

## Information about the Music Education Evaluations

Lucien Thompson, former harp student of Marcel Grandjany, legendary harp educator and founding member of the American Harp Society, started the Music Education Evaluation program for the AHS. The Music Education Evaluation program is extremely beneficial to our chapter, and we strongly encourage all non-professional chapter members to participate in the 2017 program regardless of age or ability. If you are new to the program, following is some background information taken from the AHS website:

“Auditions and Evaluations” is a two-part program for beginning and intermediate harp students sponsored by the American Harp Society. It consists of two auditions held approximately one month apart. We must not confuse our Harp Society “Auditions” with the more common usage of the word audition; for this is not a competition and there are no prizes awarded. Because this is a unique two-part program, the focus is especially on the improvement that can be made by participating on both days.

On the first day, participants play two pieces of their own choosing for an advisor and for one another. A simple theory test is given on the first day. On the second day of the program, about a month later, participants show their improvement by playing the same two pieces again. In addition, they perform a third piece, which they have prepared. Everyone who participates in both Auditions receives a Certificate of Participation from the Music Education Committee of the American Harp Society.

For the first session, each performer should be prepared to announce his/her name and the titles, names of composers and key of each piece being performed. Each participant will have 10 minutes of playing time, followed by 5 minutes to speak with the adjudicator. It is recommended that the performer choose pieces of differing musical styles. Etudes are also acceptable. The adjudicator will offer advice to the participant on how to improve their performance. The participant uses this advice to polish the pieces for the second session. At the second session, each performer will have 15 minutes of playing time and 5 minutes to speak with the adjudicator. The fee for participation is \$15.00, payable to “AHS - Pittsburgh Chapter.” Please enclose the fee along with the attached registration form and mail to:

Gretchen Van Hoesen  
7300 Overton Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15218

The deadline for registration is January 25, 2017. Please be sure to indicate on the form whether you prefer a morning or an afternoon appointment. Also please be sure to print your name exactly as you want it to appear on your certificate. Once all of the registration forms have been received, we will notify you of your appointment time.

Some important things to keep in mind:

If you have not joined the chapter yet, now is a good time to do so! A chapter membership application is included in the attachments.

To give yourself time to warm up, plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your appointment time. If you are bringing your own harp, allow even more time for unloading and tuning. Please allow enough time on the day of the first session to take the theory test, which takes about 15 minutes to complete. Remember that you are being evaluated on the basis of your overall presentation, so please dress appropriately.

Bring an extra copy of your music with you so the adjudicator may follow along. During the second session, you must play the SAME PIECES you played for the first session. You may add an additional piece for the second session if you wish.