

Holiday Issue

December 2012



THE AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY

Pittsburgh Chapter

A Busy November!

Treats are not for just Halloween!

The month of November proved to be a treat for chapter members.

On November 10th, Felice Pomeranz, professor of harp at Berklee College of Music and jazz harpist extraordinaire, conducted two workshops at the Aspinwall Presbyterian Church. Attendees learned the rudiments of comping and vamping, and took turns improvising with a live rhythm section.



Later that afternoon, Felice showed everyone how to give simple arrangements of hymns, Christmas carols, or pop tunes an added “kick” by using a few easy jazz chords.

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Holiday Potluck



Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 20, 2013**. The chapter is reviving the tradition of a post-holiday pot luck party. This is a great way to meet and greet other chapter members and their families. The festivities will be held at the home of chapter president Becky Yuille, 303 Trail Court East, Cranberry Township, PA. All are invited to come and join the fun anytime after 5pm. Please contact Becky Yuille (yuillerj@gmail.com) by January 17 and let her know what dish you will bring to share with the chapter. A playoff game is not likely this season, but there is a wide screen television ready and waiting just in case!

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE. The party was rescheduled due to a conflict with the PYSO concerto competition.

Directions from Pittsburgh:

Follow I-279 N to the end.

Merge onto I-79 N.

Take exit #83 (Evans City)

Turn left at the light at the end of the ramp onto Lindsay Rd (PA 528)

Turn left at the next light onto US-19 S (Perry Highway)

0.9 mile down, turn right onto Heights Dr (just past Deener's Farm Market)

At the fourth stop sign on Heights Dr, turn left onto Winterbrook Dr.

At the stop sign, cross Bear Run Rd into Kingsbrook.

After you enter Kingsbrook, the second left will be Trail Court East. #303 is on the left.

Our New Newsletter Editor

This newsletter is the first one produced by our new webmaster and newsletter editor, Bill Van Patten. Over time, you will see a few changes to our website as he works his magic, including a new Member News page on the site. Welcome, Bill!



Evening Jazz Concert with Felice Pomeranz



After leading two workshops on the afternoon of November 10th, Felice Pomeranz performed in concert that evening with Eric DeFade, Paul Thompson, and David Glover to an appreciative audience in the sanctuary of Aspinwall Presbyterian Church. Felice's enthralling playing and audience interaction delighted everyone.

We cannot thank Felice enough for taking time out of her busy schedule to fly down from Boston and showing us how much fun jazz on a harp can be! We also thank Suzanne Hershey for so generously lending Felice one of her harps for the occasion.

Music, in performance, is a type of sculpture. The air in the performance is sculpted into something.

Frank Zappa

Adult Non-Professional Recital

Calling all adult harp students, semi-professionals, and non-professionals! If you have ever wished for more opportunities to perform, here is your chance. Please join us for a concert on 24 March, 2013 at the Beechview United Presbyterian Church. The concert will begin at 4pm.

Several people are already slated to play in the concert, but there is room for a few more.

The music is expected to be a mix of folk, Irish, pop, classical, and a hymn or two. Please contact Becky Yuille by Jan 1, 2013 if you would like to participate.

Harp Maintenance Class

Our chapter's second November treat took place on the 17th, when harp technicians Tom Bell and Scot Baker gave a class on harp maintenance. They were in town for harp regulations, and took time to talk with the chapter at the Monroeville library. We learned how to tie a knot in a string, how to keep a harp free of dust and dirt, and how to tell when a string is false. They brought an old, battered, but still-beautiful Lyon and Healy Style 17 harp with them that they intend to restore. We took turns cutting the strings, and then Tom and Scot took the harp apart to show us the inner workings. They showed the group what kinds of wear and tear to look for in a used harp: separation of the base frame, warping in the neck, and cracks in the soundboard. Many questions were asked and answered; everyone who attended learned a great deal. When the class was over, the harp, now in several pieces, was loaded into their van for a trip back to Akron, where it will be fully restored. Thank you, Tom and Scot, for sharing your expertise with the chapter.



Business Meeting and Chapter Recital

Our annual business meeting will be 5 May, 2013, at Oakmont Presbyterian Church. The meeting will be followed by our chapter recital and a light reception. This year, we are going with a "Cinco de Mayo" theme for the recital and reception. Latin music and south of the border food – what could be better?

