

NEWSLETTER

Pittsburgh Welcomes Felice Pomeranz

Join us for her Workshops and Recital



Felice Pomeranz, Harpist

On November 10, Felice Pomeranz, Harp Professor at the world-renowned Berklee School of Music, will visit the Pittsburgh Chapter to present a recital and two workshops, in which she will teach topics including arranging, improvisation, and using lead sheets. Her workshops are for both lever and pedal harpists, and she has LOTS of hand-outs!

Felice, who has been performing in the Greater Boston area since 1978, holds degrees from the New England Conservatory in both classical music and jazz, being the first harpist to receive a jazz degree from NEC. Ms. Pomeranz has been a clinician and performer at festivals around the US, Europe and the Caribbean, and has directed three summer harp festivals in New England. The Felice Pomeranz Jazz Quartet has performed throughout New England, Europe, and the Caribbean. Her classical and popular arrangements for harp are available through Vanderbilt Music Company and many other harp retail outlets. She also chairs the Board of Directors of the American Harp Society.

CHAPTER RECITAL AND BUSINESS MEETING RESCHEDULED

Due to a number of conflicts, the date for the chapter's members' recital and annual business meeting has been changed to Sunday, May 20th. It will take place at Hope Lutheran Church in Forest Hills, at address 353 Ridge Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. The recital begins at 4pm. It is free and open to the public.

ALL members are encouraged to perform! Come and have some fun!

If you would like to play in the recital, please send the name and



composer of your piece (and whether or not you will be bringing your own harp) to Becky Yuille, at her new email address: yuillerj@gmail.com She needs to know as soon as possible.

Our annual business meeting will follow the recital; don't worry, we'll keep it short and sweet! We will be giving out the adjudication certificates to students who completed the music education program. We will also discuss events and plans for next year. We welcome your ideas and input!!!!!!!

Grand Finale with Honeck

With Chapter Members Gretchen Van Hoesen, Heidi Van Hosen Gorton & James Gorton.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR ALL PITTSBURGH AHS MEMBERS



*Gretchen Van Hoesen (top),
James Gorton (right) and
Heidi Van Hosen Gorton (left)*

Gretchen Van Hoesen, Principal Harpist of the Pittsburgh Symphony, Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton, Principal Harpist of the Toronto Symphony and James Gorton, co-Principal Oboist of the Pittsburgh Symphony, will be featured in the North American Premiere of Eugene Goossens' Concert Piece for Oboe/English Horn, Two Harps and Orchestra at Heinz Hall. Also on the program will be Symphony No. 6 in a minor by Gustav Mahler.

There will be a group discount price on tickets for members of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Harp Society.

James Gorton will be honored at these concerts, announcing his retirement from the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra after forty one years of performing.

The concerts on June 15 and 16 will begin at 8 PM and the concert June 17 will begin at 2:30 PM.

Harp students of Gretchen Van Hoesen will perform in Heinz Hall lobby prior to the performance.

Performances:

