miller for helping out with setting up chairs and taking care of the programs.

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## Welcome New Chapter Members

The chapter extends a hearty welcome to the following new members:

- Aliyah Busselberg
- Jadelyn Ding
- Nora Groce

Welcome back Natalie Stafford—our chapter is now 86 members strong!

***"Elizabeth Heath Charles excelled at engaging the audience and making them feel part of the festivities."***

***"The Vira Heinz scholarship is provided by the Heinz Endowments with the goal to 'prepare women leaders for tomorrow's global challenges.'"***

## Congratulations to...

- Rebecca Pfingstl, who was named a winner in the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra's Young Artist competition in January. Rebecca was also a winner in the McKeesport Symphony Young Artist competition and took the honors in the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Concerto competition in January.
- Natalie Severson, who was selected to participate in the Vira I. Heinz Program for Women in Global Leadership. The scholarship enables select women at each of the participating universities and colleges throughout Pennsylvania to spend a period of time abroad during the summer. Natalie will use her award to study harp in France. She was also accepted by competitive audition into the Aspen Music Festival and School for the summer of 2012.
- Sarah Stern, who recently auditioned successfully for the Orquesta Estable del Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, the orchestra that performs the operas and ballets in that theater. She is very excited about her upcoming move to Buenos Aires and making the renowned Teatro Colón her new home.
- Michelle Sunjoo Lee, who was named a winner in the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra Artist competition. She also was named a winner in the Three Rivers Young Peoples Orchestra Concerto competition. Sunjoo graduates from high school in June and plans to attend Harvard University this fall.
- Sophia Sunha Lee, who was named a winner in the Duquesne Young Artists competition at Duquesne University. Sunha also, through competitive application, became a Davidson Young Scholars Ambassador, where she will participate in literacy advocacy with less fortunate children.
- Chelsea Lane, who was accepted by competitive audition into the Aspen Music Festival and School for the summer of 2012.
- Katie Ventura, who was accepted by competitive audition to the Tanglewood Music Festival and the Verbier Festival in Switzerland to be held this summer.



**Sarah Stern**

## Member News

### **GENERAL:**

- Debbie Stackrow has started a Harp Therapy internship at Concordia of Cranberry as she continues to work toward her Therapy Harp Practitioner's certification through the International Harp Therapy Program.
- Sarah Stern is completing a very busy year as Principal Harp for the Orquesta Filarmónica in Santiago de Chile. Her season at the Teatro Municipal in Santiago included the operas *Tosca*, *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, *Boris Godunov*, *Simon Boccanegra*, and *Aida*, and the ballets *Dracula*, *Gaite Parisienne*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Madame Butterfly*. The orchestra's concert season also included Poulenc's *Gloria*, Shostakovich's *Symphony #7*, and Mahler Symphonies 1 & 3.
- Rebecca Pfingstl has a website: <http://www.withallmyharp.net/>.

## Member News

(Continued from page 4)

### NOVEMBER 2011:

11/9 & 11/12: Rebecca Pfingstl was a guest soloist with the Westmoreland Youth Symphony, performing Mozart's *Concerto for Flute and Harp*, Mvt 1, with flutist Hannah Neumann at Seton Hill's Performing Arts Center.

### DECEMBER 2011:

12/4: Rebecca Pfingstl performed with the Pittsburgh Youth Chamber Orchestra at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

12/17: Rebecca Pfingstl performed with the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra at the PPG Wintergarden in downtown Pittsburgh.

12/24: Sierra Pastel performed Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church with Peter Luley conducting.

### JANUARY 2012:

1/1: Suzanne Hershey played for the Pittsburgh Golf Club's traditional oyster party with ten stitches in her hands from falling down the steps, starting the new year with a bang!

1/28: Rebecca Pfingstl, winner of the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra's Young Artist competition, performed Debussy's *Danse Sacrée* from *Danses Sacrée et Profane* with the orchestra under the baton of Warren Davidson at Upper St. Clair High School at 7:30PM.

1/29: Julia Ann Scott performed Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story* with the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra in Carnegie Music Hall with Jeffrey Turner conducting.

### FEBRUARY 2012:

2/11: Julia Ann Scott performed Delius's *Dance Rhapsody* and selections from Gounod's *Romer et Juliet* with the Butler Symphony Orchestra in Lyndora, PA.

2/11: Gretchen Van Hoesen held a master class in her home at 7300 Overton Street. Erica Driscoll, Natalie Severson, Natalie Stafford, Sage Po, Rachel Abrams, Catherine Canale, Anne Lehnert, Ellie Kirk, Haley Hoffman, Hailey Reisinger, Jessica Ding, Jadelyn Ding, and Avery Turley performed in the class. Sierra Pastel, Suzanne Hershey, and Nora Groce also attended.

2/12: Rebecca Pfingstl performed *Danse Sacrée* from *Danses Sacrée et Profane* by Claude Debussy with the Pittsburgh Youth Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Pablo Ardiles. The performance starts at 5:00 pm at Sewickley Academy in Sewickley.

2/12: Suzanne Hershey performed at Giant Eagle in Bethel Park, PA.

2/12: Julia Ann Scott performed Puccini's *Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore* from *Tosca* and Phillips Sparke's *Pantomime* with the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra at the Power Center Ballroom on the University campus.

2/14: Julia Ann Scott performed as principal harpist for the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's concert featuring Trey Anastasio, lead guitarist from PHISH. Scott Dunn conducted the concert at Heinz Hall.

2/23: Suzanne Hershey played for the grand opening of a new PNC Bank building in McMurray, PA.