Music Education

The first session of the Auditions and Evaluations program will be on Saturday, 2 March, 2013. The second session is Saturday, 6 April, 2012. We are happy to announce our adjudicators for 2013 are Dr. Ann Labounsky, chair of sacred music at Duquesne University, and Ms. Lynne Williams, instructor of music at Seton Hill University. A registration form and detailed information will go out via email early in 2013, or it can be downloaded from our website: ahspittsburgh.org.

The location will be the same as last year: Perry Highway Lutheran Church in Wexford, PA. There will be plenty of free off-street parking, and easy access to the building for those participants bringing their own harps.

The Auditions and Evaluations program started in 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, nor is it 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.

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 (yuillerj@gmail.com) or Julia Scott (harpistjulia@gmail.com).



*Read about exciting changes
to Member News
on page seven!*

Claire Jones



The chapter is pleased to welcome Claire Jones to Pittsburgh for a concert and masterclass. The concert will begin at 4pm on 21 April. Our chapter has teamed up with the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society this year and this concert has been included in their Tiffany Concert Series, which is held in the famous Calvary Methodist Church on the North Side of Pittsburgh.

Since leaving her position as harpist to HRH the Prince of Wales, Claire has been busy recording her third CD and performing all over the world with such notables as James Galway and Neville Mariner. Tickets are selling very well, even at this early date. This exciting concert could be sold out by April, so chapter members are urged to buy their tickets as soon as possible.

Ticket prices are as follows: General admission \$15, Senior (62+) \$10, Student \$7, Children under 12 are free. For tickets, contact Becky Yuille (yuillerj@gmail.com) or Sandra Pack at the AHPS (412-323-1070).

The masterclass will be held on 20 April at the home of Craig Johnson in Monroeville. A registration form will be sent via email in March.



Member News

We want members to know what we're all up to! And we want to make it easier to get that news out!

Beginning with January, we'll post upcoming events in our Member News section on the website at <http://www.ahspittsburgh.org/apps/blog/>.

Over the next few months, we'll modify the site so that members may post their own news stories. This means members may submit their news whenever they like, and the listings will be posted to the blog much sooner than the next newsletter. And since space will no longer be an issue, members may include private gigs if they wish.

In the meantime, in order to take advantage of this improved way to share news, be sure to register at our website, <http://ahspittsburgh.org/>.

June

> Julia Scott was elected as Vice President of the Pittsburgh Tuesday Music Club. June 2012. Her duties include chairing the Solo Status Audition Committee, a six-member group which vets prospective concert artists for regular TMC recitals.

June and July

> Natalie Severson attended Colorado's Aspen School of Music, studying with Deborah Hoffman, Principal Harpist of the New York Metropolitan Opera in NY. She also performed *Symphonie Fantastique* and *La Mer* with the Festival Orchestra. As the winner of the Vira Heinz Award, Natalie attended four-week program at Music Alp in Courcheval, France, studying with Isabelle Perrin and Jana Bouskova.

> Sage Po performed with "Music in the Mountains Summerfest", with the Festival Orchestra, in a Happy Birthday USA Pops Concert, and the Benefit Concert for Multicultural Music Fellowship. As one of three emerging harpists to showcase the instrument, she performed *Danses Sacree et Profane* with a string quartet. Proceeds from events help provide harp lessons for inner city San Francisco youth.

July

> **14th:** Sophia Sunha Lee, ninth grade harp student of Gretchen Van Hoesen, performed Marcel Tournier's *Feerie* at the winners' recital of the International Young Artists Harp Competition in Rabun Gap, GA, where she won first place, which included a cash prize.

Member News

July and August

> Gretchen Van Hoesen and Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton performed numerous concerts under Alasdair Neale in the 2012 Sun Valley (ID) Summer Symphony. The group includes members of orchestras in cities across the US: Minnesota, New York, Toronto, Los Angeles, St Louis, Pittsburgh and San Francisco.

> Natalie Stafford attended the Saratoga Harp Colony in Saratoga, NY, studying with Elizabeth Hainen and Maria Luisa Rayan. Her performances included a Dussek Sonata in a master class and two harp ensemble concerts.

September

> **1st:** Gretchen Van Hoesen presented a master class. Students performing were Jessica Ding, Jade-lyn Ding, Eliana Felder, Sophie Graf, Emily Maldonado, Skyler Moon, Sierra Pastel, Hannah Piston, Sage Po, Hailey Reisinger, Natalie Severson, Natalie Stafford and Katie Ventura. A second master class took place on October 21st.

> **19th:** Emily Maldonado and Natalie Stafford performed Nancy Galbraith's *Centennial Suite* under the direction of Maestro Ronald Zollman, with the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic at Carnegie Music Hall.