Friday, June 15: 8:00 PM

Saturday, June 16: 8:00 PM

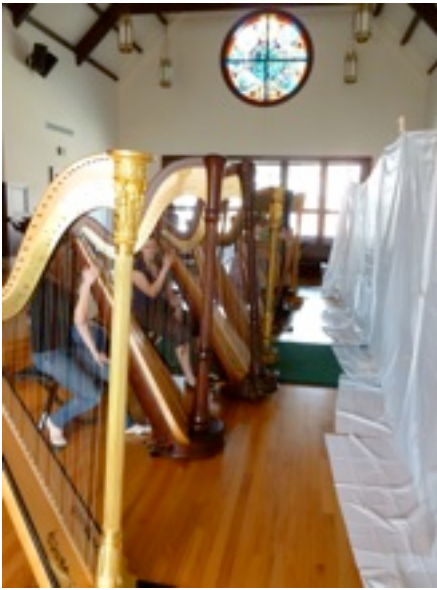
Sunday, June 17: 2:30 PM

To order discounted tickets visit
www.pittsburghsymphony.org

and use promo code

HARP

THE HARP TASTING



Our chapter had its first-ever *Harp Tasting* this past March 18th at the beautiful Aspinwall Presbyterian Church! Fun was had by all who attended. Twelve harps, in all different flavors, were brought and tuned by Laura Lockard, Stephanie Miller, Becky Yuille, Julia Scott, Erica Driscoll, Samara Egan, Sierra Pastel, Carole Henley, Michael Frazier, and Helen Rudd. Lou Manoli designed an amazing low-tech visual barrier from plywood, rope, screws and dollar store shower curtains which effectively and safely screened all the harps from view for the first part of the afternoon. Stephanie Miller, Sierra Pastel, and Erica Driscoll played the same selections on each harp (and they did a mighty fine job, too!) as audience members rated each instrument on the basis of sound only. A printed worksheet was given to audience members to help them organize their thoughts as they evaluated each harp for tone quality in all registers. Some members were surprised to found that they rated other harps more highly than their own instrument! Others happily learned that they had rated their own harp very highly, and were surprised that they had not chosen a different model as their favorite.

All audience members enjoyed the aural exercise, which lasted about an hour. The curtain came down after all the harps were played, when moderator Julia Ann Scott revealed which harps were which, and asked each harp owner to talk a little to the audience about their own instrument. Many makes and models were represented, including Lyon & Healy, Wurlitzer, Salvi, Dusty Strings, Clark, and Merlin R Harps; and there was a single-action Erat harp from the very early 1800's! Members were surprised to hear a cardboard harp, built from a kit. The audience members had the opportunity to talk with the harp owners and to "taste" the harps themselves before meeting downstairs in the church kitchen for a lovely potluck.

Our Pittsburgh Chapter of the AHS hopes to host another harp tasting in the future. More harps and harpists are always welcome! (Additional pictures of this wonderful event can be seen on page 7.)



LUCY SCANDRETT, HER STUDENTS AND 3 OF HARPS



*Concert at North American Martyr's Catholic Church:
Three of Harps and Harp Ensemble including Chapter Members
Katarina McCaffrey and Lucy Scandrett.*



*Concert at Longwood by 3 of Harps: Jan Bishop, Ruth
Papalia and Lucy Scandrett.*

Lucy Scandrett teaches at several colleges and schools including Indiana University of PA, Seton Hill University, Chatham University, Geneva College, the Ellis School, the Pittsburgh School for Creative and Performing Arts, Musik Innovations and also in her home. Throughout the year, Lucy has presented concerts at various locations with students. Recently Lucy and her students

presented two harp ensemble concerts at the Seton Hill Performing Arts Center on March 31, and North American Martyrs Catholic Church in Monroeville on April 12. Chapter members who performed are Alexis Balog, Katarina McCaffrey and Laura Owsiany. For more information on Lucy Scandrett, her students and performances please visit www.blondeharpist.com.

SUZANNE HERSHEY AND COURTNEY HERSHEY BRESS



*Suzanne Hershey with daughter Courtney Hershey Bress after
Courtney's performance of the Oberthur Concerto with the Colorado
Symphony Orchestra in Denver, Colorado*



*Suzanne Hershey playing at Oxford
Center in December for the Holidays.*

FEBRUARY 2012

February 12 and March 11 - Lucy Scandrett was Principal Harp for the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra. The concerts were held at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center.

February 16 - Lucy Scandrett was the Principal Harp for the Ovre'Arts Orchestra performing new compositions for chamber ensembles and with choir for concerts at Heinz Chapel on September 15, 2011 and February 16, 2012.

MARCH 2012

March 3 - Julia Scott performed with the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra in Fauré's *Requiem*, at the Trinity Cathedral, downtown Pittsburgh, with Jeffrey Turner, conductor.

APRIL 2012

April 5 - Emily Hayes played for the Maundy Thursday Service at Harrisville United Methodist Church, Harrisville, PA.

April 11 and 12 - Lucy Scandrett, a member of *The 3 of Harps*, performed 2 concerts with the group at two locations: April 11 at Longwood of Oakmont and North American Martyrs Catholic Church on April 12. The other members of *The 3 of Harps* are Jan Bishop, AHS Bookkeeper and former Chairman of the Board of the AHS, and Ruth Papalia, former Chairman of the Board of the AHS.

April 14 - Julia Ann Scott played

for the wedding of Kathleen Donahue at Sacred Heart Parish in Shadyside. Kathleen is the former harp student of Julia Scott, Suzanne Katz and Gretchen Van Hoesen. Best wishes to the new couple!

