

Resonance



July 2014

*The monthly newsletter of the Greater Seattle Chapter
of the American Harp Society, Joyce Rice, Editor*

Website: www.ahsseattle.org

Facebook group: Seattle AHS Chapter

Letter from the secretary:

Summer greetings!

Are you enjoying some breaks from your routine? Alison Austin attended Lyon & Healy's 150th celebration in Chicago, and Catherine Case and Susi Hussong were in New Orleans for the AHS Conference. Pat Wooster, as the chair of the World Harp Conference, will be in Sydney in a couple of weeks heading up that event, and my husband and I have tickets to the two opening concerts there before heading off for long-postponed visits to friends in Melbourne and Brisbane. I hope you, too, have some travel or musical plans on your itinerary.

Still looking for a summer camp? Don't forget the extensive list on Harp Spectrum at www.harpspectrum.org/camps_concerts/camps%20USA.shtml.

With some hot days ahead of us, here's a reminder: never leave your harp in the car in the heat, or at least park it in some shade and crack the windows. A very good list of do's and don'ts in weather-related harp care is at www.venussharps.com/care-maintenance-4.htm. There is an old adage among harpists: if you are comfortable, your harp will be too.

Please mark your calendars now for the Alfredo Ortiz and Alice Giles not-to-be-missed visits in September and October (see Calendar). I hope you have a restful and fun summer!

Joyce (sitting in for president Catherine while she visits family back east)

President Catherine Case * VP Robin Purchas * Sec. Joyce Rice * Treas. Clara Frederickson
Membership Ruthann Ritchie * Website Marinda Misra * Ex Officio Judith Cummings and Susi Hussong

BITS AND PIECES

1. Alison Austin, how did you come to start the harp?
2. Alison's new studio
3. Chapter website
4. Thanks, Bethany!
5. Off to New Orleans.

6. Words to play by.
7. New publications from Floraleda Sacchi.
8. Two concert reviews
9. Ensemble Kickstarter campaign



Alison Austin, how did you come to start the harp?

My harp journey began in 1964 at about age six . My parents were symphony musicians. My father, Richard Skerlong was a violinist (later a violist) and assistant concertmaster in the Louisville Symphony. My mother, Patricia Skerlong, was a violinist in the symphony and raising five children ages 10 to 1 at that time. I fell in love with the harp as I went to rehearsals and watched the beautiful Japanese lady, Taka Kling, the Symphony harpist. When I was seven years old I asked if I could take harp lessons.

Unfortunately they were expensive and Symphony wages were very low, so my mother suggested the piano to start, which I studied until I was almost 14. At the end of 8th grade I asked to switch instruments, wanting to play the oboe. My mother, who chose our instruments based on what she could stand to listen to being practiced, reminded me about wanting to play the harp. By then we were living in Seattle and they were in the Seattle Symphony, so they asked the Symphony harpist Gertrude Bergseth to teach me. She did not want to take me as she was already teaching someone in my neighborhood, Carol Mukhalian! They got a referral from Heidi Lehwalder's mother, who played cello in the Symphony, and she recommended Lynne Palmer. I went to an audition and the rest is my harp history.

(By the way, Alison and Bill's daughter, Diana, is getting married August 9.)

2. Alison now has two studios under the name " Austin Harp Art", one in Bellevue and one in Mukilteo. Website will follow soon.
3. Take a look at the chapter website (www.ahsseattle.org). **Marinda Misra's** doing a terrific job! Alison was at Lyon & Healy's 150th anniversary celebration and has sent us a few photos. Ya gotta see the fabulous (almost unbelievable) harp cake! It's in the 2014 Gallery of our website at www.ahsseattle.org/gallery.html - click through to the end.
4. Thanks to **Bethany Man** for stepping in to play with the Seattle Phil when Tiffany Wirt Russell injured her knee!
5. **Catherine Case** and **Susi Hussong** attended the AHS Conference in New Orleans. I look forward to hearing about it at the October 18 fall chapter meeting at UPS. Also attending was Julia Kay Jamieson, who stopped by Seattle on her way to New Orleans after teaching at Laura Zaerr's camp in Oregon. We shared a brief hello hug at the Seattle Symphony's all-Stravinsky concert on June 19.
6. Thanks to **Mark Andersen** for sharing this quote that provides food for thought:
*"To play only what is written is the domain of science.
To realize what is not written is the domain of art."*
(from Jean Langlais, a French composer of modern classical music, organist, and improviser.)
7. Floraleda Sacchi, who gave a gorgeous concert here a few years ago, has nine new publications available on Harp Column by instant music download. They include Ravel's *Pavane*

pour une Enfante Défunte, Massenet's *Meditation* from "Thais" and Handel's *Passacaglia*. See them at harpcolumnmusic.com.

