

Chapter Newsletter

Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society

CHAPTER STUDENTS PREPARE FOR MUSIC EDUCATION AUDITIONS

The time is fast approaching for this year's music education auditions. The dates are February 13 and March 13. The evaluations will begin in the morning and run into the afternoon at the Fine Arts Building (or Music Building) on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University. It will be held in the lower level, basement Room A-2. Adjudicators this year will be Rodrigo Ojeda, keyboard artist with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and Elizabeth Heath Charles, conductor of the Butler Symphony.

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 style 23 blond 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 Lucy Scandrett, President of the National American Harp Society, and by Gretchen Van Hoesen, President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society.

A registration form is included in this newsletter for anyone wishing to participate. *Please include the correct spelling of your name as you want it to appear on the certificate.* Please return to Gretchen Van Hoesen by Jan. 25, 2010.



NANCY HURRELL IS COMING TO PITTSBURGH!



Put on your dancing shoes - Nancy Hurrell is coming to Pittsburgh on May 1! She is a well-known harpist, harp historian and consultant for the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Alongside a display of her six antique harps, Nancy will present "History of the Harp," a lecture chronicling the harp from ancient times to the present, and a workshop entitled "Renaissance Dance Music for Harp," in which participants not only will learn to play the 16th century music but also to dance the steps! The workshop will be followed by a recital on some of Nancy's historic harps. Don't miss this chance to learn some new music and have fun. Nancy's workshop, harp display and recital will take place in the Alumnae Concert Hall at Carnegie Mellon University. A schedule of events will be published soon. For more on Nancy, visit her website at <http://www.hurrellharp.com/>.

HOLIDAY HARP ENSEMBLE DELIGHTS AUDIENCE

Our bi-annual Holiday Harp Ensemble concert took place on the afternoon of December 5, 2009. A light snow was falling as twenty-two chapter members under the baton of Jeffrey Turner performed seasonal music amid the beautiful decorations in the PPG Wintergarden. Over one hundred people including several chapter members came to the Wintergarden to hear us, and the audience was very appreciative. Celtic Christmas carols from the British Isles, popular holiday songs, and Chanukah tunes were followed by a rousing rendition of "Sleigh Ride" complete with sleigh bells, percussion, and even a horse "whinny" on a trumpet from our conductor!

The following chapter members took part in the holiday performance: **Alexis Balog, Yi-Wen Chang, Jennifer Dickey, Jordana Kleiner, Sunha Lee, Sunjoo Lee, Laura Owsiany, Sierra Pastel, Rebecca Pfingstl, Hannah Piston, Madeline Potter, Robert Randazzo, Tula Ruggiero, Dana Schneider, Natalie Severson, Sandra Smailer, Hannah Stater, Avery Turley, Gretchen Van Hoesen, Philomela Wyble, Vanessa Young, and Rebecca Yuille.**



The 2009 Holiday Harp Ensemble

A light snow fell as chapter members performed seasonal music amid the beautiful decorations in the PPS Wintergarden.

CHAPTER RECITAL AND ANNUAL MEETING

Our fourth annual chapter recital and business meeting will be held on April 17, 2010 at 1pm in the Third Presbyterian Church, 5701 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh 15232. We will begin with our business meeting, follow with our chapter recital, and round it off with an informal reception. This event has been well-attended in the past and can be a great way to get to know other chapter members, hear and learn great harp repertoire, and listen to other members perform. The congregation of the Third Presbyterian Church is invited to attend this year's recital, so let's get as many members as possible participating! In addition to soli, duets and ensembles are particularly welcome to perform. A recital sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter. Please complete and return to Becky Yuille by March 31, 2010.



SECOND ANNUAL POTLUCK PARTY A SEASONAL SUCCESS

The Pittsburgh Chapter Holiday Pot Luck party took place January 11, 2010 at 5:00 pm at the home of chapter president Gretchen Van Hoesen. Great food and fun was had by all. In addition to many old friends, several new members braved the winter weather and attended including **Sandra Smailer, Carol Henley, Natalie Severson, Vanessa Young, and Janet Jai.** We will look forward to the next chapter get together following the Chapter Recital on April 17 and the Nancy Hurrell workshop/recital on May 1.

NOTICE

Notice to all chapter members:

We regret to inform you that the concert which was to be presented by Gretchen Van Hoesen on January 24 at Carnegie Mellon University has been cancelled.



