

Charlotte NC Chapter of the **AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY**

July 2025 Newsletter

COMING SOON!

Stay tuned for information regarding an August CCAHS meeting to make plans and set the calendar for the 2025-2026 school season!

Student Recitals

Ella Joy Higham, Tessa Jackson, and Renee Dib all performed student recitals at the beginning of June, and they were a delight!



AHS National Competition | American Harp Society

The **AHS National Harp Competition** was this past May, and our very own **Tessa Jackson** placed 4th (Honorable Mention) in the Intermediate II Division! The competition took place in Los Angeles, and all of the auditions were open so Tessa and her mom, Catie Jackson, could hear many of the harpists play. They were able to attend the winners recital on Sunday afternoon. What an amazing experience! Congratulations, Tessa!

To see the official announcement of the Intermediate II Division winners, go to <https://www.harpsociety.org/news/Intermediatell2025>



The AHS National Harp Competition experience in Tessa's own words....

It was late April when I completed my recording for the first round of the 2025 AHS Harp Competition. The results came back in early May, and I found out that I was one of eight harpists to have been chosen to compete in the final round. Not only was I excited to be performing my three pieces at the Colburn School of Music in Los Angeles, but I saw that my friend from the Young Artists Harp Seminar, Olivia Shidler, would be competing as well! I competed in the Intermediate II division, and I was required to play a piece by Bach, *Essence of Ruby* by Brandee Younger, and *Au Matin* by Marcel Tournier.

I flew to Los Angeles with my mom on May 29, and the first thing that struck me was how many palm trees there were! I couldn't get too distracted by the sights of LA, however, because I was due in the practice that afternoon. Each contestant had two hours to practice on Thursday and then again on Friday, the day of the competition.

On Friday I arrived at the Colburn School to warm up at 4 pm. I was worried about jet-lag because my audition time was at 6:15 Pacific Time (9:15 pm Eastern), but adrenaline is a powerful thing! All of the auditions for all levels were open to the public. The recital hall was a nice sized space for this event, and while not a large auditorium, it was perfect for the harps. I enjoyed getting to perform in this venue, though I did learn that I should always remember a small rag to wipe my hands when I am nervous!

I ended up tying for Honorable Mention, 4th place, and I was so pleased to be a finalist in this event. I loved hearing the other harpists play, and it was so interesting to hear the different interpretations of each piece. My mom and I listened to the harpists in the other divisions play as well, and on Sunday afternoon we attended the winner's recital. It was so inspiring to meet harpists from around the country and hear them play!



SAVE THE DATE! A House Concert by Benjamin Barker

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2025, doors open at 3:00 with music at 3:30

Presenter: Benjamin Barker, on hammered dulcimer and harp

Tickets: \$15 (goes directly to the artist)

Location: Myers Park, with parking on the street

Reservations: Call or text Betsey at 704-277-9895

Soft drinks will be provided, bring a bite to share!

Benjamin Barker is a multi-instrumentalist, music teacher, and composer located in Greenville, SC, and a National Hammered Dulcimer Champion. His most recent release is the digital single "Mister Sandman." Benjamin is also a harpist and was selected as a Featured Young Composer for the American Harp Society's Young Composers Project for his composition "Boardwalk Breeze", which has been recorded and released digitally as part of "The Nautilus Trilogy" - 3 original compositions for solo harp.



Benjamin Barker



SAVE THE DATE! Wilmington Harp Day

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Presenter: Rhett Barnwell

Tickets: \$35 (admission, lunch & CCCAHS dues)

Location: Wilmington, NC

Reservations: Email coastalcarolinaahs@gmail.com

Wilmington Harp Day

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

Presented by Coastal Carolina Chapter of the American Harp Society

GUEST PRESENTER:
RHETT BARNWELL



September 13, 2025
8:30 AM – 4 PM

First Baptist Activity
Center
1939 Independence Blvd.
Wilmington, NC



Wilmington Harp Day includes:

- 3 hands-on workshops led by Rhett Barnwell:
 - The Compleat Harpist 2: Playing the Harp without Fear
 - The Joy of Bach
 - Anything Goes
- Catered lunch
- Lever harp regulations by appointment and shopping with the Virginia Harp Center

We welcome harpists of all ages and skill levels! Please bring your harp, bench and music stand.

Sponsored in part by the Virginia Harp Center

REGISTER TODAY!

Visit coastalcarolinaahs.com or email coastalcarolinaahs@gmail.com

\$35 fee (cash, check, or PayPal) includes harp day admission, lunch, and a one year membership to Coastal Carolina Chapter of AHS.



Charlotte Harps



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