

20 March 2011



Chapter Newsletter

Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society

AHS Concert Artist Recital

On Sunday, April 17, at 5:30 pm, AHS Concert Artist Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton will present a harp recital in Alumni Concert Hall at Carnegie Mellon University. The National American Harp Society as well as our own Pittsburgh Chapter will help sponsor this exciting event. She will perform works by Houdy, Tournier, Agocs, Guridi, Parish-Alvars, Lizotte, Damase and DeFalla. Her mother, chapter president Gretchen Van Hoesen, will perform two duos along with Heidi. Tickets (\$15 Adult and \$10 Student/Senior) will be available at the door. The recital is free to Carnegie Mellon University students and faculty.



Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton

Heidi will present a lecture and master class on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at Carnegie Mellon University in room 102. The lecture will include topics such as injury prevention, motivation, practice tips, and how to make practicing "fun." The enclosed registration form should be filled out and returned to Gretchen Van Hoesen by April 1, 2011. Each student performing in the class will receive a minimum of twenty minutes time with Heidi in the master class.

The chapter is hard at work organizing publicity, programs, reception, and hall decorations in advance of the master class and recital. Please call the Co-Chairs of this event, Gretchen Van Hoesen (412-247-3916) or Becky Yuille (724-453-1292),

to volunteer your efforts in helping to make the event a success. Help create an audience by bringing your family, friends, and neighbors to hear the program. Please contact Lucy Scandrett, chair of the reception committee, to volunteer to bring items for the post-concert reception.

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Annual Meeting and Recital

Members of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society are invited to perform in the Annual Members Recital on May 1, 2011 at 3:30 PM at Duquesne University, Mary Pappert School of Music in the PNC Recital Hall. Please fill out the enclosed registration form if you are interested in playing and return it by the April 15 deadline to Vanessa Young, Chairperson of this event. All members are welcome to share their talents on their instruments with any music they would like to play. There will be a brief business meeting prior to the recital at which the Certificates of Participation in the Music Education Evaluations for 2011 will be presented.

Music Education Evaluations a Success

Congratulations to all members of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the AHS who completed both sessions of the Music Education Evaluations. **Sophia Sunha Lee, Michelle Sunjoo Lee, Vanessa Young, Eliana Felder, Erica Driscoll, Hannah Piston, Natalie Severson, Haley Hoffman, Avery Turley** and **Dana Schneider** performed for the judges on February 12 and March 12, 2011. These students completed the theory tests on February 12 and received excellent written and oral advice about their playing from the judges at both sessions.

At our May 1st meeting and Chapter Recital, each student will be presented with a beautiful certificate of participation signed by the chair of the National Music Education program, William Lovelace, the President of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Gretchen Van Hoesen, and by Delaine Fedson, President of the National American Harp Society. Thank you to our judges, Marina Di Pretoro Lupinacci and Robert Frankenberry, and thank you to Carnegie Mellon for the use of room A-2 and for the use of the concert grand style 23 harp.

Congratulations to...

Dana Schneider for winning the Pittsburgh Concert Society Young Artists competition. Dana received a cash award and was featured in a recital at Kresge Recital Hall of Carnegie Mellon University on February 27, where she performed works by Tournier, Handel, and Debussy. A senior at Seneca Valley High School, Dana will study harp in college this fall.

Sarah Stern, the new Principal Harp of the Orquesta Filarmónica in Santiago de Chile. She will begin her first season with the orchestra in April, where she will play in subscription concerts, operas, and ballets. Sarah has also been invited to return for the fourth year to the Britten Pears Festival in Aldeburgh, England (Britten's home town), to perform Britten's opera *Albert Herring* in October.

Michelle Sunjoo Lee, who won first place in the Three Rivers Young Peoples' Orchestra Concerto Competition. She will be the featured soloist performing the Dittersdorf Concerto with the orchestra under the direction of John Wilcox on May 8, 2011, at 7:00 PM, Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland.

Katie Ventura, who won the harp position in the Pacific Music Festival 2011, which will take place in Sapporo, Japan from July 9 to August 4, 2011. She will perform with the orchestra, attend master classes and tour to Osaka and Tokyo, all expenses paid! Following a competitive audition Katie also won the Associate Position with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago led by Principal Conductor Cliff Colnot. She will begin work with them in the fall of 2011. In addition, she will be performing in Ravel's *La Valse* and *Alborado del Gracioso* with the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, FL on April 9 and 10 with conductor Stephane Deneve.