FOR SALE

Lyon and Healy 40 string, mahogany, 2004 85 Petite Pedal Harp in perfect condition. Cover included. Asking price: \$8400.00. Please contact Brenda Schneider at 412-906-4467 or bschneider@zoominternet.net for more information or interest in purchase.

HARP IN THE MOUNTAINS SUMMER FESTIVAL

The 2010 Harp in the Mountains Summer Festival will take place from July 11-17 in Coburn, PA (Centre County). The Festival is a fun and intense harp experience for high school and college age students. The week-long camp, directed by chapter member **Anne Sullivan**, provides the perfect summer opportunity for students to improve their harp and musicianship skills, and enjoy practicing, performing and spending time with other harpists. Application materials, including information about scholarships, will be available by 1/18 on annesullivanharp.com. For further information, email hitmfestival@annesullivanharp.com.

SAVE A TREE!



In the interest of saving our environment (not to mention the savings on printing and postage) some of our members have asked to receive the newsletter by email only. If this is also your preference please contact the chapter secretary. We will be glad to help you save the trees!

MEMBER NEWS

General

- AHS members and pet lovers may be interested to know that a locally produced CD entitled "*Heal Your Heart: Coping with the Loss of a Pet*" is available. The CD, written and produced by Karen Litzinger of Swissvale features music background written by and played on the Celtic harp by **Faith Stenning**. For more information go to www.HealFromPetLoss.com.
- Suzanne Hershey** just rounded up her complete Holiday Season with her annual eight hours at the Duquesne Club where she had big breaks but was totally exhausted by 8:00 pm. She has no public performances lined up yet in 2010 but she did do her lobby thing at Christmastime in the lobby of Oxford Centre. Her daughter, Courtney Hershey Bress for the 2009/2010 season has been doing several teaching sessions at the Eastman School of Music for Kathy Bride who is currently on sabbatical. Courtney who plays for the Denver Symphony, has often been asked to fill in for the Baltimore Orchestra when they have needed a harp.
- In preparation for her upcoming workshop at the Mid-Atlantic Harp Festival on ear-training for harpists called "*Solfege: Learning Music from the Inside*," **Anne Sullivan** is starting a discussion about music theory and ear training study in harp lessons. Whether you're a student, teacher or performer, she would love to hear your thoughts, ideas and questions about this part of music study. You can find the discussion and a link to a brief survey on her facebook page - [ARSmusica](http://www.ARSmusica.com).

August 2009

- SPARX (Joan Sparks, flute and **Anne Sullivan**, harp), presented the Liebermann *Sonata for Flute and Harp* at the National Flute Association Convention in New York City.

October 2009

- October 16 - **Katie Ventura** performed Ravel's *Tzigane* with violinist Jubal Fulks and the Water City Chamber Orchestra, directed by

MEMBER NEWS (CONTINUED)

Jeffery Meyer at 7:30PM in the Oshkosh Music Hall in Oshkosh, WI.

- October 30 - **Anne Sullivan** performed in the New Music Delaware Concert at 8pm at the University of Delaware, Gore Recital Hall.

November 2009

- November 26 - Harpist **Natalie Severson** and violinist Alex Hettinga performed Saint-Saens *Fantasie for Violin and Harp* at Kresge Theater, Carnegie Mellon University.

December 2009

- December 5 - **Craig Johnson** performed with the Butler County Symphony Orchestra in a concert that featured mezzo soprano Marianne Cornetti performing arias by Puccini, Lehar, and Cilea.
- December 7 - **Tula Ruggiero** and **Vanessa Young** performed in a public recital at Rangos Auditorium of Carnegie Mellon University at 7:30pm. Tula played Saint-Saens' *Fantasie for Violin and Harp* with Idil Kucukdogan. Vanessa played Debussy's *Trio for Flute, Viola, and Harp* with flutist Jessica Gist and violist Miti Wisulhumporn.
- December 10 - the Grove City College Harp Ensemble performed for the Carnegie Christmas Concert Series in the Colonnade Room of the Alumni Building on the Grove City Campus. Performers Abigail Van Patter, Brianna Dillon, Bekah Newborn, Rebecca Grafton and **Julia Ann Scott** performed a variety of solos and chamber music. The concert was taped for local distribution in the Grove City area through Armstrong Cable Television. Thanks to **Rebecca Yuille** for her assistance moving harps on that very cold day!
- December 11 – 13 – **Craig Johnson** played for three performances of "*Gloria - A Christmas Experience*" at South Hills Assembly.
- December 13 - Studio class recital by students of Gretchen Van Hoesen at Carnegie Mellon University, Alumni Concert Hall. Congratulations to **Jessica Ding**, **Natalie Severson**, **Avery Turley**, **Hannah Piston**, **Jordana Kleiner**, **Yi-Wen Chang**, **Chelsea Lane**, **Sunjo Lee**, **Jennifer Dickey**, **Dana Schneider**, **Tula Ruggiero**, **Madison Jenkins**, **Sunha Lee**, **Katie Ventura**, **Vanessa Young** and **Rodrigo Ojeda** who performed. A reception for the performers immediately followed the recital.
- December 24 - **Craig Johnson** performed alone and in ensembles with vocal soloists and choir at Beulah Presbyterian Church in Churchill.
- December 25 – **Craig Johnson** played at St. Irenaeus Church in Oakmont for the morning service.
- December 27 - **Gretchen Van Hoesen** and **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** presented a recital at the Pittsford (NY) Library. Works by Parish Alvars, Tournier, Meyer, Nancy Galbraith, and holiday duos were included. Members of the AHS, Rochester Chapter, attended.

