

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 secretary:

Dear members,

Have you renewed your membership yet? If not, please do it now and don't procrastinate any longer. It's a matter of a few moments and would mean that your membership chairs, Patti and Melissa, won't have to spend hours on the phone chasing you down. The deadline is November 1 to get your name in the directory.

I hope you're planning to attend Harp Fest on Saturday, October 17, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Renton. Two sessions of jazz/improv plus panels on playing in the orchestra and playing for weddings, all full of nitty-gritty, valuable info to enhance your harping life. The day will end with a wonderful concert. Your chapter professionals have stepped up to be leaders and performers. Need some holiday harp decorations? I'll have a table-full to give away.

Here's a great way to open Harp Fest weekend: go to the concert by Latin harpist Edmar Castañeda on Friday, Oct. 16, 8pm at the Poncho Concert Hall at Cornish (710 East Roy Street). It's a rare chance to hear a wonderful performer.

See you at Harp Fest!

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. Condolences
2. Alison's new studio
3. Spotlight on Melissa Walsh
4. Some books, music and cool stuff

1. Our deepest condolences to member Jill Whitman on the recent loss of her father.

Also to Harper Tasche who lost his mother, Frieda Jordan, on September 12 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. (<http://www.westfordfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Frieda-Jordan-2/#!/Obituary>.) I never met her but knew her name because of "Frieda's Waltz", a wonderful piece Harper wrote that I saw and heard him perform on a small harp somewhere years ago. He was playing along and suddenly I heard an unexpected accidental... but he hadn't moved his hands from the strings! Huh? I spoke to him later and learned that he had played that piece on his *cross-strung*, and he said, "I can always tell a harpist is in the audience when I see his or her jaw drop at an accidental with no lever changes!"

2. After years of dreaming and planning, Alison Austin will open a new studio and harp salon in Edmonds on October 24. There will be drawings to win a Lyon & Healy Shamrock harp and four free lessons. See the Calendar for more info. Congratulations, Alison!



3. **Spotlight** on membership co-chair Melissa Walsh: how she started playing the harp



We've all been asked, many times, "How did you start playing the harp? Why?" My pat answer is that I was curious, and satisfying that curiosity was easy because of some family connections. When I was in middle school, I mentioned to my mother that it would be interesting to learn more about the harp, and she mentioned this to a friend of hers. As it turned out, the friend's mother taught harp lessons. Her name was Lucille Pulliam. The only hitch was that she lived in Portland and I lived in Lake Stevens. However, she came up monthly to visit family, and when she did, I got a lesson.

I had taught myself how to sight-read at the piano, which made learning songs at the harp all the more fun. I soon moved from the lever harp to renting a small pedal harp. Within a couple years, I was playing in the small orchestra at my church. To my very good fortune, the music director at the church was well connected with musicians in Seattle and I was ultimately introduced to Lynne Palmer. I started lessons with Mrs. Palmer when I was a sophomore in high school and thrived on her amazing skills as both teacher and musician.

4. Interesting sounding new books and music we've heard of:

Ruthann Ritchie writes: Just read all the way through Megan Matheny's new book *Bernard's Christmas--* snippets of Andres Bernard's tunes interspersed with variations on familiar Advent tunes. Love the arrangements – interesting and refreshing to have some new pieces for Advent.

Basically Bach for lever or pedal harp – intermediate level. Rhett Barnwell, arranger. Arioso, Sheep May Safely Graze, Menuet in G Major, Bouree No.1, Sleepers Awake, Marche, Sonatina, Bist Du Bel Mir and more. You can see and hear snippets at <https://www.harpcenter.com/product/pdf-download-barnwell-basically-bach/harp-music-books-classical>

Musician's Yoga: A Guide to Practice, Performance and Inspiration by Mia Olson.

Ray Pool's new fake books:

Anthology : In addition to the melody line and chord symbols, this format gives a single note to be placed as the top note of a suggested left hand chord inversion as an accompaniment. What a great idea for those who are not skilled in playing from fake books yet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWULv0NLquc>

Hymns and Harmony: 100 most famous hymns in fake book format.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvxC_UYNBc8

Not new but worth reminding you of: Ray's *Clever Levers*: a lever harp study of advanced harmony specific to that instrument (1995).

