

AHS in DALLAS CHAPTER NEWS



Spring, 2021

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members of the American Harp Society in Dallas!

As I reflect on the year we've had since my newsletter last Spring, it's hard to believe the year we were NOT expecting. I'm hopeful that the past year has brought some positive aspects to your lives, both personally and musically. I also reflect on the number of lives we've lost this year due to COVID-19. I'm sure all of you have been affected in some way. I wish you all the best in your recovery from all the negatives we've experienced this year, and rejoice in the positives and new knowledge gained.

On the personal and positive side, I took a very short break from playing the harp, after many years of playing professionally. I learned that I really still love playing the harp and feel even more fortunate that I'm doing what I love!! I used the "non-gigging" time to learn new repertoire, and brush up on the old. I also believe I became a better teacher through having to teach virtually, having to pay much closer attention to a student's technique, and learning to teach rhythm in a new way, due to sight and sound not always being in sync online.

As you read this newsletter, I hope you can see just how diligent and hardworking the members of the Board of Directors of our AHS in Dallas Chapter are, and have been. Although they were struggling to make their own livings as musicians in a pandemic, they also jumped in to learn new ways of keeping our Chapter strong and solid. Not only did they adopt

means to continue to have meetings virtually, they invented ways of helping our members, our student members, and our fellow musicians. I am humbly grateful to them for their dedication to keeping our Chapter moving forward.

Please read on!

Sincerely,

Becky Scherschell, President

Board of Directors,

Laura Logan Brandenburg - 1st Vice President (Programs)

Cindy Horstman - 2nd Vice President (Membership)

Leanna Johnson - Secretary

Sydney Howell - Assistant Secretary

Carla Siegesmund - Treasurer

Haley Hodson - Historian/Webmaster

Naoko Nakamura - Student Events

Urszula Rucka - Hospitality

Monika Ruusmaa- Assistant Hospitality

Upcoming Chapter Events

HARP WEEKEND APRIL 10 & 11!

You are cordially invited to participate in this exciting event, sponsored by the Dallas Chapter and partially funded by an AHS National Grant, which our Treasurer, **Carla Siegesmund**, wrote and received for us. (Thank you, Carla!!)

Registration is NOW OPEN for an entertaining and interactive weekend of harp workshops, plus a special performance by harpist, composer, arranger, and educator **Julia Kay Jamieson**.



Details and registration information are available on the AHS in Dallas website, www.dallasharpsociety.org/events. A series of three workshops will be offered on Saturday, April 10, 2021. The workshops are open to adults and youth of all levels on pedal and lever harp. Sign up for one, two, or all three, workshops. A concert and social hour with our guest artist will be presented on Sunday, April 11, 2021, and will be offered free and open to the public. *All events will be virtual.*

Join the workshops with your harp, ready to play and learn! In addition to Fearless Improv, and Playing from a Lead Sheet in any style of music, Julia will lead a unique workshop and masterclass on How to Play Bohemian Rhapsody.

Don't miss out on the fun! Register today. Sign up for individual workshops at \$20 each, or all three workshops for \$35. The concert on Sunday is free. Don't forget to order your music if you'll be playing "Bohemian Rhapsody."
THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS APRIL 1ST!

In the meantime, please enjoy this video of Julia playing her solo rendition of "Bohemian Rhapsody" by Queen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ki0iXaXpKs>

April 24, 2021

Julia Herrmann Edwards Student Scholarship Competition & Gail Barber Prize Scholarship Competition

These competitions will take place virtually, but live. Our Student Events Chair, **Naoko Nakamura**, and her committee, are working out details for a smooth competition. The **Julia Herrmann Edwards** Student Scholarship Competition honors Ms. Edwards, who was a long-time Dallas Symphony harpist, and our Chapter founder, and awards prizes to the best performances of music written or edited by Marcel Grandjany, her teacher. The **Gail Barber** Prize Scholarship Competition honors Ms. Barber, and awards a prize for the best performance of a composition written or arranged by Ms. Barber. The repertoire has been circulated and the deadline to enter has passed, so all we do is wait for the date. Of course, our student competitors will be working diligently for their competition moments!

