

Resonance



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 editor:

Greetings!

It was lovely to see so many of you at John Carrington's for the potluck! It would be great if that enthusiasm carries over to our next proposed event, a Harp Day in October with possibly some workshops, some harp circles, and maybe even a concert starring some of our local professional harpists! [See Bits and Pieces #4.] Keep an eye on future Resonances for more details. Got some ideas? Your input is invaluable!

Did you take your harp out somewhere and play during the Random Acts of Harping Day? I bet you had very appreciative audiences. Please let me know how it went!

Every summer I read advisories about not leaving your harp in the car when it's hot. The general rule of thumb is: if it's uncomfortable for you, it's bad for your harp. A reflective cover is helpful to keep the sun from shining on it - camping goods stores have them and I saw some Heat Reflective Emergency Blankets online for \$2.99! In the same vein, move your harp at home if it's in a sunny window or in front of an air conditioner - temperature and humidity changes are not friends of the harp. [See Fun Stuff.]

I hope you'll all have time for some rest and relaxation this summer!

Joyce

President Catherine Case * VP Robin Purchas * Sec. Joyce Rice * Treas. Clara Frederickson
Membership Melissa Walsh & Patti Warden * Website Marinda Misra
Ex Officio Judith Cummings and Susi Hussong

BITS AND PIECES

1. Photos from the potluck?
2. Congratulations to scholarship winners!
3. How was the potluck?
4. Harp Day
5. Catherine Case's new jobs

6. Spotlight on Juliet Stratton
7. *The Story Behind the Video*
8. Monica's Top Ten list
9. Notes from Mildred Dilling
10. Two new flute and harp pieces
11. Joseph Lachman moves on
12. New Harp Spectrum articles
13. Park Stickney's new website
14. Harp Column's online teacher listing
15. Harp store sale

1. Did anyone take photos at the chapter potluck? Please send them to **Catherine Case** at harpcase@gmail.com. She wants to put them on our Facebook group page

2. Congratulations to **Angie Kong and Prydwyn Goldman**, who are this year's winners of our chapter scholarship, announced at the potluck! Angie, a student of Pat Wooster, will put her prize toward the eventual (soon, she hopes!) purchase of a pedal harp. Prydwyn, who studies with Susi Hussong, wants to increase her lesson time from a half to a full hour and to pay for her harp rental. Both girls are relative newcomers to the harp but have played other instruments, are progressing very quickly and see a golden future with the harp.

3. June's chapter potluck at **John Carrington's** was delightful and I'm glad so many of you made it. A picture-book house, gorgeous grounds reclaimed from Mother Nature through thousands of hours of hard work, yummy food and John's hilarious recounting of his summer playing on the Q.E. II. Two people were having so much fun they walked off without their tote bags. OK, one was me and I've reclaimed mine. The other bag, with the logo "The Weekly Standard", has two cold packs in it. The owner can contact host **John** for retrieval! john_carrington@hotmail.com

4. A Harp Day in October? Here's what your board is thinking about: a couple of workshops, maybe on playing in the orchestra, or reading from a fake book, or improving your harping business. A couple of harp circles, maybe on blues, or jazz, or Scottish music, or improv. And finally, maybe we can end with a concert starring several of our local professionals doing a brief solo each to provide us with some inspiration. We would start in mid-morning, bring our bag lunches or have some catered from a nearby restaurant, and continue into the afternoon with a concert in mid-afternoon. Please pencil in "Harp Day" on your calendars for October 17 – we're still in the beginning stages of setting it up. And send us your ideas!

5. **Catherine Case** has been appointed to teach harp at Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Puget Sound, taking up the reins from **Pat Wooster**, who, as announced in the April Resonance, has retired. Congratulations, Catherine!

6. **Juliet Stratton**, how did you start the harp?

I was fortunate to grow up in Bellevue, which at the time had a great school music program. When I was in 5th grade, my school's elementary choir was selected to perform in the annual "All-City Music Festival" (held at the old Seattle Center Opera House). During the dress rehearsal, we got to listen to the other performers, one of which was a large harp ensemble of about 9 harps. I was completely mesmerized, especially when they played the jazz piece "Ten Past Two" by Pearl Chertok. I decided then and there that the harp was the instrument for me! Luckily, my sister played the viola at the Junior High, and she remembered seeing a little harp sitting unused in a practice room. She mentioned to her orchestra director that her little sister was thinking of playing the harp, and he was delighted to let us have it (rent free). Since the only harp teacher we had ever seen was the director of the festival



ensemble, my mother tracked her down. The teacher was none other than Pat Wooster! She agreed to take me as a student, and the following year I performed "Ten Past Two" with her harp ensemble at the Seattle Opera House.

