



*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:

Greetings,

The December calendar is filling up with lots of harpy stuff - hope to see you at some of them.

I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but this may be your last Resonance unless you have renewed. To do so, please go to www.ahsseattle.org and click on Join Us. It's fast, easy and cheap. The directory will go to the printer soon – don't be left out! You must be a member to apply for our spring scholarships.

I hope you saw the plea from Pat Wooster about the need for all harp things in Cuba: strings (includes old ones), music, CDs, even harps, if you have one lying around. Their few harps are often decrepit, and strings may be replaced by fishing line. The ship leaves Florida December 2. Please contact Pat at 253-862-3400, c. 253-797-9424; Email: pat.wooster@gmail.com. For more details see my email of Oct. 20.

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. Time to renew
2. New member, new website
3. Leslie McMichaels' new job!
4. Harp Fest revisited
5. Spotlight on Earecka Tregenza
6. Harp tech Steve Moss's annual visit
7. Vancouver WA harp tech Robert Hohlbauch
8. Joanna Newsom in The New Yorker
- 9-13. Little bits of interesting news including Dusty's new Anti-Aging Kit (#12).

1. This may be your last Resonance! Renew your membership!
2. Please write this new member into your directory:

Conor Mariani
13433 NE 104th
Kirkland, WA 98033
425-627-5516 or 425-269-0882
conormariani@hotmail.com

Please add this web address to Erin Kreutz' entry: <http://erinkreutz.wix.com/erinkreutz#!>

3. Here's some exciting news from Leslie McMichael: she has joined the Seattle Symphony as a Teaching Artist working in education and outreach programs for youth and adult audiences! More about this next month.

4. It was great fun seeing those who attended Harp Fest! Carol Levin and Monica Schley made us dive right into improv by asking us to make up music for 3 minutes, and we couldn't include any music we already knew. Yikes! But everyone did it – all 11 of those participating, including Patti Warden, who made up and sang a song - with lyrics! (Her harp was in the car ready for her to leave for a wedding). Later Susan Haas showed her wild side on the conga drums and others on claves. In the afternoon Carol's colleagues on drums and bass helped show how important those are to jazz.

Youth member Rose Wittenmyer got a two-on-one presentation by Alison Austin and Jill Whitman on playing in the orchestra, as she was the only student there in the morning. Lucky girl! She's a new harpist and said she learned a whole lot. Too bad more students weren't present, though.

The afternoon panel on weddings was well attended by mostly adults. Presenter Susan McLain says, "Part of the discussion centered around how to consider a market value on this work. We plan to hold an open meeting on this topic. Also, other presenter Susan Haas gave an amazing overview of the background work involved in preparing for weddings, with a wonderful handout on dealing with the reality of outdoor weddings. For me, it was jaw dropping!" See "Ten Things to Know about Wedding Harping" and "8 Things to Know about Playing Outdoors" at the end of Resonance.

And finally, the concert was wonderful! See the program at the end of this Resonance. Heartfelt thanks to all the performers: Catherine Case and flutist Jennifer Rhyne, scholarship winners Angie Kong and Prydwyn Goldman, Alison Austin and Jill Whitman, and Valerie Muzzolini Gordon and Sophie Baird-Daniel.



5. Spotlight on Earecka Tregenza: How did you come to start the harp?



I was 5 years old when my parents came home with a CD of harp music, *Echoes of a Waterfall* by harpist Susan Drake. I was mesmerized by the music, and thought that there was nothing more beautiful! For about a year, I pestered my parents for harp lessons, and they decided to test my interest by first making me take piano and violin lessons. On my sixth birthday they finally agreed to let me try the harp, and gave up trying to convince me to be interested in violin. I was ecstatic! I began studying with Rebecca Lewis Wagner, through a recommendation by our local school orchestra conductor, and never looked back. At 13 I began to study with Marilyn Costello, whose

incredible musicality was infectious, and at that point, I decided that there was nothing that I would rather do than be an orchestral harpist. It has been a long road full of hard work since that time, but also a great deal of joy in making music, and I feel very blessed to now make a living as a professional musician.