This is not a scheduled meeting, except for the competitors, so we anxiously await the results of the competition.

WE WISH THE BEST PERFORMANCE SUCCESS TO ALL OF THE COMPETITORS!

May 2, 2021, 3:00 p.m. Spring Student Recital

Naoko Nakamura, Student Events Chair

This will be an online recital. Teachers will be contacted soon with more details. Students, we're looking forward to hearing what you have accomplished this year virtually!

May 23, 2021 3:00 p.m.

Dallas Chapter Ambassadors **Sarika Ahire** and **Allison Qui** will present their final collaborative projects in a special Zoom event on Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 3:00 pm. The students worked together to create teaching and performance video lessons on two harp ensemble arrangements: *Ravel's Introduction and Allegro – Jazz Fantasie for Two Harps*, by **Cindy Horstman**, and *Habanera Gris*, by Alfredo Rolando Ortiz.



Sarika Ahire, age sixteen, began learning the harp at the age of nine. She currently studies with **Yumiko Endo Schlaffer** and **Young Park**. In 2016, Sarika was the Category I winner of the American Harp Society in Dallas Student Scholarship Competition. She is also a two-time Texas Music Educators Association (TMEA) All-State harpist. As an AHS Dallas Chapter Ambassador, Sarika strives to promote a sense of community among her fellow harpists. In addition to music, she enjoys programming and playing table tennis.

Allison Qui has been playing harp for five years. She is currently a freshman at Centennial High School in Frisco, Texas, and one day hopes to attend New York University for medical school. Allison has participated in All Region all three years of middle school and was named an alternate this year for the high school All Region. In 2019 she attended the Harp Conference in North Carolina as a Chapter Ambassador. In addition to playing the harp, she enjoys skateboarding and playing the guitar. Her harp teachers are **Mrs. Yumiko Schlaffer** and **Mrs. Young Park**.

Election of Officers for the 2021-2023 Season

The Nominating Committee has been at work receiving nominations and putting together a slate of officers for the next AHS in Dallas term. The current plan is to vote virtually at the Spring Student Recital on May 2. The proposed slate of officers for the Board of Directors roster is presented below:

President: Becky Scherschell

1st Vice President--Programs: Laura Brandenburg

2nd Vice President—Membership: Haley Hodson

Secretary: Leanna Johnson

Assistant Secretary: Denise Holland

Treasurer: Carla Siegesmund

Student Events: Naoko Nakamura

Webmaster: Mallory McHenry

Hospitality: Urszula Rucka

Assistant Hospitality: Monika Ruusmaa

Past Events of AHS in Dallas 2020- 2021

October 4, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Celebration of Creativity: Multi Media Recital Presentation of New Music for Harp

Kimberly DeRosa; Crimson Duo: Jaymee Haefner & Matt Milewski;

Emily Levin

This was an extremely successful online ZOOM event, which was followed by an online discussion with the performers, led by our Program Chair, Laura Brandenburg.



November 15, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Lecture-Recital Presentation of Mid-Late 19th c. Compositions by African-American Women Composers, Transcribed for Harp

Mallory McHenry, Doctoral Candidate at University of Texas Austin

Mu Phi Epsilon Recital Series

This was also a fascinating presentation of music performed beautifully by Ms. McHenry, and followed by a virtual discussion with her, led by Laura Brandenburg.



February 7, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

American Harp Society Concert Artist Virtual Recital

Caroline Wilkins, AHS Concert Artist 2019-2021

Mu Phi Epsilon Recital Series

Our national AHS Concert Artist presented a wonderful recital and then a spirited discussion afterwards, led by our Program Chairman, Laura Brandenburg.



March 7, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

Let's Talk Tech: A Discussion of Technology and Recording for the Harp

Harpists of all ages gathered virtually to share their knowledge and discoveries of equipment for the best sound production for teaching, performing, and recording on the harp, led by Laura Brandenburg. We were honored to have, as our special guest, the Chairman of the Board of the national AHS, Kela Walton.

