

August, 2011

Mark Martin *President*
Cheryl Roeske *Vice President*
Sue Richards *Vice President*
Miriam Gentle. *Secretary*
Brian Stevenson *Treasurer*

News and Events~

Alice Giles
is coming to our area
October 12 and 13



Alice Giles has been acclaimed as one of the worlds leading harp soloists. The Australian-born musician first attracted international notice in 1982 when she won the First Prize in Israel's International Harp Contest at the age of 21. Since then she has performed extensively both in recital and with orchestra in Europe, America, Australia, and Israel. In 1980, she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship and an Australia Council Grant to study with Alice Chalifoux in the US.

August, 2011

Details are still being worked out but while she is here she will be presenting a **concert** as well as a series of **master classes**. She will also be available for **individual instruction**.

DC Chapter Picnic!
Saturday, August 13



5508 Point Longstreet Way
Burke, VA

food, fun, games, and more!

for directions and details:
RSVP: Mark Martin at
manbythesea@msn.com

**It's Time to Renew
Your Membership**

It's that time again! Here is the link to get information about the chapter and to join/renew.

<http://www.dchart.org/join.html>

Membership years begin on September 1 and end on August 31 of the following year.

**Mid Atlantic Harp
Festival**

1st Weekend in March

At Providence Baptist in McLean, VA

featuring: **Elisabeth Remy Johnson**,
principal harpist, Atlanta Symphony
In the closing recital and master classes

Scholarship Competition
details coming soon.

"Then, Now and into the Future"
**American Harp Society
50th Anniversary**

40th National Conference

in New York City
June 30th – July 3rd, 2012
See you there!

August, 2011

Equipment Corner~

The perfect performance bench

Nothing is more important to a harpist (besides the harp!) than a good bench. There are so many options and just as many choices. You will need to be able to take it with you but it also needs to be sturdy. You will want to be able to adjust the height, if possible. And you have to think about how it looks. You have a lot of money invested in that harp. Do you really want a cheap looking bench to go with it? Your evening gown will only cover so much of it.

The best solution is to work out the best bench, adjust it, tweak it, perfect it, and make it perfect for you. Then use **ONLY** that bench. Then get a second one as a spare!



One option that was told to me by a professional cello friend of mine is a chair designed for cellists. The “cello

chair” is portable and reasonably priced for what you get. It can be set up with a very slight forward tilt (which the cellist needs) which will give you a little extra height but still put your feet in the right place. There is a very low back which is great for lower back support for when you are in the pit playing Wagner or Mahler for endless hours.

The “**ADJUSTRITE Musician's Chair**” can be found online here → [Cello Chair](#)

Maintenance Tips~

Breaking strings?

Hopefully, you are keeping a journal of your string replacements. If you find that you are replacing a particular string more than others, you may need to take a look closely at what is going on. **ALWAYS** make a note in your journal where the string broke (at the board, at the nut, etc.).



August, 2011

There are a few places where problems arise. Where the string passes through the soundboard is important, on all harps. There is a sharp turn and the string is under a lot of stress at this point. If you have a string breaking at the soundboard, have your technician take a look. The hole may need adjusting. If the string breaks at the nut, there may be a tiny burr on the hardware.

If you change the type of string (from nylon to gut or from gut to Concedo), the problem is most likely because the former string carved in a little groove in the soundboard eyelet that the new string is too big for. If you hear it “pop” a little as you are tuning, then that is your problem. Have your technician rework the hole for you. You can address the problem yourself with “sanding cord”. This is what furniture refinishers use to sand tiny spots and you can find it at many hardware stores.

~~~~~

Before you go to bed, cover your hands with Vaseline and put on a pair of vinyl gloves. After the gloves are on, wipe them with paper towels to get any remaining Vaseline off and go to sleep. In the morning, you will be amazed at the difference! One or two treatments will put you back in shape.

## To Your Health

### Cracked finger tips?

There is nothing worse than preparing for a performance when your finger tips are cracked and your cuticles are a mess!

Let's be honest, as we age, we “dry out” and at some point, no amount of hand cream will mend those aching fingers. Here is an old trick that really works.

August, 2011

University of Maryland, Baltimore County and on the Fifty-Fourth National Conference of the College Music Society in Richmond, Virginia.

## ~Chapter Member News~

*Please share performance dates and other information with the chapter members!*

Send info to Mark Martin at  
[manbythesea@msn.com](mailto:manbythesea@msn.com)

## Upcoming performances

*The Arlington Players (TAP)* is mounting a production of the Broadway Musical "NINE" as their season opener this fall. There will be a 14 piece orchestra including concert harp, played by **Mark Martin**.

In the fall of 2011, **Jacqueline Pollauf** will perform solo recitals on the *Chalice Concert Series* at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Columbia, Maryland and on the Music and Tea Series at the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland. Additionally Jacqueline will perform on the Spire Series of First and Franklin Presbyterian Church and the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen Music Series with the respective choirs of the churches.

## CD Releases

**Pictures on Silence**, the harp and saxophone duo of **Jacqueline Pollauf** and **Noah Getz**, will release their debut CD, *Voyage*, in 2011. This project is partially funded by a grant from the Sparkplug Foundation. In the fall of 2011, the duo will perform on the Livewire New Music Festival at the

**Melissa Tardiff Dvorak** has produced a CD of lullabies. It can be purchased from her web site

([www.capitolharpist.com](http://www.capitolharpist.com)) or from Amazon, iTunes, CD Baby, or the Harp Connection. Beautiful music for all ages!



## ~Feedback~

*Please let us know what you would like to see added to the newsletter. Send info to Mark Martin at [manbythesea@msn.com](mailto:manbythesea@msn.com)*

## ~Next Issue~

**December 1, 2011**