

NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Greetings to all Members of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society,

It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching our busy holiday season! Our Chapter has had a great start this year by getting our harps regulated this fall and by completing the 2008 Music Education Evaluations.

The Officers and Board members of the Harp Chapter met in September to plan events for 2008/09. Please read further in this newsletter about what your chapter is doing and what, when and where your chapter members have been performing!

The membership drive is completed, and we happily welcome new members to the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society. We hope to see all members at many of our exciting future events.

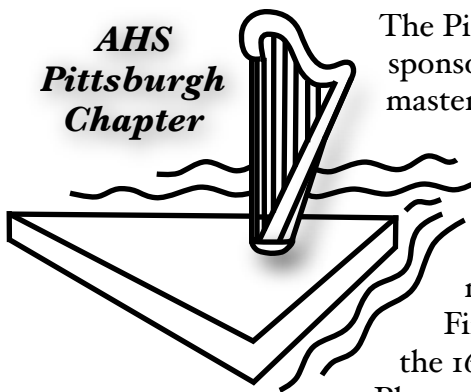
I want to wish all members of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society a very warm, happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Van Hoesen, President

Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society

Pittsburgh AHS to present Sivan Magen, Israeli International Winner



The Pittsburgh Harp Chapter and Duquesne University will co-sponsor outstanding harpist Sivan Magen in a solo harp recital and master class for chapter members. The recital will take place on March 28, 2009 at 3:00 PM at the PNC Recital Hall at Duquesne University, and the master class will take place in Room 206 on March 29, 2009 from 10:00 AM until mid afternoon. All members will be mailed a registration form in mid February for participation in the class. Sivan Magen is the First Prize winner (as well as the winner of two special Prizes) in the 16th International Harp Competition in Israel 2006. Please call Craig Johnson if you have any questions at (412) 824-8004.

A CORDIAL WELCOME TO ALL NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the AHS welcomes all returning members as well as the following new members: Yi-Wen Chang, Bella Danailova, Jessica Ding, Jacqueline Gordon, Sunha Lee, Rebecca Pfingstl, Robert Randazzo, and Katherine Redlus. If anyone would like to join the chapter, it is not too late. We welcome new members at any time of the year. Please encourage your harpist friends and families to become members! Please contact any of the officers listed in this newsletter or download a membership form from our website.
<http://www.whiterose.net/~harpist/AHS/index.html>

DON'T MISS THE JANUARY 4, 2009 CHAPTER POTLUCK PARTY!!!!!!!

All Pittsburgh Harp Chapter Members and their families are invited to a Holiday Pot Luck Party to celebrate the New Year 2009 at the home of Gretchen Van Hoesen on January 4, 2009 at 5:00 PM. The Holiday Party will be at 7300 Overton Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15218 (in Regent Square). This is not a business meeting but rather a Holiday Party for members to get to know each other and to celebrate. We will take a few minutes to introduce new members and present Certificates of Participation to all harpists who completed the Music Education Evaluations. Be sure to request driving/parking directions to 7300 Overton St. if you need them. Please RSVP Gretchen Van Hoesen if you are planning to attend the Holiday Pot Luck Party by phoning her at home, 412-247-3916 or via email at lavenderharp@yahoo.com

MUSIC EDUCATION EVALUATIONS A SUCCESS

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the AHS finished the second session of the 2008 Music Education Evaluations on November 22. Eighteen students performed for the adjudicators. Special thanks to our adjudicators Marina DiPretoro, Stephanie Tretick and Cheryl Dungan Cunningham for their help. Congratulations to the following students who participated: Julianna Peebles, Manon Alexandra Sohn, Rebecca C. Pfingstl, Jacqueline Gordon, Olivia DeSimone, Lana Greenawald, Sierra Pastel, Hannah E. Stater, Sophia Sunha Lee, Katherine Elisabeth Redlus, Jordana Kleiner, Hannah Elizabeth Piston, Bella Danailova, Jessica Lu Ding, Robert Randazzo and Yi-Wen Chang. Thanks to Carnegie Mellon for allowing us to use the space in room A-2 of the Fine Arts Building. Gretchen Van Hoesen, chairperson of the Music Education Evaluations, would also like to thank April Howsare and Denise Ventura for their help in running the program. All students who completed the theory tests and both sessions of the Music Education Evaluations will receive a beautiful certificate of participation signed by William Lovelace, Lucy Scandrett and Gretchen Van Hoesen. These certificates will be presented at the Holiday Pot Luck Party on January 4, 2009 at the home of Gretchen Van Hoesen (see below).