6. Steve Moss is planning to be here February 25 to March 1 for regulations. Susi Hussong will be making up the schedule so call her at 206-783-9493 to choose your time.
7. If you need harp help between Steve Moss's annual visits, you can contact Robert Hohlbauch in Vancouver, WA. Robert is a Lyon & Healy/Salvi Technicians Guild Member. (360) 696- 4240 or bandhohl.1@gmail.com. You probably have to bring your harp to him.
8. One-of-a-kind harpist-singer Joanna Newsom is the subject of a 2-page article in The New Yorker of Oct. 26, pages 88-89 or <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/10/26/precious-mettle>
9. Check out Lorinda Jones (http://www.lorindajones.com/harp_books/) and Rhett Barnwell (<http://www.seraphimmusic.com/#lonline-store/c1afi>) for liturgical music, hymns, reverent music for services, hospice, etc.
10. Something else to check out: Sylvia Woods' October newsletter has *loads* of tips on playing at outdoor events, like how to keep your stand from blowing over and how to keep the mosquitos away. Why should you bring a garbage bag??? (<https://www.harpcenter.com/category/harp-newsletter>)
11. Carl Fischer has issued a new edition of the Bochsá Etudes called *Bochsá Revisited* by Carl Swanson and Judith Ross. A free sample is available at www.swansonharp.com.
12. Recently I heard about Dusty Strings' new "anti-aging kit". What, have they found the fountain of youth? I wondered. Here it is: <http://manufacturing.dustystings.com/harps/accessories/anti-aging-kit/>
13. Susan Haas thinks you might enjoy a new suite by Vincent Kennedy for oboe, cello and harp. See our Facebook page ([Seattle AHS Society](#)) to hear an excerpt.



CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 3 4-6 PM. *Harpy Hour* with **Monica Schley** at the Stone Way Café, 3510 Stone Way, Fremont. Happy hour + harp music! \$1 off drinks. www.monicaschley.com

November 20-January 3 **Catherine Case** will be in the pit for *The Sound of Music* at the 5th Avenue Theater.

November 27-December 28 **John Carrington** will be in the pit for *The Nutcracker* at McCaw Hall.

Saturday, November 28 Kingston WA. Magical Strings (harps and more) in its 37th year of Celtic Yuletide Concerts. Also performing in Kent WA **Sunday, December 6**, Tacoma on **Friday, Dec. 11**, Seattle at Town Hall on **Saturday, Dec. 12**, Mt. Vernon on **Sunday, Dec. 13**, and Bellevue on **Monday, Dec. 14**. Tickets and info on times and locations are available on-line at www.magicalstrings.com.

December 3, 5 and 6 **Valerie Muzzolini Gordon** performs the *Debussy Dances* with the Seattle Symphony. 206-215-4747 for ticket office.

Saturday, December 5 1:30-3:30 Art opening with harp and violin duets by **Monica Schley** and Julie Baldrige at the Ida Culver House (Ravenna), 2315 NE 65th St, Seattle 98115. Open to the public.

Saturday, December 5 7:00 pm at Stratford in Maple Leaf, 9001 Lake City Way NE. The Northwest Youth Harp Ensemble under the direction of **Susi Hussong** (12 AHS harpist members) will perform their annual holiday concert. They will be joined by bells, voice and violin.

Sunday, December 6 and Saturday, December 12 12-2 pm. **Vanessa Stovall and Susi Hussong** will play holiday duos at Swanson's Nursery, 9701 15th Ave NW, Seattle. There is not much room to sit but come see the live reindeer and camel plus the train and maybe Santa.

Tuesday, December 8 6:00 PM Concert by the PLU Harp Ensemble, directed by **Catherine Case**. Choir room of the PLU Music Building. Seasonal ensemble and solo repertoire.

