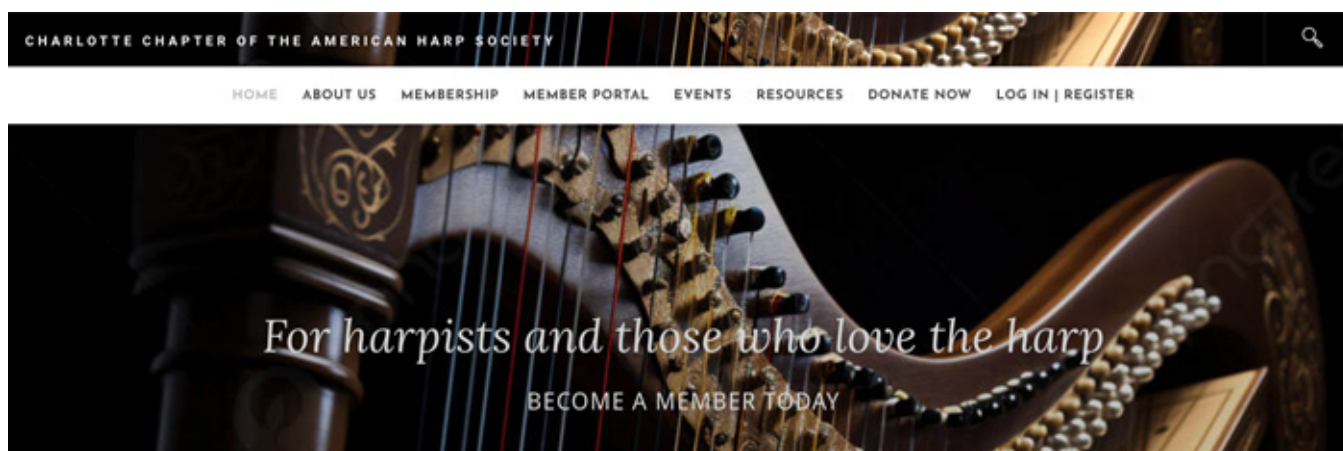


Charlotte NC Chapter of the AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY

February 2026 Newsletter

! IF YOU HAVEN'T YET... CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE!

Many thanks to **Kenneth Jackson** for the AMAZING new look of the Charlotte Harps website! And just as many thanks to **Joe Higham** for the constant work of maintaining and updating content! You two are priceless in how CCAHS comes across, as well as informing and connecting us.



! SAVE THE DATE!

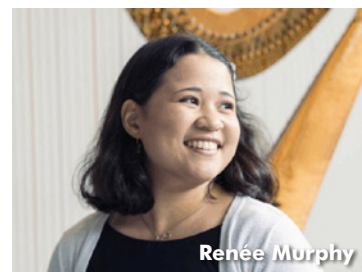
Concert and Master Class with Renée Murphy

Concert: Saturday, March 21 at 7:00pm | Free and open to the public

Master Class: Sunday, March 22 at 2:00pm | \$40 per student—please contact Delaine Leonard at delaine@harpist.net or 512-413-3152 to sign up

Presenter: Renée Murphy, 2025–2027 AHS Concert Artist

Location: Ballantyne Presbyterian Church, 9925 Providence Rd W, Charlotte



Harpist **Renée Murphy** is the First Prize laureate of the 30th Soka-Nippon International Harp Competition, Advanced Division of the American Harp Society's 24th National Competition, and recipient of the 2024 Lyon & Healy Awards. In May, 2025, she won Fifth Prize at the USA International Harp Competition in Bloomington, Indiana.

As a featured recitalist, she has performed on international stages including the Focus on Youth Concert Series of the 13th World Harp Congress (Hong Kong), 60th Soka-Nippon International Music Festival, Stars of Tomorrow Concert Series of the 9th and 11th USA International Harp Competitions, and American Harp Society's 44th National Conference.

Renée served as the 2023-24 Aspen Chamber Symphony Principal Harp Fellow and has performed as an extra musician with the New York Philharmonic and Broadway's *Wicked*. She holds a Bachelor of Music from The Juilliard School, where she studied under Nancy Allen as a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship and 2024 John Erskine Prize. Renée is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree at Juilliard.



Creativity and Innovation in Music for Hospice and Healthcare

Date: February 14, 2026

Time: 1:00-2:30

Event: **Capturing Your Therapeutic Harp Composition** | This class will offer suggestions for putting some of your therapeutic musical ideas into a composition that you can use in multiple situations, share with others and perhaps even publish.

Presenter: **Brenda Bowen Cox, CMP**

To Register: <https://fundraise.atriumhealthfoundation.org/event/interlude-music-webinar-series-2025-26/e719548>



Songs & Dances for Flute & Harp by the Brandenburg-Shea Duo

Date: Sunday, April 19 at 4:00

Presenters: **Kelly Bolam Shea** (flute) **and Laura Logan Brandenburg** (harp)

Location: Community Congregational Church, 141 North Bennett St., Southern Pines, NC 28387

Tickets: \$20 at the door, cash only

Website: <https://communitycongregational.org/concerts/>



Laura Brandenburg

Kelly Shea



Look & Listen!

On Dec. 5, Gretchen Monson, host of the Melody Makers Podcast series, interviewed **Kathleen Blackwell-Plank**. "She blends the artistry of a symphony violinist with the empathy of a hospice social worker and the skill of an award-winning therapeutic musician—creating a distinctive voice in harp music."

Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTJboCSrdZE>



HELP!

Have you discovered any upcoming local or regional harp events? Have you had any fun, exciting, or inspirational (we'll even take embarrassing!) harp experiences? Please feel free to send along an event website or a blurb about your experience to Anne Olson at akwolson@gmail.com for inclusion in the next newsletter.



Charlotte Harps



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