HARP REGULATIONS BY TOM BELL AND ED GALCHICK

The Members of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society say "Thank You!" to Harp Technicians Tom Bell and Ed Galchick, who spent many, many hours regulating our harps this fall. Tom Bell was in Pittsburgh the week of October 8 and Ed Galchick was in Pittsburgh the week of November 3. If you missed these visits, our chapter will again bring technicians to Pittsburgh in the fall of 2009. Thank you to Lucy Scandrett, who helped to organize these visits.

PITTSBURGH HARPISTS PERFORM AROUND THE WORLD

SARAH STERN PERFORMS IN OPERA IN BRITTEN FESTIVAL IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

For the past three years Sarah Stern has been studying harp at the Musik-Akademie in Basel, Switzerland. Her major teacher is Sarah O'Brien, Principal Harp of the Munich Philharmonic. Sarah will complete her Konzertdiplom in Interpretation and Performance next July. She just completed three weeks in Aldeburgh, England, taking part in the Britten-Pears Program. As a member of the Britten Pears Orchestra she performed Britten's first chamber opera, "The Rape of Lucretia", conducted by David Parry. Five performances in three different venues included Snape Maltings Concert Hall, a theater in Bury St. Edmunds and King's Place in London. The opera ran from October 24 - November 4, 2008. Sarah is a former student of Gretchen Van Hoesen.



ARIELLE VISITS FROM THE JULLIARD SCHOOL WITH HARP AND ORGAN "DUO MANGO" CONCERT

Arielle, former Pittsburgh AHS chapter member and current liaison member between The Juilliard School of Music and the New York City AHS Chapter, presented a "Duo Mango" concert with organist Chelsea Chen, featuring Grandjany's "Aria In Classic Style" as well as many contemporary works from various composers. Several works were composed specifically for the Duo Mango concert, which took place on November 9, 2008 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon. Arielle, a former student of Gretchen Van Hoesen, is in the final year of her Master of Music degree at The Juilliard School where she studies with New York Philharmonic Principal Harpist Nancy Allen. Arielle designed and sewed both dresses seen in the picture!

LAURA LOCKARD PERFORMS ON HER "NEW" ERAT HARP FROM 1805

Laura Lockard, founding member of the baroque group Historically Performed (www.historicallyperformed.com) gives concerts from various historical eras on period instruments in period dress. On Oct 5, 2008 she and her husband Bill performed at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater, Pittsburgh featuring colonial music of the French and Indian War period using Baroque instruments, including single-action Erat pedal harp, baroque violin, tenor viola, baroque flute, & guitar. Laura (who studies with Julia Ann Scott) also made her own dress! She bought her harp from a London antiquities website and was charmed to discover that it arrived in playable condition right out of the box!



MEMBER NEWS

Summer of 2008: Sarah Stern attended the Aspen Music Festival, performing *Cendrillon* by Jules Massenet, as well as performing with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble conducted by Sydney Hodkinson in the techno opera *California Fictions* by Mason Bates. She also performed with the Aspen Festival Orchestra as one of seven harpists in Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* conducted by David Zinman.

September 17, 2008: Yi-Wen Chang and Chris Lin performed the Bartok *Concerto for Orchestra* with conductor Steven Smith and the Carnegie Mellon University Orchestra at Carnegie Music Hall. Yi Wen Chang performed with the CMU Wind Ensemble at Carnegie Music Hall on September 24, 2008 and performed with the ensemble also on November 19, 2008 with Dennis Colwell conducting.

