

It's May and as BACAHS nears the end of the 2015-2016 harp year, we've decided to share our successful year with you, in hopes that you will agree that this chapter deserves the distinction of Chapter of the Year. In asking ourselves what makes our chapter worthy, we've looked to the two mission statements we use as our guidelines.

First, the American Harp Society mission:

- A. Celebrate our legacy
- B. Inspire excellence
- C. Empower the next generation of harpists

And the Bay Area Chapter mission:

- A. Share information
- B. Promote and foster an appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument in the Bay Area
- C. Further harp education at all levels

We **celebrate our legacy** by clearly identifying ourselves as a chapter of the American Harp Society through our distinct logo that anchors our comprehensive website, BACHARP.org, and informative newsletters that are brimming with member news, event announcements, instructive columns and classified ads. These communications facilitate the mission to **share information** and **promote and foster the appreciation of the harp**, thus **inspiring excellence** for all. Our blog and annual calendar of events show more of the same, announcing harp recitals, both by our members and other visiting artists, as well as workshops and master classes. These **serve to further harp education at all levels**, as well as **empower the next generation**.

Please read on to see how we reached out to our membership, who are diverse in geography, demographics, and playing levels, in a survey of questions designed to find out their expectations in and needs from a chapter. Note how we have partnered with community organizations and another chapter to provide instruction, exposure and enjoyment through enriching events. And hear about our wildly popular annual Winter Potluck, which brings us all together as a community of harp lovers to socialize and network, and to simply enjoy each others' stories.

In June 2015, the board sent out a survey to members and friends to learn how the chapter can be more valuable to them. Seventy people completed the Survey. The overwhelming response demonstrated keen interest and enthusiasm for the Chapter and its activities.

From the results of the Survey, the chapter now had its guidance to plan the 2015-16 year. Respondents favored social gatherings, workshops to further harp education, and concerts, to be held, ideally, on weekends, along with continued communication and sharing of information about member activities and events. Following are the features of the year:

- ▮ In October BACAHS kicked off the year by presenting an afternoon with Ann Hobson Pilot, at our local harp store and community partner, Harps Etc. The program began with a screening of her documentary "Harpist's Legacy – Ann Hobson Pilot and the Sound of Change", after which she shared the story of her life in music, answering questions from the inquiring crowd. To cap off the event, Ms. Hobson Pilot performed the

Cadenza from “On Willows and Birches”, the concerto written for her by John Williams. The day was magical and a true gift from this great harpist.

- ▶ January brought the annual Winter Potluck in San Francisco. This event is always well attended since members love to get together after the busy holiday season and share ideas and experiences for furthering their musical careers, or just to meet new harp friends. Each year, a member harpist is featured to entertain the group. This year, Destiny Muhammad, Sound Sculptress from Celtic to Coltrane, inspired the group through harp and song with her personal story of empowerment, spirituality and musical achievement. Also included, for the first time, was a Music Swap where people brought music they no longer needed and others were able to find scores for pieces they were ready to play.
- ▶ Member Natalie Cox and her Pacific Arts Trio, performed a concert in February. Their program, Classical Flamenco, was well received by a packed house at Harps Etc. In order to attract a broad audience in addition to the harp community, the program was promoted through social networks and meet-up groups. One third of the attendees were from outside the harp community, which fostered new appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument for many.
- ▶ Early in April, BACAHS shared HarpLive! with the Silicon Valley Chapter. This lovely event is held annually to foster relations between the two chapters and encourage performance in a comfortable and supportive environment.
- ▶ One week later, Julia Kay Jamieson came to San Francisco to present a workshop on improvisation, followed by a concert of her own compositions and arrangements. Julia educated, inspired, empowered, and entertained harpists and non-harpists alike. Her “Fearless Improv” workshop was attended by beginning harpists, experienced amateurs and professionals. Auditors included harpists, teachers and members of the public.

Her evening recital was attended by 75 harpists and music lovers from the Bay Area. During the concert, Julia explained and demonstrated the diversity of the harp in ways that many had never experienced. All were captivated, awed by her “footwork” and entertained by her performance. Julia further engaged the harp community by inviting local professional members to perform with her two of her ensemble compositions.

Member harpists with harps for sale were invited to showcase their harps throughout the day. Some of these harps were available as loaners for people who could not bring their harps to the workshop and all were on elegant display in hopes of finding their next musical homes.

- ▶ New this year, BACAHS held a spring social in the North Bay (a new location for the chapter in an effort to meet new members) at the home of board member Henry Heines. Member Naomi Hoffmeyer, who is preparing for the USA International Harp Competition, performed a recital of some of the repertoire. The event was open to members and their family and friends. The turnout for this recital in the country was equally divided between harpists and non-harpists alike, furthering the outreach for fostering appreciation of harp in the Bay Area.
- ▶ There is more to come...in partnership with Silicon Valley Chapter and the Peninsula Jewish Community Center, BACAHS will present Yuying Chen, winner of the 2015 Israel

Harp Contest, in recital in June. Additionally, Ms. Chen will present a Master Class. The location of the venues was chosen to enable easy access for members of both chapters, so to encourage future collaboration between chapters.

New this year: *Member Spotlight* in our chapter newsletter. The diversity and depth of membership in the chapter are something to be celebrated. When a member has an achievement, it is shared with the group. Member Spotlight this year has featured people who have released new CD's, joined the board, and prepared for a major competition, to name just a few.

Membership: BACAHS has 68 paid members in this membership year. There are others who are active but have not yet joined. The membership swells by an additional 20 to 25 student members in odd numbered years when the Yvonne LaMothe Schwager Competition for Young Harpists is held. This competition is an opportunity for students under the age of 25 to experience the preparation for competition, compete for cash prizes and earn the opportunity to perform at a winners' recital. The chapter continues to communicate with and offers encouragement to prospective participants. The next competition will be held in May 2017.

Please review the attached newsletters, flyers and photos, and visit BACHARP.org for the details of the opportunities and successes of the chapter and the individual members who have benefitted from the chapter activities. You will likely determine that BACAHS has had an outstanding year and earns the distinction of Chapter of the Year for 2015-2016!



Thank you very much for your consideration.

September 2015



Dear BACAHS Members and Friends:

Welcome to our Fall Newsletter, which is brimming with news of the chapter, lots of vibrant activities by our members, and great plans for the upcoming season.

Look for our new feature, Member Spotlight, a report by new board member Suki Russack, which features member Karen Gottlieb as she announces her recent CD release. See the announcement of our newly expanded board of directors, and the report of our June member survey, which gives us insight into how the chapter can better serve its members, the greater harp community and the Bay Area community at large.

Since Ann Hobson Pilot will be back in town in October, BACAHS will sponsor her at a screening of her inspirational documentary, "A Harpist's Legacy", along with her own commentary and a short recital. At our ever popular Winter Potluck in January, we are adding a new component, a "Music Swap", where we can cull the sheet music we no longer need and swap with others. Plan to come and find some gems!

In February we are looking forward to hosting harpist Natalie Cox and the Pacific Arts Trio with their latest program offerings. And we are happy to announce the Harps Etc. 15th Anniversary International Harp Festival in May. So there's lots to enjoy coming up. We hope to see many of you. Please bring your friends and family to celebrate this wonderful instrument and the pleasure it brings to so many!

Happy Harping!

*Alice Yothers
President*

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all who have joined the chapter or renewed your membership in BACAHS. If you have not done so already, please join or renew now. The membership year begins September 1 and goes through August 2016. Although you may be a member of the American Harp Society at the National level, we hope you will join the Bay Area Chapter as well.

The Chapter serves to meet the need to share information, promote and foster an appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument in the Bay Area, and further harp education at all levels. Your support enables continued sponsorship of harp programs and master classes. Visit BACHARP.org/membership. The Bay Area Chapter of the American Harp Society is a 501(c)3 corporation and, as such, both membership dues and all donations are tax-deductible, to the full extent allowed by law.

MEMBER SURVEY

Thank you to the 70 members and friends who completed the Member Survey that was sent to you in late June. Your overwhelming response demonstrates your keen interest and enthusiasm for the Chapter and its activities. In summary, here is what you told us:

- 📌 13 of you attended at least one performance or BACAHS event last year.
- 📌 Classical concerts topped the interest list for 2015-2016 performances, followed by contemporary music concerts and jazz. There was more interest in workshops over master classes. Interest was also expressed for having more social events like the Annual Potluck dinner.
- 📌 Furthering harp education at all levels continues to be a core goal of BACAHS. Nine respondents attended the Yvonne LaMothe Schwager Competition Winners' Recital. Of this group, six of you were performers. Suggestions for other events included student recitals, teacher symposiums on harp pedagogy, and orchestral and/or small ensemble groups.
- 📌 Scheduling conflicts were the primary reason that many did not attend any or all of the events, with the location of the events contributing to the scheduling conflict in almost half of the instances. Preferred times and days were stated as:
 1. Saturday afternoon
 2. Sunday afternoon
 3. Saturday evening
 4. Sunday evening
- 📌 East Bay and the City of San Francisco are the preferred locations for activities.

This information will be a great resource in planning future events and activities. Your participation will insure their success and provide entertainment, socialization and enlightenment. If you would like to participate and help plan future activities with BACAHS, please contact us at bacahs@gmail.com.

MEET THE NEW BOARD OF BACAHS

In the member survey distributed in June 2015, members were queried as to their interest in serving on the Board of the Bay Area Chapter of the American Harp Society. Alice Yothers and Susie Spiwak followed up with those people who stated their interest. As a result, five new people volunteered to join the board, and the current board agreed to remain for another two year term. At the board meeting on August 13, 2015, elections were held, following the bylaw requirement that elections be held in odd numbered years. Since all but two people who agreed to serve were in attendance, and there was a quorum, the board came to formation as follows:

Alice Yothers, president
Susie Spiwak, vice-president
David Trapp, co-vice-president
Melinda Chinn, treasurer
Henry Heines, secretary
Mitch Landy, member-at-large
Pat Petersen, member-at-large
Suki Russack, member-at-large
Alex Perdew, member-at-large
Erica Messer, member-at-large
Cheryl Ann Fulton, member-at-large

Welcome new board members and thank you to all who are continuing to serve!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Karen Gottlieb by Suki Russack



It doesn't seem possible that anyone who studies and plays the harp in the San Francisco Bay Area, would not know who Karen Gottlieb is. She has been outstanding in the harp world for many years, not just as a wonderful performer, but also as a teacher, an extremely skilled harp technician, an invaluable resource for professional harpists who want coaching for auditions, and for her wide experience and understanding of new music.

When I walked into her studio, all I could see of Karen was the top of her head as she peered up the inside of a harp column, attempting to screw in a newly greased pedal rod. She was in the middle of a harp regulation in which the harp needed a tubing assembly repair to get rid of a buzz in the column. Eventually, the rod was in place and Karen remarked that it had been easier than the previous rod repair that required extra adjustments. She also noted that harps that have annual regulations are much easier to keep in good working condition and have better intonation. In order to become a harp technician, Karen apprenticed at the Lyon and Healy harp factory. She has been certified to work on both L&H and Salvi instruments and is a member of their Harp Regulators Guild. There are two interesting essays on Karen's website about her work in this field (www.kgharp.com).