2/24: Erica Driscoll and Sage Po performed with the CMU Philharmonic in Debussy's *Symphony for Clarinet* as well as new works by student composers. 8PM, Soldiers and Sailors Hall.

2/24: Julia Ann Scott played second harp (with her student, Gabrielle Esposito as principal) with the Grove City College Symphony Orchestra for their performance of Holst's *The Planets*.

2/27: Julia Ann Scott performed with the Youngstown State Symphony Orchestra in Tomasi's *Saxophone Concerto* in the University's DeYor Auditorium, Youngstown, OH.

### MARCH 2012:

3/2: Sunha Lee, winner of the Duquesne University Young Artist competition, performed *Feérie* by Marcel Tournier in the PNC Recital Hall of Duquesne University's Pappert School of Music.

3/2: Natalie Stafford and Natalie Severson performed with the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic in Soldiers and Sailors Hall. They performed world premiere works by student composers.

3/9: Julia Ann Scott will join the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra at 8PM in a performance of Fauré's *Requiem* at Trinity Cathedral, 328 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pittsburgh PA.

3/24: Suzanne Hershey will play for the Spring Celebration at the Wooden Angel in Bridgewater, PA.

3/24: at 5pm, Sierra Pastel will premiere three works for soprano and harp (Ernesta Pollard, soprano) by Scott Steele for his Senior Composition Recital, 'Visions of Time.' Duquesne University, Mary Pappert School of Music, room 322. Free and open to the public.

3/24: "Chamber Music with Harp" featuring Gretchen Van Hoesen, Noah Bendix-Balgley, and Anne Martindale Williams will take place at 7:30 PM at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2040 Washington Rd in Upper Saint Clair. The performance will be repeated at 8PM on March 29 at Kresge Theater in Carnegie Mellon University. For more information see the attached flyers.

3/25: Julia Ann Scott will perform Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer* with the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra. 8PM, Carnegie Music Hall, Jeffrey Turner conducting.

3/31: Rebecca Pfingstl, winner of the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra Concerto competition, will perform *Danses Sacrée et Profane* by Claude Debussy with the orchestra at Shadyside Academy, 7:30PM.

3/31: at 8PM in the Benedum Center, Erica Driscoll, Sage Po, and Natalie Stafford will perform with the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic as part of the university's Music Centennial Gala Concert. The concert will feature current students as well as illustrious CMU alumni from around the world. The concert will be repeated in NewYork City on April 2.

### APRIL 2012:

4/1: Emily Hayes will play Ray Pool's arrangement of *Hufrýdöl* at Harrisville United Methodist Church, Harrisville, PA.

4/6: Emily Hayes will be playing during the gathering time on Good Friday's evening service at Harrisville United Methodist Church, Harrisville, PA.

4/10: Jessica Ding will perform Smetana's *Die Moldau* and Liszt's *Les Preludes* with Gretchen Van Hoesen in the Side by Side Concert

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Pittsburgh Chapter  
of the  
American Harp Society

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We're on the Web!  
[Ahspittsburgh.org](http://Ahspittsburgh.org)

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## Member News

(Continued from page 5)

with the Pittsburgh Symphony under the direction of Thomas Hong. Heinz Hall, 7PM.

4/15: Sage Po, harpist, and Samantha Kline, violinist, will perform a recital of music for violin and harp. The program will include works by Andres, Saint-Saens, Piazzola, Ibert, and Mozart.

4/21: Gretchen Van Hoesen will host a master class from 1 – 4PM in her home at 7300 Overton Street. All current students will perform in the class. Chapter members are invited to attend.

### **MAY 2012:**

5/5: Hannah Piston and Sunha Lee will perform Moussorgsky's *Pictures At An Exhibition* with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Lawrence Loh in Heinz Hall at 2PM. Free.

5/7: Natalie Severson will give her junior recital in Kresge Theater of Carnegie Mellon University at 8PM. She will perform works by Ravel, Fauré, Tailleferre, Pescetti, and others. Chapter members are cordially invited to attend this free recital and reception.

5/8: Erica Driscoll will present her final graduate recital at 8PM in Kresge Theater of Carnegie Mellon University. She will perform works by Bach, Smetana, Trnecsek, Young, Schaposchnikov, Tournier, Thomas, and Fauré in partial fulfillment of the Master of Music degree in Harp Performance. Chapter members are welcome to attend this free of charge recital.

5/12: Gretchen Van Hoesen will perform Debussy's *Danses Sacrée et Profane* with fellow PSO members Noah Bendix-Balgley, Shanshan Yao, Meng Wang, and David Premo. The concert is the opening event for Impressionism in a New Light: From Monet to Stieglitz, at the Carnegie Museum of Art.

6:30 PM, Carnegie Music Hall. A cocktail reception and art exhibit will follow the concert.

5/13: Hannah Stater and Sunjoo Lee will perform with the Three Rivers Young Peoples' Orchestra in their spring concert. They will play Rimsky-Korsakov's *Russian Easter Overture*, Tchaikovsky's *Sleeping Beauty Suite*, and the *Concerto in a minor* by Edvard Grieg, with Sunjoo Lee as the featured piano soloist. 7PM, Carnegie Music Hall.

5/17: Natalie Stafford will give her sophomore recital in Carnegie Mellon University's Kresge Theater at 6PM. She will perform works by Fauré, Pescetti, Spohr, and Francisque, among others. Chapter members are welcome to attend this recital.

5/19: Rebecca Pfingstl, winner of the McKeesport Symphony Young Artist competition, will perform Debussy's *Danse Sacrée* with the orchestra at McKeesport High School at 7:30PM.