Dana Schneider

Michelle Sunjoo Lee, Hannah Piston, Dana Schneider and **Avery Turley**, who competed in the Duquesne University Young Artist Awards on Friday, March 4, 2011.

Julia Scott, Craig Johnson, Becky Yuille and **Helen Rudd** of HarpFX, who received an excellent review of the Butler Symphony's Christmas concert in the Dec 6th edition of Butler Eagle newspaper. Critic Leanne Heaton wrote: "*Three French Carols*, arranged for harps and small orchestra by the leader of the harp consort Julia Scott, were a revelation. Her arrangements were not only imaginative but beautiful. The carols took on new luster with Scott's interpretation and the group's wonderful playing." and "HarpFX performed *Three Gentlemen's Carols* to the pleasure of the audience. Scott again proved to be an excellent arranger with creative variations..the diversity of playing techniques produced and amazing diversity of sound from the eight harps."

Thank You!

Denise Ventura for hosting this year's Holiday Pot-Luck party at her home on January 23. All who attended enjoyed good food and had a good time. Chapter members watched the Steelers in their last play-off game before the Super bowl!

Sierra Pastel for helping move harps and coordinating warm-up times during the Duquesne University Young Artist competition.

For Sale

Lyon and Healy Style 85 Petite in natural finish. Made in 2004. Includes travel cover set and harp dolly. Big rich sound. \$10,000. Contact Nanette (703) 922-7686 or gharpist@aol.com.

Member News

Miscellaneous

The first courses are available at ARS Musica Conservatory! ARS Musica Conservatory is the online resource for harpists of all levels who want to improve their harp and musicianship skills. You can listen to free podcasts about techniques for improving your practice, your music reading or other "Learning Music From the Inside" skills. There are downloadable, printable "harp-work" homework courses that are three weeks worth of practice on the techniques outlined in the podcasts. Also there are free articles on harp-related topics. More courses will be coming soon! ARS Musica Conservatory is on the web at arsmusica.us.

SPARX (Joan Sparks and **Anne Sullivan**) flute and harp duo and composer Chuck Holdeman have launched a commissioning project. The duo has commissioned Chuck to write a sonata for them, but the steps of the process and the progress of the piece are being posted on YouTube for others to watch and to comment on. The videos available at this point are of the first movement and a fragment of the second movement. There are also videos that discuss various performance difficulties in the work and questions of balance and length. (There is also a great moment of fixing the harp part where a small change makes all the difference!) Viewers' feedback is most welcome! The videos are online at www.youtube.com/anneharpmusic.

Stephanie Miller is offering members of Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society 1/2 off their first Vibroacoustic Harp Therapy session. Vibroacoustic Harp Therapy (VAHT) is a non-pharmaceutical way to alleviate anxiety, stress, and chronic pain including Fibromyalgia. Benefits of VAHT are usually felt within the first 20 minutes of the session. Sessions vary from 1/2 hour to an hour in length. To schedule an appointment for the unique therapy please call 412-445-2760 or email Stephanie at stephanie@musicforlifepgh.com. For more information please see Stephanie's website www.musicforlifepgh.com. Schedule your first session today or give the gift of VAHT for the harp music lovers in your life!

December 2010

December 12 – **Nadina Bembic**, **Julia Ann Scott**, and **Rebecca Yuille** performed in a concert to benefit the Mooncrest Community Center. The concert, emceed by Pat Jennings, was held at Robert Morris University in Moon Township. Mark Lang, Molly Rae, Renate Sakins, Cinquefoil, the Duquesne University Flute Choir and soprano Desirée Soteres, a finalist in the International Pavarotti competition also performed.

January 2011

January 5 – **Rick LeBeau** played at the Duquesne Club for the 80th birthday luncheon for Nadine Bognar. Mrs. Bognar is a patron of the Pittsburgh Opera and other local performing arts organizations.

February 2011

February 12 – **Julia Ann Scott** performed as principal harp with the Duquesne University Symphony Orchestra for Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* at Carnegie Music Hall.

February 17 – **Julia Ann Scott** doubled as principal harp with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in Faure's *Cantique de Jean Racine*. She also played second harp in the fifth movement of Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*. Manfred Honeck conducted the Music of the Spirit concert held in St. Paul's Cathedral, Oakland.

February 24 – PYSO harpists **Dana Schneider** and **Hannah Piston** were invited by "Friends of the Pittsburgh Symphony" to perform duos and solos in the Regency Room at Heinz Hall.