One of Karen's latest projects has been the production of a wonderful CD of 20th Century harp music by Bay Area Composers. The music was chosen and recorded by Karen and comprises a very personal audio record of her life. She said that she deliberately avoided including any "Bang, Pluck, Scratch" pieces. She wanted the music to be accessible and friendly to the ear. The liner notes on her CD give some interesting personal details on Karen's choices. Karen worked closely with the late composer Lou Harrison. She has included two of his pieces on this CD. It has been one of the great joys of her career to have worked with composers, educating and encouraging them on how to write more effectively for the harp. The CD is available for purchase or for download via iTunes at <http://www.innova.mu/albums/karen-gottlieb/music-harp>



When asked what role BACAHS has played in her career, Karen answered: "BACAHS ... has given me the opportunity to interact with and be inspired by other harpists locally, nationally and internationally. It also gave me the opportunity to develop my leadership and organizational skills as an active member on the chapter boards as well as with the 2006 AHS National Conference. And I've made great friendships over the years. Ultimately this is what our chapter can offer all its members. It is an extended family of people with common interests."

But why would a young person choose to study harp in the first place? I asked Karen exactly that. "When I was nine years old, I went to a concert where I heard Linda Rollo. Linda was 19 years old, had been studying for two years, and she played Salzedo's 'Song in the Night'. She looked like an 'angel on a cloud' and I immediately fell in love with her and the sight and sounds of the instrument. I begged my parents for lessons but they insisted that I take six months of piano lessons, to prove that I was serious about music before they would consider giving me harp lessons. The day the six months were up, I reminded them that I was ready to begin the harp." The rest is history.



Karen and her Brother Mark performing an underwater rendition of the Blue Danube to break the Guinness World Record for Underwater Chamber Music Performance

MEMBER NEWS

Adaline (Stephens) Anaya, former student of Linda Rollo, has moved back to the Bay Area after graduating from Biola University with a degree in harp performance. She studied there with Mindy Ball and performed with their Orchestra and Wind Symphony, as well as in many ensembles. Adaline lives in Alameda with her husband, and is available to perform for weddings and events, as well as teaching piano and harp. contact aanaya@gmail.com or (510)352-7542.

Meredith Clark will be performing the Debussy Danses with the SF Chamber Orchestra in October. Details are here: <http://www.thesfco.org/2015/06/in-praise-of-love/>

Congratulations to Meredith for being awarded the principal harp position of the Arizona Opera this past January. She will continue to reside in the Bay Area except during the performance season, starting in October.

Anna Maria Mendieta soloed with the California Sound Collective inaugural concert in Benicia in August, under conductor David Ramadanoff, playing music by Opel, Becker, Mozart, Piazzolla and Ibert.

Alexandra Perdew is performing solo and ensemble works with Cormac De Barra, Vincenzo Zitello, and Dearbhail Finnegan at the Worlds Fair Milan taking place September 21-26. She will also do a recital in Indianapolis on October 8.

Dominique Piana will perform a small set of late romantic miniatures by Liszt, Godefrid, Oberthür, Posse, Strauss, Holý, and Kastner, on Friday October 23, at 10:30am for CCPAS (Contra Costa Performing Arts Society), at Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek.

Dominique recently republished five of Alice Lawson Aber-Count's Krumpholtz titles, in time for the Historical Harp Society Conference held in Oakland last June, where she presented a paper on Jean-Baptiste Krumpholtz, taken from her own translation of his memoirs. Read Dominique's [Reminiscing on the 32nd Annual Historical Harp Society Conference](#).

Sage Po, who has studied under Lisa Stine, Laura Porter and most recently, Gretchen Van Hoesen, graduated from Carnegie Mellon University this May with a BFA in Harp Performance with University and College Honors. She gave the commencement speech for the School of Music...[read more](#)

Diana Rowan has been developing her World Harp Techniques six-week live web training <http://dianarowan.com/world-harp-techniques-registration>. This started September 1 with an overview of harp techniques from Africa, the Middle East, India, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and is the subject of all her own music and PhD dissertation. The next six-week live web training session will start November 3, and will focus exclusively on harp techniques from Africa. From there, it will be six-week sessions each on the Middle East, India, Asia, Europe and Latin America... [read more](#)

Lynn Taffin spent the summer reconnecting with colleagues all the way back to Tanglewood days. Along the road in France, Italy and Switzerland she worked with colleagues to collaborate on upcoming concert projects, coached another harpist for fall orchestral concerts and tuned up a former student's harp to make sure she's still practicing despite her busy new career as a marine biologist. Even students who move around the globe have to keep up their good work! Lynn is looking forward to upcoming studio ensemble projects this fall.

David Trapp, incoming BACAHS co-VP, announces that his composition, Penny Ante Jig, was accepted for publication in the Fall 2015 issue of the Folk Harp Journal, ISFHC (International Society of Folk Harpers and Craftsmen). Congratulations, David!

Shannon Zheng, who received the Harpiana Prize at the Yvonne La Mothe Schwager competition in May, was featured in the Livermore-Amador Symphony Youth Orchestra (LAYSYO) this summer. She played Legende by Carl Stix, along with a 50-piece string ensemble. She received great acclaim, both for her playing and for the piece itself, a beautiful work in the Viennese romantic style, republished by Harpiana Publications.

BACAHS CALENDAR

Please insure that your events are included in the [BACAHS calendar](#). Contact us at BACAHS@gmail.com with events for posting. Please let us know of any events that include and feature the harp as well.

REDWOOD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA performs Brahms, Daugherty and Hindemith. Tales of Hemingway for Cello and Orchestra by Daugherty has a fabulous harp part with all kinds of neat effects and lovely accompaniment figures played by **Suki Russack**. September 26, 2015, 8PM, Canada College Main Theater, Redwood City. http://www.redwoodsymphony.org/concerts/2015-16/concert1_2015.html

ANN HOBSON PILOT, Harpist / Kelly Hall-Tompkins, Violinist perform works by Donizetti, John Marson, Albeniz, Saint-Saens, John Williams/arr. Michael Maganuco, and Piazzolla. **Saturday, October 10, 7:30pm. Regents Theater at Holy Names University.** <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2149347>

A Harpist's Legacy – Ann Hobson Pilot and the Sound of Change, will be screened **Sunday, October 11, at 3PM** at Harps Etc. This documentary follows Ms. Pilot's personal and professional journey as the first black woman principal player in a major symphony orchestra. From Pilot's challenges of performing in the segregated south before and during the Civil Rights Movement, the documentary culminates in her performance of a harp concerto composed in her honor by John Williams and given its debut in the Boston Symphony Orchestra season opening concerts in 2009 at both Symphony Hall in Boston and at Carnegie Hall.

Ann Hobson Pilot will discuss the film, her career and the concerto, as well as play a short recital following the screening. Purchase your tickets: <http://bacharp.bpt.me>

DOMINIQUE PIANA performs late romantic miniatures by Liszt, Godefrid, Oberthür, Posse, Strauss, Holý, and Kastner, on **Friday October 23, at 10:30am** for CCPAS (Contra Costa Performing Arts Society), at Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek. Admission: Free

SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA—IN PRAISE OF LOVE. Featuring **Meredith Clark** at the harp, the program includes Claude Debussy's Dances Sacrée et Profane; Leonard Bernstein's Serenade (after Plato's Symposium), and more. **October 23-25**, multiple locations. <http://www.thesfco.org/2015/06/in-praise-of-love/>

SAVE THE DATE! Cafe Concert Series presents **Cormac de Barra** in a workshop and concert at Harps Etc., **Saturday, November 14, 2015**. More information to follow.

20 HARPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS CONCERT

Harpeggio Music will present their annual holiday harp concert on **Saturday, December 5, 2015, 4:00 p.m.** at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos, California. The program features a studio ensemble of more than 20 harps playing a festive selection of music, including traditional carols and popular holiday music. Guest artist this year will be **Patrick Ball**, one of the premier Celtic harp players in the world and a captivating storyteller. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and \$12 for children (4-12) and \$12 for seniors (60+). For more information and to purchase tickets, please call Stephanie at (408) 366-8810 or email events@harpeggio.com. Proceeds go to Harpeggio Music to help support studio activities, including this concert.

ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK DINNER: JANUARY 2016

Details to be announced. A sheet music "swap" is planned! Please go through your music bins and pull out all your no-longer-needed sheet music or books that you can share with others.

PACIFIC ARTS TRIO will perform for us on February 6, 2016 at 7:30pm at Harps Etc. The trio is comprised of **Natalie Cox**, harp, **Alice Lenaghan**, flute, and **Dan Reiter**, cello. Details to come!

SAVE THE WEEKEND: Harps Etc. 15th Anniversary **International Harp Festival**. The date is set for Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29, 2016. There will be 4 days of fabulous workshops and concerts. The venue is a beautiful retreat center in the hills of Danville. Room and board are available on site for guests staying at the retreat center. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information to come.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Many great harps are available for sale and rent, as well as resources for harpists, on the [Classified Ads](#) page, including:

HARPS FOR SALE:

Beautiful Salvi Egan Electro-Acoustic Lever Harp, 38 strings. \$6,000
Lyon and Healy Style 22, gold and bronze. \$14,200
Lyon & Healy Grand Concert Harp, Style 23, Natural. \$18,500
Cunningham wire strung 32 string celtic harp, no levers. 60" tall. \$1,500
Chris Caswell early Celtic harp, 29 strings. \$650
Camac LeBleu 47 string, straight sound board, acoustic electric harp. \$17,500

HARPS FOR RENT:

Salvi Diana, \$150/month
Wurlitzer (bronze & gold) pedal harp-44 strings, \$145/month
Lyon Healy troubador C', \$70/month
Beautiful Dusty Strings 36-string maple harp, \$75/month
Lyon & Healy style 17, natural finish, pedal harp, \$175/month

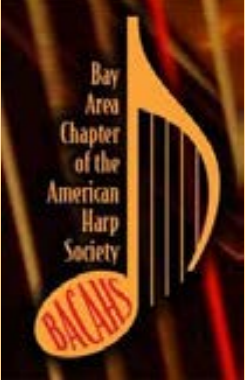
NEW AND USED PEDAL AND NON-PEDAL HARPS AVAILABLE AT HARPS ETC.

OTHER OFFERINGS:

HARP ENSEMBLES AT HARPS ETC. All ensembles are open to all ages and levels of playing. Learn to play with others and to follow a conductor, improve your reading, rhythm and performance skills and just have fun making music and new friends while playing the harp. Click here for more information.

HELP WANTED: Harps Etc. is seeking a harp teacher who can work with pedal and non-pedal harp students and has experience working with students of any age and level of experience. The ability to teach a wide range of musical styles, be community oriented and flexible is necessary. Please send a cover letter stating why you believe you are the best person for the position along with your resume and references to info@harpsetc.com.

2 TICKETS FOR SALE for Ann Hobson Pilot/Kelly Hall Tompkins performance at Regents Theater at Holy Names University, October 10, at 7:30pm. I purchased the tickets but now cannot attend the concert. Contact Susie Spiwak—susie@merijohn.com

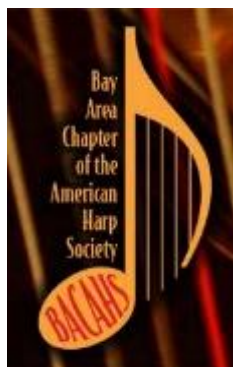


A Harpist's Legacy – Ann Hobson Pilot and the Sound of Change



Ms. Hobson Pilot and
Destiny Muhammad

November 2015



Dear BACAHS Members and Friends:

*Our November newsletter brings new announcements of harp happenings and calendar postings of which you'll want to make note. Our feature, **Member Spotlight**, again showcases one of our members, this time new board member David J. Trapp.*

*Read about our wildly successful **Ann Hobson Pilot** event, which kicked off our new season. Don't miss the launch of **Practical Tips for Harpists** - a new on-going column by member, harpist and harp technician, Karen Gottlieb, where she explores Cleaning and Preserving the Beauty of your Harp's Finish.*

*We hope viewing **Member News** will inspire you to check in with us and share your harp pursuits with the local harp community. We want to hear from more of you!*

*Look for new additions to our ever expanding **BACAHS Calendar**. Be sure to take note of the date of our always popular Winter Potluck, scheduled for Sunday January 31, that will include a music swap and performance. Be sure to start culling your music for those pieces that you no longer need and might be enjoyed by others.*

Without further ado, I'll leave you to your reading pleasure.

