

NEWSLETTER

Pittsburgh Chapter prepares for Holiday Ensemble Concert



*Elizabeth Heath Charles, Holiday Harp Ensemble Director,
and Lucy Scandrett introduce selections for the audience.*

The 2011 Holiday Ensemble Concert will take place at the PPG Wintergarden on Sunday, 18 December, at 1:00pm, with Elizabeth Heath Charles conducting. Chapter members are working hard to prepare the music for this popular event.

The first rehearsal, on 20 November at Harbour Assisted Living of Monroeville, was very productive and the residents enjoyed watching us rehearse. They loved Lucy Scandrett's introduction as well as Ms. Charles' interaction with them between pieces. Ms. Charles took the time to introduce each piece, managing to make it enjoyable for them (even when we had to go back over some of our "rough spots.")

The residents enjoyed themselves so much that they cannot wait for us to come back! They will get their wish: our next rehearsal is Sunday, December 11th at 6:30 pm. **Anyone who did not attend the first rehearsal MUST come to the second one to be eligible to participate.**

Please remember that all dues must be paid prior to the rehearsal. An email will go out a few days beforehand with directions to the rehearsal venue. Driving directions to PPG will be emailed immediately after the second rehearsal.

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AUDITIONS AND EVALUATIONS PROGRAM BEGINS NEXT MONTH

The first session of the Auditions and Evaluations program will be on Saturday, 28 January, 2012. The second session is Saturday, 3 March, 2012. We are pleased to have acquired the expertise of Mark Fromm, James Gourlay, and Kenneth Karsh, who will serve as our adjudicators. A registration form and detailed information will go out via email early in December, or it can be downloaded from our website: ahspittsburgh.org.

In keeping with the chapter's decision to make events accessible to more of its members, the program will be held at Perry Highway Lutheran Church, Wexford, PA. There will be ample parking for all!

The Auditions and Evaluations program started 1968, and has always consisted of two sessions, held four to six weeks apart. It is a two-part program 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 not an audition in the traditional sense, or a competition. Please don't feel that your pieces

have to be "perfect" to come out and participate! You only compete with yourself at this event! The idea is to better your performance between the first and second sessions; therefore it is very important to attend both sessions. Harpists attending both sessions will receive a Certificate of Completion from the American Harp Society. In addition, they will be invited to showcase their achievements by performing in an informal recital during the "Harp Tasting" (see more below for more information).

If you are new to the chapter, you may be a little intimidated by the word "audition" in the title. The American Harp Society uses this term simply to mean "a hearing." It is NOT a try-out or a competition! The purpose of the program is for harpists to learn to become better performers. The benefit to the harpists participating in this program is incalculable. There are no losers – only winners! For more information, contact Becky Yuille via email at ryuille@zoominternet.net or by phone at 724-453-1292.



Dates: January 28, 2011

March 3, 2011

Place: Perry Highway Lutheran Church

11403 Perry Highway
Wexford, PA 15090

JO MORRISON CONCERT WAS A HIT WITH THE AUDIENCE



Jo Morrison



Jo and Wayne Morrison

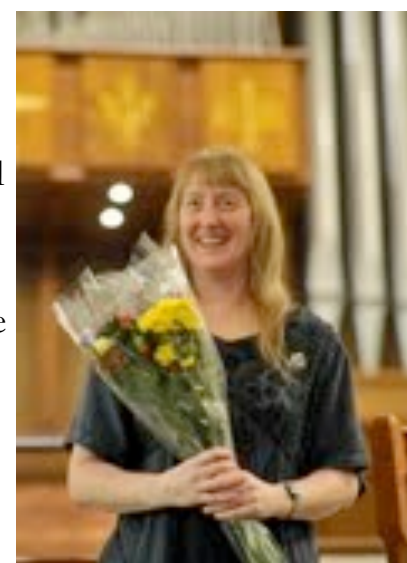


We continue to receive positive feedback about Jo Morrison's performance at Oakmont Presbyterian Church on November 5th.