> **23rd & 30th:** Gretchen Van Hoesen, Principal Harpist of the Pittsburgh Symphony, performed solo harp recitals at the homes of Connie and Michael Phillips in Fox Chapel, PA and Kathy and Louis Testoni in Squirrel Hill, PA. These benefit concerts were sponsored by the Pittsburgh Symphony Association Fine Instrument Committee, which successfully raised funds to purchase a new Lyon and Healy Style 23 Concert Grand Harp for the Pittsburgh Symphony.

> **27th:** Pittsburgh Youth Symphony harpists Hannah Piston and Sophia Sunha Lee performed harp duos and solos for "Friends of the Pittsburgh Symphony" in the Regency Rooms at Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts.

> **30th:** Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Harpists Hannah Piston and Sophia Sunha Lee performed solos and in a chamber orchestra at Calvary Methodist Church as part of the Tiffany Series. Sophia Sunha Lee performed *Largo from Violin Sonata No. 3* by J.S. Bach. Hannah Piston performed J.S. Bach's *Presto from Violin Sonata No. 1* as well as the *Sicilienne from Pelleas and Melisande* by Gabriel Faure.

October

> **6th:** Julia Scott, Principal Harpist, Butler Symphony Orchestra, performed Respighi's *The Pines of Rome*, Puccini's *Sinfonia Concertante*, Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien, Opus 45*. Miss Scott received a favorable review in the October 8th edition of the Butler *Eagle* for the Puccini, to wit: "A wonderful harp solo by Julia Scott floated over the sustained notes of the violins."

Member News

- > **7th:** Gretchen Van Hoesen performed *Among the Voices* by Bernard Rands for harp and chorus with the Carnegie Mellon Concert Chorale directed by Robert Page at Kresge Recital Hall. The concert was repeated October 14th at the Music and Art Series at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper Saint Clair.
- > **13th:** Bill Van Patten performed with the Washington Symphony Orchestra. In addition to a Halloween repertoire of *Night on Bald Mountain*, *Danse Macabre*, and *Flying Dutchman Overture*, the concert included the premiere of *1845: Pittsburgh Stepped through the Fire*, by Kyle Simpson.
- > **14th:** Julia Scott was a featured soloist for the St. David's Society Welsh Hymn Sing and Reception at the First Presbyterian Church, Bridgeport, PA.
- > **17th:** Sophie Graf performed at Duquesne University in the PNC Recital Hall on the Wednesday Common Hour Recital, performing *Sarabande and Double from Violin Sonata No. 1* by J.S. Bach and *Sonata No. 5* by Naderman.
- > **17th:** Julia Scott played for the Fundraising Dinner of the Domestic Violence Services of South Western PA at the Double Tree by Hilton at the Meadowlands near Washington, PA.
- > **21st:** Carnegie Music Hall, Sophie Graf performed *Daphnis & Chloe Suite No. 2* with the Duquesne University Wind Ensemble (conducted by Dr. Robert Cameron) and Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise* with the Duquesne University Symphony Band (conducted by H. Carl Hess).
- > **22nd:** Sophia Sunha Lee participated in classical music leadership seminars held by National Public Radio's *From the Top* when the show made a stop on October 22, 2012 in Greensburg, PA. Read more about the program at <http://triblive.com/home/2674727-74/music-national-classical-radio-riley-says-students-ariana-greensburg-host#axzz29hW9E6K7>.
- > **22nd:** Julia Scott was a featured soloist with the Church Music Association of America and Duquesne University during the *Symposium on Charles Tournemire*, at the Epiphany Church in downtown Pittsburgh, October 22nd, 2012.
- > **29th:** Julia Scott, Principal Harpist, Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra, performed Bizet's *Carmen Suites I & II*.

October & November:

- > Sophie Graf performed harp music on numerous days in the first floor lobby of Mercy Hospital for patients and staff, as part of the Duquesne University's Music Department's required outreach program for freshman music majors. Sophie also performs regularly at the 9 a.m. Mass with the Chapel Choir at the Duquesne University Chapel.
- > Gretchen Van Hoesen and Katie Ventura performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Music Director Manfred Honeck on the 2012 European Tour to Barcelona, Madrid, Vienna, Paris, Cologne, Frankfurt, Stuttgart and Luxembourg. Mahler Symphony No. 2, The Resurrection, was recorded live for CD at the Musikverein Concert Hall in Vienna, Austria. Other works by Stucky, Willi and Bizet were performed throughout the tour.