Happy Harping!

*Alice Yothers
President*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Meet new BACAHS Board Member, David J. Trapp

By Suki Russack

Have you ever had a dream that you thought could never come true? BACAHS newest board member, David Trapp, had that dream, but he made it a reality with hard work and by taking a great leap into the unknown. David started playing the harp in 2001. He had no background in music but had always nursed a secret desire to play an instrument. One day while visiting Ashland, Oregon, for the Shakespeare Festival, he wandered into a music store that had several different harps for sale, and he couldn't resist buying one of them. It was a small Dusty Strings with 26 strings. The music store owner told him that if he wanted a larger harp he could exchange the smaller instrument later. Knowing he needed a teacher, David started lessons with Verlene Schermer in San Jose. Within a month the need for a larger harp became clear, so he drove back to Ashland and exchanged the 26-string harp for a Dusty Strings 32. Within the next year, he graduated to a 36-string harp. He studied with Verlene for two years, learning how to read music and the basics of playing.



David was learning "The Minstrel Boy" when the terrible events of 9/11 occurred. As he watched the processions of heartbreaking funerals going on and on, he realized that the music playing was "The Minstrel Boy". This fully awakened him to the power that music can have in our lives to express the heights and depths of human emotions, and made him even more determined to master his harp. He wanted to contribute in other ways to the world of music and began writing melodies. The Folk Harp Journal has since accepted three of his compositions for publication. (FolkHarpSociety.org) Not

content solely with playing the harp and writing music for it, David wrote an historical novel about a harpist called "The Bard of Bethlehem" (<http://www.amazon.com/Bard-Bethlehem-David-James-Trapp/dp/1424133130>). The novel is set in the Roman Empire in the year 5 BCE and is about a harpist who plays songs to the mysterious new star.

David recently began studying with Cheryl Ann Fulton. He is working on his technique in order to improve his tone production and ease of playing. In this, he is following the same path that all harpists have to walk.

One of his hopes is that someday he will be able to visit the site of Ground Zero and play "The Minstrel Boy". Currently, he rehearses regularly with the South Bay folk harp group, Harper's Hall. In his day job, David is a practicing lawyer, but has taken his life to a new meaningful level by his connection to the world of music. He decided to enrich his harp contacts by joining the board of BACAHS, which is delighted to welcome him into the chapter. It is wonderful to have David, with his fresh approach to the harp world, on the board of directors. The kind of courage and determination that he demonstrates can be an inspiration to all harpists.



PRACTICAL TIPS FOR HARPISTS

By Karen Gottlieb, Harpist and Harp Technician, 2015

Cleaning and Preserving the Beauty of your Harp's Finish

A special thank you to Linda Rollo for editing this article and to the following Harp Technicians who helped with the information presented below: Peter Wiley, Karen Rokos, Stephen Hartman, Steve Moss and Mike Lewis.

There are three things that harpists can do to clean and preserve the finish on their harps: **Prevention – Attention – Lubrication** (the cleaning of high contact areas).

Below are some detailed suggestions of how and what to do, as well as what not to do.



Prevention

1- Wash your hands before you play. Dry them well. Do not use hand cream or lotion immediately before playing. The moisture in the cream is not good for the strings. Remove jewelry or watches that can scratch the finish, especially on your right arm. Buttons and sequins can also do damage...so be mindful about what you wear.

2 - Dust the harp regularly with a soft flannel cloth (Handi Wipes work well too), wherever dust can collect, such as the sounding board, base, crown, and neck.

3 - Dust disks and outside action areas with a semi-stiff stencil brush or a soft bristle brush. It will keep the dust from collecting on the disks. The brush is also great for cleaning areas that are hard to get into-such as between the carvings and where the base & board meet at the bottom of the column. Brushes are available from [Harps Etc.](#)

Attention (or Cleaning)

4 - Removing Dirt and Oily Grime. Dirt and grime can build up on the sounding board, along the edge where hands touch or rest and where bare knees contact the harp. Dust these areas with a soft cloth after playing. Note that over many years, fabric dyes can leave a mark where your knee contacts the back of the harp. The use of polish may help to remove or lessen the discoloration, but the oils from our skin contact can slowly erode the finish. Tips #5 & #6 should help to prevent this.

5 - For the buildup of grease, dirt and oils (especially on the rims or edges of the sounding board or wherever the hands rest or a bare knee contacts the harp), use a soft damp cloth. Wet the cloth with

warm water and wring out any excess water so there is no dripping. Gently rub off the dirt. Follow with a soft dry cloth.

For really stubborn dirt, you can add a very small amount of mild dish soap to the water to rub off the dirt. Follow with a clean damp cloth to remove any soap residue, then a dry cloth so the harp is completely dry. This method works best on modern harps and not the older harps with the French style polish/finish. If the area turns dark and grey, the finish may already be worn through...best to contact a professional at this point.

Lubrication

6 - The best way to clean and prevent dirt and grime from building up over time is to POLISH THE WOOD of your harp occasionally (yearly is fine), avoiding the strings, brass plate and the gold or gilded areas. Apply a small amount (about the size of a dime) of polish to a soft cloth. (Handi Wipes or micro fiber cloth from Costco are also recommended) Rub a smallish area of about one by two feet in size. Repeat over all wood parts of the harp and non-gilded areas. The polish will dry a bit. Then go over it with a fresh soft cloth, removing any polish and rubbing for a lustrous shine. To clean any gilded areas – dust only...no rubbing!!

The DOs and DON'Ts:

DO USE: Harp polishes specifically made by Lyon & Healy or Salvi. Another preferred lubricant for the finish is Johnson Paste Wax. Weinman's Lemon oil can also be used for glossy finished harps. NEVER USE: lemon oil on matte or satin finished harps. Do NOT use lemon wax, Pledge or other cleaners that can destroy the finish. It's always better to be safe than sorry! Do NOT try and polish the brass/metal action plate. It will only destroy the finish on it. If any dirt does NOT wipe off with a dry cloth, forget it!!

Recommended for cleaning are both the Lyon & Healy* or Salvi Harp Polishes**.

The Lyon & Healy Polish works for ALL L&H harps-new & older style as well as the Salvi Harps.

Polishes are available:

*Lyon & Healy Polish at [HarpsEtc](#). The active cleaning agent in L&H polish is mineral spirits, used in most high quality furniture polishes.

**Salvi Polish at [Harp Connection](#).

For Salvi harps with polyurethane finishes, use Penthouse Polish** in a pump-spray bottle. NEVER spray polish (or anything else) directly on the harp. When using this, spray the polish on the dry cloth first, then use the cloth on the harp.

Further recommendations:

7 - Keep your harp out of direct sunlight, away from air-conditioning or heating vents. Your harp will be much happier if the temperature is as constant as possible. If you live in a very humid area, consider running a dehumidifier in the summer and a humidifier in the winter.

8 - Do not leave your harp in a hot car. Too much heat is not good for the finish and the glue joints can start to fail...then you have a BIG problem. If you must leave your harp in the car, park in the shade with the windows cracked. A covered garage is your best bet. Well worth the cost to keep your harp safe.

9 - We live in earthquake country. Back up that harp!! When not playing your instrument, it is best to keep the back of the harp near & facing the wall or with the bench behind it. Should a tremor occur or the harp is bumped, the bench & wall will help hinder a bad fall and/or worse -- scratches, dents, cracks, etc.

For an informative video on basic-general harp care by technician, Steve Moss, see <http://www.mossharpservice.com/videos.php>.

ANN HOBSON PILOT, A HARPIST'S LEGACY—A special opportunity to meet one of the truly unique and great harpists of our time, by Suki Russack

BACAHS presented an afternoon with Ann Hobson Pilot, at Harps Etc. on Sunday October 11. It was a very special opportunity to meet one of the truly unique and great harpists of our time. The riveting documentary film "A Harpist's Legacy, Ann Hobson Pilot and the Sound of Change" was shown, telling the story of her life and musical achievements. It brought insight and an awareness of her career and focused on many of the prejudices and racial difficulties she encountered and overcame with grace during the 1960's and '70's, coinciding with the Civil Rights movement. Ann grew up in Philadelphia, beginning her harp studies while in high school, then attended the Cleveland Institute of Music on a full scholarship, studying with Alice Chalifoux. She became the first Black woman to hold a position in a major symphony orchestra: first the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington DC; then as principal harp with the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestras. Following the film showing, she thrilled us with the breadth of her experiences, the famous musicians with whom she has worked, elaborated on many racial obstacles and graciously answered questions.

Ann spoke with pride about the Harp Concerto, "On Willows and Birches", that the BSO commissioned John Williams to compose as a retirement gift for Ann's 40 years of service. Mr. Williams' first reaction to the request for a harp concerto was to say no because he thought the harp was too difficult to write for...but Ann convinced him to change his mind. The result is a two movement work that was chosen as one of the requirements for the Israel International Harp Competition. Ann treated the audience to a small selection from the Cadenza, including the sections Williams rewrote incorporating her recommendations.

Although Ann retired from the BSO in 2009, she remains very active in the harp world, performing as a soloist and with chamber groups, teaching each summer at the Tanglewood Institute, as well as teaching private lessons in Sarasota, FL, where she now resides. Next year Ann will play the Ginastera Harp Concerto in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her new CD - music of the Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla, for harp, violin and bandoneon, is available on iTunes and Amazon. <http://www.annhobsonpilot.com/recordings.aspx>

Our thanks and gratitude go out to Ann for her candor and teachings. Thank you also to Jessica Siegel and Harps Etc. for providing the perfect venue, hospitality and AV support.

MEMBER NEWS

Carla Fabris commissioned seven composers to write the music for seven short films that will be screened and accompanied live with an instrumentation of harp, string quartet, flute and clarinet. The Silent Short Films Accompaniment Project is intended to showcase live new music written and performed by local Bay Area composers and musicians against a backdrop of classic silent films. Carla curated and organized the event, and is performing with it at the Balboa Theatre on **November 12th**. <http://www.cinemasf.com/balboa/>

Cheryl Ann Fulton performs in a new recording by the ensemble El Mundo: *What Artemisia Heard; Music from the Time of Caravaggio and Gentileschi*, Richard Savino, director. This recording has been nominated for a Grammy in the Classical Compendium category.

Stephanie Janowski is gearing up for her studio's annual "20 Harps for the Holidays" concert Saturday, December 5, in Los Altos. This year's guest artist will be Patrick Ball, one of the premier Celtic harp players in the world and a captivating storyteller. More information is available on [Harpeggio's Calendar](#).