Student Events Chair, Naoko Nakamura also gave some details and tips on the upcoming Julia Herrmann Edwards Student Scholarship Competition and the Gail Barber Prize Scholarship Competition taking place on April 24, 2021.

Past Chapter -Involved Events

October 11, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

AHS South Central Region Zoom meeting

Hosted by **Vincent Pierce**, South Central Regional Director

*This meeting featured a performance by **Kathleen Hopkins**, Dallas Chapter Ambassador and Winner of the 2019 AHS National Competition Intermediate I Division.*



November 8, 2020, 3:00 p.m.

Juan Riveros, harpist

Grand Prize Winner of the 2020 Lewisville Lake Symphony International Competition for Strings and Harp, performing Debussy *Danses Sacree et Profane* and Ravel *Introduction and Allegro*

This was a streamed broadcast.

Juan is a Dallas native and currently a student at The Cleveland Institute of Music. A virtual discussion with Juan after the recital, again led by Laura, proved very interesting. Adron Ming, Conductor of the Lewisville Lake Symphony, attended the discussion, as well as Alison Read, Juan's earlier harp teacher in Dallas, who has been extremely helpful and supportive of Juan's career.



AHS in Dallas COVID-19 Pandemic Projects

In May of 2020, the Board of Directors sponsored an AHS in Dallas Cares Grant to help support its members who were unemployed due to COVID-19. Each recipient was asked to fill out an application form and apply for a grant for up to \$250. Grants were awarded in June, 2020.

The AHSD Board of Directors also decided to let each member in good standing from the 2019-2020 season remain a member for the 2020-2021 season without having to pay for the new season. This was to encourage all members to continue their memberships in spite of any COVID-19 financial hardship.

Each September, North Texas Giving Day, sponsored by the Communities Foundation of Texas, is set aside for anyone who wants to donate to non-profit organizations. The American Harp Society was given generous donations this year, and the Board of Directors voted to give a portion of the donations to the DFW Musicians COVID-19 Relief Fund, to help all musicians in the area. A grateful thank you to all who donated this year!!!

News of Members

From Haley Hodson:

~**Haley Hodson** has 6 newly published arrangements available on harpcolumnmusic.com “Passacaglia”, “Allegro”, “Minuetto & Trio”, “Morning Mood”, “Adagio Sostenuto”, “Badinerie”

~Her arrangement of “Passacaglia” was chosen for the 2021 Harp Column Practice Challenge

~Her new harp ensemble composition “Lantau Island” published by Lyon & Healy and available on harp.com

~ Her recording series of Harp Olympics solos are available for reference to beginner students on YouTube



From the Frisco ISD Harp Program:

Frisco ISD is celebrating its success in having six harp students selected to the All State Orchestras this year again! Six is the maximum number of students that their region can provide, and this is the sixth time in a row that Frisco ISD achieved this maximum number of students. Congratulations to the All State harpists, **Nathan Zhou**, student of **Young Park** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**, **Sarika Ahire**, student of **Young Park** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**, **Giselle Menezes**, student of **Dr. Jaymee Haefner** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**, **Christopher Minn**, student of **Yumiko Schlaffer**, **Urja Joshi**, student of **Jennifer Betzer** and **Yumiko Schlaffer**, and **Jasmine Liew**, student of **Jennifer Betzer** and **Leanna Johnson**.

From the studio of Cindy Horstman:

Cindy Horstman has been very active in composing, arranging, and video editing. Due to the pandemic, Cindy has created several videos of her harp ensemble at Dallas College and this has proven to be an educational

experience for both Cindy and her students. Her videos of the students playing her arrangements and compositions have won praise throughout Dallas College including the Board of Trustees.

The link below is their holiday virtual concert:

<https://youtu.be/AhxDL5ZatSE>

The Dallas College Harp Ensemble members are: **Travis Beck, Angela Glover, Stan Guy, Grace Johnson, Ceci Lagarenne, Linda Mudd, Angela Pajoohi, Cynthia Raehl, Tenesa Rasmussen, Jo'anna Snowden, Sally Stobaugh, Katherine Taylor, Carla Siegesmund, and Linda Whitaker.**



Cindy has also been active as a performer, presenter, and board member for the national American Harp Society and the Harp in Worship National Conference.