October 5, 2008: Katie Ventura played 2nd harp with the New World Symphony at the Lincoln Theatre, Miami Beach, FL. *La Mer* by Debussy and *Overture to the Sea Hawk* by Korngold were conducted by Steven Jarvi.

October 12, 2008: Lana Greenawald and Sierra Pastel performed at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland with the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sidney Harth in the *Dolly Suite* by Faure, *Offrandes* by Varese and *Symphony in D minor* by Franck.

October 17: Yi-Wen Chang performed with the CMU Philharmonic, Steven Smith, conductor.

Gretchen Van Hoesen held harp master classes on October 19, September 14, and November 1, 2008. On November 15, Gretchen Van Hoesen held a harp master class at Alumni Concert Hall at

Carnegie Mellon University, and another master class is planned for November 29, 2008 for all current and former students.

On October 21, 2008, Yi-Wen Chang and Katherine Redlus performed *La Valse* by Ravel with the CMU Orchestra at Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Hall with conductor Juan Pablo Izquierdo.

October 22-24, 2008: Julia Ann Scott performed with the Carnegie Mellon Early Music Orchestra in a performance of Monteverdi's *Coronazione di Poppea*, Robert Page conducting.

October 24, 2008: Heidi VH Gorton and Yi-Wen Chang attended the solo debut recital by Russian Harpist, Maria Krushevskaya, in NYC at Carnegie Hall. Maria was the 1st prize winner of the 2007 USA International Harp Competition in Bloomington, IN.

October 24 - November 4, 2008: Sarah Stern performed in the *The Rape of Lucretia*, by Benjamin Britten, with the Britten-Pears Orchestra conducted by David Parry. Sarah spent three weeks in Aldeburgh, England, taking part in the Britten-Pears Program. Five performances in three different venues included the Snape Maltings Concert Hall, a theater in Bury St. Edmunds and King's Place in London. A former student of Gretchen Van Hoesen, Sarah has been studying harp for the past three years at the Musik-Akademie in Basel, Switzerland. Her major teacher is Sarah O'Brien, Principal Harp of the Munich Philharmonic. Sarah will complete her Konzertdiplome in Interpretation and Performance in July 2009.

October 24 and 25, 2008: Hannah Piston performed as Principal Harpist with the North Pittsburgh Philharmonic conducted by Roger Tabler at

Chartiers Valley Middle School. Hannah performed *Beaver Valley Suite* by Henry Mancini and *Oodles of Noodles* by Jimmy Dorsey. Hannah Piston will perform again with the orchestra on December 12 and 13 at 7:00 PM.

October 25, 2008: Yi Wen Chang performed *La Source* by Alphonse Hasselmans in a Young Artists' Recital at Carnegie Music Hall in NYC. The performance was directed by harpist Olivia Lu, her former teacher.

October 25, 2008: Julia Ann Scott performed with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra in Kalomiris' *Suite from the opera "The Mother's Ring"* and Tchaikovsky's *Capriccio Italien*.

October 26, 2008: Sierra Pastel performed (along with other scholarship winners) for the Tuesday Musical Club Scholarship Recital at St. Andrew's Church in Highland Park, Pittsburgh. Sierra performed the *Sonate* by Paul Hindemith and *Féerie* by Marcel Tournier, both solo works for harp.



Jordana Kleiner

October 31, 2008: Yi Wen Chang and Nuiko Wadden performed Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 5* with the CMU Orchestra under conductor David Loebel.

November 2, 2008: Craig Johnson performed *For Us The Living: a Requiem* by Alfred Fedak at Beulah Presbyterian Church.

Nov 3, 2008: Julia Ann Scott performed the Brahms *Requiem* with the Pittsburgh Festival Orchestra for the All Saints' Festival at St. Andrew's Church in Highland Park.

