

Chapter Newsletter

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Pittsburgh Welcomes Bridget Kibbey

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society along with Carnegie Mellon University will co-sponsor outstanding harpist Bridget Kibbey in a solo harp recital on November 14, 2010 at 5:30 PM in Alumni Concert Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. Tickets will be available at the door and our chapter will host a reception immediately following the recital. Bridget Kibbey will also present a master class on November 13, 2010 beginning at approximately 9 AM continuing into the afternoon. All chapter members wishing to perform in the master class should fill out the enclosed registration form and send it along with a 50-75 word bio and check made out to the Pgh. Chapter of the AHS to Gretchen Van Hoesen by the deadline of October 20. A concert grand style 23 harp will be provided for use in the class by chapter members. Chapter members may audit the class if they prefer to listen rather than perform. Please consider volunteering to help with the organization of this event by calling Gretchen Van Hoesen at 412-247-3916.



Hot Pink

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society will be a featured performing group for “Hot Pink” at the Byham Theater. Harpists Erica Driscoll, Sierra Pastel, Natalie Severson, Natalie Stafford, Gretchen Van Hoesen and Vanessa Young will open the program by performing *La Joyeuse* by Rameau/Salzedo, *Two Rags* by Joplin/Pack, and *We Share a Bond* by Lucas Richman. Composer Lucas Richman just completed this new arrangement *We Share A Bond* for multiple harps, chorus and soprano soloist. Laura Very will be the soloist with the Oakland Girls Chorus and the chapter harpists. This 10th Anniversary concert is sponsored by Adagio Health and is a fundraiser for breast cancer in Pittsburgh. Celebrity speakers Sally Wiggin and Max Starks will be co-hosts. Tickets are available at the door or by going online to Adagio Health Pittsburgh. Contact Vanessa Young or Gretchen Van Hoesen for more details.

Music Education Auditions

Music Education Auditions are scheduled for February 12 and March 12 in room A-12, in the College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University. Adjudicators will be announced in an upcoming newsletter.

The Audition and Evaluation Program of the AHS was started in 1969 by Lucien Thompson. Two performance times are held one month apart in front of two adjudicators who have comment sheets provided by the AHS. Students are given comments based upon their tone, interpretation, memory, rhythm, and stage presence. Each student will have 10 minutes to perform two pieces of contrasting style and then will have 5 minutes to speak with the adjudicators. Etudes are also acceptable. Students are encouraged to use the comments they receive in February, as well as comments from their individual harp teachers, to improve their performance for the second evaluation in March. Students must bring copies of their music for each of the judges for every session. Also, students should bring the original comments they received from the adjudicators to the second session so that the adjudicators will have a basis for comparison. A third piece may be added to the second session. Students are encouraged to stay and listen to as many other participants as possible during both auditions. The focus of the program is on IMPROVEMENT that can be made by participating on both days. This is

not a competition, and there are no prizes awarded. Participants come specifically to be heard and to hear one another. A written theory test will be given to all students to complete during the first session. There will be three levels from which to choose. Please allow enough time to finish the test (about thirty minutes) in addition to playing and discussion time with the adjudicators. A Lyon and Healy concert grand harp will be available for use as well as a troubadour harp. Harpists who complete both sessions of the Music Education Evaluations will receive a beautiful certificate of participation signed by William Lovelace, Chair of the Music Education Committee, by Delaine Fedson, President of the National American Harp Society, and by Gretchen Van Hoesen, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society.

Harp Technicians Visit the Area

Jason Azem, Production Manager of Lyon & Healy Harps, will visit Pittsburgh the week of October 11. To schedule a regulation with Jason, please contact Lucy Scandrett at 412-491-6555.

Tom Bell will be in town the week of October 18 at the Monroeville Day's Inn. To schedule an appointment with Tom, call Scott Baker at 330-687-5034.

Upcoming Events

January 23, 5:30pm: Holiday Potluck Party. Join your fellow chapter members and ring in the New Year in style! Location to be determined.