Thursday, December 10 Seattle WA at Green Lake United Methodist Church. (Time was not given but info at jonhowe@earthlink.net.) "A Winter Gift" is presented by storyteller and wire-strung harpist Patrick Ball, along with harpers and multi-instrumentalists Lisa Lynne and Aryeh Frankfurter. They will present a heartwarming collection of beloved and original seasonal music, as well as Celtic legends and folk stories including A Child's Christmas in Wales, Wind in the Willows, and passages from Shakespeare. Three Celtic harps, the Swedish nyckelharpa, fiddle, bandura, bouzouki and more. For further info on the players, please see www.LegendsOfTheCelticHarp.com. You may also view a video excerpt at www.youtube.com/watch?v=--Ee7X18OUo. Tickets (\$25 general/\$20 students & seniors) are available at Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2259720>.

Saturday, December 12 12:30-3:00 PM **Monica Schley** plays solo harp at the Woodhouse Holiday Bazaar, a wine tasting bazaar and music event at [Woodhouse Wine Estates](http://www.woodhousewine.com), 15500 Woodinville-Redmond Rd NE, Suite c600, Woodinville, WA 98072. Her new [CD Harp Carols](http://www.monicaschley.com) will be available.

Saturday, December 12 3:00 at the Ballard Library, 5614 22nd Ave NW, Seattle. The Northwest Youth Harp Ensemble under the direction of **Susi Hussong** (12 AHS harpist members) will perform their annual holiday concert. They will be joined by bells, voice and violin.

Sunday, December 13 2:00-3:30 at Swanson's Nursery on 15th NW. The Northwest Youth Harp Ensemble under the direction of **Susi Hussong** (12 AHS harpist members) will perform their annual holiday concert. They will be joined by bells, voice and violin.

Tuesday, December 15 8:00 The Daphnes in concert. The Daphnes includes harp and voice (**Monica Schley**), bass and violin, and will add vocalists [Ivory Smith](http://www.ivorysmith.com) and Goatgirl. The Sunset Tavern, 5433 Ballard Ave. NW, Seattle.

January 28-February 21, 2016: **Catherine Case** will be in the pit for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

February 6 and March 6: Annual adjudications, now to be called *Auditions and Evaluations*. Location TBA. **Alison Austin** will be our evaluator.

February 27 and 28, 2016 **Valerie Muzzolini Gordon** will play a lesser known Parish-Alvars concerto, *Opus 81 in G minor*, with the Tacoma Symphony in Gig Harbor and Tacoma. 253.591.5894 or 1.800.291.7593 for tickets.

March 10 - 13, 2016 Beginning in the Middle Harp Festival 2016, "designed specifically for adult harpists at all skill levels." Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, VA. www.beginninginthemiddle.com/

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: Lyon & Healy 85 XP, 45 strings, extended board, mahogany. \$11,000. Please contact Alison Austin at Alison@austinharp.com. This harp has been listed elsewhere and the price has now been reduced by \$1,000.

For Sale: Venus concert harp, made in 1990. 46 strings, bottom C to top F. Encore model natural maple with gold bands on column; with extended, decorated soundboard. Warm resonant tone. Includes matching Venus adjustable bench and rubber covered tuning key in leather holder. Used for teaching as I have a different harp to take out. \$11,000 plus tax. NE Seattle. Patricia Jaeger (206) 525-7682 or pjaeger99@hotmail.com. Sales tax must be added to price unless buyer has a WA business license.

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 rent: Lyon & Healy Style 15 Pedal Harp, birdseye maple in excellent condition. 46 strings. \$125 per month. Contact Susan McLain at greensleevesharp@aol.com or call 206 932-1861.

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 with handles, perfect for carrying. Asking price: \$500. Interested parties may contact Mindi at [253-670-2351](tel:253-670-2351).

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: 38-string Salvi Egan harp, pick-ups installed for amplification, extra strings, lever regulation tool kit. \$5,000. (Possibly includes harp carrier and amp.) Philip Mooney at onebutch@comcast.net or (360) 923-1318.