Jo performed selections of Irish and Scottish harp music, occasionally accompanied by her husband, Wayne. Between pieces, she shared bits of her harp life with the audience, making it a relaxed, informal, and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The weather was perfect and the church was filled to capacity. Afterward, chapter members

were able to meet Jo personally during a delicious potluck in the church kitchen. Thanks to Michael Frank and the wonderful people of the congregation for allowing us to hold the event in such a beautiful setting. For more information about Jo Morrison please visit her website at: www.triharpskel.com



Jo and Wayne Morrison with Chapter Members: (Left to right) Cliff and Elissa Pastel, Becky Yuille, Stephanie Miller and Julia Scott.

LIPMAN HARP DUO WELL-RECEIVED

Two harps together in concert are all that is needed for a delightful evening. Sebastien Lipman and his wife, Sayo, treated us to a program of harp duets and light classical pieces transcribed for two harps on 2 October, 2011.

Thanks to April Howsare for transforming CMU's Kresge Theater into a stunning setting for the Australian duo with her beautiful and creative decorations.

The day before the concert, Sebastien conducted a master class for several harp students. Attendees were Rachel Abrams, Jessica Ding, Erica Driscoll, Eliana Felder, Haley Hoffman, Michelle Sunjoo Lee, Sierra Pastel, Hannah Piston, Sage Po, Natalie Severson, Natalie Stafford, and Avery Turley.

For more information about the Lipman Harp Duo please visit: www.sebastien-lipman.com.



*Lipman Harp Duo:
Sebastien and Sayo Lipman.*

ARE YOU READY FOR *HARP TASTING*?

The chapter is planning a harp tasting event for our members. Here is an excerpt from the Somerset Harp Festival website to explain more about this type of event:

"What's a Harp Tasting? It is a blind test that allows the audience to hear and compare the sounds of several harps without knowing their brand. The tasting is conducted in the concert hall behind a curtain so no one can see the harps and the same piece is played on each harp. Audience members are given evaluation sheets which they can use strictly for their own purposes. There are "no winners" at a harp tasting since every musician has different criteria by which they judge and everyone has their own likes and dislikes."

Further information about this event will be announced in the near future. Come enjoy the fun!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our chapter continues to grow! Please extend a hearty welcome to Marin Busselberg, Sage Po, Patricia Lemur, Hailey Reisinger, and Katarina McCaffrey. Welcome back to some former members: Laura Owsiany, Marissa Knaub, and Paulina Rosenstein.

HOT PINK HARPS ENSEMBLE FEATURED IN HOT PINK PITTSBURGH 2011 EVENT



Pictured left to right are *Hot Pink Harps* harpists: Sage Po, Sierra Pastel, Erica Driscoll, Gretchen Van Hoesen, Natalie Severson, Natalie Stafford, Rachel Abrams and Rachel Abrams.

Hot Pink Pittsburgh 2011 featured the ensemble *Hot Pink Harps*, a group of seven harps led by Gretchen Van Hoesen on Oct. 11, 2011. The ensemble performed works for harp ensemble by Milhaud, Andres and Gershwin. Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society members Rachel Abrams, Erica Driscoll, Sierra Pastel, Sage Po, Natalie Severson, Natalie Stafford and Gretchen Van Hoesen performed at Byham Theater in downtown Pittsburgh. The proceeds benefited breast cancer victims who have no health insurance.

CORRECTIONS

Apologies to Suzanne Hershey on the misspelling of her name and website. The URL of her website should read www.suzannehershey.com.

Full corrected entry: Pittsburgh freelance harpist, Suzanne Hershey, has a new website www.suzannehershey.com. Please visit the website for more information about Suzanne and the music that she provides for all occasions including weddings and company functions.



Suzanne Hershey

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our condolences to Vanessa Young, former Vice President of the Pittsburgh Chapter, on the recent loss of her grandmother.

MEMBER NEWS



November 11, 2011, 7:30 PM, Natalie Severson performed the entire Ceremony of Carols at St. Peter's Church in Steubenville, Ohio with the Franciscan University Chorale under the direction of Paul M. Weber.