February 27 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen** recorded *Vanished World*, a trio for flute, harp, and viola by David Stock with flutist Alberto Almarza and violist Marylene Gingras Roy. The trio was recorded in PNC Recital Hall at Duquesne University. The CD will be released in the fall.

February 28 – The Youngstown State University Symphony Orchestra gave a performance of Debussy's *Nocturnes* with **Julia Ann Scott** as Principal Harp.

March 2011

March 5&6 – The Mid-Atlantic Harp Festival took place at Providence Baptist Church in McLean, VA.



Richard LeBeau

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March 6 – **Eliana Felder** performed several harp solos as well as a duo with her sister Viti, a violinist, at the Pittsburgh Music Academy Recital.

March 8 - at 2:45 PM, **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** presented a solo recital for Pittsburgh Symphony South Association at Atria's Restaurant in Mt. Lebanon. She performed works by Houdy, Agocs Tournier, Bach, Donizetti, Ortiz and a traditional Scottish reel.

March 12 – **Dana Schneider** performed live on the "Saturday Light Brigade" radio program, hosted by Larry Berger at the Children's Museum. She played Tournier's *Vers La Source Dans Le Bois* and Handel's *Prelude and Toccata*.

March 13 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen** and **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** performed with the Duquesne University Orchestra in the Pittsburgh premiere of David Cutler's *Toy Fantasy*, a double harp concerto under the direction of the composer.

March 18 – **Vanessa Young** and **Natalie Severson** were featured in the Carnegie Mellon University Collage concert. They performed *Parvis*, a harp duo by Bernard Andres.

March 20 – **Julia Ann Scott** will perform as Principal Harp in the Duquesne University Symphony Band concert. Maslanka's *Symphony No. 4* will be performed. 8pm, Carnegie Music Hall.

March 20 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will host a master class in her home at 4pm. Please contact her if you wish to attend.

March 25 – **Nuiko Wadden** will perform in concert with Barbara O'Brien, principal flutist of the Pittsburgh Opera orchestra at 7pm in the Opera building at 2425 Liberty Ave (strip district). The program will include music by Damase, Schaposhnikov, Andriessen, Ibert and Gaubert. Free.

March 25 – at 8pm **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will perform Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* with the Pittsburgh Camerata under guest music director Larry Allen. Also on the program will be the *Holocaust Canata: Songs from the Camps* by McCollough. This concert will take place at Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church. It will be repeated on March 26 at Sixth Presbyterian Church at 8pm, and at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on April 2 at 8pm.

March 27 – **Natalie Severson** will present a solo recital at Carnegie Mellon University's Kresge Recital Hall at 5pm. She will perform works by Palmer, Grandjany, Glière and C.P.E. Bach. All chapter members are invited to attend this free of charge recital.

April 2011

April 5 - **Stephanie Miller**, CMP, VAHTP, is giving a presentation and demonstration of Vibroacoustic Harp Therapy at the Sewickley Public Library at 7pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

April 8 – **Julia Ann Scott** will perform as Principal Harp for the Duquesne University Opera productions of *Soeur Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi* at 8 pm in Carnegie Music Hall. The performance will be repeated at 2pm on April 10.

April 10 – At 4pm, the Pittsburgh Youth Harp Ensemble will present "Harps in Bloom" for the Tiffany music series at Calvary United Methodist Church, North Side. The ensemble will be conducted by Dale Hertrick. Chapter members performing in the concert are **Alexis Balog** and **Rebecca Pfingstl**.

April 12 – Horn and Harp faculty recital by **Lucy Scandrett** and Dr. John Scandrett. DiCicco Hall, Indiana University of PA, 8pm.

April 12 – **Julia Ann Scott** will perform Handel's *Concerto in B-flat* with the Tuesday Musical Club Symphony Orchestra at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Highland Park. 12pm.

April 16 – **Craig Johnson** and **Julia Ann Scott** will accompany the Butler Symphony for a performance of Holst's *The Planets*, Elizabeth Heath Charles conducting.

April 17 – **Julia Ann Scott** will perform with student Emily Hayes in a benefit concert to combat malaria in Haiti at the Harrisville Presbyterian Church.

April 19 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will present her graduate recital at Michael Paul Hall at the Juilliard School of Music. This recital is in partial fulfillment of the Master of Music degree. 4pm.

April 30 – SPARX (Joan Sparks, flute; **Anne Sullivan**, harp) will perform a concert with Coro Allegro at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Wilmington DE. Works to be performed include *Sappho's Raft* by Carnahan, *L'Historie du Tango* by Piazzolla, and *Bilitis* by Debussy.

