

# Charlotte NC Chapter of the AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY

## October 2023 Newsletter

### Message from the Chapter President

Greetings Friends,

The glorious weather of autumn has arrived! The Board of Directors and members of Charlotte, NC Chapter of the American Harp Society have been busy planning exciting harp activities and events. There are so many wonderful benefits of having a vibrant, supportive, multigenerational harp chapter. Our connections with the American Harp Society enhance our experiences and offer us many resources.



If you have not done so already, please take time to **renew your annual membership** (which follows the academic year 2023–2024) to our local chapter online at [www.charlotteharps.org/membership.html](http://www.charlotteharps.org/membership.html).



Membership in the American Harp Society, our national association, brings many benefits and can be renewed at [www.harpsociety.org/membership](http://www.harpsociety.org/membership).

### Harp Ensemble Opportunities

**Hospice of Cabarrus County's Interlude Harp Circle:** Chapter members of the CCAHS and Karl Plank on violin are driving the extra mile to bring soothing harp ensemble music to patients and their loved-ones at the Tucker Inpatient Unit of Hospice of Cabarrus County (pictured below).

If you are interested in the use of music to relieve stress, anxiety, depression, nausea, pain and enhance quality of life, you may be interested in learning more about therapeutic music. Kristin Andes and Kathleen Blackwell-Plank are both certified therapeutic musicians. Kristin studied in the Music for Healing & Transition Program [www.mhtp.org](http://www.mhtp.org) and Kathleen with the Harp for Healing Program [www.harpforhealing.com](http://www.harpforhealing.com). Both of these programs are accredited through the National Standards Board for Therapeutic Musicians [www.nsbtm.org](http://www.nsbtm.org).

**From left to right:** Helen Rifas, Kristin Andes, Anne Olson, Karl Plank, Jane Cooper, Carol Gamble, and Kathleen Blackwell-Plank (*Interlude Director*).



## Harp Ensemble Opportunities (cont.)

**Creativity and Innovation in Music for Hospice and Healthcare:** Additional education on the use of music in hospice and healthcare settings is provided through annual webinars sponsored by Hospice of Cabarrus County <https://fundraise.atriumhealthfoundation.org/event/interlude-music-webinar-series-2023-24/e516377>

The first webinar in this six-part series, ***Singing with the Harp with Verlene Schermer***, is on **Saturday, October 14, 2023, 1:00–2:30pm**. Learn the modern grooves and chords to use for accompanying yourself in jazz, blues, R&B, pop, rock, country, and other modern styles. This will be a hands-on webinar and will be “hand-out heavy.” So, bring your harps, and be prepared to have a lot of fun learning rhythmic patterns and cool chords! We will explore how these skills can be used in the therapeutic music setting.

**Verlene Schermer** is a San Francisco Bay Area based singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist with an eclectic style that ranges from Celtic, to blues and jazz. She brings her unique blend of soulful, spirited, and soothing into every tune, from traditional folk to popular songs, to her own compositions. As a therapeutic musician, she plays double strung harp and guitar at Stanford Hospital, including the Children’s Hospital, and the Cancer Clinics. Verlene is a certified clinical musician through the Harp of Healing Program.

In addition to harp, piano and guitar, she also plays violin, tenor banjo, mandolin, Swedish nyckelharpa, and Norwegian hardingfele. Verlene is a sought-after performer and clinician for concerts and workshops throughout the country and in Europe.



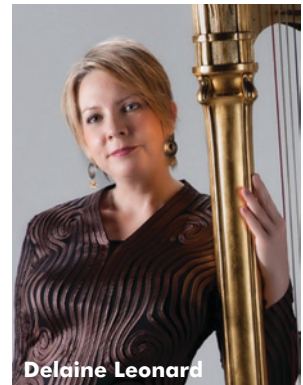
Verlene Schermer

**Ready, Set, Ensemble! with Delaine Leonard:** The Charlotte, NC Chapter of the American Harp Society presents this creative workshop on **Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 10:30am–12pm** at Holy Covenant United Church of Christ, 3501 West W.T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28269. 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.

The workshop is free to members of the Charlotte, NC Chapter of the American Harp Society and our sister chapters, but **registration is required by November 11th** by emailing Kathleen Blackwell-Plank at [kblackwell.plank@gmail.com](mailto:kblackwell.plank@gmail.com). Workshop participants should arrive at 10:00am for set-up and tuning.

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



**Christmas Concerts:** 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.

Be sure to RSVP to Bette Roth at [betroth@bellsouth.net](mailto:betroth@bellsouth.net) and Christine Van Arsdale at [vanarsdalec2@mailbox.winthrop.edu](mailto:vanarsdalec2@mailbox.winthrop.edu) so that they will know you are participating. **Deadline for sign-up is December 4th.**



Charlotte Harps



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[www.charlotteharps.org](http://www.charlotteharps.org)