For rent: Dusty Strings Double Strung harp, Maple and Cherry. Excellent condition. Exceptional bold, clear sound. \$45 per month. Make yours a double! Contact Susan McLain at greensleevesharp@aol.com or call 206 932-1861.

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

FUN STUFF

This one's in honor of Harp Fest's guest drummer and bassist!



A man goes to a Pacific island for vacation. As the boat nears, he notices the constant sound of drumming. As he gets off the boat, he asks a native how long the drumming will go on. The native casts about nervously and says "very bad when drumming stops." Later that day, the drumming is still going and it is really starting to get to him so he asks another native when the drumming will stop. The native looks as if he's just been spooked. "Very bad when drumming stops," he says, and hurries off. After a couple of days with little sleep, the man has had enough. He grabs the first native he sees, slams him up against a tree, and shouts, "What happens when the drumming stops?" The native replies, "Bass solo."

Bada-boom again!



American Harp Society Greater Seattle Chapter
Harp Fest Recital
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Renton
October 17, 2015
3 p.m.

<i>Song of the Lark</i> <i>Song of the Waking Sun</i> <i>Flight</i> <i>Into Darkness</i>	Jennifer Rhyne, flute Catherine Case, harp	Charles Rochester Young
<i>Pavane</i>		Anon.\arr. Carlos Salzedo
<i>Cadenza from Nutcracker: Waltz of the Flowers</i> Angie Kong		Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
<i>Baroque Flamenco</i>	Prydwyn Goldman	Deborah Henson-Conant
<i>Waltzes and Promenades</i>	Alison Austin and Jill Whitman	John Marson
<i>Sonatine pour deux harpes (Allegro)</i>	Valerie Muzzolini Gordon and Sophie Baird-Daniel	J.M. Damase

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WEDDING HARPING:

It's everything you've trained for musically with a heavy dose of human relations and an extra serving of business savvy

1. **Bring the contract-** confirm the start time again the week prior to the ceremony
 - a. Have an exact address.
 - b. Map it ahead of time to make sure it registers as a real address in your GPS
 - c. Have a DAY OF CELL PHONE contact # for someone other than the client that will be onsite
 - d. Know the name of the wedding couple, the officiant, the hired planner or designated "cue person"
2. **Arrive on time or early** like a good scout. Harpist's honor code. Pack well. Anticipate well.
 - a. Tuning key (or two or three), Tuner, Bench, Stand, Stand light, Watch, Extra set of strings, extra batteries. (Amp and correct length cables and electric cords if applicable)
 - b. Be ready for anything. I mean anything ☺ I target my arrival time for one hour before my prelude music will begin, or 1 ½ hours before the ceremony start.
3. **Dress appropriately.** You are visible and present on a most important day of their lives.
 - a. Consider having "moving the harp" shoes with traction and then put on your wedding "dress" shoes
 - b. If it's hot out, consider a moving the harp outfit (mine is all black casual, professional) and then the wedding formal dress to change into
4. **Arrive with a BIG SMILE for everyone.** You are very much a part of the ceremony and the couples' and family's day. Your intention and overall spirit will shine through your countenance not just through your fingertips.
 - a. Introduce yourself to the planner and to the marriage officiant.
 - b. Offer to help if after you are set up you notice there is still work to be done to prepare the ceremony site.
 - c. Keep that smile on even while playing. You'll enjoy it more if you do.
5. **MEET with the wedding couple in a 1 hour consultation** at least 1 month prior to the ceremony
 - a. Listen to what they want, ask how they met, learn about them and the tone they want to create with the music in addition to specific requests for the ceremony. I ask for 3 descriptive words.
 - b. Be prepared with your music to be a juke box harpist for 1 hour.

- c. Take GOOD notes on all of their requests and favorites. Write down music they name even if you don't have it in your repertoire. Once you hear it enough you'll want to be sure to add it, right?