Destiny Muhammad presents her Annual Concert Celebration '*Corner 14' a Jazz Inspired Experience*, on November 15, at 3 pm. The event takes place at the Malonga Casquelour Center Theater, 1428 Alice Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

Destiny is making available 10 tickets that are offered to BACAHS members at no charge on a first-come first-served basis. If you are interested, please email bacahs@gmail.com. There is a maximum of 2 tickets per member.



As winners of the Baroque Concerto Competition, **Sage Po** and flutist Jessica Yang will be featured playing the 1st movement of the Mozart Concerto for Flute & Harp in the Baroque Ensemble's fall concert. The concert will be streamed live on YouTube on Sunday, November 8th at 5pm EST/2pm Pacific Time. Go to the [Carnegie Mellon School of Music YouTube](#) channel to find it.



Diana Rowan is presenting: **Performance Mastery: transform fear into performance power**, a live web training session starting Nov 3. Diana shares: "I know first-hand the suffering performance anxiety brings. I gave up music for years because of it. Now, I perform and teach with joy all the time." For more information, please go to <http://dianarowan.com>

Ellis Schuman had his [Prelude for the Harp](#) (2014) performed by Courtney Hershey Bress at the Eastman School of Music Faculty Artist Series Festival in September. The work was dedicated to Ms. Bress, who is harpist with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra.

Laura Simpson will be playing all of the Holiday Teas (except December 5th) at the Ritz Carlton, San Francisco. Holiday Tea service starts on December 3rd with the final tea on December 31st. Hours are from 3 to 6 pm and [reservations](#) are strongly advised. 600 Stockton Street (415)296-7465.



Lynn Taffin's students played an outreach concert in mid-October at a San Francisco retirement center. The residents were delighted to hear a wide range of ages of harpists, and the older students were able to try out pieces they will record for competitions this spring. Lynn's students will gather in November for an ensemble class. They have other performances scheduled over the holidays as soloists and with ensembles.

BACAHS CALENDAR

Please insure that your events are included in the [BACAHS calendar](#). Contact us at BACAHS@gmail.com with events for posting. Please let us know of any other events that include and feature the harp, as well.

Performance Mastery live web training with Diana Rowan starting Nov 3.

Tuesdays 6-8pm Pacific Time on Nov 3, 10, 17, 24, Dec 1, 8 (6 sessions). If you suffer from performance anxiety, don't let it hold you back any longer. Although performance anxiety may have cost you a great deal emotionally, mentally, physically, career-wise and financially, there is a way to manage it. In fact, you can go beyond managing it and learn to actually enjoy being onstage! Dr. Diana Rowan went from giving up music due to fear to now being a joyful worldwide performer and

teacher. Starting Nov 3, join her for this unique online training where you will learn performance mastery in the only way possible - by DOING! Contact diana@dianarowan.com for details.

New Music for Old Films at the Balboa Theater, **November 12**, 7:30pm. **Carla Fabris** commissioned composers, curated, organized and is performing. <http://www.cinemasf.com/balboa/>

Cafe Concert Series presents **Cormac de Barra** in a workshop and concert at Harps Etc., **Saturday, November 14**. Workshop 4pm-6pm, Concert 7:30pm-8:30pm. Tickets at www.harpsetc.com

Destiny Muhammad invites you to attend her Annual Concert Celebration 'Corner 14' a Jazz Inspired Experience, on **November 15, at 3PM**. The event takes place at the Malonga Casquelour Center Theater, 1425 Alice Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Tickets are \$35/person or \$200 for a group of 8 and are available online at [Event Brite](#).

20 HARPS FOR THE HOLIDAYS CONCERT

Harpeggio Music will present their annual holiday harp concert on **Saturday, December 5**, 4 pm at Los Altos United Methodist Church, 655 Magdalena Avenue, Los Altos, California. The program features a studio ensemble of more than 20 harps playing a festive selection of music, including traditional carols and popular holiday music. Guest artist this year will be **Patrick Ball**, one of the premier Celtic harp players in the world and a captivating storyteller. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and \$12 for children (4-12) and \$12 for seniors (60+). For more information and to purchase tickets, please call Stephanie at (408) 366-8810 or email events@harpeggio.com. Proceeds go to Harpeggio Music to help support studio activities, including this concert.

BACAHS ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK DINNER: SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016, 4-7 PM

in the home of Malcolm McAfee, 30 Commonwealth Ave., San Francisco. A sheet music "swap" is planned! Please go through your music bins and pull out all your no-longer-needed sheet music or books that you can share with others. RSVP to [Alice Yothers](#) and let her know what dish you will bring—salad, main course, dessert, etc.

PACIFIC ARTS TRIO will perform for us on **February 6** at 7:30pm at Harps Etc. The trio is comprised of **Natalie Cox**, harp, **Alice Lenaghan**, flute, and **Dan Reiter**, cello. Details to come!

BACAHS Spring Social. Board member Henry Heines invites all members and friends to a Spring Social in his home in lovely Sebastopol, CA. Saturday May 7, 2015. Member **Naomi Hoffmeyer** will be featured in recital. More details to come.

Harps Etc. 15th Anniversary International Harp Festival 2016. The date is set for Memorial Day Weekend, May 26-29. There will be four days of fabulous workshops and concerts. The venue is a beautiful retreat center in the hills of Danville. Room and board are available on site for guests staying at the retreat center. Register now at <http://schedule.harpfestival.net/>

CLASSIFIED ADS

Many great harps are available for sale and rent, as well as resources for harpists, on the [Classified Ads](#) page, including:

HARPS FOR SALE:

Wurlitzer Grand Pedal Harp Style GG (extended sound board), includes cover, \$17,000

Beautiful Salvi Egan Electro-Acoustic Lever Harp, 38 strings. \$6,000

Lyon and Healy Style 22, gold and bronze. \$14,200

Lyon & Healy Grand Concert Harp, Style 23, Natural. \$18,500

Cunningham wire strung 32 string celtic harp, no levers. 60" tall. \$1,500

Lyon and Healy Prelude, 40 strings, mahogany, includes dust cover. \$4,200
Camac LeBleu 47 string, straight sound board, acoustic electric harp. NEW PRICE: \$16,000

HARPS FOR RENT:

Salvi McFall troubador – \$75 monthly with \$200 security deposit.
LH gold 23, available-Nov 1st – \$175 monthly (or less depending on circumstances)
Beautiful Dusty Strings 36-string maple harp, \$75/month
Lyon & Healy style 17, natural finish, pedal harp, \$175/month

NEW AND USED PEDAL AND NON-PEDAL HARPS AVAILABLE AT HARPS ETC.

OTHER OFFERINGS:

HARP ENSEMBLES AT HARPS ETC. All ensembles are open to all ages and levels of playing. Learn to play with others and to follow a conductor, improve your reading, rhythm and performance skills and just have fun making music and new friends while playing the harp. Click here for more information.

HELP WANTED: Harps Etc. is seeking a harp teacher who can work with pedal and non-pedal harp students and has experience working with students of any age and level of experience. The ability to teach a wide range of musical styles, be community oriented and flexible is necessary. Please send a cover letter stating why you believe you are the best person for the position along with your resume and references to info@harpsetc.com.

MEMBERSHIP

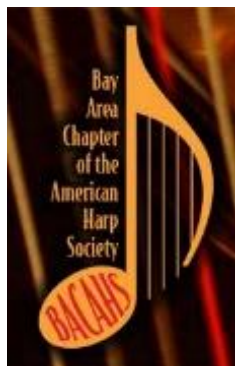
Thank you to all who have joined the chapter or renewed your membership in BACAHS. If you have not done so already, please join or renew now. The membership year begins September 1 and goes through August 2016. Although you may be a member of the American Harp Society at the National level, we hope you will join the Bay Area Chapter as well.

The Chapter serves to meet the need to share information, promote and foster an appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument in the Bay Area, and further harp education at all levels. Your support enables continued sponsorship of harp programs and master classes. Visit BACHARP.org/membership. The Bay Area Chapter of the American Harp Society is a 501(c)3 corporation and, as such, both membership dues and all donations are tax-deductible, to the full extent allowed by law.



Like us on Facebook: Bay Area Chapter AHS

December 2015



Holiday greetings to all our BACAHS members and friends! Before the month and year get away from us, we want to remind you of two upcoming Chapter events that you don't want to miss.

*By now you probably have our ever popular annual **Winter Potluck** gathering on your calendar for **January 31**. We'll be graciously hosted by Malcolm McAfee, 30 Commonwealth Avenue, San Francisco at 4 pm. Oakland's Destiny Muhammed, the Harpist from the 'Hood, will perform and there will be a music swap. Please start deciding what dish you will share and RSVP to ayothers@yahoo.com.*

*Then hot on its heels -- and not to be missed -- **February 6** is the concert, **Classical Flamenco**, by the Pacific Arts Trio, featuring Natalie Cox, harp, Alice Lenaghan, flute, and Dan Reiter, cello. They will perform at Harps Etc. at 7:30 pm. Ticket information to follow.*

See the program below:

*The Adoration of the Maji from Botticelli Tryptich by Ottorino Respighi
Sonatas K 146 / K 27 / K 491 by Domenico Scarlatti
Pescod Time by William Byrd
Malagueña by Isaac Albeniz
Aragonaisse from Carmen by Bizet
Passacaglia by Luigi Boccherini
Sonatas K 208 & 209 by Domenico Scarlatti
East Meets West by Ravi Shankar
Three Largos by Antonio Vivaldi*

All arrangements by Dan Reiter



Since everyone is so busy at this time of year, we have just a little bit of [member news](#) to share. We'll send a more comprehensive newsletter in mid-January. We love hearing from our members and sharing their activities with the group! Please submit any news or messages to ayothers@yahoo.com by January 10 of upcoming plans or experiences you may have had that would be of interest to us. And anyone who has a listing on our [Classifieds page](#), please let us know if anything has changed with it, or if the ad should be removed.

Everyone keep safe, warm and dry, and we hope to see you in the New Year!

*Alice Yothers
Susie Spiwak*

Member News

The new CD, "Lyric Flute and Harp Musical Offerings" featuring **Olga Ortenberg-Rakitchenkov**, harp, and Dawn Walker-Schrock, flute is available on [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) and [CDBaby](#). The music includes the harp solo, "The Lark" by Glinka-Balakirev with the original 20th century transcription for harp done for Olga by her teacher, the world famous harpist, Vera Dulova. Olga was the first harpist in Russia to perform this piece with its several chromatic passages that were quite challenging to play as they came directly from the piano score.

In her role as Principal Harp for the San Francisco opera, **Olga** recently performed "Lucia de Lammermoor" by Donizetti. There is a big harp solo in the first Act, and flute solo in the

"mad scene" in the second Act. The Music Director, Nicola Luisotti, invited Principal flutist, Julie McKenzie and Olga to the stage for curtain final bow with the singers, Olga is seen in the photo holding a toy harp, so people in the audience would recognize the harpist.