November 19, 2011, 8 PM, Eliana Felder performed the following five harp solos at Poale Zedek Synagogue in Squirrel Hill in honor of her twin brother's Bar Mitzvah: Reverie by Marcel Grandjany, Ribambelle No. 2 by Bernard Andres, Petite Berceuse by Alphonse Hasselmans, Simon Tov Traditional and Erev Ba by O. Avissar.

November 26, 2011, 2:00 PM, Gretchen Van Hoesen held a masterclass at her home for current and former students. Former students Chelsea Lane, Dana Schneider, Katie Ventura and Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton performed as well as current students Jadelyn Ding, Jessica Ding, Sierra Pastel, Hannah Piston, Sage Po, Hailey Reisinger and Avery Turley.

November 29, 2011 at 12 PM, Sage Po, harpist, and Michal Zeleny, flutist, will perform Song of the Lark by Charles Rochester Young at Carnegie Mellon University, Alumni Concert Hall. At this same concert, Natalie Stafford and Sarah Steranka will

perform The Garden of Adonis by Alan Hovhaness for flute and harp.



December 1, 2011 at 1:30 PM, Natalie Severson, harpist, Alex Hettinga, and Jessie Nucho, flutist, performed the *Debussy Trio* at convocation in Alumni Concert Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. The concert also included a performance of *Narthex* by Bernard Andres for flute and harp with Emma Neisl, flutist, and Erica Driscoll, harpist.

December 3, 2011 - Suzanne Hershey played in the foyer at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh from 6:00 to 7:30pm.

December 4, 2011, 8 PM, Carnegie Music Hall, Pittsburgh, Music Director Ronald Zollman conducted Mahler *Symphony No. 5* with the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic with harpists Natalie Severson and Sage Po performing.

December 7, 2011 - Stephanie Miller performed holiday selections and an original composition, *Angel's Song*, for Greentone United Methodist Church the at 7PM.

December 8 - December 23, 2011 - Katie Ventura will be playing in the pit orchestra for the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera's production of *A Musical Christmas Carol* at the Byham Theater. Tickets are available at the box office at

412-456-6666.

December 9, 2011 - At 12 pm, harpist Natalie Stafford performed the Holiday Concert with the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic at Rangos Hall, Carnegie Mellon, in the University Center and broadcast live on WQED-FM. This concert will be repeated on December 9 at 8 PM at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland.

December 9 and December 14 2011 - Suzanne Hershey will perform in the lobby of Fifth Avenue Place in Pittsburgh, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

December 11, 2011 - Julia Scott will perform René Clausen's *There is No Rose* with the Mount Lebanon United Methodist Choir, under the direction of Gretchen Franz, for the 10:45 AM service.

December 16 and December 22 - Suzanne Hershey will perform in the lobby of Oxford Center in Pittsburgh, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

December 18, 2011 - Julia Scott will perform with the Mount Lebanon United Methodist Choir, under the direction of Gretchen Franz, for the 10:45 AM service. Pieces by John Hopkins, Dale Warland, Donald McDullough, Stephen Paulus, and Jeffrey Van will be performed, as well as excerpts from John La Montaine's *The Nine Lessons of Christmas*. Chapter member, Craig Johnson will also perform on the flute!

December 21, 2011-from 12 - 2 PM. Julia Ann Scott will perform Christmas music in the lobby of the 5th Avenue Place as part of their Holiday Lunchtime Concert Series.

December 22, 2011- From 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Suzanne Hershey will perform for the Oxford Center's Noontime Concert Series in the lobby.

December 24, 2011-at 7:30 PM, at the Fox Chapel Episcopalian Church: Harpist Julia Ann Scott will join organist Clarke Bedford, and Pittsburgh Symphony violinist Dennis O'Boyle, in Henri Busser's *Le Sommeil de l'Enfant Jésus*, for violin, harp, organ and choir. Miss Scott will also perform Marcel Samuel-Rousseau's *Variations Pastorales*, as well as the Frank Voltz arrangement of *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*.