Member News

November

> Jessica Ding, Sophie Graf, Sunha Lee, Hannah Piston and Natalie Severson, all students and members of our chapter submitted the required on-line and DVD applications to American String Teachers Association 2012 National Competition.

> **3rd:** Julia Scott played with the Butler Symphony in a concert featuring the Joe Negri Trio. Ms. Scott performed on Bolcom's *Ragomania* and *A Salute to Irving Berlin*, as well as Duke Ellington's *Martin Luther King*.

> **4th:** Natalie Severson, Carnegie Mellon University senior harp student of Gretchen Van Hoesen, and her Hugo Trio (with flutist Jessie Nucho and violist Alex Hettinga) performed works of Debussy, Genzmer, Stock and Ravel at Carnegie Mellon University, in recognition of winning the Pittsburgh Concert Society Majors Competition. A cash prize was given as well.

> **4th:** Natalie Severson was featured soloist at Mount Lebanon Lutheran Church for the annual Vespers All Saints Service. Natalie will perform solo works for harp by Tournier, Bach, Guridi and Tailleferre.

> **11th:** Sage Po performed with the Carnegie Mellon Wind Ensemble in *Symphony No. 4* by David Maslanka under the direction of conductor Stephen Story.

> **11th:** Sophie Graf performed with the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra conducted by H. Carl Hess. Works included *Die Meistersinger Overture* by Wagner, *Overture to Romeo and Juliet* by Tchaikovsky, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Paul Dukas and *Capriccio Espagnole* by Rimski-Korsakov.

> **18th:** Hot Pink Harps, a harp ensemble led by Gretchen Van Hoesen, performed at Kresge Recital Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. The concert featured harp ensemble music performed for the first time in Pittsburgh. Pieces included two new works, *Port au Prince* and *Jazzy*, by Bernard Andres, Debussy's *Petite Suite*, Curcio's *Mischief*, Corelli's *Sarabande and Gigue*, Britten's *Playful Pizzicato* and Faure's *Sanctus and In Paradism*. Students of Gretchen Van Hoesen who participated were Sophie Graf, Haley Hoffman, Sophia Sunha Lee, Emily Maldonado, Sierra Pastel, Hannah Piston, Sage Po, Hailey Reisinger, Natalie Severson and Natalie Stafford.



Member News

> **24th:** Julia Scott performed the late British composer Phyllis Tate's *Songs of Sundry Natures*, scored for baritone, flute, clarinet, horn, bassoon, and harp, with the Renaissance City Winds at the historic Holmes Hall on the North side of Pittsburgh. Eugene Perry was the baritone soloist.

> **26th:** Gretchen Van Hoesen performed the Pittsburgh premiere of Dohnanyi's *Concertino for Harp*, accompanied by David Allen Wehr, will be featured on the program. The concert is part of the Budapest on the Bluff series at Duquesne, which focuses on Hungarian Music.

December

> **1st from 5:30 p.m. till 8:00 p.m.:** Suzanne Hershey played at Wintergarten at PPG Place.

> **1st at 7:30 p.m.:** Julia Scott performed various classical and Christmas selections with the Butler Symphony at the Butler Area Intermediate High School in Lyndora, PA.

> **2nd at 7:30 p.m.:** Sophia Sunha Lee and Hannah Piston performed with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony under the direction of conductor Lawrence Loh at Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts. Works include Rachmaninoff *Symphonic Dances* and the Faure *Pelleas and Melisande Suite*.

> **3rd at 7:30 p.m.:** Julia Scott accompanied the Carlow University Women's Choir, under the direction of Dr. Brent Alexander, in John Rutter's *Dancing Day*. This cycle of Christmas carols, one of Rutter's earliest compositions for harp and choir, was the basis of this 4th Annual Advent Lessons and Carols Service.

> **8th at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. & 9th at 2:00 p.m.:** Julia Scott will in the Westmoreland Symphony's presentation of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, in conjunction with the Laurel Ballet. The performances are in the Greensburg Palace Theatre on Otterman Street

> **9th at 8:00 p.m.:** Julia Scott will perform with the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra in Hue's *Fantasy for Flute and Orchestra* and Rozsa's *Concerto for Viola and Orchestra*. The concert will be held at the Power Center on Forbes Avenue.

> **9th at 5:30 p.m.:** Harp students of Gretchen Van Hoesen will present a studio class recital at Carnegie Mellon University, Fine Arts Building, Alumni Concert Hall. Jessica Ding, Jadelyn Ding, Eliana Felder, Sophie Graf, Katherine Hilton, Sophia Sunha Lee, Emily Maldonado, Skyler Moon, Sierra Pastel, Hannah Piston, Sage Po, Hailey Reisinger, Natalie Severson, Natalie Stafford and Amy Tsien will be performing harp solos. All harp chapter members are welcome to attend this free recital with reception to follow.