Olga can be heard in concert in early 2016:

February 26, 2016--Berkeley City Club with flutist Dawn Walker and pianist Arkady Serper

March 6, 2016--First Episcopal Church on Hopkins and Alameda in Berkeley

April 2016 (date TBD)—Old First Church, San Francisco

Dr. Diana Rowan has 2 upcoming online trainings for the new year:

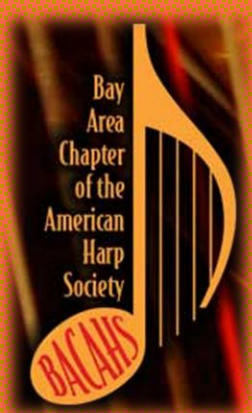
FLOW Harp Technique starts Jan 12. Learn to play with power, expression and healthy technique for life! Based on Salzedo classical harp technique combined with body-honoring arts such as yoga, tango, belly dance, Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais, FLOWHT is designed for today's harpist working in a uniquely demanding world. All live training sessions will be recorded, so harpists can also learn via videos if they can't attend live online. We'll also have a private Facebook community for the duration of the course for further support! More info & registration: <http://dianarowan.com/flow-harp-technique-starts-jan-12>

Performance Mastery starts Jan 14. I had such a bad case of stage fright I gave up music completely for 4 years. Now I perform and teach worldwide. This journey has taught me what really works when learning to manage performance energy. If you have stage fright, you CAN get over it, and much faster than you might think. Read the inspiring results of the latest group of Performance Mastery graduates plus my guarantee here (registration also at this link) <http://dianarowan.com/performance-mastery-live-online-training-starts-jan-14>. Attendance is limited to 7 total and live participation online is required so you can finally learn to love performing!

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**BAY AREA CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY
INVITES YOU TO THE
ANNUAL WINTER POTLUCK!!!**



**HELP US RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH
GREAT FOOD, DRINK, MUSIC AND FRIENDS!**

WHEN: SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 4:00-7:00 PM

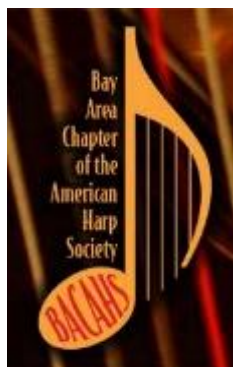
**WHERE: HOME OF MALCOLM MCAFEE
30 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO**

IN ADDITION TO GREAT FOOD AND CAMARADERIE, WE WILL
BE ENTERTAINED AT THE HARP COMPLIMENTS OF MEMBER
AND SOUND SCULPTRESS, DESTINY MUHAMMAD

NEW THIS YEAR—MUSIC SWAP! BRING SHEET MUSIC YOU
NO LONGER NEED AND TAKE HOME MUSIC FROM OTHERS
THAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY

PLEASE RSVP AND INDICATE WHAT DISH YOU WILL BRING:
Alice Yothers 510-305-9438 or ayothers@yahoo.com

January 2016



Happy New Year to all our BACAHS members and friends!

*Don't forget to RSVP for our ever popular annual **Winter Potluck** gathering on **Sunday, January 31**. Once again, we'll be graciously hosted by Malcolm McAfee, 30 Commonwealth Avenue, San Francisco at 4 pm. Sound Sculptress Destiny Muhammad will perform. Read on to learn more about Destiny and her innate determination and spirit that together create and share wonderful music and entertainment.*

Please bring with you any sheet music that you no longer need. There will be a music swap where you may find music that you always wanted to play, while others can enjoy playing your music. Feel free to identify your music if you plan to take home any leftovers. Otherwise, all remaining music will be donated. Please RSVP to ayothers@yahoo.com and indicate what dish you will share

*On **February 6** the Pacific Arts Trio, featuring Natalie Cox, harp, Alice Lenaghan, flute, and Dan Reiter, cello, performs Classical Flamenco at Harps Etc. at 7:00 pm. Admission is by donation—pay what you can. There will be a reception following, so please RSVP to info@harpsetc.com or (925) 937-4277 so we can plan for food and seating.*

*Here are two exciting Chapter events coming up this spring. On April 10, energetic performer, dedicated teacher, composer, and award-winning harpist, **Julia Kay Jamieson** comes to San Francisco to present a hands-on-harp workshop, **Fearless Improv**, and an evening recital. Julia has composed some wonderful ensemble works for lever and pedal harps and offered that an ensemble be put together to perform some of these pieces at the recital. Are you interested? If so, please drop us a line at bacahs@gmail.com or talk to us at one of the upcoming events.*

*And finally, on Saturday, May 7, **Naomi Hoffmeyer** will perform in recital at BACAHS Spring Gathering at Henry Heines' Sebastopol home. The month of May in Sonoma can't be beat—and adding harp makes it divine.*

Hope to see you at these fun and entertaining harp events. Please let us know when you have events coming up so that we may share them with the community.

*Alice Yothers
Susie Spiwak*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Destiny Muhammad, Sound Sculptress

By Suki Russack

Everyone has a story. The length and complexity of that story varies from person to person, depending on how old they are and how deep they have ventured into their own interiors. Some people watch their story as it unfolds. They stand outside and observe it as it happens. Others are so present in the moment that they can create their own story. They change it and mold it as it is happening. **Destiny Muhammad** is such a person. She has never been a victim of circumstance. She has been able, by her talent, wit and charm, to become a successful musician and performance artist.



Destiny's early years were spent traveling as a Navy brat. When she was nine her parents divorced. Her mother, now single, settled in Compton, CA. The family attended Crusaders

Temple Church of God in Christ where she was exposed to and powerfully influenced by wonderful singing that was part of the church service.

In the 1970's Destiny's mother moved the family to San Pedro, CA. Destiny recognized that the local high school did not have a music program so she commuted via public transportation to Torrance High School where she could pursue her passion. Destiny's days began at 3:30 am to accommodate the commute to arrive in class by 6:30 am. Although she wanted to continue her music after high school, she needed to help support her mother and sisters who were still living in the San Pedro Housing Projects and receiving Government Assistance. She therefore attended Rosston Barber College and earned her Barbering License. At 21 years old she opened her own shop in San Pedro. At first her clients were local people but soon her skills and charm brought her more success from the larger community.

At the age of 30, Destiny met a man who built lever harps. Remembering her childhood enchantment with Harpo Marks, whom she had seen on TV, she soon began playing on the folk harp. Although she had little ability to read music, she nevertheless accompanied choirs and began writing her own music. Her compositions became the focus of her music practice. Through improvisation she began to build a body of work that became the foundation for her Jazz ensemble. Destiny refers to her method of composition as "downloads" from the Universe. They are a spiritual practice requiring a daily connection to her own convictions and a determination to transform her life into a meaningful experience of the Divine.

As she experienced the joys, frustrations and rewards of the harp, Destiny progressed to playing the pedal harp in 2005. Her performances are another link to her Spiritual Practice as they require her attention to the moment in order to play in an authentic manner. Destiny's audiences are the fortunate recipients of her Practice. Some of her music is available on [iTunes](#) and there are videos on [YouTube](#) that give a taste of her performances. Visit [Destiny's Website](#) for more information.

Destiny accepted our invitation to perform at the BACAHS Potluck on Sunday **January 31, 2016** so that the local community of harpists and harp lovers will have the chance to experience her own brand of magic. Thank you Destiny!

BACAHS CALENDAR

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March 6--First Episcopal Church on Hopkins and Alameda in Berkeley
April (date TBD)--Old First Church, San Francisco

April 10, 2016, 1:30pm: Julia Kay Jamieson *Fearless Improv Workshop*

Create music in the moment in the company of other adventurous harpists! Explore the tremendous range of expression, color, and texture of your harp through improvisation. Fun experiments and games will break the ice; this workshop will open you to all sorts of ideas for goofing off with your harp! Those who are completely new to improv will find a friendly environment to try it out. Experienced improvisers can focus on ways to make their voice shine. All ages and levels welcome. Bring your harp! Pedal or lever harp will work! Please have your lever harp tuned to 3 flats.

April 10, 2016, 6:30pm: Julia Kay Jamieson in Recital

Program to include Renié, de Falla, Ellington, a-ha, Tournier, Piazzolla, Mercury and more. Traditional harp repertoire will be paired with Jamieson's own transcriptions of popular and jazz works. Check out some of Julia's performances:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG67jZg7Y18>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tgJZPSeir0>

Both events will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom, 14th Avenue at Clement, San Francisco. More details coming soon.

May 7, 2016, 3 pm: BACAHS North Bay Spring Get Together with Naomi Hoffmeyer, harp, in recital. Sebastopol, CA.

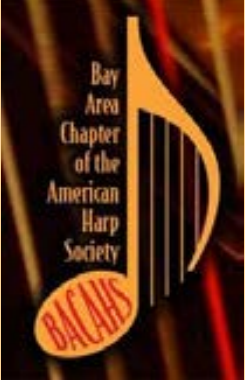
International Harp Festival 2016: Presented by Diablo Valley Arts Academy, May 26-29, 2016, Danville, CA www.harpfestival.org/

CLASSIFIED ADS

Many great harps are available for sale and rent, as well as resources for harpists, on the [Classified Ads](#) page. Please check back often. If you have harps for sale or rent, or other listings you want the community to know about, please fill out the request form located at the bottom of the classified ads page. If you currently have an ad posted that needs updating or removal, please let us know at bacahs@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all who have joined the chapter or renewed your membership in BACAHS. If you have not done so already, please join or renew now. The membership year begins September 1 and goes through August 2016. Although you may be a member of the American Harp Society at the National level, we hope you will join the Bay Area Chapter as well. The Chapter serves to meet the need to share information, promote and foster an appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument in the Bay Area, and further harp education at all levels. Your support enables continued sponsorship of harp programs and master classes. Visit BACHARP.org/membership. The Bay Area Chapter of the American Harp Society is a 501(c)3 corporation and, as such, both membership dues and all donations are tax-deductible, to the full extent allowed by law.



Annual Winter Potluck Supper



Clockwise from lower left: Ellis Schuman, Andrea Morgan, Lucy Agee, Wendy Sharp, Brian Swager, Suki Russack, Pamela Hoffman, Diana Rowan, Andrea Morgan, Alexandra Perdew, Krista Strader, Sally Fletcher, Ken Sharp, Ellis Schuman, Laura Simpson, Natalie Cox



The reviews are in for Pacific Arts Trio:

*"You are all great musicians
and play with such enthusiasm..."*

*"Dan is amazing that he adapts
so many things that your trio can play"*

Bay Area Chapter of the American Harp Society
in partnership with Harps Etc. and DVAA
Presents

Classical Flamenco by the Pacific Arts Trio
featuring Natalie Cox, harp; Alice Lenaghan,
Flute; and Dan Reiter, cello



Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 7:00pm

Harps Etc.

1601 North Main Street

Walnut Creek

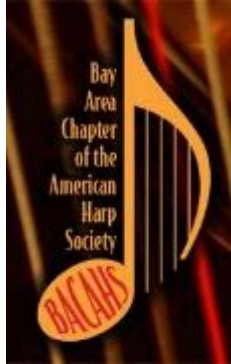
Admission by donation—please pay what you can

RSVP: info@harpsetc.com or (925) 937-4277

Program includes works by Respighi, Scarlatti, Byrd, Albeniz, Bizet,
Boccherini, Ravi Shankar and Vivaldi

All arrangements by Dan Reiter

March/April 2016



Spring has sprung with a profusion of activity in the Bay Area harp world! March saw terrific contemporary music performances by members Jennifer Ellis and Karen Gottlieb, and April and May bring more harp delights, contributing to the rich culture of our community.

*April 10 headlines award winning harpist, composer and teacher Julia Kay Jamieson, presenting the workshop, **Fearless Improv**, followed by a concert featuring some of our own member professionals lending their improvisational talents to the mix.*

*Don't miss **Member Spotlight**, featuring the story of Olga Ortenberg-Rakitchenkov as told by Suki Russack. And Karen Gottlieb is back with another insightful **Practical Tips for Harpists** column.*

We have again been invited to join Silicon Valley Chapter in their upcoming Harp Live! gathering. Don't miss it! And because you asked for more social activities, we're throwing a Spring Social in beautiful Sebastopol, in the home of BAC Secretary Henry Heines. It will be an afternoon of conviviality, comestibles, and music, graced by our own Naomi Hoffmeyer in recital.

