Charlotte NC Chapter of the AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY

April 2026 Newsletter

May 2: CCAHS End-of-Year Business Meeting, Recital and Social

Date: **Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 4:00pm**

Location: **Home of Catie Jackson: 7518 Lancer Drive, Charlotte, NC 28226**

Contact: **Catie's mobile phone: 704-604-0330**

The nominating committee has presented the following slate of officers for the 2026–2028 term (see the following Nominating Committee Report):

- **President:** Kristin Andes
- **Vice President:** Anne Olson
- **Secretary:** Claudia Boutote
- **Treasurer:** Jane Cooper

Please plan to join us for the meeting, as we will be electing officers, celebrating our seniors, listening to beautiful harp music, and spending time in fellowship with one another.

Securing nominees this year has been challenging. For example, five different people were asked to be the nominee for President. Each is a thoughtful harpist with leadership skills who truly values the local harp community. Yet each, for very good and different reasons, declined to be nominated at this time. Five no's in a row: Oucherino! We then emailed all the harp chapter members to ascertain interest in serving in a leadership position, either in the near term or perhaps "job shadowing" for awhile to see if one of the positions might speak to that person's heart, skills, and enthusiasm for future engagement. No one responded.

Harpists are fairly few and far between. How cool is it that we live in an area with a thriving harp community that is supportive and encouraging of each other! The nominating committee felt that the Charlotte Harp Chapter is too important to languish or perhaps die due to lack of leadership.

Therefore, you will note that two nom comm members are among the nominees for 2026-2028 officers. The committee believes that best practice for nominating committees includes that no one serving on the committee becomes a nominee. Yet, given the current situation, the committee places the following names in nomination. Please note that additional nominations from the floor, including self-nominations, are welcome during the May 2 annual meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, please gain their consent to be nominated before you nominate them.

President: Kristin Andes
Kristin began as a harp parent, then followed her daughter's lead and began taking lessons herself. Now a certified therapeutic harpist, she plays each week at Atrium Health Pineville hospital and monthly at Atrium Health Hospice and Palliative Care in Kannapolis. She has been part of the chapter's leadership team in the past, serving as President (2019-2022 and 2014-2016) and Secretary (2018 and 2012-2014).

Vice President: Anne Olson
While a medical illustrator and graphic designer by day, Anne enjoys spending her evenings at the harp, playing for the cat and anyone else in earshot. She plays in the University City United Methodist orchestra, regularly at The Pines in Davidson for their monthly birthday celebrations, and for occasional small weddings and events. As Publicity Chair since 2022, she puts her design skills to work on chapter newsletters and event materials, and reaches out within the local Charlotte community to publicize chapter concerts.

Secretary: Claudia Boutote
Claudia began playing the harp in New York, studying with Jeanne Goldstein, and in high school had the privilege of performing as Second Harp in the New York All-State Orchestra Concert. After many years away from the instrument, she returned to it with great joy, purchasing a pre-owned Style 17 harp at the Lyon & Healy showroom in Chicago--an experience she considers one of the highlights of her life. She later continued her studies in San Francisco with the great Karen Gottlieb.

In her professional life, Claudia has held executive roles in the book publishing industry and went on to found Red Raven Studio, a literary agency, which she continues to expand. She and her husband, Phillip, and their two English Setter dogs (Sadie Lady and Georgie Girl) recently relocated to Charlotte from Boulder, Colorado, to be closer to family. While here, she purchased a Dusty Strings Ravenna lever harp.

Claudia is excited to become part of the Charlotte harp community and connect with fellow harpists. She is honored to be considered for the role of Secretary of the Charlotte Chapter--her first opportunity to serve on a harp society board.

Treasurer: Jane Cooper
Jane began playing harp in 1989 when the music minister at her church offered to pay for harp lessons; the church owned a harp that was not being played. From that point until the present, the harp has been part of her life. She still plays in the church orchestra as well as for special events and for retirement centers. She has been a member of the Charlotte Chapter since 1989 and has served as Treasurer for the last several years

Recap of Renée Murphy's Concert & Masterclass

Renée Murphy

After Renée's lovely recital the evening of Saturday, March 21, she taught a master-class on March 22 that was open to our CCAHS community. The participants were Tessa Jackson, Ikuko Sanada, and Hannah Almonte. It was a beautiful program of diverse levels and pieces, and Renée was so gracious and helpful! Ella Higham was also able to have time with Renée, and we are so thankful as a chapter for her willingness to share her expertise.

Renée sent a note to the chapter, writing, "*Thank you again for a wonderful weekend with the harpists in Charlotte. It brought me so much joy to share music and spend time with all of you.*"

Charlotte Harps ✉ CharlotteHarps@gmail.com

www.charlotteharps.org