Also, take two minutes to watch and hear Bach's Preludio III on the cross-strung at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUG7CLVKsTg&feature=youtu.be>. Who needs pedals, eh?

And...Use this "COOL COOL COOL" removable ledger line tape to modify, simplify, or make marks on sheet music. No more pencil strokes or sticky notes. And you can easily remove it later. It's called OVERSCORE. Available from Michigan Harp Center or from <http://www.overscoretape.com>



CALENDAR

September 25 - October 4 Pacific Northwest Ballet kicks off its season opener with **John Carrington** and **Earecka Tregenza** playing together in Christopher Wheeldon's ballet *Tide Harmonic* with music by Joby Talbot. 7 performances. Tickets and information at PNB.org.

Saturday, October 10, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM. "Ergonomics for All Musicians" led by Laurie Riley in the Red Room at Dusty Strings retail store in Fremont. \$35. See Bits and Pieces for more details.

Saturday, October 10, 2:00. *Blind Date, a whirlwind for flute and harp*, by Alexander Lamont Miller, will be performed by Patricia Wooster, harp, and Carol Wollenberg, flute, at Sigma Alpha Iota's Province Day Musicale at Kilworth Chapel, University of Puget Sound. The piece was commissioned by Jim Wooster to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in June. Free.

Friday, October 16, 8pm at the Poncho Concert Hall at Cornish (710 East Roy Street). Latin harpist Edmar Castañeda will be playing a solo concert, with the wonderful Jovino Santos Neto (Brazilian jazz master) opening. Tickets are \$18/\$16 Earshot members & seniors/\$9 students. This [NPR Tiny Desk Concert](#) is from 2010, but is a nice intro to him.



Saturday, October 17: Chapter Harp Fest SAVE THE DATE!! FREE to all chapter members! Harp circles and panels. Location is a familiar spot: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 3604 NE 10th Ct., Renton. Put it on or in your calendar now! Auditors are welcome!

10-11:30 [Joys & Terrors of Improvisation](#) Carol Levin and Monica Schley

Are you terrified of playing 'off the page'? Free improvisation - spontaneously allowing music to emerge without preconceptions - can liberate your creative self to focus on mood, texture and musical gesture. Instead of relying on set forms of melody, harmony or rhythm, these elements become the building blocks of in-the-moment dynamic composition, and encourage listening to sounds with a new ear and engaging in spontaneous musical conversations with other players.

This is a participative workshop: Bring harp (lever or pedal). Non-harpists welcome - if willing to participate with voice or other instrument.

Carol Levin and Monica Schley (www.monicaschley.com) have performed as an improvising duo, including in the 2015 Seattle Improvised Music Festival. Each also performs individually in solo and collaborative projects.

10-11:30 [Playing in the Orchestra](#). (great for students!) Alison Austin and Jill Whitman

Why does everyone else seem to know what to do? Where to go and sit.

Storing the harp. Tuning.

Understanding basic beat patterns; How to count, when to count, what to do if I get lost.

Is this music something I can play?

What do the symbols and markings for orchestra harp parts mean?

What to do when a string breaks

How to read and mark parts.

How to know what the conductor wants.

How do I blend with other instruments?

How to prepare for the first rehearsal - CDs vs Youtube.

11:30-12:30 [BYO lunch](#). (We'll provide juice, water, cookies.)

12:30 – 2:00 [Jazz: Playing Well With Others](#) Carol Levin and friends

In the harp world, jazz often equates to 'Jazz & Pop' solo performance. In the jazz world, the harmonic and rhythmic structure of standard tunes are usually supported by the bass and drums of the rhythm section. This session will include a little jazz theory, understanding lead sheets, using fake books, the role of soloist with rhythm section, and what makes this easy or challenging for the harpist.

This is a participative workshop: Bring harp (lever or pedal) and stand.