Our events calendar and Member News spots will keep you abreast of what some of our membership is up to. Please keep us posted so that we can share your activities with our readership. Send a request to link to the bacharp.org calendar so you can post your own events.

Happy Spring Holidays,

*Alice Yothers
Susie Spiwak*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Olga Ortenberg-Rakitchenkov by Suki Russack

It was early in the evening when I walked up the many stairs of the War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco to sit in my favorite place, "among the angels" in the second balcony. The pit was empty except for one shadowy figure. Then I could hear the single note of the harp. Olga was tuning her instrument and as she plucked the string and adjusted the pitch, I could clearly hear when pitch was correct. Just listening to the sound coming into focus was a lesson in what to listen for when tuning the harp. It was with delight that I then was able to interview Olga, long time member and supporter of BACAHS, for the newsletter.



Olga is from Moscow and began her studies at the Gnesin School when she was five and a half years old. She sang in the children's choir and studied piano. She was never very dedicated to playing the piano and her grades reflected this. Nevertheless, because she was so gifted musically, when she was 11, she was offered the opportunity to continue her studies with a different instrument. Her first desire was to become a singer, but her maturing voice did not have the required resonance. She had always been fascinated by the harp and so her studies began with Mark Rubin. She graduated from the school in 1968 and was then accepted into the Vera Dulova harp department at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. While she was studying with Dulova, she participated in the 1971 International Harp Week in Holland and in 1973 played a recital at the International Festival in France that was celebrating the 80th anniversary of Pierre Jamet. She graduated with honors in 1973. In 1974 Olga won first prize in the International Competition in Geneva Switzerland. She was awarded six thousand Swiss Francs and a gold Rolex watch engraved with her maiden name, Ortenberg. The same year she graduated, she won the audition for

the harp chair at the Bolshoi Theater, where she played for 14 years. After immigrating to San Francisco with her family, Olga won the audition for the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Although he was not a harpist, Olga credits her uncle Adolf Brukas one of her most important teachers. He taught her the importance of understanding the beauty of the sound and how to produce that sound in order to achieve a singing musical phrase. He not only taught her how to listen to her sound but also how to practice properly.

It would have been easy to sit and listen to Olga's stories for hours on end. She has a sense of joy and wonder that is enchanting and inspiring. She not only shared her stories of many famous musicians but also of her own insights into performance practice; what is needed for seamless and elegant technique. Her advice for learning music is this: always use a metronome, repeat each difficult passage ten times at a very slow tempo before attempting to speed up, and practice VERY lightly.

Olga is very happy to be a part of BACAHS because it brings her into contact with other harpists and with the different harp events and performances going on in the Bay Area.

Olga is performing around the Bay Area in April and May with her husband, Sergey. In addition, the new CD, "Lyric Flute and Harp Musical Offerings" featuring Olga with Dawn Walker-Schrock, flute, includes the harp solo, "The Lark" by Glinka-Balakirev, with the original 20th century transcription for harp done by Vera Dulova. Olga was the first harpist in Russia to perform this piece with its several chromatic passages that were quite challenging to play, as they came directly from the piano score. It is available on [iTunes](#), [Amazon](#) and [CDBaby](#).

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR HARPISTS—By Karen Gottlieb, Harpist and Harp Technician

Do you ever wonder how strings are made and how best to handle them for superior performance? Check out Harp Technician Karen Gottlieb's article, "[The Thing about Strings](#)", originally published in the American Harp Society Journal, Summer 2013. The article contains great tips and tutorials from a number of technicians for stringing and tuning your harp.

UPCOMING BACAHS EVENTS



APRIL 10, 2016 BACAHS presents FEARLESS IMPROV WORKSHOP AND RECITAL with Julia Kay Jamieson

Don't miss this great opportunity for entertainment and learning new skills with your harp. Sign up now to attend the **workshop from 1:30pm until 4:30pm** and stay for the **Recital at 6:30pm**. The events will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom, 301 14th Avenue, San Francisco, a central

location off Park Presidio that is easily accessible from all directions in the Bay Area. Click for [workshop](#) and [recital](#) information and tickets.

Workshop: Create music in the moment in the company of other adventurous harpists! Explore the tremendous range of expression, color, and texture of your harp through improvisation. Fun experiments and games will break the ice; this workshop will open you to all sorts of ideas for having fun or even goofing off with your harp! All ages and levels welcome. Bring your harp! Please have your lever harp tuned to 3 flats. Can't bring your harp? Send an email to BACAHS@gmail.com and let us know. There will be some harps available for borrowing.

Recital: Program to include music by Renié, deFalla, Ellington, a-ha, Tournier, Piazzolla, Mercury, Leonard Cohen and more. Traditional harp repertoire will be paired with Jamieson's own transcriptions of popular and jazz works. **Special guest appearance in ensemble by Bay Area harpists: Natalie Cox, Alexandra Perdew, Diana Rowan.** Reception will follow the recital.

An award winning harpist, composer and teacher, Julia is a Director-at-Large with the American Harp Society and chairperson of the Music Education Committee for the organization. She is a great resource and teacher and resonates with young people and adults, amateurs and professionals. [Read on](#) to see what others say about Julia's workshops...

May 7, 2016, 1pm to 4pm BACAHS event: **Spring Social** at the Sebastopol home of Henry Heines with **Recital by Naomi Hoffmeyer**. Spend a spring day in the Sonoma countryside while enjoying libations and snacks with your friends and gazing over the valley. Top that with a harp recital by Naomi Hoffmeyer, including Salzedo's Ballade, Jeremiah Siochi's Sublimation (the piece that was commissioned for the USAIHC), and the two Caplet Divertissements. The event is free and open to you and your friends and family. Please do RSVP to Alice Yothers ayothers@yahoo.com and let us know you will attend.

MEMBER NEWS

Please help **Erica Messer** promote the harp as an accessible instrument to learn to play. She would love your vote for music classes at Bay Area Parent Best of the Peninsula. Write in "Erica Messer, Harp Instruction" in the Music Classes category. Please share with friends and post to social media. Just follow the link below and there is a category for MUSIC CLASSES <http://www.bayareaparent.com/Best-Of-The-Best-Ballot/Peninsula/> Thank you for your vote.

CALENDAR

April 3, 2016, 2pm Hear Ravel's Introduction and Allegro played by members of the San Francisco Symphony, including Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik and **Principal Harp and BACAHS member, Douglas Rioth**, in a Sunday chamber music concert at Davies Symphony Hall. Written in 1905, Ravel's work is one of the first pieces to explore the full potential of the modern harp as a solo instrument.

With a history spanning almost six millennia, and enjoying great popularity in medieval Europe, the harp was no stranger to Western music, yet it was often limited by its ability to play a relatively small range of notes without having to retune the strings. With the perfection of the modern, double-action pedal mechanism, Ravel seized the opportunity to showcase the harp in this virtuosic chamber work also featuring violin, viola, cello, flute and clarinet. Visit sfsymphony.org for more information.

April 3, 2016, 3pm Silicon Valley Chapter AHS invites all BACAHS members to **Harp Live!** in the beautiful Moss Beach home of Gwen Halterman, 185 Reef Point Road. Formerly called "Performance Practice", Harp Live! is a quarterly gathering where chapter members are invited to bring their favorite pieces to share or play for the group. Sessions include solos, harp duets, and/or chamber ensemble pieces. All are welcome to bring music they are working on, or just come to listen and enjoy the company of other harpists. Remember, you do not have to perform; you can participate by coming to hear others play. You will always hear or learn something new. Most participants give a history of the piece or the composer, how they found the piece, or why they enjoy playing it. And, if you do play, it does not have to be a polished performance! Wonderful refreshments are served and harps are provided. It is a great time to rekindle your harp spirit. RSVP gwenhalterman@gmail.com

Dr. Diana Rowan continues to offer online training in 2016:
Performance Mastery EXPRESS - 4 short weeks to freedom!
Transform performance fear into performance power
Starts March 29
<http://dianarowan.com/performance-mastery-express-live-online-training-starts-march-29>

Upcoming in late April:

World Harp Techniques MIDDLE EAST

Learn the exotic, dramatic techniques of Middle Eastern music first-hand from masters, translated onto harp. Join the mailing list to be first to hear when we start:

<http://dianarowan.com/contact>

Olga Ortenberg-Rakitchenkova, harp, and her husband, Sergey Rakitchenkova, viola, will perform in ChamberWORKS, eclectic and intimate nights of music and song featuring the 2016 Adler Fellows and curated by San Francisco Opera. Program highlights include Adler Julie Adams performing works by Previn, Chausson and Ponchielli. April 20, 8:00pm, Taube Atrium Theater. See more at: <http://sfopera.com/sfoperalab/season-one/chamberworks/>

April 23rd at 7:30 pm: Musicians **Sage Po** & Rebekah Hood will present an eclectic mix of chamber and solo repertoire and new works for harp and cello.

This will be the kick-off concert for New Music icon Terry Riley's "Sri Moonshine Music Series," a project of Camptonville Performing Arts. There will be five performances throughout the spring and summer. Sage Po and Rebekah Hood will be appearing at the Camptonville Performing Arts Center at 15333 Cleveland Avenue, Camptonville, CA 95922. Tickets for the April concert are available via Brown Paper Tickets at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2521244>, or contact Christina Ledson at (530) 288-3655 or christinaledson@gmail.com. Publicity materials will be posted on Terry Riley's website by the beginning of April.

May 23rd and 24th 7:30 pm. Méliès Madness: Enter the whimsical, wonderful world of French illusionist and filmmaker Georges Méliès. Some of his famous short films are set to music and performed with live accompaniment of harp by **Carla Fabris**, string quartet and flute. Featuring local Bay Area composers and musicians. Reception to follow! Tickets: \$20 General, \$15 Students/Seniors/Children Balboa Theatre, 3630 Balboa St, San Francisco, CA 94121.

International Harp Festival 2016: Presented by Diablo Valley Arts Academy, May 26-29, 2016, Danville, CA www.harpfestival.org/

From our friends around the harp community:

Registration Now Open!

Announcing the upcoming **2016 United States International Music Competition and Festival** (USIMC/ Festival). Thanks for entering your students for 2014 CMTANC International Youth Music Competition. We hope to see your students again in the 2016 USIMC/Festival. This year's competition categories include: Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello, Vocal, Harp, Guitar and Traditional Chinese Instruments. A Special Chinese Music Award will be given to the excellent performance of Chinese compositions to promote Chinese music and culture. In addition, the first annual Festival will take place immediately following the competition...[read more](#)



This year's competition consists of a preliminary video round (completed applications must be postmarked by April 30, 2016) and a live, final round which will take place on August 12, 2016. The Festival will be held on August 13 & 14, 2016 at the Braun Music Center of Stanford University, Stanford, California. Please visit USIMC.org for the Competition guidelines and Festival detailed information. For any questions, please contact us at: Info@USIMC.org or (408) 681-9928.

Request for survey participation: A student of Anna Maria Mendieta, Hannah Gruell, requested distribution of the following survey. Hannah is a harpist and industrial design student. **The survey will take less than 60 seconds of your time**, and will help this student with her senior project. Click on the link below. It is anonymous.

