

Resonance



JUNE 2015

*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

Dear chapter members,

Since Catherine Case has agreed to stay on as chapter president but opted out of the monthly letter, I'm stepping in this time to invite you to use this space for something you'd like to tell the chapter. It can be about why you teach or take lessons, for ex. or your strange but true (short) story, or how music or harping changed your life, but not limited to any of those! You might also write about what you'd like the chapter to do in the future. Send it to me, your editor.

Don't forget our **Chapter Potluck on Sunday, June 14 at 5:00 at John Carrington's house**. Have you answered the evite? Treasurer Clara Frederickson has been amassing some fun harpy raffle prizes, so if you're lucky you won't leave empty-handed. Please bring a dish to share - salad, main dish, dessert, whatever you want, and we'll trust the law of averages to even things out. As well as a brief meeting and the potluck, we'll have a tour of John's picture-book house and grounds, and a rare chance to schmooze with each other. See you there!

Meanwhile, I hope you're enjoying this spectacular weather.

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. Margaret Shelton weds
2. Alison Austin's house fills up; harp regulations
3. Valerie Muzzolini Gordon's concerto schedule
4. Alishia Joubert looking for music
5. Spotlight on Naomi Kato

6. Monica Schley as therapeutic musician
7. Edmar Casteneda coming to town!!
8. 10,000 k. bike tour towing a harp!
9. Audition tips from Emmanuel Ceysson
10. Youth Orchestra for Immigrant Children

1. Congratulations to **Margaret Shelton** who was married to Dane Betts on Saturday (two days ago) in Tacoma. I'm sure Dane knows how lucky he is because she had sworn not to marry a blond, a military man, or someone she met online and she says he is all three! Playing harp at her wedding were her teacher, Pat Wooster, and her "godmother," Nancy Thym, with whom she stayed for several months off and on in Germany during her grant-sponsored trip around the world visiting harpists in 2011-'12. After a honeymoon in Hawaii Margaret will be back in Seattle. You may have seen Nancy give her performance a year or two ago on the wandering harp ladies, in which Margaret sang and played, too.

2. **Alison Austin** says, "[son] Patrick and family have arrived [moving back from Chicago]. I am over the moon having them with us and two year old Aidan calling out, "Mimi, where are you?"

Remember that Karen Gottlieb will be in Mukilteo to regulate harps June 22nd through the 24th. Alison only has TWO openings left. If anyone is interested please contact her right away to schedule something. 206 - 817 - 8444.

3. **Valerie Muzzolini Gordon**, Seattle Symphony harpist, says, "I will be playing a Parish-Alvars concerto, a lesser known one, Opus 81 in G minor, on February 27 and 28, 2016 with the Tacoma Symphony. I am also playing the *Debussy Dances* with the Seattle Symphony on December 3, 5 and 6 of this year. It is going to be a busy year..." I guess so!

4. **Alicia Joubert** is looking for high school orchestra music that can use a lever harp. Send your suggestions to her at henzharper@gmail.com.

5. Spotlight on **Naomi Kato** – How did you start the harp?

Before coming to the United State in 1975, I went to see my junior high school teacher to say good-bye. At that time she told me that the school was getting a harp, but no instructor had been found yet, so she had to teach students with her little knowledge on the harp. Soon this school had a harp ensemble and visited Seattle and performed in 1985.



I had the idea of going back to Japan and teaching music at my school, so I wanted to learn how to play the harp and teach at school. When I was attending University of Washington as a Music Education major, once a week all the students who were taking instrumental introduction classes had a session with a guest speaker such as a marching band director and others. One day a guest speaker was Pamela Vokelek, the professor of harp performance. I was so fascinated to see a harp for the first time in front of me.

She said that anybody at the university could take harp lessons for credits. So, without any hesitation, I asked her about harp lessons. She accepted me on the spot. That is how I started to learn harp. Because Mrs. Vokolek was in the hospital when I started, Lynne Palmer was substituting for the first half of the quarter. With their help, I am here.

6. **Monica Schley** writes, "Three years in the making, and I am now officially a **Certified Therapeutic Musician!** Therapeutic music is live music played at the bedside, where the musician responds to immediate needs of the patient. Vibrations of harp strings applied therapeutically can relieve pain, release anxiety, diminish nausea, stabilize heart rate and body rhythms as well as improve sleep and calm the environment. Through my training I have played over 45 hours of music at the bedside for 200+ patients. I

have played at an outpatient dialysis clinic; a general hospital (for pre- and post- operations) and in ICU (intensive care unit); skilled nursing facilities; and for hospice.” Congratulations, Monica!