April 17: Recital by AHS Concert Artist Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton. Details to follow.

May 1: Chapter Recital and business meeting. This year's recital will feature flute/harp duos. More on this in an upcoming newsletter.

Welcome New Members!

The Chapter cordially welcomes the following new members: Nadina Bembic, Diane Coughlan, Erica Driscoll, James Krebs and Natalie Stafford!

Congratulations...

...to Hannah Piston, who won a position in the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony by audition last spring.

...to Hannah Stater and Sunjoo Lee, who were accepted by audition into the Three Rivers Young Peoples' Orchestra.

...to Jessica Ding, who placed second in the Young Artists International Harp Competition in Rabun Gap, GA on July 9. She performed Glinka's *Nocturne*, Nadermann's *Toccata* and Hasselmans *Petite Valse*. Jessica received a cash prize and performed in the winners' recital on July 10.

...to Dana Schneider, who won a \$100 prize for leadership for her participation in the 2010 Advanced Chamber Music Seminar at Shadyside Academy.

...to Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton, who won the Anne Adams award on July 1 at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA. She won a \$2000 scholarship, a \$500 gift certificate from Lyon and Healy, and a specially designed award. Her name will be engraved on a permanent plaque in the Lyon and Healy showroom.

Member News

Notes:

- *The next newsletter is scheduled for December 1. News deadline is November 22.*
- *Only news pertaining to chapter members can be published.*

Miscellaneous

- **Anne Sullivan** is launching "ARS Musica Conservatory," a website designed to help good harpists become better musicians. Ms. Sullivan taught ear training and music theory at the Curtis Institute of Music, and is an expert in teaching harpists to use those concepts in their everyday practice to improve their sight reading and music learning skills. In addition to being able to download all of Ms. Sullivan's ear training materials and articles, harpists will be able to hear free podcasts on various ear-training subjects and download practice regimens to improve their skills. Beginning October 20, the podcasts and practice regimens will be available on arsmusica.us and on the ARS Musica facebook page.
- **Stephanie Miller** is excited to be offering Vibroacoustic Harp Therapy sessions at Health Alternatives of Sewickley. For more on VAHT visit the website: www.musicforlifepgh.com/vaht.htm. To schedule an appointment email Stephanie at Stephanie@musicforlifepgh.com or call 412-445-2760.
- Harp in the Mountains Summer Festival had another successful week of harp ensemble, performances and fun. Students attended from Pennsylvania and Virginia. The opening concert featured Jan Mianulli, mezzo-soprano, and **Anne Sullivan**, harp, in a program with music ranging from Brahms to Gershwin. The closing concert included premieres of two ensemble arrangements by Anne, soon to be available for download on harpmusicdownloads.com. Other highlights of the week were a trip to Penn's Cave, homemade pizza night, mountain hiking and an "Apples to Apples" marathon. See the photos on the Festival page on arsmusica.us.

July 2010

July 2 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton**, as AHS Concert Artist and winner of the Anne Adams award, performed the opening recital for the National AHS conference at the Venice Ballroom in the Hotel Murano, Tacoma WA. She presented the premier of a chamber work entitled *Mendocino* for harp with clarinet, flute and string quartet by Robert Litton as well as solo harp works by Agócs, Ravel, Damase, and Salzedo.

July 15 – As a result of Winning 1st prize in the Junior division of the AHS National competition in Salt Lake City in 2009, **Jessica Ding** performed in the "Stars of Tomorrow" concert during the USA International Competition in Bloomington, IN on July 15. She performed works by Watkins, Hasselmans, Glinka, and Naderman.

July 17 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** presented a solo harp recital as part of the Penn Alps Series in Cumberland, MD. In addition to solo works, pianist Rodrigo Ojeda accompanied Heidi in two works for harp and piano.