“Dear BACAHS members,

I am an Industrial Design major at San Francisco State University working on my senior project. It is about the high cost of harps and the concern involving their transportation. In this project, I am proposing to design an electric pedal harp. Your help would be an invaluable part of my project! Please click the link below to start my survey. Thank you in advance for your participation and time!”
https://sfsu.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9pErdDK2a1ynCJv”

CLASSIFIED ADS

Check out the great harps for sale recently added to the [Classified Ads](#) page including:

Camac Clio, 44 strings, Cherry
Lyon and Healy 22, Gold
Lyon and Healy 30, Ebony
Dusty Strings FH 36, Natural
Lyon and Healy 23, Natural

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Bay Area Chapter of the American Harp Society

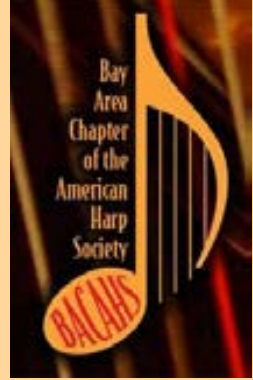
Presents

Award winning harpist, composer, teacher

Julia Kay Jamieson

Workshop and Recital

Sunday, April 10, 2016



Fearless Improv Workshop 1:30-4:30pm

Hands-on workshop for lever and pedal harpists. You don't have to play the harp—auditors invited to attend.

Create music in the moment in the company of other adventurous harpists! Explore the tremendous range of expression, color, and texture of your harp through improvisation. Fun experiments and games will break the ice; this workshop will open you to all sorts of ideas for having fun or even goofing off with your harp! All ages and levels welcome. Bring your harp! Please have your lever harp tuned to 3 flats.



Recital 6:30pm

Program to include music by Renié, deFallá, Ellington, a-ha, Tournier, Piazzolla, Mercury and more. Traditional harp repertoire will be paired with Jamieson's own transcriptions of popular and jazz works. Listen: [*Oblivion*](#), Astor Piazzolla; [*Take On Me*](#), A-ha; [*Take Five*](#), Paul Desmond

For tickets and more information—[workshop](#) and [recital](#)

Both events take place at:

Congregation Beth Shalom

301 14th Avenue at Clement

San Francisco, CA

Easy on street parking plus parking lot located in the Presidio off 14th and Lake Streets

bacharp.org

SPECIAL THANKS !!

Natalie Cox

Karen Gottlieb

George and Bella S. Merijohn

Caroline Parker

Alexandra Perdew

Diana Rowan

Suki Russack

Patricia Shean

Susie Spiwak

Alice Yothers

Erica Messer

Melinda Chinn

Congregation Beth Sholom

Beth Jones

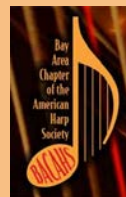
Eva-Lynne Liebman

Christopher Orev Reiger

Jane Sykes

Jason Zimmerman

Higgins



**Bay Area Chapter of the
American Harp Society
Presents**

Award winning harpist, composer, teacher

Julia Kay Jamieson

Recital



Sunday, April 10, 2016

6:30PM

**Congregation Beth Sholom
San Francisco, CA**

Julia Kay Jamieson is an energetic performer, dedicated teacher, composer and award-winning harpist living in Champaign, Illinois. A passionate advocate for new music, she is the principal harpist of the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, has given numerous world premiere performances and has performed in SEAMUS (Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States) conferences. Julia has been a featured concert artist, clinician and composer for events such as the 2012 Illinois Summer harp class, the 2012 annual Harp Day in Eugene, Oregon, and the 2014 Canadian International Summer Harp Institute in Vancouver. She has been commissioned to write several harp ensemble pieces including *one time around* in 2013 for Illinois Summer Harp Class and *Creatures* for the 2013 High Cascade Harp Retreat. As a founding member of the quartet, The HarpCore 4, Julia has innovatively arranged and performed popular 1980s music throughout the country, including a performance in the 2015 Midwest Harp Festival in Tulsa, OK.

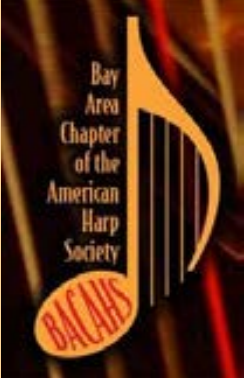
As a professional harpist, she won First Prize in the 2002 American String Teachers Association (ASTA) National Biennial Solo Competition. Julia was the winner of the School of Music Concerto Competition Finals in 2008; she was awarded a performance of Rodrigo's *Concierto di Aranjuez* with the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra. She has also been a soloist with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra (2010) and the Danville Symphony Orchestra (2009). Julia studied with Jocelyn Chang in Cleveland for over a decade, Susann McDonald at Indiana University (BM), and Ann Yeung at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (MM) where she served as the teaching assistant in harp. During her tenure as teaching assistant, she was awarded the highest teaching honor at the University of Illinois: the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (2009).

Julia's interest in harp pedagogy and composition has led her to writing teaching materials including *The Young at Harp* - a method/solo book for beginning harpists, giving several workshops and master classes for harpists and composers and writing articles for the *American Harp Journal*. During the summer of 2015 Julia gave *fearless improv* workshops for the American Harp Society Summer Institute in Logan, Utah. This summer she will co-direct a youth harp ensemble at the American Harp Society National Conference in Atlanta. The ensemble will play two of her compositions. Julia serves on the American Harp Society Board as a Director-at-large and is chair of the Music Education Auditions and Evaluations Committee.

Take On Me	a-ha trans. Jamieson
Prelude in C op. 12 No. 7	S. Prokofiev
Contemplation	H. Renié
Reflections in D	D. Ellington trans. Jamieson
Jazz Band op. 33	M. Tournier
Caravan	J. Tizol/D. Ellington trans. Jamieson
Spanish Dance No. 1 from <i>La Vida Breve</i>	M. de Falla trans. Grandjany

brief intermission

snow ambling buds from <i>One Time Around</i>	J. Jamieson
with special guests Natalie Cox, Alexandra Perdew, and Diana Rowan	
Oblivion	A. Piazzola trans. Jamieson
Oblivion	improvisation
Oblivion	M. Gray trans. Jamieson
Hallelujah	L. Cohen trans. Jamieson
Etude de Concert	F. Godefroid
Bohemian Rhapsody	F. Mercury trans. Jamieson



Workshop and Recital Julia Kay Jamieson



[Click](#) for video

Top: Attendees embraced the freedom of improvisation at the workshop. Bottom: Local pros Natalie Cox, Alex Perdeu and Diana Rowan joined Julia to play her original ensemble compositions.

May 2016



Dear BACAHS Members and Friends,

Here's another newsletter brimming with harp happenings! We're glowing after a very successful workshop and concert by Julia Kay Jamieson--and Natalie Cox brings us her own perspective on the day. Thanks and gratitude go out to Natalie Cox, Alex Perdew, and Diana Rowan for teaming up with Julia that evening for two of her ensemble compositions, "[Buds](#)" and "[Snow Ambling](#)"! And we want to thank Silicon Valley Chapter for once again inviting us to share in their always enjoyable HarpLive! one week earlier at the beautiful Moss Beach home of Gwen Halterman.



In our popular Member Spotlight column, Suki Russack focuses on Naomi Hoffmeyer, who will entertain us at our upcoming **Spring Social next week**. Don't miss it!

And to round out our abundantly rich 2015-2016 harp year, we're honored to co-host with SVC, and in conjunction with Peninsula Jewish Community Center, Yuying Chen, first prize winner of the 19th Israel International Harp Contest, the most prestigious harp competition in the world, for a master class and concert in June. So there's something for everyone!

Please check out our member news and calendar items. The only thing missing is your great news! Send a request to link to the bacharp.org calendar so you can post your own events.

Happy Harping,

Alice Yothers
Susie Spiwak

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Naomi Hoffmeyer by Suki Russack

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be preparing for the [USA International Harp Competition](#) (USAIHC)? What kind of energy and concentration it would take to be trying to catch that golden ring? [Naomi Hoffmeyer](#)'s sense of excitement and delight in what she has so far accomplished in reaching for this goal is clear even in a long distance phone call. I had the opportunity to talk to her about her preparation for the competition, which takes place June 8–18 in Bloomington, Indiana. Two weeks ago she passed the first hurdle, which was to have her audition tape accepted by the judges. In June, she will have to pass through four rounds of live competition, each round eliminating more harpists until the clear winners emerge at the finale.



As part of her meticulous preparation, Naomi has been performing at least one, and sometimes two, solo recitals every week since January. She has given over 30 recitals of the USAIHC repertoire since beginning her preparation. She has also had the opportunity, as part of the Artist Diploma program at Rice University, to have four different music professors provide solo coaching for the Competition repertoire.

Naomi now has over two hours of music memorized and up to tempo. She is spending some of her practice time away from the harp, going through the music in her head, listening to different recordings of the music, or studying the score. With every piece she works on, she attempts to find some emotional connection to help bring the music to life and to keep it fresh. She is also very careful to guard against injury, always conscious of her posture and keeping a sense of ease and

relaxation in her practice. With this in mind, Naomi spent two months with harpist Alice Giles in Australia in 2012, primarily working on relaxation and ease of playing.

Naomi began her music training with piano at age five and began her harp studies at age nine. Between 8th and 9th grades, she attended Interlochen Arts Camp. She studied with Alice Chalifoux in her home state of Virginia, and then went to Interlochen Arts Academy for two years followed by the New England Conservatory. She finished her undergraduate work at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Doug Rioth, going on to get her Master of Music degree at Rice University with Paula Page in Houston, where she is continuing to work toward her Artist Diploma. Naomi studied and excelled through training with many of the finest harpists in the Bay Area and the US including Karen Gottlieb, Joan Holland, and Ann Hobson Pilot. She holds the position of Principal Harp for the California and Corpus Christi Symphonies and will perform at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland this summer under the batons of noteworthy conductors including Charles Dutoit and Michael Tilson Thomas.

Naomi has been a supportive member of BACAHS since 2012. As part of her commitment to the chapter, she generously offered to present a recital of her program for our members and friends on Saturday, May 7. The [recital and BACAHS Spring Social](#) will be held at the Sebastopol home of board member Henry Heines and Katherine Fines.

We wish Naomi the best of luck in her endeavors and are confident that her efforts will be well rewarded at the USAIHC.

REVIEW: WORKSHOP AND RECITAL WITH JULIA KAY JAMIESON—By Natalie Cox

In April BACAHS sponsored an event that I will remember as one of the most informative and fun of any I have ever experienced in my life as a musician. Julia Kay Jamieson came to the Bay Area to present a workshop on Improvisation, to be followed by a concert of her own compositions and arrangements. Julia is a masterful musician, composer and arranger with a teaching style both generous and enthusiastic.



From the moment I arrived I felt a sense of excitement and comfort. Congregation Beth Sholom in San Francisco was a well-chosen venue with an easy loading zone for harps. In just minutes, with the help of volunteers, I was unloaded, parked and all set up in the concert room, with plenty of time to tune. The other twenty attendees were a friendly and diverse group of harpists with all styles of harp: lap, lever, Celtic, Latin and pedal, each with a unique voice.

Improvisation is, for some, a very scary word, an idea implying no boundaries, open ended, no rules. What's going to happen? I was put at ease immediately when Julia introduced herself and the subject close to her heart. She began the workshop by demonstrating on her harp a few simple ideas, then letting each of us try them out. Her teaching style is one of encouragement and support, freeing us from the inner critic and allowing our imaginations to flourish.