November 9, 2008, 7:30 PM: Arielle and Chelsea Chen (Duo Mango) performed in recital at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Washington Road in Mt. Lebanon. They performed several works for organ and harp commissioned by Duo Mango as well as a solo harp work. Congratulations to former AHS Pittsburgh Harp Chapter member Arielle, who will graduate from The Juilliard School next May 2009 with a Master of Music Degree. Arielle is a current student of Nancy Allen and former student of Gretchen Van Hoesen.

Oct 31: Yi Wen Chang performed with the CMU Philharmonic at the Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland, with David Loebel conducting.

November 13 - 16, 2008: Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton performed as Principal Harpist with the Hartford Symphony in works by Sibelius and Dvorak at The Belding Theater in Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts conducted by Edward Cumming.

November 16, 2008: Sierra Pastel and Lana Greenawald performed *Lopatnikoff Symphony No. 2* at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland at 8:00 PM with the Duquesne University Symphony under conductor Sidney Harth.

November 17 & 19, 2008: Katie Ventura played the complete *Daphnis and Chloe* by Ravel, *Prelude a l'après-midi d'un faune* by Debussy and *Overture to the Flying Dutchman* by Wagner at Governor's State University, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL, conducted by Stephen Squires.



Olivia de Simone

November 18, 2008, at 7:30 PM, Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton performed the *Serenade for flute and harp* by Vincent Persichetti and *Spanish Dance No. 1, La Vida Breve* by de Falla in collaboration with flutist Chelsea Knox and guitarist Kazum Cokogullu. The recital took place at the screening room of a private residence at 100 Riverside Drive in NYC.

November 19, 2008: Heidi VH Gorton performed the *Persichetti Serenade* with flutist Chelsea Knox for the Society for Ethical Culture in NYC.

November 20, 2008: Lana Greenawald performed the

Maurice Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* on Bridget Rodina's Flute Recital in the PNC Recital Hall at Duquesne University.

November 23, 2008, pianist Gretchen Van Hoesen performed the *Sonata for Oboe and Piano* by Camille Saint Saens with her husband, Oboist James Gorton, at a fund raising concert for SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Ministries) at a private residence in Mt. Lebanon.

November 23, 2008 at 7:30 PM Lana Greenawald and Sierra Pastel performed at Heinz Hall with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra in *The Moldau* by Smetana and *Concerto for Orchestra* by Bela Bartok. The concert will be conducted by Music Director, Daniel Meyer.

November 24, 2008, 7:30 PM, Heidi VH Gorton performed *Symphony No. 3 "Kaddish"* by Leonard Bernstein with the Juilliard Orchestra conducted by Alan Gilbert at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center.

Lucy Scandrett will present a solo program for Zion Lutheran Church in Indiana, PA on Tuesday, December 2 at noon as part of their Recital Series. Lucy again will perform with the IUP Chorale on Sunday, December 7, at 3 PM at Gorell Recital Hall, IUP. She will play Britten's Ceremony of Carols" and Susa's Carols and Lullabies for the Southwest. Lucy again will perform solo works and works with organ on Sunday, December 14 at the First Presbyterian Church, Cheswick and at the Church of the Ascension on Sunday, December 21 at the morning services. Lucy will play again for the Christmas Eve services at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church at 7:30 PM and 10:00 PM. She will perform solo works, works with violin, cello and organ and works with choir.

December 2, 2008 at 12:00 PM, Yi Wen Chang will perform *Pastorale de Noel* by André Jolivet with Jessica Gist, flutist, and Victoria Olson, bassoonist, at Alumni Concert Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. This group was coached by Gretchen Van Hoesen as part of the chamber music requirements for students at Carnegie Mellon University.

Dec. 4, 11, 18, and 20, 2008: Suzanne Hershey will be playing at Oxford Center again this year in the lobby from 12:00 - 2:00 PM.

December 5 -6, 2008: Julia Ann Scott will perform Second Harp with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra at Heinz Hall in Copland's *Third Symphony*, Leonard Slatkin, conducting.