August 2010

August 6 – Harpists **Alexis Balog**, **Olivia DeSimone**, Conor Dugan, **Rebecca Mitchell**, Laura Owsiany, **Rebecca Pfingstl**, and **Lucy Scandrett** performed during the National Conference of the National Federation of Music Clubs. The ensemble presented a varied program of classical works, folk songs, traditional melodies and popular music for the recital at the Airport Marriott.

August 9-15 – **Hannah Piston** and **Dana Schneider** attended the Advanced Chamber Music Seminar at Shadyside Academy, where they had daily coachings with **Gretchen Van Hoesen** and other members of the Pittsburgh Symphony. They performed in a final concert on the 15th at Hillman Theater at Shadyside Academy. Hannah performed Ibert's *Entra'acte* and Mascagni's *Intermezzo* for harp and strings. Dana performed the *Garden of Adonis* by Hovhanness and Debussy's *Danse Sacrée* for harp and strings.

September 2010

September 3 – **Richard LeBeau** was presented with a new Lyon and Healy style 23 harp during his birthday party at Mannerchor Teutonia, Northside. Rick and **Gretchen Van Hoesen** both performed on this harp for about 80 guests. Congratulations and Happy Birthday, Rick!

September 4 and 5 – **Hannah Stater** and **Sunjoo Lee** attended the Three Rivers Young Peoples' Orchestra retreat at Bethany College.

September 12 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen** held a harp masterclass at her home. **Sunha Lee**, **Sierra Pastel**, **Hannah Piston**, **Dana Schneider**, **Natalie Severson**, Natalie Stafford, Sarah Stern, **Avery Turley** and **Vanessa Young** performed solos at the class. Also in attendance were Erica Driscoll, Elden Gatwood, **Carol Henley**, **Suzanne Hershey** and **Hannah, Brent and Molly Stater**.

September 15 – **Natalie Severson**, **Erica Driscoll**, **Vanessa Young** and **Natalie Stafford** performed Mahler's *Symphony No. 6* under the baton of Ronald Zollman at Soldiers and Sailors Hall. The concert was repeated on September 16 at Upper St. Clair High School.

September 18 – **Lucy Scandrett** performed with the Johnstown Symphony as Principal Harpist for their "Opera Gala" concert at the Pasquerella Performing Arts Center. The orchestra, under the baton of Istvan Jary, performed favorite opera arias by Dvorak, Handel, Puccini, and Offenbach.

September 18 – As the AHS Concert Artist, **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** performed a solo harp recital at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church in Dewitt, NY. She played works by Damase, Salzedo, Bach, Houdy, Agócs, and Ortiz. Heidi also presented a masterclass for local harpists prior to the recital. She will also perform solo recitals in Nashville on October 24, New Orleans on November 5, San Francisco on November 12, Los Angeles on November 14, and New York on May 15.

September 19 – **Lucy Scandrett** gave a solo recital for the Narthex Music Series for the First Presbyterian Church in Wheeling, WV. The recital included works by Pescetti, Fauré, Grandjany and Salzedo.

September 22 – Officers and board members of the Pittsburgh Chapter met at Panera Bread in Oakland.

September 25 – **Suzanne Hershey** played for the Carlow College Alumnae Luncheon at the St. Agnes Center from noon until 3pm.

September 26 – **Hannah Piston** performed a solo harp recital comprised of works by Benzecry, Debussy, Dittersdorf, and Parry at the Sharpsville Historical Society. Pianist Anthony Ruggiero accompanied Hannah and presented some solo piano works.

October 2010

October 3 – **Lucy Scandrett** will host Alfredo Rolando Ortiz for a workshop and recital at the North American Martyrs Church in Monroeville. The workshops begin at 11 am. The recital will begin at 5pm with a reception to follow.

October 4 – **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will perform as Principal Harpist in the Bloch *Suite for Viola and Orchestra* with the Juilliard Orchestra at Lincoln Center in New York under conductor David Effron. 8pm.

October 5 – At 8pm, **Vanessa Young** will perform Bartok's *Music for Strings, Percussion and Celeste* under the direction of Ronald Zollman with the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic at Carnegie Music Hall.