6. **Nothing compares to Good Preparation**

- a. Place the ceremony music in the order of the processional in a three ring binder
- b. In a divided part of the binder arrange the prelude music. Have at least TWICE the amount of music for prelude and postlude that you think you will need. Things happen and weddings often run late. Sometimes really crazy things happen. Roll with it and keep smiling.
- c. Learn to vamp, stretch or stop selected songs so you can "tailor" the music to what is happening in the aisle. Hint: ALWAYS know what KEY you are playing in and at least the I, IV and V chords for that key so you can do some simple improvisation with arpeggios, glissandos or a repeated chord progression.

7. **Build a repertoire YOU would want at your own wedding.**

- a. Then learn more. Research top songs of the year on blogs. Listen to the radio. Make lists of songs to add. Set goals. Network with other wedding harpists for ideas.

8. **Choose where to place the harp wisely.** After finding out the couple's plan for placement, ask yourself "IS it a" ...

- a. Level spot?
- b. Good view to the person giving cues?
- c. Good view angle for the aisle?
- d. Place that will still have room for me, my stand and bench once the wedding party enters?

9. **Discuss clear CUES before the wedding,** either the day of or by email in advance

- a. Connect with the planner for the point where you will be cued to end prelude music and begin the processional music. Ask for a CLEAR STRONG signal. I've had people wink from 50 yards away.
- b. Ask the officiant what his/her FINAL words are for the end of the ceremony. That will be the moment you begin the jubilant recessional!

And lastly...

8 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HARPING OUTDOORS:

1. This #1 rule is about what no one but YOU cares about

Read carefully : NO ONE ELSE CARES ABOUT YOUR HARP LIKE YOU DO Everything else on this list follows from that one piece of knowledge. NO ONE ELSE will think about the impact their wedding or party environment will have on your eyes, your muscles, or your very valuable harp. Because of having (finally) accepted this as truth, I take full responsibility for everything involving my harp being in the great outdoors and have developed the remaining guidelines. You can have your own wording in your contract that you will not play in certain weather conditions so everything is agreed upon upfront.

2. Ask too many questions. *Stairs? * Steps? * Rock paths? * Gravel paths *Steep embankments? *Sandy Beach? * Sprinkler systems? * floating island? *How far is the unloading area from the event site? *boat dock—what is the angle at low tide? High tide?

Our favorite answer to all of that is “wheelchair accessible”. Ahhh. Otherwise, bring help if it's a few football fields, a hilly spot...or just say NO to the winding staircase down to the beach.

3. Ask them their inclement weather Plan B? They will think you mean a downpour of rain, but you know you mean...moisture. Intermittent drizzle. One drop of rain or even a puffy, grey cloud thinking about raining in the next 12 hours. Do not assume they will consider your instrument's value in their plans. I bring a canopy to every outdoor wedding because I will not risk harming my harp and want the music to continue uninterrupted.

4. Sometimes it is downright HOT in the Pacific Northwest. Only you will be horrified as your soundboard begins to heat up in 85-90 degree direct sunlight. It can crack while the wedding hosts are celebrating that they had a clear, dry sunny day and their florist manages to keep the flowers fresh. Aforementioned canopy to the rescue once again. Yes, I use it for direct sun, extreme heat.

5. Bring clips for your music to hold it in place during breeze, wind or outright gusts.

6. Bring a weight for the base of your music stand if heavier winds are expected. Sand bag tent weights are fine. If you play at the top of a hill, ridge or mountain—be ready.

7. Check the ground for moisture and for slope. **A.** Often a venue will have watered VERY well before the event so everything is green and fresh. This spells doom for your harp base if you are on the grass. **B.** Often the ground is sloping or uneven. Tell them what you need ahead of time or... I bring my own floor for my harp, bench and stand to rest on. It keeps my harp base dry and me on level ground.

8. About that sun: bring water, sunscreen and sunglasses. If you cannot see the music without sun glasses, wear them. Otherwise, keep them off.