April 30 – At 5pm, **Erica Driscoll** will present a solo recital at Carnegie Mellon University's Alumni Concert Hall. This recital is a requirement for the completion of a Master's degree in music. Erica will perform works by Jolivet, Renié, Marin and others. Flutist Emma Neisl will join her for the Shaposhnikov Sonata for flute and harp. All chapter members are invited to attend this free of charge recital.

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May 2011

May 1 – PYSO harpists **Hannah Piston** and **Dana Schneider** will perform Tchaikovsky's *Pas de Deux* and Barber's *School for Scandal Overture* with the PYSO in their spring concert. 5pm, Heinz Hall, Lawrence Loh directing.

May 1 – **Anne Sullivan** will perform Debussy's *Dances Sacrée et Profane* with the University of Delaware Chamber Orchestra at 8pm in Gore Recital Hall at the Roselle Center for the Arts. More details can be found at music.udel.edu.

May 7 – At 10:30am, **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will present a master class at the home of **Hannah Piston** in Hermitage, PA. All students of Ms. Van Hoesen are expected to participate. Lunch will be served, followed by a trip to the Piston family farm.

May 8 – **Hannah Stater** and **Michelle Sunjoo Lee** will perform in the TRYPO Spring Concert, 7pm, Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland.

May 8 – Mother's Day concert given by students of **Lucy Scandrett** at the Church of the Ascension. All are invited to attend the concert consisting of solo and ensemble works. A reception will follow the 2pm performance.

May 15 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will present a recital for the Metro New York Chapter of the AHS. Time and location TBD.

May 17 – **Julia Ann Scott** will present a solo recital for members of the Pittsburgh Symphony North Association at the Treesdale Country Club. The recital is not open to the public.

May 23 – PSO musicians **Gretchen Van Hoesen** and Louis Lev will present a recital of works for harp and violin for the concert series at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2040 Washington Rd, Upper St. Clair. The duo will perform works by Hahn, Marin, Piazzola and others. 7:30 pm. A free will offering at the door is encouraged.

June 2011

June – Beginning in June and continuing into July, **Dana Schneider** and **Hannah Piston** will accompany the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony on its tour to Italy. They will perform at the Festival Ultrapadum, San Gimignano, Montecatini and S. Stefane al Ponte. The orchestra will also tour to Milan, Venice, Terme Tettuccio, Pisa, Lucca, Florence, Rome and Pompei.

June 12 — 7:30pm, Temple Emanuel, "The Dybbuk" concert: **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will perform with the Pittsburgh Jewish Music Festival and will record several works for harp with cello, violin and piano. The performance will be repeated on June 13 at Rodef Shalom, 7:30pm.

June 19 – At 7pm, **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will perform a solo recital for the opening of the National AHS Conference at Winspear Hall in the University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

July 2011

July 17 – 23 – "Harp in the Mountains" summer festival. This year's theme is "Making Your Own Kind of Music." Learn a wide range of music from different cultures around the world. Intense ensemble work, practice tips, and fun! For more information go to annesullivanharp.com.

July 24 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will perform Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* with the Sun Valley Summer Symphony Festival orchestra. She will perform two additional concerts at the festival on July 29 and August 1.

July 29 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will perform a solo recital during the World Harp Congress in Vancouver, BC. 4:30 pm, location TBD.

August 2011

August 1-7 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will perform at the Strings Music Festival in Steamboat Springs, CO. She will play Berio's *Folk Songs*, Hallman's *Alice*, and *Elements* by Thomas, under the baton of festival director Andres Cardenes.

August 7-14 – Advanced Chamber Music Seminar Camp at Shadyside Academy, Fox Chapel, PA. **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will teach at the camp this summer, coaching harpists in various chamber works. To register for the camp go to www.chambermusicpro.com.



Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton and Gretchen Van Hoesen

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Harp Joke

A harp string walks into a bar with a few harp friends and orders a beer. The bartender says, "I'm sorry, but we don't serve harp strings here."

The harp string walks away a little upset and sits down with its harp friends. A few minutes later the harp string goes back to the bar and orders a beer. The bartender, looking a little exasperated, says, "I'm sorry, we don't serve harp strings here!"

So the harp string goes back to the table. Then it gets an idea! The harp string ties its self in a loop and messes up the top of its hair. Then it walks back up to the bar and orders a beer.

The bartender squints, and says, "Hey, aren't you a harp string?"

And the harp string says, "Nope, I'm a frayed knot."