January 1, 2012- Suzanne Hershey will perform for the special Annual Oyster Formal at the Pittsburgh Field Club on from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

January 21, 2012- Gretchen Van Hoesen will perform the premiere of a composition by Joseph Hallman for Oboe, Harp and Strings with Cynthia DeAlmeida for her faculty recital. The concert starts at 6:30 PM at Carnegie Mellon University.

January 21, 2012- Gretchen Van Hoesen will perform *Capriccio for Clarinet and Harp* with Ronald Samuels for his faculty recital. The concert starts at 8:00 PM at Duquesne University.

January 29, 2012- At 8:00 PM Julia Scott will join the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra in Bernstein's *Symphonic Dances* and Ravel's *Bolero*, at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland, with Jeffrey Turner, conductor.



February 18 and 19, 2012-Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton will be the harp soloist for the Valdosta Symphony in Valdosta, GA, under the direction of conductor Edward Cumming. Heidi will perform the *Concerto in Eb Major, Opus 74* by Reinhold Gliere on February 18th at 8:00 PM at Whitehead Auditorium in Valdosta, GA, and on February 19th at 3:00 PM at Howard Auditorium in Tifton, GA.

February 25 and 26, 2012- The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, with Gretchen Van Hoesen, harp, will perform Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 and a newly commissioned work by Stephanie Stucky at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City and at Tiles Center, CW Post College, Long Island.



March 3, 2012- Sunha Lee and Hannah Piston will be performing John Williams' *Imperial March*

from Star Wars and Schostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Music Director Lawrence Loh. The concert starts at 2 PM and is held at Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts.



April 21, 2012- Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton will present a solo recital as a benefit for the Autism Society of Toronto. The recital includes solo works by Lizotte, Tournier, Respighi, Ravel and will also feature a duo performance of *Raga* by Caroline Lizotte with Judy Loman. The concert begins at 7:30 PM and takes place at the Armour Heights Presbyterian Church in Toronto, Ontario.

Remember to Register on our new website to use new interactive features.

To register enter:

Your name

Email address

Website: <http://ahspittsburgh.org/>

MISCELLANEOUS

MERLIN R HARPS IN PITTSBURGH



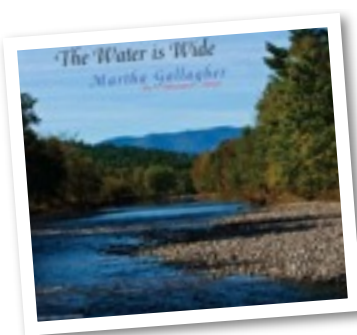
Merlin R Harps have come to Pittsburgh! Julia Ann Scott has agreed to become the Pittsburgh representative for the Colorado-based folk harp company. All R Harps are built by hand by master luthier Rick Rubarth. Featuring a special system of braced rods behind the sound board, these small harps exude beautiful tone and high-quality projection for far less outlay than their competitors. Learn more at <http://www.rharps.com/merlin.html> The harp is available for viewing by appointment through Miss Scott: (412) 654-9549.

CD *THE WATER IS WIDE* BENEFITS FLOOD VICTIMS

On Oct. 7, 2011, singer, songwriter, harpist, and performer Martha Gallagher, released her sixth CD, *The Water is Wide*. This CD features the harp with various instruments including vocals, 9-string guitar, flamenco guitar, and flute.

100 percent of the proceeds go to the Keene Flood Recovery Fund (KFRF), benefiting those devastated by tropical storm Irene in Martha Gallagher's home region, the Adirondack Mountains in upstate NY.

The Water is Wide is available for \$15, plus \$3 shipping. For more info, to hear selection samples, and to order please visit www.adkharper.com.



HALF PRICE VIBROACOUSTIC HARP THERAPY SESSIONS FOR MEMBERS



Stephanie Miller, CMP, VAHTP, is offering half price Vibroacoustic Harp Therapy sessions for all members of the the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society. The Vibraacosutic Harp Therapy Process (VAHT) utilizes the harp's natural vibrations via amplification and channels them directly into a special mat that has embedded speakers. Often VAHT is described as feeling like a musical massage.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.musicforlifepgh.com/vaht.htm> or call 412-408-3095.