



AMERICAN
HARP
SOCIETY

DC CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

December, 2011

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

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2012 Mid Atlantic Harp Festival

Starting Friday, March 2, 2012

Providence Baptist Church
8980 Brook Rd
McLean, VA 22102



featuring: **Elisabeth Remy Johnson**,
principal harpist, Atlanta Symphony



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Elisabeth Remy Johnson was appointed principal harpist of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 1995. She holds the endowed Delta Air Lines Chair, and also held the honorary UPS Community Service Chair for 2006-07. With the Atlanta Symphony, Ms. Remy Johnson has performed concertos by Debussy, Handel, Mozart and Ginastera. Winner of first-place awards in competitions of the American Harp Society and the American String Teachers Association, she is also a NFAA/ARTS awardee. She studied with Ann Hobson Pilot in Boston and Alice Chalifoux at the Salzedo Summer Harp Colony in Camden, Maine. She graduated from Harvard University Phi Beta Kappa with a double major in Music and French.

REGISTRATION: \$55

FAMILY FEE: \$20

GO TO → WWW.DCHARP.ORG/INDEX.HTML

REGISTER NOW AND SAVE!

IF YOU REGISTER BY JANUARY 15, PAY ONLY \$45!

FESTIVAL EVENTS INCLUDE:

Opening Concert by the **American Youth Harp Ensemble**

Scholarship Competition Applications are due January 15, 2012
(see details below)

Master Classes with **Elisabeth Remy Johnson**
\$50/participant for 20 minutes

Anne Sullivan and other Speakers

Technical Workshop with **Ivan Gardner**

Virginia Harp Center and other vendors

Closing Concert by **Elisabeth Remy Johnson**

Lots of FREE FOOD

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SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION RULES/GUIDELINES:

There is a **\$25 non refundable fee** to enter the competition, and students must also be registered for the festival in order to compete and be members of the AHS DC Chapter and reside in the AHS region of MD, DC, DE, VA, PA, WV or NJ. Students Must be 18 years or younger. Previous competition winners are not eligible to compete for the year after winning a prize at the competition. Students may only compete in only 1 Division-choose either Young Artist or Emerging Talent Division. There is no minimum age requirement for either division, but students must be 18 years or younger for both divisions.

Repertoire: Students will play the required piece and one free choice solo. Combined timing of both pieces should not exceed 10 minutes. Only solos are permissible. Concertos are only permissible if they can be performed as a solo without the orchestral accompaniment.

Young Artist Required Repertoire: Rumba from Suite of 8 Dances by Carlos Salzedo.

Emerging Talent Required piece: Glissando Waltz by Mozart (found in Suzuki Book 2)

Students must submit a one page hand written essay outlining their experiences with the harp and detailing how they would use the scholarship to further their study of the harp.

The competition will take place throughout the day on Saturday March 3, 2012, and individual times will be assigned.

**Prizes:**

Young Artist Division: \$100 first prize, \$75 second prize, \$50 third prize

Emerging Talent Division: \$75 first prize, \$50 second prize, \$25 third prize

Honorable mentions will be at the judges' discretion and may or may not be awarded.

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"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!*
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## **Still need to Renew Your Membership?**

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.*

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DC CHAPTER ARCHIVE PROJECT

As we near our **50th anniversary**, it is a great time to reflect on the history and accomplishments of the DC Chapter as well as the success of its members. We have many scrapbooks with this information but they are in very bad need of repair. We will be carefully going through them and building new books out of these materials.

Our goal is to create one new book for each 10 years and have one “in progress” that we can use to collect information for the current period.

We hope to have much of the work done and on display at the Mid Atlantic Harp Festival. It is really fun to go through and see information and pictures from “the old days” as well as how far we have come.

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## **EQUIPMENT CORNER~**

### **The perfect gig music desk**

There seems to be millions of music desks out there to choose from. They all have pros and cons. Some are too big and some are too small. Some weigh a ton and some are so light that they fall over with the slightest breeze. The most important thing is to remember to bring it!

To make that simple, here are 2 very lightweight yet effective models that you can easily fit in your gig bags. The “Nilton Magic Stand” stand is a smart, Swedish design where the lightweight yet sturdy base folds up and fits into the shelf under the music desk. It is like a little puzzle and the beauty of it is that once you set it up you have a built in shelf for your tuner, glasses, pencils, etc. For Lever harps, there is a neat little music desk available that clamps on the side of your harp. Look, ma, no feet!!!



Nilton Magic Stand



MusicMaker's Clamp On

## **MAINTENANCE TIPS~**

### **Time to Regulate Your Lever Harp?**

Regulation is a periodic maintenance service designed to keep your harp in optimal playing condition. On a lever harp, this typically involves inspecting the harp for any necessary repairs, tightening tuning pins and lever screws, eliminating or controlling unwanted noises, and optimizing the intonation between the lever-up and lever-down positions.

Lever harps do not need regulation nearly as often as pedal harps do. I suggest having a lever harp regulated every five years, assuming you aren't having any problems with it. Periodic regulation can nip any looming problems in the bud before they show up during your big concert.

## **TO YOUR HEALTH**

### **Back to Basics!**

The biggest problems that pedal harpers run into is often not playing but transporting the harp. It is a big, heavy and awkward piece of furniture. Even with lots of fancy equipment, there is a risk to the harpist lower back. This usually happens when you are faced with getting the harp up or down a curb. The normal practice is to either pull the harp up and this is a direct impact on your lower back.

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To minimize the risk, wear a back brace! No one will see it under that lovely evening gown. Make sure that your hips are perfectly parallel with the harp – any twist will make it worse. Bend your knees. Take it slow. Then, as soon as you can, sit in a static chair and with your knees pointing forward and arms raised, turn slowly to each side to stretch out and relax your lower back side muscles.

There are also a number of great exercises that you can do after the gig. Lie flat on your back, bring your knees up to your chest, curl up and grab both legs with your hands just below the knees. You should feel your lower back pressing down on your mat. Now, either stay in that position for a while, release and repeat or gently rock from side to side. You should feel your lower back muscles being gently massaged by the pressure of your body weight.

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**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)*

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

**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~****MARCH 1. 2011**