7. From Reigning Harps, our sister Seattle harp monthly newsletter, comes *The Story Behind the Video*: “Dropping out of editor mode into first person for a moment... last month I (**Diane Moss**) announced that **Carol Levin** and I had appeared with our lever harps in a Doctor Who Fan Orchestra production on YouTube. Several people asked me what that was like, and if I would describe it. I can't speak for anyone else of course, but I did describe my own process (which was pretty comical!) in a short article. If you are interested in reading it, [click here](#) or go to <http://psfhsextra.home.comcast.net/~psfhsextra/articles.htm>”

8. There's still a lot of wedding season ahead of us, and **Monica Schley** sends this along: [Top 10 Things to Bring to a Wedding Gig](#) <http://monicaschley.com/wordpress/?paged=3>

9. **Pat Jaeger** took and typed up notes at a 1978 workshop by Mildred Dilling. If you're interested in looking at them, email me and I'll send them to you. Here are a couple of Miss Dilling's bons mots: “To play the harp you need clean hands and a pure heart.” “New York is full of potholes in the street. Don't let your playing be bumpy.”

10. **Pat and Jim Wooster** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 21 with a party on the lawn of their lovely house. Jim's awesome surprise gift to Pat was to commission a new harp work, and he and their (Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra harpist) daughter Beth Wooster Colpean searched for a composer. They came up with two! G.R. Symphony oboist Alexander Miller wrote the stunning “Blind Date” for flute and harp, a piece filled with whirling wind and snow and commemorating Pat and Jim's first date that was on the ski slopes. Kevin Kaska wrote “Gold Anniversary”, less evocative but still a lovely addition to the flute and harp repertoire. Beth says they are soon to be published. Pat's longtime flute partner, Carol Wollenberg, and Beth and were the performers outside on the deck, and showed their professional chops after having had only one short and secret rehearsal together at chapter member **Patti Warden's** home. Beth plans to perform both pieces in Grand Rapids soon and to record a CD for Pat and Jim (not for public distribution yet...). Janet Joy told Pat that the local (Tacoma) SAI chapter is sponsoring a concert of works by contemporary American Composers, and that either or both of these two pieces would be good candidates. “We'll see,” cautions Jim.

11. In the “Where are they now?” category, Garfield High alum **Joseph Lachman** took a year off from Yale between his 2nd and 3rd year to study in Japan, then returned to Japan after year 3 for the summer. Now he has completed undergraduate studies in *The History of Science, Medicine and Public Health* and has graduated, and is off to China where he'll study the Chinese language, adding to the Japanese and Korean already studied. He expects eventually to end up in Tokyo or Seattle before considering grad school, which may be law school, having noticed that much of his focus has been on social justice as it relates to public health. Best of luck wherever you go, Joseph!

12. Don't miss the two new articles on Harp Spectrum (www.harpspectrum.org), the site that I direct: *The Golden Lyre of Ur* by Tristan leGovic, Breton harp player, about how Andy Lowings, harp player and engineer, rebuilt an exact model of the ancient lyre found in a tomb in Iraq in 1929.

Ireland's Harp: The Shaping of Ireland's Identity by Mary O'Donnell, an Irish harpist and historian, about how the harp stayed alive in Ireland despite efforts toward its demise.

13. See Park Stickney's new website at www.arplab.net. "Bright and shiny, with links that work and everything! There are some new things--a blog section, a store, two-car garage, ice-skating rink, portable foosball tables, face-painting, balloons for the kids... the works!!"

14. *Harp Column* has just opened online listings of summer camps, colleges with harp programs, and teachers. To list yourself or your program, go to info@harpcolumn.com.

15. In case you're in the market for a new harp, Harps Etc. has a sale on the L&H Chicago Concertino 47 string harp through Nov. 25. Regular price \$15,500. Sale price \$12,950. www.harpsetc.com. She will pick out a harp for you in Chicago July 8-12!



CALENDAR



July 8-11 Come experience Lyon & Healy's Summer Concert Series - concerts and masterclasses with world-renowned harpists, highly acclaimed teachers and some of the most recognized harp students in the United States to date. This four-day event takes place in Chicago, 2015. **CLICK ME** for more information. What a chance to wallow in harp performances!

Friday, July 24, 3:00 to 4:00 and 5:00 to 6:00, and **Sunday, July 26**, 2:00 to 3:00 and 4:00 to 5:00.