8. Review: I went to hear **Carol Levin** and **Monica Schley's** performance June 6 where they promised to "improvise with effects and surprises on electric and acoustic harps", as it was described in the calendar. Monica played pedal harp; Carol played a Dusty 36 and an L&H Silhouette borrowed from Gwen Lyons Baker. Effects and surprises galore! Using electronic gear with foot pedals, they lay down rhythmic or chordal tracks. There was paper woven into the strings; a clothespin on a string to go wacky-wacky; an electric frother (how "Seattle" - I thought it was a toothbrush) to feather along the strings; wire string and pedal buzzes and crashes; a cello bow on the lowest pedal string; and singing into the soundholes for a very eerie effect...for starters. Their improvs showed a lot of ingenuity and variety. I thought the chord track for "Take Five" with its more-than-unusual beat was interesting but then Carol turned it off – it was an "oops". Thing is, with improv you never know!

They're playing again on Friday, August 1 in the same location (see calendar), a small house that's part art gallery, has some church pews for seats, and a living room set-up up a couple of stairs – very funky. Wine and harp cookies follow. Give it a try!

I also caught Charlene Chin's Senior Recital on June 1. Kudos to Charlene, who did a beautiful job in a difficult concert of Scarlatti, Salzedo, Bach (for two harps, with teacher **Alison Austin**), Hindemith, and the Debussy Dances with a very capable student string quartet.

9. The American Youth Harp Ensemble is raising money on Kickstarter to get to Sydney. See it at https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/378644887/american-youth-harp-ensemble-invitation-to-whc-syd?utm_source=AYHE%2FSLI%2FFriends&utm_campaign=765d0c0263-Lincoln+Center+Preview%2C+Reveille&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a0ea88bdf3-765d0c0263-33851073

CALENDAR

Monday, July 7 8:00 **Valerie Muzzolini Gordon** will play the Saint-Saëns *Fantaisie in A Major for Violin and Harp* with Augustin Hadelich in the first concert of the Seattle Chamber Music Society's 2014 Summer Festival. Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya. 206-283-8808 or www.seattlechambermusic.org.

Saturday, July 19 noon to about 1:30. Abbey Arts & Ball of Wax present an EarlyShow: Songs about Animals Illustrated book and CD release event. A fun show for all ages with music by local musicians including **Monica Schley** at the Fremont Abbey Arts Center. Details at <http://july19.bpt.me> or <https://www.facebook.com/events/233969850135445/>

Friday, July 25, 3:00-4:00 and 5:00-6:00, and **Sunday, July 27**, 2:00-3:00 and 4:00-5:00. **Patti Warden** will once again be accompanying the art in the Renton Annual Art Show. The art show is a highly regarded, juried exhibit, which Patti says is worth seeing even without the harp music! <http://rentonannualartshow.com/>

July 20-26 World Harp Congress in Sydney, Australia. www.whcsydney2014.com/.

Friday, August 1 at 8:00. **Carol Levin** and **Monica Schley** in a reprise concert, improvising with effects and surprises on electric and acoustic harps. At HD67 Space, 6701 Greenwood Ave. Street parking, also parking at Phinney Neighborhood Center after 7:00. \$10. <https://www.facebook.com/events/892437140770416>

Sunday, September 7 The chapter will present workshops in rhythm and special Latin techniques with **Alfredo Rolando Ortiz** 12-2 and 3-5, followed by a concert at 7:30. 13th Church of Christ Scientist, 3500 NE 125th Street, Seattle. More details will follow.

Saturday, September 13 Recital and master class by The American Harp Quartet, comprised of Ellie Choate, Delaine Leonard Fedson, Leslie Stratton Norris, and Jacquelyn Vente, who will appear in the Tri-Cities. There will be a free recital at 7:30 PM at St. Joe's Church in Kennewick, WA. Masterclass and presentation will be in the afternoon, final location TBA.