January 2010

- January 3 – **Julia Ann Scott** performed *Oratorio de Noel* by Saint-Saens at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Highland Park with the Chancel Choir, organist David Billings and conductor Roger Zahab.
- January 13 & 15 – **Julia Ann Scott** performed as Principal Harp with the Pittsburgh Symphony on the mornings of January 13 and 15th at Heinz Hall, performing Wagner's *Overture to the Flying Dutchman* and the *Fugue* from Britten's *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra* for students in the school system.
- January 14 - Alia Musica, a collective of composer/performers now in its third season, presented its Winter Concert at the Music Building at Chatham College at 7:00 PM. Harpist **Julia Ann Scott** performed in the premieres of Mark Fromm's *The Garden of the Hesperides* for trumpet, bassoon, and harp, and Ivan Jimenez' *Crystal Sculpture* for trumpet, alto flute, bassoon and harp. For more information, please visit: www.alia-musica.org or call Julia Scott at (412) 922-4344.
- January 24 – Congratulations to **Chelsea Lane**, who won the Pittsburgh Concert Society Young Artist Award on January 9, 2010. She won a cash prize and will be featured in a solo recital sponsored by the Pittsburgh Concert Society at Kresge Recital Hall, Carnegie Mellon University at 2pm. Her recital will include *Concertstuck* by Gabriel Pierne with accompaniment by pianist Rodrigo Ojeda and *Nocturne* by Mikhail Glinka.
- January 24 — 6:00 PM: **Yi-Wen Chang** will present a solo harp recital in Kresge Recital Hall at Carnegie Mellon University in partial fulfillment of the Music Education degree. *This is a change from the previous date of January 23.* Yi-Wen will present music by Andres, Bach, Britten, Handel, Hasselmans and Hovhaness. The Pittsburgh Chapter members are cordially invited to attend this free of charge recital.

February 2010

- February 8 and 9 - **Katie Ventura** will perform Ravel's *Introduction and Allegro* with the Chicago College of Performing Arts Orchestra, conducted by Stephen Squires at 7:30 PM in The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University (Feb. 8) and in the Harris Theater, Chicago, IL (Feb. 9).
- February 13 – **Julia Ann Scott** will perform Respighi's *The Birds* with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra at the Palace Theatre in Greensburg at 8 P.M., Kypros Markou conducting.

MEMBER NEWS (CONTINUED)

- February 13 - **Lana Greenawald** will perform John Harbison's *Mary Lou*, William Grant Still's *Symphony No. 1*, and E. Bernstein's *To Kill a Mockingbird* with the Butler Symphony at 7:30 pm in the Butler Intermediate High School.
- February 14 - 3:00 PM: As part of the "Musique On The Bluff: The French Seasons" concert series at Duquesne University, **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will perform Debussy's *Trio for Flute, Viola and Harp* with Randolph Kelly and Damian Bursill-Hall in the PNC Recital Hall, Mary Pappert School of Music. A donation of \$10 is suggested for the concert at the door. Please check the following web address for more information: www.duq.edu/frenchseasons.
- February 19 - The Shade Mountain Winery Chamber Music Series in Middleburg, PA continues with "Classical Cabaret," a concert featuring harpist **Anne Sullivan**, trombonist Paul Leskiewicz and bassist Michael Chaffin. The program features music of Vivaldi, Saint-Saens, Piazzolla, Joplin and others. For concert information, email harpist@annesullivanharp.com or call the winery at (570) 837-3644.
- February 20 - 4:00 PM: Harpists **Chelsea Lane** and **Dana Schneider** will perform Shostakovich's *Violin Concerto* with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony at Heinz Hall under the direction of Lawrence Loh. Admission is free of charge.
- February 21 - 8:00PM: **Lana Greenawald** will perform Toch's *Big Ben* and William Grant Still's *Festive Overture* with the Duquesne University Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in Oakland.