Idea One: Express what we're feeling at this moment with sound. Remembering that in free improv, anything goes, we bravely put our hands to the strings and were encouraged to communicate joy, trepidation, hesitation, fearlessness.

Idea Two: Use only a rhythm pattern and stay within it.

Idea Three: Use only five tones, explore ways to extend interest.

Idea Four: Use all dynamic ranges while playing with no rhythm.

The list of ideas went on as three hours flew by in creative exploration and experimentation, giving us all the feeling that we can create something from our own imaginations using the many components of music. Our hosts, Alice, Susie and Melinda thought of everything to support our comfort by providing tasty and healthy snacks during the break.

To culminate this wonderful day's rich learning experience, Julia performed a concert exceptional in every way. She is inspiring to hear, with clean, precise technique, dynamics ranging from a whisper to operatic fortes, lightning fast pedal work and emotional maturity.

Thank you team BACAHS for providing this exceptional experience!

UPCOMING BACAHS EVENTS

RSVP for BACAHS Spring Social Featuring Recital by Naomi Hoffmeyer at the home of Henry Heines and Katherine Fines in Western Sonoma County (between Sebastopol and Occidental). Come and bring your friends. You do not have to be a BACAHS member to attend. The afternoon is open to all who love music and sunny afternoons.

Date: Saturday afternoon, May 7, 2016

Time: Socializing and refreshments at 1 p.m., performance at 2:30 p.m., further refreshments after the performance—please note performance time change!

Highlights of Naomi's performance include Salzedo's Ballade, Jeremiah Siochi's Sublimation (the piece that was commissioned for the USA International Harp Competition), and Caplet Divertissements.

Location: 12413 Elliott Lane, Sebastopol (actually, 5 miles west of Sebastopol, see below)

Admission: free, although feel free to contribute a bottle of wine for the hosts

RESERVATIONS are requested, so that we can get a head count. Please RSVP to Alice Yothers at ayothers@yahoo.com

RIDE SHARE: If you need a ride or can give a ride, please let us know so we can connect you with others from your neighborhood or who are on the way.

Directions:

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The Bay Area and Silicon Valley chapters of the American Harp Society in partnership with PJCC present:

Yuying Chen, the 2015 First Prize Winner of the most prestigious harp competition in the world, the 19th Israel International Harp Contest, performs works by Renié, Grandjany, de Falla, Tchaikovsky, Liszt and Bach.



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Date: **Tuesday, June 14**
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Peninsula Jewish Community Center Board Room
Fee: \$20 PJCC and AHS Members, \$25 Public
Code: 47268

To purchase tickets, visit the PJCC Welcome Center, www.pjcc.org/arts, or call 650.378.2703.

Master Class with Yuying Chen on Wednesday, June 15, 6pm-8:30pm at a private home in Hillsborough. Open to participants and auditors. For more information and to register visit universe.com/yuyingmasterclass

MEMBER NEWS

Kristal Barlaan announces that San Jose Youth Symphony Harp Ensemble auditions for the coming year are taking place now through August. Harpists junior high aged through age 22 are invited to audition. For more information please visit their Facebook page: Harp Ensemble of San Jose Youth Symphony, or https://docs.google.com/.../1X420D1h5881larQ_olg9aX6.../viewform or contact Kristal at kristalharp@gmail.com

Please help **Erica Messer** promote the harp as an accessible instrument to learn to play. She would love your vote for music classes at Bay Area Parent Best of the Peninsula. Write in “Erica Messer, Harp Instruction” in the Music Classes category. Please share with friends and post to social media. Just follow the link below and there is a category for MUSIC CLASSES
<http://www.bayareaparent.com/Best-Of-The-Best-Ballot/Peninsula/> Thank you for your vote.

Ellis Schuman's *Prelude for the Harp* is scheduled for publication by the Lyra Music Company. Editions distributed by [Vanderbilt Music Company](http://VanderbiltMusicCompany.com) of Bloomington, Indiana.

CALENDAR

May 2, 2016, 8pm, [SFCOM Harp Studio Recital](http://SFCOMHarpStudioRecital.com), Molly Langr, harpist. Molly's program includes Handel Concerto in B-flat Major and Pierre Impromptu-Caprice. Molly and her teacher, **Doug Rieth**, are playing a number of 2-harp pieces as well including Bach French Suite, Salzedo Rumba and Chanson dans la Nuit.

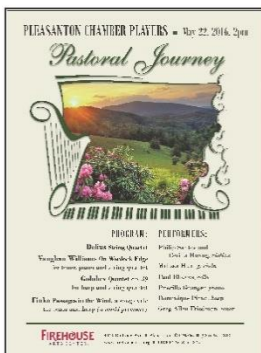
May 7 and 8, the SF Conservatory of Music Orchestra, Scott Sandmeier, director, closes its season with a diverse sampling of orchestral works. The program features the overture to Johann Strauss II's operetta *Der Zigeunerbaron* (*The Gypsy Baron*), Mexican composer Silvestre Revueltas' *Sensemaya*, Ravel's Suite No. 2 from *Daphnis and Chloé*, and Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* sung by mezzo-soprano Molly Hill '15. **Molly Langr and Doug Rieth**, harps. For more information and to purchase tickets <http://calendar.sfcm.edu/index.php?eID=1309>

May 14, 2016, 11:00 am, Memorial Service for Bob Fonda at the Peninsula Free Methodist Church, 599 Jefferson Ave. Redwood City, CA 94063. Bob Fonda was loved by many, and all who knew Bob are welcome to attend. Wife Reiko and the family are touched that friends of the Harp Community have offered to play at Bob's Memorial service. SVC harpists will provide harp music for the prelude, postlude and a special song during the service. For further information, please contact Celeste Misfeldt at harpangelcm@gmail.com

May 21 and 22, Jessica Schaeffer performs harp with Opera Cultura's River of Women/Rio de Mujeres in San Jose. Part II of Hector Armienta's La Llorona Trilogy, the chamber opera takes place in a 1940's small town in Texas, close to the Great River. Paula dreams of escaping the rural life of the river, but is thwarted by her family and her culture. In the end, the spirit of the River and La Llorona take from her what she loves most - her only daughter. Sung in English with some phrases in Spanish.

Mexican Heritage Theater - School of Arts & Culture @ MHP, 1700 Alum Rock Ave., San Jose, CA 95116. Sat May 21st 7:00pm, Sun May 22nd 2:00pm; Ticket prices: \$15.00 - \$32.50; www.operacultura.org

May 22, 2016, 2PM Pleasanton Chamber Players will take you on a *Pastoral Journey* at the Firehouse Arts Center in Pleasanton, performing a unique program drawing on intimate connections to nature and painterly soundscapes. The program consists of Vaughan Williams' well-loved *On Wenlock Edge* for tenor, piano and string quartet from 1909; the rarely performed Delius String



Quartet from 1916-17; the premiere of Russian émigré David Finko's song cycle *Passages in the Wind* in a new version for tenor and harp, on fifteen poems by American writer John Gracen Brown, which was first composed for tenor and piano in 1994; and Golubev's wondrous Quintet for harp and string quartet from 1953, which was inspired by the famous virtuoso, Bolshoi harpist Vera Dulova.

Performers for this concert are longtime members Philip Santos and Cecilia Huang on violin, violist Melissa Huang, cellist Paul Rhodes, pianist Priscilla Granger, harpist and artistic director **Dominique Piana** and the up-and-coming tenor Greg Allen Friedman. They are all based locally or in the greater East Bay area.

The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton. Parking is free and plentiful right next to the theatre. Tickets range in price from \$15 to \$25 and can be bought by calling (925) 931-4848 or going online at www.firehousearts.org.

May 23rd and 24th 7:30 pm. Méliès Madness: Enter the whimsical, wonderful world of French illusionist and filmmaker Georges Méliès. Some of his famous short films are set to music and performed with live accompaniment of harp by **Carla Fabris**, string quartet and flute. Featuring local Bay Area composers and musicians. Reception to follow! Tickets: \$20 General, \$15 Students/Seniors/Children; Balboa Theatre, 3630 Balboa St, San Francisco, CA 94121.

International Harp Festival 2016: The International Harp Festival runs from Thursday, May 26, through Sunday, May 29, 2016, at the San Damiano Retreat Center in the East Bay Hills town of Danville. Over 40 workshops and four days of exciting concerts are planned. Stay at the retreat center. Rooms include three meals a day. Double rooms are \$125 per person/day. Visit <http://www.harpfestival.org> for more information or call 800-836-5559 for assistance.

IHF is offering a few work/study opportunities. If you work a day, you get one day free! Contact Jessica at hotharp@pacbell.net for more information.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Check out the great harps for sale recently added to the [Classified Ads](#) page including:

Lyon & Healy Style 11, Gold
Lyon & Healy Style 22, Gold
Camac Clio, 44 strings, Cherry
Lyon & Healy 22, Gold
Lyon & Healy Style 30, Ebony
Dusty Strings FH 36, Natural
And more...

MEMBERSHIP Thank you to all who have joined the chapter or renewed your membership in BACAHS. If you have not done so already, please join or renew now. The membership year begins September 1 and goes through August 2016. Although you may be a member of the American Harp Society at the National level, we hope you will join the Bay Area Chapter as well. The Chapter serves to meet the need to share information, promote and foster an appreciation of the harp as a musical instrument in the Bay Area, and further harp education at all levels. Your support enables continued sponsorship of harp programs and master classes. Visit BACHARP.org/membership. The Bay Area Chapter of the American Harp Society is a 501(c)3 corporation and, as such, both membership dues and all donations are tax-deductible, to the full extent allowed by law.



BACAHS is proud to announce a **Spring Social and Concert** to be held in the North Bay at the home of Henry Heines and Katherine Fines in Western Sonoma County (between Sebastopol and Occidental). The social will include a performance by **Naomi Hoffmeyer**, BACAHS member and harpist for the California Symphony, and will include refreshments hosted by Henry and Katherine and the BACAHS.

Date: Saturday afternoon, May 7, 2016

Time: Socializing and refreshments at 1 p.m., performance at 2:30 p.m., further refreshments after the performance

Highlights of Naomi's performance include:

- ☒ Salzedo's Ballade
- ☒ Jeremiah Siochi's Sublimation (the piece that was commissioned for the USA International Harp Competition)
- ☒ Caplet Divertissements.

Location: 12413 Elliott Lane, Sebastopol (actually, 5 miles west of Sebastopol, see below)

Admission: free, although feel free to contribute a bottle of wine for the hosts

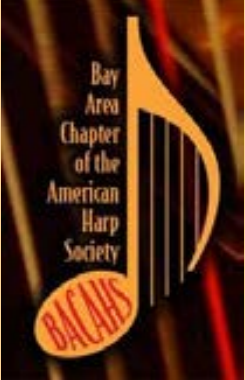
RESERVATIONS are requested, so that we can get a head count. Please RSVP to ayothers@yahoo.com

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Henry Heines, 415-509-8991
mhheines@comcast.net





Spring Social and Recital with Naomi Hoffmeyer



Alice Yothers, Naomi Hoffmeyer, Susie Spiwak, Henry Heines

Cultural Arts

Harpist Yuying Chen

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Silicon Valley Chapter
of the AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY

PJCC Peninsula Jewish Community Center
800 Foster City Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404
650.212.PJCC (7522) • www.pjcc.org