Comprised of harpists from the continental U.S., the AHQ formed to herald a new era of harp quartet music, specializing in classical, Latin and big band. All are busy teachers and performers. Two harpists will be giving a masterclass, and the other two will be presenting on ensemble playing with young students (applicable for all instruments).

For more information, contact Chelsea Spence, www.ChelseaSpenceHarpist.com

October 10-12 11th Dusty Strings Harp Symposium with world-class artists: Patrick Ball, Aryeh Frankfurter, Lisa Lynne, Erik Ask-Upmark and Kim Robertson, as well as regional stars of the folk harp. There will be concerts at the Dusty Strings main stage and at the Triple Door downtown. <https://store.dustystings.com/t-3-ms-concerts-harpseattle.aspx?skinid=4>

Saturday, October 18 Master class with **Alice Giles** at the University of Puget Sound. More info at a later date.

Saturday, October 18 Possible date for our fall chapter meeting that would happen at UPS.

Sunday, October 19, 8:00. **Alice Giles** in concert at Pacific Lutheran University. Details will follow later. Mark your calendars for this special event!

June 11-14, 2015 New Orleans Jazz and Pop Harp Weekend. One, two and three-day intensive courses to expand skills and enable you to play pop and jazz harp. Three levels in lever and pedal tracks. Check website later for artists. www.neworleansjazzharp.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

PEDAL HARPS

For sale: Lyon & Healy gold style 23 concert grand pedal harp. Classic harp with excellent tone quality, in good condition. Just regulated in May with new wires & strings. Technician report and photos available. Made in 1955. Comes with canvas cover and tuning key. \$17,000. mstromquist@comcast.net.

For sale: Lyon & Healy Style 22 Gold Concert Grand. Extended board with 46 strings made in 1930. For someone who recognizes the potential value as it needs major work due to structural issues. Has a newer neck that is reasonably straight but would need re-riveting. Technician assessment and pictures available. Located in Seattle. \$8,500 (new lower price). mstromquist@comcast.net

For sale: Lyon & Healy Style 100, pecan finish. Excellent condition. Built in 1997, didn't leave the house, lightly played. Steve Moss regulated it in 2010. Cover, tuning key and harp cart included. \$12,500 (new lower price). **Must sell- downsizing.** Faye Clerget at fcclerget@comcast.net or 253-569-3938.

For sale: Lyon & Healy 17 Gold. Rebuilt at the Lyon & Healy factory in 1996, this harp has been completely refurbished. It was fitted with a new neck. Regulation and rewire were done in November 2011. The harp was built in 1923, when Lyon & Healy was doing particularly fine work. Like other harps from this period, it has an exceptionally rich, warm and clear tone. \$18,200. hildegardgreen2010@gmail.com or 206-973-7037.

For sale: 1918 Lyon & Healy Style 17 Gold. Serial number, pictures and price upon request. Serious inquiries, only please. The harp was refurbished with a new neck in 1999 and includes the wooden trunk. 425-445-0205.

For sale: Lyon & Healy blond Concert Grand Model 23, No. 10044, purchased new in 1987. The harp has a lot of volume, warm tone and good clarity. It was the at-home practice instrument for the Boise Philharmonic's principal harpist and rarely moved, as the orchestra owns a harp. One owner. Includes cover, shipping trunk, wood music stand, seat, music & supplies. Buyer to pay shipping and insurance. \$20,000. Location: Boise, Idaho. For further information contact Dorothy Mattefs at 208-378-7734 or jmattefs@hotmail.com.

For rent: 85CG circa 1988 that is a very satisfying instrument to play and practice due to its wonderful sound. \$150 per month. Fairly recent regulation and new bass wires. Includes cover and harp cart. Contact Mary Frank at frank.mary@comcast.net.

For rent: Walnut L&H 23. Wonderful sound. Concert grand harp with 47 strings, it comes with a 3-piece transport cover. \$150 per month plus tax. Contact Marian Sussman at [206-290-8192](tel:206-290-8192) or at harpnote@gmail.com.

For rent: Venus Traditional harp. Oversize semi-grand, almost as large as a grand with extended board and 46 strings. Big sound with concert grand string spacing, floral carving and a high gloss natural maple finish. \$125 plus tax. Contact Marian Sussman at [206-290-8192](tel:206-290-8192) or at harpnote@gmail.com.

For rent: Lyon & Healy Gold 17. Contact Bethany Man for details at 425-445-0205 or bethanyman@gmail.com.