March 2010

- March 6 - **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will present a recital for the Mid Atlantic Harp Festival at 4:00 PM, Sheraton Old Town Alexandria, VA. She will perform solo harp music by Nancy Galbraith, Adam Schoenberg, Gabriel Pierne and Phillipe-Jacques Meyer. In addition, guest artist, Louis Lev, Associate Principal Second Violin with the Pittsburgh Symphony, will perform works by Marin, Kikta, Andres and Rajna with Ms. Van Hoesen.
- March 6 - **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will present a recital for the Mid Atlantic Harp Festival at 7:00 PM, Sheraton Old Town, Alexandria, VA.
- March 13 - **Julia Ann Scott** will perform Copland's *Appalachian Spring* with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra at the Palace Theatre in Greensburg at 8 P.M., Kypros Markou conducting.
- March 28 - 8:00PM: **Lana Greenawald** will perform Ravel's *Rapsodie Espagnole* with the Duquesne University Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in Oakland.

April 2010

- April 15 - **Katie Ventura** will give her masters degree recital at 5:30 PM in Ganz Hall, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL. The program will include works by J.S. Bach, Hindemith, Grandjany, and Bax. Admission is free and reception to follow.
- April 18 - **Tula Ruggiero**, Performance Residency Degree Student at Carnegie Mellon University, will present a solo harp recital at 2pm. She will perform works by William Croft, John Parry, Michael Mauldin, Camille Saint-Saens, Cesar Franck and others. All chapter members are encouraged to attend the recital free of charge.
- April 18 - **Anne Sullivan** will be performing the Albrechtsberger Concerto for Harp with the Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra in State College at 3pm in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Centre County. For more information visit www.centreorchestra.org.
- April 22-24, 2010 8:00 PM & April 25, 2010 3:00 PM - **Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton** will perform Liadov's *The Enchanted Lake* and Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* as Principal Harpist with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra & Maestro Edward Cumming at the Belding Theater, Hartford, CT.
- April 26 - **Vanessa Young** will present a solo harp recital at 8pm in Kresge Recital Hall at Carnegie Mellon University. Vanessa will perform the *Concerto for Harp and Orchestra* by Alberto Ginastera with pianist Rodrigo Ojeda and works by Pierick Houdy, Cesar Franck, J.S. Bach, and Wayne Lu. This is a degree recital for completion of the Master of Music degree at Carnegie Mellon University.
- April 27 - **Gretchen Van Hoesen** will present a recital program at 7pm for the meeting of the P.E.O. chapter AL at her home. The recital will feature works on the single action Challiot harp as well as the concert grand pedal harp.

MUSIC WORD SCRAMBLE

How quickly can you unscramble these music-related words? Answers on page 8.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. EEMMNOORT | 4. AEGGIOPR |
| 2. ADGILNOSS | 5. ACHIMNOR CERVU |
| 3. ABDDNOORSU | 6. ABEHIKLMOPR |

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COME SEE US ON THE WEB!

If you haven't visited our website yet, please do so! There you will find the latest news, upcoming events, current and past newsletters, and much more.

Our newest additions to the site are the *Member News* and *Lose Something?* pages. All member news submitted to the chapter secretary will be posted to this new page. The page will be updated frequently, so often you will see your news on the website before it comes out in the newsletter. You can even submit your news right from the site! Just go to the website (<http://www.orgsites.com/pa/harpsocietypittsburgh>), click on the "Member News" link on the left side of the page, and then click "Send Member News." Type in your news, attach any pictures (pictures MOST welcome) to the email and click "send." It's that simple!

If you need any forms, all you have to do is download new ones from the *Lose Something?* page. No more worrying, calling, or waiting for new forms to come in the mail. Try it!



So easy, even a snowman can do it!

Answers to Music Word Scramble: 1. Metronome, 2. Glissando, 3. Sound-board, 4. Arpeggio, 5. Harmonic Curve, 6. Harpmobile