7. **Carol Levin** says that (maybe because of her “enthusiastic recommendations”?) Latin harpist Edmar Casteneda will do a Friday solo show as part of The Earshot Jazz Festival that swings into its 27th edition on October 9 and includes more than 50 distinctive concerts and events in venues all around the city through November 14. You can hear him playing fabulous harp at [NPR Tiny Desk Concert](#) or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SNhAKyXtC8&feature=youtu.be>.

8. Sunita Staneslow and her husband are in the midst of a 10,000 kilometer bike trip in Europe going north from Italy to Great Britain and Denmark, then south to Turkey, and she’s towing a small harp! Paste this into your browser and read all about it:

<http://sunitaharp.cmail2.com/t/ViewEmail/r/33CEA16419033DD52540EF23F30FEDED/763C42FAB8B11DFAC5EC08CADFFC107B>.

It’s also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sunita.staneslow>.

9. Emmanuel Ceysson has won the audition for the Metropolitan Opera, replacing the late Deborah Hoffman. In *Harp Column* he puts forth his approach to auditions:

The only thing I can say is that I felt ready. I prepared over a long time, did everything in my power to feel the [least] uncomfortable I could (travel a long time in advance, play my harp, having my best friend with me, practicing run-throughs at the worst time of the day, without warming up, on the technically challenging excerpts, playing in front of musicians that don’t know the harp and gave me “non-harpist” feedback.)

But I have been playing competitions and auditions for a long time now, and the only thing I know about them, even if I was successful quite often, is that there is no magic trick to win them, the most important thing is to be true to the music, and yourself. Then, you never know what the jury expects, what kind of playing they are used to, etc., etc., so just be your music-self!

Anything else you can tell us about the audition process?

Orchestra auditions are always challenging, especially in terms of focus. All the excerpts are very short, very different from one another in terms of style, so when you start playing one, you need to be already in the music, knows what comes before, imagine yourself in the pit with orchestra, tell with the harp the opera story that the excerpt refers to... Performing run-throughs in difficult conditions, imagining yourself playing behind a screen, picturing the audition moment, all of this is essential: psychological comfort is of the essence.

10. Under the auspices of non-profit Young Strings Project Outreach and fiscal sponsor Whidbey Island Waldorf School, Teo Benson, violinist/composer from Seattle, and Paula Nava Madrigal, cellist/conductor from Guadalajara, launched the after-school World Youth Orchestra program at the Seattle World School in October 2014. They’re looking for a modest amount (\$4000) in bridge funds to get them through until the fall, when a grant from the City of Seattle Youth Arts comes through. The money will pay for space and instrument rentals and instruction. They have raised over a quarter of this amount already. See video of their work at the link below as well as more information.

Here is the link to the campaign:

<http://igg.me/p/youth-orchestra-for-immigrant-refugee-children/emal/595569>



CALENDAR

Friday, June 12 7:30-10:30 pm. The Daphnes play original songs, written by **Monica Schley**. The Daphnes are: [Monica Schley](#), harp/vocal; Julie Baldridge, violin; [Nate Omdal](#), bass. The Sorrento Hotel, 900 Madison St., Seattle. FREE - all ages

Sunday, June 14 5:00. Spring chapter meeting and potluck at **John Carrington's** beautiful house and grounds in North Beach at 0916 Loyal Ave. NW. Brief meeting for election of officers. Please bring a dish to share!

Sunday, June 14, 2-3:30pm. The MoodSwings jazz band, **Carol Levin**, harpist, plays a concert at the Ballard Locks, 3015 NW 54th St, Seattle.

June 11-14 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.
www.neworleansjazzharp.com/

June 21-24 AHS 11th Summer Institute and 21st National Competition in Logan, Utah. Many workshops, concerts. More info at www.harpsociety.org/Summer-Institute/index.asp

June 22-24 Karen Gottleib will be here to regulate harps. There are only have TWO openings left. If anyone is interested please contact **Alison Austin** right away to schedule something. 206 - 817 - 8444.

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!

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

July 2017 World Harp Congress in Hong Kong

FUN STUFF



Harpist (from urbandictionary.com)

Someone (females especially) that plays the harp. Ridiculously good looking and long-legged, female harpists are a stunning breed.

Harpists are deeply soulful people, but often feel uncomfortable voicing their emotions in public. Instead, they share through their enchanting music.

They constantly feel misunderstood and crave love and appreciation. They love hugs. Hugs allow them to show affection for someone without being all lovey-dovey (which they hate).

Harpists are highly interesting people and fascinating to talk to. However, it can take time for some people to realize how amazing they are.

Harpists are known for being graceful and beautiful and are often associated with angels.

Dude, I totally would. Everyone knows all harpists are babes.



SEE YOU AT THE POTLUCK!