

Charlotte NC Chapter of the AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY

November 2023 Newsletter

Message from the Chapter President

Greetings Friends,

With the lovely and variable weather of fall, a time of gratitude and thankfulness surrounds us. It is such a blessing to have an active and supportive harp community in the Charlotte region. Our multi-generational group offers opportunities for pedal harp and lever harp players and musicians of all levels of development. This is a benefit for us all that is not available in all parts of the country. **We are blessed!** There are many wonderful opportunities coming up so be sure to take advantage of these offerings.

Creativity and Innovation in Music for Hospice and Healthcare

Date: Saturday, November 11, 2023, 1:00–2:30pm ET

Presenter: Sunita Staneslow

Title: The Power of Sound in the NICU

Description: Enveloping infants with soothing harp music was a dream job. My experiences playing in the NICU shaped how I worked with families in a children's hospital in Israel. I took part in two medical studies and spent countless hours improvising and playing lullabies. I will share with you the highlights of my work and teach some of the patterns I used for improvising and arranging in this fragile environment.

To register: <https://fundraise.atriumhealthfoundation.org/event/interlude-music-webinar-series-2023-24/e516377>



Sunita Staneslow

Ready, Set, Ensemble! with Delaine Leonard

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2023, 10:30am–12:00pm

Location: Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, 3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269

Free: To members of the Charlotte, NC Chapter of the American Harp Society and our sister chapters (with registration, below)

Description: Bring your harps and enjoy a morning of playing harp ensemble music just for the fun of it! We'll look at some pre-arranged music, explore sources of programming ideas and potential venues, cover the basics of ensemble performance practice, learn how to modify solos and pre-arranged music to fit most ability levels, and read some fun harp ensemble arrangements. Workshop participants should arrive at 10:00am for set-up and tuning.

To register: Email Kathleen Blackwell-Plank at kblackwell.plank@gmail.com by November 11

Since the 1970s, harpist and educator **Delaine Fedson Leonard** has had a wealth of experience coaching, arranging, and performing harp ensemble music. As a student, she was a member of the regionally acclaimed University of Texas Harp Ensemble that performed all over the State of Texas. As coach, conductor and harp professor at Baylor, Texas A&M, and Southwestern Universities, and at the University of Texas at Austin, her harp ensembles performed for American Harp Society regional events, at universities in Midland-Odessa, Corpus Christi, Dallas, and Denton, at the Houston School of the Performing and Visual Arts, the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, and for outreach events like Lady Longhorns Basketball games and local Texas Lonestar Rollergirls matches. You might have discovered her harp ensembles wearing Halloween costumes and performing spooky music in your local park in October, at the TX Capitol Rotunda performing holiday music in December, or at the airport playing love songs in February.

Delaine performed for many years with TX professional orchestras and opera companies, and for touring shows across Central Texas. For 12 years, she was on the Board of Directors for the American Harp Society, serving five of those years as Board Secretary and four years as National President. She is a registered Harp Teacher Trainer for the Suzuki Association of the Americas and now resides in Charlotte, NC.



Delaine Leonard

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Christmas Concerts

Dates: Sunday, **December 10** at 3:00pm and Sunday, **December 17** at 3:15pm

Locations: Ballantyne Presbyterian Church on **December 10** and
ImaginOn on **December 17**

Description: It is time to dust off your “red notebook” and start preparing for the Charlotte, NC Chapter of the American Harp Society’s two Christmas Concerts (see attached information). *These are wonderful occasions for harpists of all ages and levels.* It is a great multi-generational outreach to our community and greatly appreciated by all who attend.



To register: Email Bette Roth at betroth@bellsouth.net for **December 10** concert and
Email Christine Van Arsdale at vanarsdalec2@mailbox.winthrop.edu for **December 17** concert

Registration deadline: December 4 for both concerts



The American Harp Society’s Chapter Ambassador Program

The Chapter Ambassadors program promotes student engagement at the chapter and national levels, creating service and community building opportunities for students. The program strives to build partnerships that increase access to the harp, strengthen connections to chapters, encourage student mentoring at the chapter level, and foster future leadership potential for the Society. Funding supports Ambassador participation in the upcoming national event.

For more information visit: <https://www.harpsociety.org/chapter-ambassador-program>

Teachers, does the Charlotte Chapter have any potential candidates for this program?



Charlotte Harps



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