From **Laura Brandenburg:**

After 20 years of service in the TCU School of Music, **Laura Logan Brandenburg** stepped down as Harp Instructor at the end of the Fall 2020 semester. Her tenure at TCU was filled with amazingly talented colleagues, incredible friends, memorable musical collaborations, and many wonderful students she was privileged to teach along the way. She is currently investing her time in a variety of musical and non-musical projects and is enjoying teaching and coaching on an ad hoc basis for now. Laura could not be more delighted with the appointment of her former student Mallory McHenry as incoming Adjunct Instructor of Harp at TCU. Mallory brings incredible musicianship, scholarship, and vibrant energy to the position. The DFW harp community warmly welcomes Mallory back to the area and we all look forward to seeing what the future holds for the next generation of TCU harpists.

In addition to serving as an officer for the AHS in Dallas Chapter, Laura is also honored to serve on the Board of Directors of the Harp in Worship Conference. She has previously been a presenter and ensemble director at

the 2013 and 2017 conferences, and is looking forward to serving as a team member at the 2021 virtual conference. The Harp in Worship Conference will be held July 1-4, 2021. More information is available at www.harpinworship.org.

From the Studio of **Sydney Howell**:

It's been a challenging year for **Sydney Howell's** Harps of Gold Studio. The spring recital had to be cancelled, but the students made individual videos of their recital pieces. They were told to dress up and pretend it was a real performance, and it went very well. The studio did have a live student recital in December. Most of Sydney's students continued their harp lessons either online or in person with masks.

Sydney and her husband, Dan, have continued to be active during the pandemic, especially with church activities where they chair six committees altogether. They also love spending time with their German Shepherd, Duke. Sydney played several of weddings, church services, and funerals throughout the pandemic. She says she and Dan continue to be thankful for lessons learned, and for those they have been able to help during this time.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sydney and Dan and their family upon the recent passing of Dan's daughter.

From **Naoko Nakamura**:

On Sunday, March 14th, 2021 at 2:30PM, livestreaming from Caruth Auditorium in SMU's Owen Arts Center, the Meadows Chamber Orchestra performed. The concert, led by music director Paul Phillips, featured the world premiere of "Lullabies for Harp, Strings and Percussion" by noted Danish composer Jesper Koch, featuring SMU faculty member **Naoko Nakamura** as harp soloist. The first lullaby depicts nature, going to sleep, a foggy meadow in late summer with occasional nature sounds breaking the silence. The second lullaby, "Haruki's Lullaby," is a simple but beautiful melody to lull a little boy to sleep.





2021 AHS Summer National Conference Postponed

This conference, scheduled to be in Orlando, Florida was postponed last summer and again this summer. It is now scheduled to take place as the 45th National Conference June 16-19, 2024. Instead, a series of online workshops and performances will be offered this summer. Details will be coming soon from our AHS Executive Committee.

The 44th National Conference is now scheduled for June of 2022, and will take place in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Stay tuned for details as they develop!!

Did You Know...

that paying your dues and joining the AHS in Dallas does not automatically mean you have joined the National AHS, Inc. or the other way around? National AHS is our “parent” organization, but not the same. To be a member of both, you must join both separately.

Why is it a good idea to join the National AHS?

- You receive the very informative *American Harp Journal* twice each year.
- You receive the **Membership Directory** of all harpists in the National AHS--about 3,000 members arranged by state.
- You are eligible to attend **National Conferences** and **Summer Institutes**.
- Students may participate in **National Competitions**.
- **Harp Insurance** is offered at a competitive price.

- You are eligible to borrow audio and video tapes of AHS concerts, educational materials, and anything contained in the **AHS International Harp Arch**

Please see our AHS in Dallas website at www.dallasharpsociety.org for a membership form, upcoming concerts, harps for sale, and much more.

Also, follow us on the AHS Dallas Community Facebook page.

HOPING TO SEE EVERYONE IN PERSON
SOMETIME VERY SOON!

HAPPY (AND SAFE) HARPING!