April 14 - Julia Scott performed with the Butler Symphony Orchestra in Ravel/Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, and Peter Boyer's *Titanic*, at the Butler Area Intermediate High School, with Matthew Kraemer conducting.

April 15 - Emily Hayes played for the Baptism of Elsa and Myka Plank, twin daughters of Dr. Robim and Jason Plank, at the St. Peter Lutheran Church in Evans City, PA.

April 20 and 22 - Julia Ann Scott performed at the Carnegie Free Library in Mark Adamo's opera *Little Women* with the Duquesne Symphony Orchestra, Carl Hess conducting.

April 21 - Julia Scott performed Respighi's *Ancient Airs and Dances* with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra at the Palace Theatre in Greensburg, Daniel Meyer conducting.

April 22, 2012 - Lucy Scandrett presented a Faculty Recital with her husband Dr. John Scandrett at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, at DiCico Hall. The program included works from the AHS Archives and the *Arcadian Suite for Horn and Harp*, a three movement work that was written for them by Dr. Daniel Perlongo.

April 22 - Lucy Scandrett performed with the Southminster Choir in the *Requiem* by John Rutter at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Mt Lebanon.

April 29 - Julia Scott performed Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Kevin Oldham's *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes Unto the Hills* on the Spring Choral Concert of the Bethel Park United Methodist Church, with Linda Williams, conductor.

MAY 2012

May 4 - Lucy Scandrett performed with the Southminster Choir in the *Requiem* by John Rutter, with Bernadette Peters at the Fisher Performing Arts Center, at IUP.

May 5 - Julia Scott performed various patriotic selections with the Westmoreland Symphony Orchestra at Latrobe High School at 2:00 PM, with Daniel Meyer, conductor.

May 27, 2012 - Everyone is invited to a Recital performed by students of Lucy on Sunday, May 27 at 2:30 pm in the Hunt Rooms, Church of the Ascension, Shadyside (ascensionpittsburgh.org). Works include Solo pieces and also harp ensemble works featuring the flute.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

June 2nd - 4:00 PM, Jessica Ding will be performing *The Moldau* by Smetana at Penn State University Music Building I in the Esber Recital Hall with the Central Pennsylvania Youth Orchestra under the direction of conductor Gregory Woodbridge.

June 11th through 15th - Lucy Scandrett will give a Harp Camp Monday, June 11 - Friday, June 15, at Church of the Ascension. Please contact Lucy or visit her website: www.blondeharpist.com for further details

Sage Po will be performing with the Music In the Mountains Festival Orchestra in Nevada City, CA

JULY & AUGUST

July 29th to August 15th - Gretchen Van Hoesen, Heidi Van Hoesen Gorton and James Gorton will be performing with the Sun Valley Summer Symphony in Sun Valley, Idaho.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: LYON AND HEALY STYLE 30 HARP



For sale: A beautiful, two-year old Lyon Healy Style 30. The harp is in pristine condition and it is a perfect harp for someone looking to step up to a full-size harp. The harp has an ebony finish plus a unique feature - the Salzedo silver stripes on the soundboard! It has a big, warm sound. For more details Anne Sullivan at harpist@annesullivan.com



FOR SALE: LYON AND HEALY STYLE 85 GRAND PETITE PEDAL HARP

Lyon and Healy Style 85 Grand Petite Pedal Harp - 44 Strings, Mahogany - Excellent condition: Only 7 years old and has rarely moved. Height 69" - Soundboard Width 18 3/8" - Extreme Width 37" - Weight 69 lbs. New bass wires added in 2011. Recently regulated in 2011. Includes cover. For more information, contact: Craig Johnson at [412-824-8004](tel:412-824-8004) or arpaflauto@aol.com.

**MORE PICTURES FROM THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER'S FIRST HARP TASTING**

*Harp Performers: Sierra Pastel,
Stephanie Miller and Erica
Driscoll*



*Samara Egan with daughter Amelia
Egan and grandma Terry Magnelli*



*Pearl Pastel, Carole Henley, Michael
Frazier, and Elissa Weiss*

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Members of the
Pittsburgh Chapter of
AHS

Register on our
New Website
to use new interactive
features.

Website: [http://
ahspittsburgh.org/](http://ahspittsburgh.org/)

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