Patti Warden will once again be accompanying the art at the Renton Annual Art Show. Admission is free. The Renton Annual Art Show is a juried exhibit with a reputation for high quality art works. It is held in the Renton Community Center, which is part of Cedar River Park. Patti says that the art is worth seeing, even without the harp music [she's so modest!].

June 30-July 3, 2016 42nd AHS National Conference in Atlanta GA.

July 2017 World Harp Congress in Hong Kong

CLASSIFIEDS

PEDAL HARPS

For Sale: Salvi "Diana" Walnut, 47 strings; new \$27,500; my price \$21,000. For a pic, go to www.salviharps.com and click on Diana. Built in 1995. One owner. Carefully maintained and well taken care of. For questions, please contact Ruthann Ritchie, by calling 253-666-5980 or email harpist46@hotmail.com

For Sale: Lyon & Healy "Chicago" Concert grand, mahogany with extended board in spruce. Built in 2010 but hardly played, in excellent condition. Includes dust cover and transport cover (with base and column covers), tuning key, almost full set of strings, shipping box and packing materials. \$16,500. Contact Diane McLean at 360-275-2476 or eziekel.mclean@gmail.com.

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. Contact 206-973-7037 or hildegardgreen2010@gmail.com.

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 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.

LEVER HARPS

For sale: Selected for its beautiful sound, this new and in excellent condition, 34 String Camac (Telenn) lever harp in mahogany also comes with a black padded travel case and tuning key. \$2700 includes travel case. If interested, email John at (ljoosten372@gmail.com) or text to 253-973-2822. Photo can be emailed.

For Sale: Mindi Tena (Auburn WA) is selling a Tristy lap harp, made by Philip Boulding of Magical Strings. This harp has 24 nylon strings (starting with C below middle C) and 7 sharpening levers (C's & F's). It is made of eastern rock maple and maple laminate. This beautiful harp was purchased from Mr. Boulding in July 2002 & actively played for only 2 years, at which time the student upgraded to a full-size lever harp. It is in perfect condition and just right for a beginning harpist. It comes with a padded case which has handles, perfect for carrying. Asking price: \$500. Interested parties may contact Mindi at [253-670-2351](tel:253-670-2351).

For sale: Kailey 3 Folk Harp made by Philip Boulding. It's about 12 years old, 36 strings, 5 octave range from Low C. Leverless but there is space to have the levers installed. This beautiful harp stands 52" tall and is made of maple. It comes with a deluxe padded cover for travel and tuning key. Excellent condition and mellow sound. Reduction in price is now **\$1550.00**. Please call Arisa Houston at 360-394-3689. Follow this link for photos: <http://arisahouston.com/Images/kaileyharp.jpg>

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 has to move, and will include music stand, music, tuning key, and tuner with the instrument. **\$950 price lowered**. Contact Lynn Curran, 206-735-5027 (Renton Highlands area).

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 or rent: Salvi Livia 36-string lever harp in birds-eye maple, 4 years old, like new. Includes fabric cover and wheeled travel case, tuning key and a few extra strings. \$4,000. Rental is \$45 a month. Contact Nerys Jones at nerysjones@hotmail.com or 206-876-0636. Photos available upon request.

For rent: Troubadour IV harp, mahogany. \$45 rent/month and deposit of \$100, rental agreement. Mary McConney mccconney98112@hotmail.com or 206-322-2425

For rent: Dusty Strings Allegro 26 string folk harp with levers on F, C and B. \$35 per month. Great small harp! 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. \$40 per month. Contact Susan McLain 206 932-1861 or greensleevesharp@aol.com.

For rent: Triplett Sierra 30, partially levered. \$45/month. Alishia Joubert, henzharper@gmail.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.

OTHER

For sale: Lightly used 1/2 size cello with bow, "Cushy" case with wheels and backpack straps, and handsome wood stand with velvet lining, beginning book. \$650 plus tax. Pat Jaeger, (206) 525-7682, NE Seattle.

Not-so-Fun Stuff

Hot harp tip...

Nadia Birkenstock put her harp next to a heater so she could play in a cozy place. She went in the kitchen and soon heard a HUGE bang.

Her harp had exploded - the heat had softened the glue and the 1,000 pounds of string pressure ripped the soundboard off the box. [It was later repaired by a luthier.] Please don't ever leave your harp in a hot car!

Where you put your harp down...

Sharon Thormahlen backed over a harp with her car. Yes, she put it down and then heard the phone ring in the house and went to answer it. Got in the car and couldn't figure out what the big noise was when she backed up.