October 16 – **Hannah Piston** will perform the first movement of the Dittersdorf *Concerto for Harp* with the Greenville Symphony under the direction of Michael Gelfand. The concert will take place at Passavant Auditorium, Thiel College, and will be repeated on October 19 at 11am. Hannah will also perform *Alwa* for solo harp by Benzecry.

October 21 – **Rebecca Pfingstl**, Principal Harpist of CAPA, will perform with the orchestra for the production of *Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber at the Byham Theater at 10am and 7:30pm. Other performances are scheduled for 10am and 7:30pm on October 22, 7:30pm on October 23, and 2pm on October 24.

October 24 – **Sierra Pastel** will perform the first movement of the Handel *Concerto in B flat, Op. 6, No. 4* with the Squeebo Chamber Orchestra at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 363 West 11th Ave. in Homestead. 3pm, admission is free. The concert is open to the public.

October 24 – 4pm. **Dana Schneider** and **Hannah Piston** will be featured artists in the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony chamber concert as part of the Tiffany series at Calvary Methodist Church, Northside. Hannah will perform Ibert's *Entra'acte* with flute, and Dana will play Debussy's *Danses Sacrée et Profane* with strings. Together they will perform Debussy's *Clair de Lune* for harp duo.

October 31 – **Lucy Scandrett**, Principal Harpist of the McKeesport Symphony, will perform with the orchestra at 2:30pm at the McKeesport High School.

November 2010

November 2 – **Lucy Scandrett** and Emily Baroody will perform during the Kristallnacht Service for the Holocaust Center of Seton Hill University at 6pm. The performance will be in St. Joseph's Chapel.

November 7 – **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will host a masterclass at her home at 2pm.

November 7 - **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will perform a number of solo works for harp for All Saints Vespers, 7:00 PM at Mt. Lebanon Lutheran Church in the South Hills. This service is in remembrance of church members who have passed on in the previous year.

November 13 – **Lucy Scandrett** will join organist David Billings and tenor Guy Russo for a recital at the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church at 7:30pm.

November 20 – **Suzanne Hershey** will perform during a wine tasting party at the Fox Chapel Golf Club.

November 21 – **Hannah Piston** and **Dana Schneider** will perform Prokofiev's *Symphony No. 5* with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony at Heinz Hall under the baton of Lawrence Loh. 4pm, admission is free.

November 28 – **Lucy Scandrett** will give a solo recital for the Mars Presbyterian Church at 7pm. The recital will follow the Evensong service and is a fundraiser for the organ fund.

December 2010

December 4 – Studio harp recital by students of **Gretchen Van Hoesen** at Alumni Concert Hall, Carnegie Mellon University. Admission is free, all members of the chapter are welcome to attend. 5pm.

December 5 – **Lucy Scandrett** will perform Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* under the direction of Alfred Diegger with the West Liberty University Choir in the university's Interfaith Chapel at 3pm.

December 12 – **Sunjoo Lee** and **Hannah Stater** will perform with the Three Rivers Young Peoples' Orchestra at 7pm in the Carnegie Library of Homestead Music Hall under the direction of John Wilcox. The concert will include works by Strauss, Saint-Saens, Massenet, Copland, and Hanson.

December 12 – **Lucy Scandrett** will perform with her husband Jack (French horn) for the East Union Presbyterian Church in Oakmont for the I am service. They will perform solos and with organist Dane Skroupa.

December 24 – **Lucy Scandrett** will perform with the Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Choir for the 7pm and 10pm services. She will also play solos and chamber works with organist David Billings, violinist Keiko Rushlander and cellist Paula Tuttle.

Chapter Officers and Board Members

Gretchen Van Hoesen—President

Vanessa Young—Vice President

Denise Ventura—Treasurer

Rebecca Yuille—Secretary

Board Members:

April Howsare

Richard LeBeau

Laura Lockard

Cheryl Pfingstl

Lucy Scandrett