Strongly recommended, and inspiring: Go see Columbian jazz harpist Edmar Castaneda the night before at Cornish!

Carol Levin, Sue Spang (bass) and Kelli Mitchell (Drums) are members of the MoodSwings, an all-women big band, and each plays with combos around town.

12:30 – 2:00 Playing for Weddings. Susan Haas and Susan McLain

A discussion (possibly aided by Fair Trade activist Paul Bigman) about why and when we charge for our services, and what the real cost is to us. Can include determining what our worth is, contracts and what they should include (not bringing a sample, but a discussion about them, such as "four corners rule", contract enforcement, etc., etc., etc.) A discussion about the importance of understanding our responsibilities as professionals and upcoming professionals to provide high quality harp music in our community and how we can work together to achieve that.

Also, "10 Top Tips," or, Everything You Wanted to Know about Playing Harp for Weddings but Were Afraid to Ask.

2:00-3:00 Refreshments, schmooze time. "Swap" table with free Christmas ornaments and anything else you have – music? posters? extra harp totes or T-shirts? (We are not allowed to sell anything in the church.)

3:00 Concert

Performers are expected to be 2015 scholarship winners Angie Kong and Prydwyn Goldman, and chapter professionals Gwen Lyons Baker, Catherine Case with flutist Jennifer Rhyne, Valerie Muzzolini Gordon and Sophie Baird-Daniel as a duo, and Alison Austin and Jill Whitman, duo. The public is welcome to this free concert.

(Harp Fest workshops are open to all, but non-members are invited to make a donation to the chapter.)



Friday October 23, 4:30pm: The official opening of Austin Harp Arts and Austin Harp Salon, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the mayor of Edmonds. 110 West Dayton St., Suite 104, Edmonds, WA. For more info, contact Alison Austin at 206-817-8444 or akaharp@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 24 10:00-5:00 A public open house and celebration at Austin Harp Arts and Austin Harp Salon, with door prizes and a drawing for a Shamrock lever harp. AHA will carry music, strings and other needs. Ogden and the Chicago Concertino harps will be available for sale. 110 West Dayton St., Suite 104, Edmonds, WA. For more info, contact Alison Austin at 206-817-8444 or akaharp@gmail.com.

Monday, October 26 at 7:30 PM in the Edmonds Center for the Arts. Patti Warden will be providing harp parts in three orchestral selections on the first concert of the 2015-2016 season with the Cascade Symphony. Selections include Mascagni's Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Alfvén's *Swedish Rhapsody No. 1*, and Chausson's *Poème* for violin and orchestra. Tickets are available at the orchestra's website, www.cascadesymphony.org.

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.

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

January 28-February 21, 2016: Catherine 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 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: 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 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 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: 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: 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: 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, henzcharper@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.

OTHER

For sale: Viola: 15" made by Conrad Goetz, Germany. Includes case, some music. Recent appraisal by Biscofberger in Seattle \$2000. Sell for \$1300. Patricia Jaeger (206) 525-7682 or pjaeger99@hotmail.com.

Cello: Eberhard half-size, bow, "Cushy" case with wheels and backpack straps, handsome wood stand with red velvet lining from Shar, so student can display it and more easily practice it than when zipped into sturdy case. Some music, 2 videos "Exploring the Bow" made by Orlando Cole and Lynn Harrell. \$700. Patricia Jaeger (206) 525-7682 or pjaeger99@hotmail.com.

Sales tax must be added to prices unless buyer has a WA business license.



FUN STUFF



For the next time you play with your flutist:

Q: What do a flute and a lawsuit have in common? A: Everyone is relieved when the case is closed.

Q: How do you keep your jewelry from being stolen? A: Leave it in a flute case.

Q: Why did the chicken cross the road? A: To get away from the flute recital.

Marriage is like playing the flute. It looks easy until you try it.

Two musicians are walking down the street, and one says to the other, "Who was that piccolo I saw you with last night?" The other replies, "That was no piccolo, that was my wife." Ba-da-bum!

source: <http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/musicjokes/flutejokes.html>



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!