> **9th at 7:00 p.m.:** Sophie Graf and Hannah Stater will perform in the Three Rivers Young Peoples' Orchestra Concert at Hillman Center of Performing Arts in Fox Chapel, PA. They will perform *Alborado del Gracioso* by Ravel and *Rumanian Rhapsody* by Enesco under the direction of conductor, Joseph Wilcox.

> **13th and 20th from 11:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.:** Suzanne Hershey will be playing in the lobby of Oxford Center.

> **15th at 12:30 p.m.:** Rebecca Pfingstl will be performing with the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra at PPG Wintergarten. This concert is free and open to the public.

Member News

- > **15th at 7:30 p.m.:** Rebecca Pfingstl will be playing with the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra at Upper St. Clair High School. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors, and \$5 students age 13 and up.
- > **15th & 16th:** Jessica Ding will perform with the Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra, at Penn State University, prior to Nutcracker performances by the Ballet Theater of State College.
- > **16th at 10:00 a.m.:** Julia Scott will perform with the Mount Lebanon United Methodist Choir. The music will include selections from La Montaine's *Nine Lessons*, Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*, as well as various carols arranged for harp and choir by Stephen Paulus.
- > **19th from 12:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m.:** Julia Scott will play from 12 noon - 2 PM in the annual 5th Avenue Place Holiday Concert Series.
- > **24th:** Julia Scott will perform in both Christmas Eve services at the Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church in various arrangements for harp and chorus.
- > **24th at 3:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.:** Gretchen Van Hoesen will perform Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* for harp and women's choir at Calvary Episcopal Church under the direction of Alan Lewis.
- > **24th at 4:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m.:** Emily Hayes will be playing various pieces at Christmas Eve Services at the Harrisville United Methodist Church, Harrisville, PA.
- > **24th at 7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.:** Craig Johnson will be playing solos and various pieces with choir and organ for the Christmas Eve services at Oakmont Presbyterian Church, 415 Pennsylvania Avenue.
- > **25th at 11:00 a.m.:** Julia Scott will perform for Christmas Mass at St. Alexis Catholic Church in Wexford, PA.
- > **28th at 7:00 p.m.:** Natalie Stafford will perform a solo harp recital at Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT. The free recital will feature solo harp works by Dussek, Tournier, Hindemith, Pierne and will include a performance of the Mozart *Concerto for Flute and Harp* with flutist, Sarah Steranka.
- > **31st:** Sophia Sunha Lee will be a featured soloist on the NPR show "From the Top", which had been recorded live in Greensburg, PA, at the Palace Theater on November 21st. Sunha will be heard performing Tournier's *Feerie* and being interviewed by Christopher O'Reilly. Following national broadcast today, the show will air on WQED-FM 89.3 on Saturday, January 5, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

January

- > **10th at 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m., 12th at 8:00 p.m., & 13th at 3:00 p.m.:** Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton, Principal Harpist of the Toronto Symphony, will be the featured soloist performing the Mozart *Concerto for Flute and Harp* with Principal Flutist of the Toronto Symphony Nora Shulman and Music Director Peter Oundjian. (10th & 12th at Roy Thompson Hall, 13th at George Weston Recital Hall, both in Toronto.)

Member News

> **26th at 7:30 p.m.:** Rebecca Pfingstl will be a soloist with the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra, performing Debussy's *Dances Sacree et Profane*, at Upper St. Clair High School. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors, and \$5 students age 13 and up.

February

> **24th at 4:00 p.m.:** Jessica Ding will perform with the Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra, conducted by Gregory Woodbridge, at Penn State High School South Auditorium.

> **26th at 8:00 p.m.:** Natalie Severson, student of Gretchen Van Hoesen, will perform a solo senior harp recital at Carnegie Mellon University as partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Music Degree Program. She will perform works by Tournier, Parish-Alvars, Guridi and Ginastera. Pianist Rodrigo Ojeda will accompany her in the *Concerto for Harp* by Ginastera. Natalie is expected to be awarded her BM degree in harp performance in June 2013.



**To take advantage of all our member benefits,
be sure to register at our website:**

<http://ahspittsburgh.org/>

Scan the QR
code with a
smartphone -
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Help!
I'm in \$! I ran over
Something # and now my
tire is b. I need a ♫ for
the phone. Do I need
to :|| any of that?

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