December 6, 2008: Laura Lockard will be performing on the harp in the Rapp House at Old Economy Village from 3:30 - 4:00 PM. There will be musical events going on all day (1:00PM - 7:30PM) including a period instrument orchestra concert at 2:30 PM. Admission is \$6. There will be other non-musical activities featured as well.

Dec. 6: Suzanne Hershey will also be playing the annual Christmas Party at Chatham University from 12:00 to 2:00 PM.

December 7th: Julianna Peebles will perform Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio Espagnol* with the Three Rivers Young People's Orchestra at 3:00 pm.

December 7, 2008: Sierra Pastel will perform the Luciano Berio *Folksongs* in the PNC Recital Hall at Duquesne University.

December 9, 2008, 7:30 PM, Gretchen Van Hoesen will perform in recital with soprano Sara Botkin at the new music series held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Washington Road in Upper

Saint Clair. The concert will feature harp solos as well as duos for voice and harp that were recorded on the 2007 Christmas CD, "Breath of Heaven". There is no charge for this event (a free will offering for the church will be taken).

December 9: Lana Greenawald and Sierra Pastel will perform with the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra at the DU Power Ballroom in Ravel's *Piano Concerto*. The suggested donation for the concert is \$10.



Robert Randazzo

December 11 - 14, 2008: Julia Scott will perform Tschaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* in its entirety with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra and the Laurel Ballet, Kyprous Markou conducting. Call the Place Theatre Box Office in Greensburg at 724-836-8000 for tickets and performance times.

December 12, 2008, 8:00 PM, Heidi VH Gorton, will perform as Principal Harpist with the Juilliard Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, NYC in a performance of *Violin Concerto No. 2* by Serge Prokofiev. The

concert was conducted by James DePriest.

December 12 - 14: Julianna Peebles will be playing at the South Hills Assembly in their Christmas production of "Once Upon A Holy Night".

On Dec 13, 6 PM: Laura Lockard will be playing chamber music at the annual Friends of Old Economy Village fundraising dinner. Tickets may be obtained by calling OEV in Ambridge.

December 14 at 7:00 PM: Craig Johnson will perform with the Choir of St. John the Evangelist Church in Altoona for their Christmas concert.

December 14th: Olivia DeSimone and Julianna Peebles will play at the Children's Museum at 2:30.

Dec 14: Laura Lockard will be playing at the Depreciation Lands Museum Settlers' Christmas and Colonial Market. Experience Christmas through the eyes of the early residents of the Depreciation Lands. Plan to shop for lovely hand-crafted period gifts at the Colonial Market. The event runs from 1:00 - 5:00PM in Allison Park, PA, just off of Route 8.

December 14, 2008 at 2:30 PM harp students of Gretchen Van Hoesen will present a studio recital at the PNC Recital Hall, Duquesne University. Jordana Kleiner, Sunha Lee, Jessica Ding, Hannah Stater, Hannah Piston, Sierra Pastel, Lana Greenawald, Robert Randazzo and Yi Wen Chang are scheduled to perform solos and ensemble music. All harp chapter members are invited to attend this free recital.

December 4 - 21, 2008: Katie Ventura will perform with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera's production of Charles Dickens's classic tale set to your favorite yuletide carols. Don't miss *A*

Musical Christmas Carol at the Byham Theater. Tickets are available by phone at 412-456-6666, on the web at PittsburghCLO.org or at the Box Office at Theater Square.



Katherine Redlus

Olivia DeSimone and Julianna Peebles, students of Lucy Scandrett, will be performing *The Nutcracker* with the CAPA Symphony Orchestra and Pittsburgh Youth Ballet. The concerts will be at Upper St. Clair High School, December 6th - 7th and at CAPA High School, December 19th - 20th.

December 20, 2008, at 3:00 PM: Heidi VH Gorton will perform in the Holiday Pops Concerts with the Hartford Symphony and at 8:00 PM at Mortensen Hall in the Bushnell Center.

December 21 at 4:00 PM: Craig Johnson will perform *Carols and Lullabies - Christmas in the Southwest* by Conrad Susa at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church.