LEVER HARPS

For sale: 22-string Gothic-style Stoney-End Lap Harp "Eve" with full set of Loveland Levers; includes bag, tuning key, and shoulder strap. 3 octaves, G-G. Nice, warm sound. Fits in airline overhead. Asking \$550 (or make me an offer). This harp new, with full set of levers + bag, sells for \$1,299 --- Take a look at it here: www.stoneyend.com/lap.harps.php. Ruthann Ritchie (253-666-5980) or harpist46@hotmail.com

For sale: Blevin Consort 36 strings lever harp made of cherry wood, with the feet. Bought brand new, 3 years old. Full Camac levers. Pick-up installed. Rarely moved and played. Very good condition, beautiful tone. Asking \$ 3200, includes harp case and tuning key. Pictures and/or video can be emailed upon request. Contact Tina at thienaiduong@gmail.com or 206-466-7896.

For sale: Lever harp, 31 strings, made from a Music Maker kit. Soundboard is hand-painted with two black swans. Owner is no longer able to play, and will include music stand, music, tuning key, and tuner with the instrument. \$1,000. Contact Lynn Curran, 206-735-5027 (Renton Highlands area).

For sale: Lyon and Healy Troubadour IV harp, 36 strings, natural maple finish, rarely moved. Includes sturdy cover, some extra strings, and music. \$2000 (new lower price) plus tax. Near Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle. Patricia Jaeger (206) 525 7682.

For sale: Thormahlen Swan 36-string lever harp. Made in 2001. Cherry with abalone inlay around soundboard. Concert tension with concert gut strings (reinforced soundboard) and custom bass wires (made by Robinson's). Full Loveland levers. Very good condition, beautiful tone, gorgeous wood. A rare find. **Price reduced:** \$4200. Includes dark green nylon case, dust cover, and tuning key. Pictures and/or video can be emailed upon request. Contact Cynthia at crkuni@comcast.net or 206-909-5844.

For sale: Prelude – 38 strings, Mahogany. 1st Octave E to 6th Octave C. The Prelude features string

spacing and tension similar to a pedal harp. A scalloped bronze-finished crown and matching claw feet enhance the beauty. Valued in 2009 at \$4,490. Sale Price \$4,200. Contact Lu Buranen at 253-564-2741.

For sale: Lyon & Healy Troubadour I with 33 strings, in mahogany. Rarely touched in 40 years. Soft cover and tuning key. Restrung last year by Steve Moss who declared it in excellent condition with no warping. \$1700 (no sales tax). Harp resides in Sequim WA with original owner. Please contact Polly Sarsfield at pds-ess@q.com or 360-683-8888. Photos available from Polly.

For sale: Reverie "Harp". 22 strings, made of mahogany and cherry. Excellent condition, like new, 3 years old. Made by Musicmakers in Stillwater, MN. *This is not a harp* – more like a zither. It is played often in therapy settings and tuned to a Pentatonic Scale. Magical sounding - there are no discordant sounds. Comes with a gig bag with straps, tuning key and instructional DVD. Asking \$500. Call Arisa Houston (360)394-3689, Poulsbo

For rent: Triplet 30 string Axline fully levered folk harp. Excellent condition, great tension. \$35 per month. Susan McLain at 206 932-1861 or Greensleevesharp@aol.com

For rent: Dusty Strings Double Strung Harp Maple/Cherry. Fully levered. Bold sound. With case. \$35 per month. Contact Susan McLain at 206 932-1861 or email GreensleevesHarp@aol.com.

Wanted: A used electric lever harp. Camac Electroharp, Baby Blue, or similar, decent shape, does not need to be like-new. carol.levin@ppgnw.org.

FUN STUFF



Is it an African harp? Is it a chair? It's a Danish harp chair! I saw one in a Belltown shop window this month with a price tag of \$2600 – for that amount you should be able to play tunes on it!

Thanks to Mary Frank and Susan McLain for passing on a video (link below) to which we can all relate. It's from the Yale Studio. (A heads-up: as you can tell by the title, there's a certain naughty word that is bleeped in the film. We've probably all used it when dealing with harps, like when your tuner battery is dead, or traffic is backed up, a string breaks, there's a huge flight of stairs to navigate, your gas tank is too low, the wind blows over your stand, ad infinitum.)

Sh*t Harpists Say: <http://youtu.be/GZjSr3ZWw3I>