December 24: Craig Johnson will again be playing for two

services at Beulah Presbyterian Church, in Churchill.

December 24, 2008: At 8:30 PM Julia Ann Scott will play a half hour prelude of Christmas Carols at the St. John Mark Lutheran Church in Homestead.

December 24, 2008: At 10:30 PM Julia Scott will perform Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols with the Choir of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Hampton Street in Highland Park during the Prelude to that Evening Mass. Miss Scott will also perform a classical harp solo during the Communion of the Mass.

December 25, 2008, at 11:00 AM: Julia Ann Scott will play for the Prelude and Special Music at Christmas Mass at St. Alexis Catholic Church in Wexford, Pa.

January 1, 2009: Suzanne looks forward to a decade of playing New Year's Day at the Duquesne Club in their downstairs landing by the grand staircase. Happy New Year!

January 10 - 12, 2009: Katie Ventura will play 2nd harp in Iberia Images for Orchestra, No. 2, by Debussy in Lincoln Theater, Miami Beach, FL with the New World Symphony, Robert Spano conducting.

January 16-17, 2008: Julia Ann Scott will perform Second Harp with the Pittsburgh Symphony at Heinz Hall in John Adams' *On the Transmigration of Souls*, conducted by the composer.

February 2, 2009 at 4 PM: Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton will present a (free of charge) solo harp recital at Michael Paul Hall at the Juilliard School of Music in NYC. This senior recital is in partial fulfillment for the Bachelor of Music degree in harp performance. Heidi will perform *Pièce Symphonique* by Renié, *Spanish Dance #1*, *La Vida Breve* by deFalla,

Fugue in d minor by J.S. Bach, *Fantaisie* by Camille Saint Saens for Violin and Harp, *Sonata No. 1, Op. 16* for Harp by Johann Baptist Krumpholtz and *Sonata for Harp* by Pierick Houdy.

February 15, 2009: Sierra Pastel and Lana Greenawald will perform *Appalachian Spring* by Copland at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland with the Duquesne University Symphony under conductor Jeffrey Turner.

February 28, 2009 at 2:00 PM Sierra Pastel and Lana Greenawald will perform at Heinz Hall with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra in *The Three Cornered Hat* by Manuel deFalla. The concert will be conducted by Music Director Daniel Meyer.

March, 2009, Gretchen Van Hoesen, Principal Harpist of the Pittsburgh Symphony, and Louis Lev, Acting Principal 2nd Violinist of the Pittsburgh Symphony, will present a recital of music for violin and harp at Smithfield Church of Christ (downtown Pittsburgh). Solo works for harp will be featured along with works for violin and harp by Andres, Massenet, Rajna, Saint Saens and others. Exact date and time TBA.



Don't forget to check our Pittsburgh Chapter website at <http://www.whiterose.net/~harpist/AHS/Home.html> for newly updated membership forms!

HARP SOCIETY INVITED TO PERFORM FOR TIFFANY CONCERT SERIES IN 2009

Our chapter will perform at the Tiffany Series at Calvary Methodist Church on the North Side on April 26, 2009 at 4:00 PM. Don't miss this exciting event featuring our chapter members.

SPRING 2009 CHAPTER RECITAL TO BE HELD IN MEMBER'S HOME IN SHALER

Our chapter recital will be presented in the private residence of Laura Lockhard in May of 2009. All members are invited to perform! There will also be a brief business meeting, followed by a historical presentation by Laura Lockhard, showcasing her original Erard and Erat single-action harps from the early 1800's. Call Debbie Vallin, the Recital chairperson at (724) 794-1374 or email: dcmv@zoominternet.net

PLANS UNDERWAY TO BRING JAZZ HARPIST PARK STICKNEY TO PITTSBURGH

We are still working with the Manchester Craftman's Guild to bring harpist Park Stickney to Pittsburgh to present a solo jazz recital, likely to be held sometime in the 2009/10 year.

PITTSBURGH CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY OFFICERS

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