

Charlotte NC Chapter of the AMERICAN HARP SOCIETY

September 2025 Newsletter



LOTS OF "SAVE THE DATE" INFO!

We've got a busy 2025-2026 season coming up! Some of these dates are tentative at the moment, but for now, please get these on your calendar. Our first event is next week.....

September 6, 2025

Event: House Concert with Benjamin Barker

Time: Doors open at 3:00 with music at 3:30

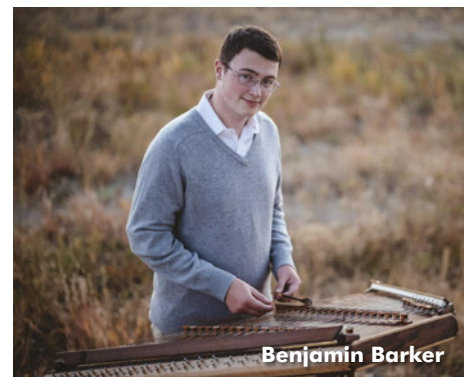
Presenter: Benjamin Barker, on hammered dulcimer and harp

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!



December 14, 2025

Event: Christmas Concert

Time: 3:00 concert, harpists arrive earlier that afternoon

Presenter: CCAHS hapists

Tickets: Donations only

Location: Ballantyne Presbyterian Church, 9925 Providence Rd W, Charlotte, NC 28277

Reservations: Sign up info coming soon

TENTATIVE: January 11, 2026

Event: Student and Alumni Concert

Time: TBD

Presenter: Current and previous harp students from CCAHS

Tickets: TBD to benefit student fundraising

Location: TBD

Reservations: TBD

February 7 and March 7, 2026

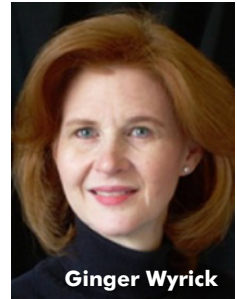
Event: Auditions & Evaluations

Time: TBD

Presenter: Ginger Wyrick evaluates CCAHS youth and adult students

Location: TBD

Reservations: Sign up info coming soon



TENTATIVE: March 21, 2026

Event: Concert and Master Classes with Renée Murphy

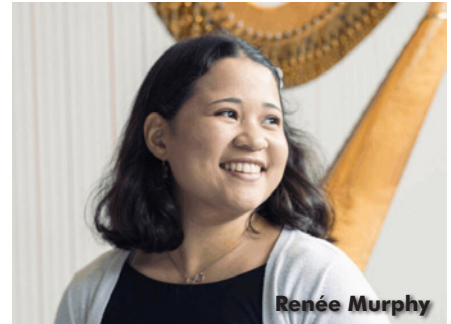
Time: TBD

Presenter: Renée Murphy, 2025–2027 AHS Concert Artist

Tickets: TBD

Location: TBD

Reservations: TBD



May 2, 2026

Event: CCAHS End of Year Gathering

Time: 4:00

Presenter: Youth student mini-concert

Location: TBD

Reservations: TBD



From the Coastal Carolina AHS:

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Event: Wilmington Harp Day

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



Wilmington Harp Day includes:

- 3 hands-on workshops led by Rhett Barnwell:
 - The Complete 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.



Creativity and Innovation in Music for Hospice and Healthcare

Date: October 11, 2025

Time: 1:00-2:30

Event: Songs, Chants and Improvisation Webinar

Presenter: Ruth Cunningham, CCMHP

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



Adult Summer Harp Adventures!

Delaine Leonard

On August 14, **Delaine Leonard** was featured at the **Harp Teachers Gathering** (Melody's Traditional Music) as she shared her expertise as a Suzuki Teacher Trainer. Delaine was able to answer questions about teaching, with a special focus on the Suzuki approach — especially as it applies to teaching very young harp students. The session was hosted by Therese Honey and Kimberly Snaufer DeRosa.

Thank you, Delaine, for sharing your exceptional gifts!!!



Delaine Leonard

Kristin Andes

"I began my harp journey way too late to become an orchestral harpist, and instead get my jollies taking the harp where relatively slow and simple music can bring people relief from anxiety, pain, and stress. Thus, I play at Atrium Health Pineville (in the medical and cardiovascular intensive care units, the emergency department, and a number of the medical/surgical floors), occasionally at the Day Services Center of A Roof Above in downtown Charlotte for folks without a home, and, with the Interlude Harp Circle, at Atrium Health Hospice and Palliative Care in Kannapolis.

So, great fun was being invited by a church's mental health team this summer to make a presentation about therapeutic music. The evening began with an explanation about what therapeutic music is, some jokes ["I feel like a veterinarian sometimes; I put so many patients to sleep! (But my patients do wake up afterwards.)"], and the Harp 101 explanation of harp history and construction. Then I invited the 50 attendees to move their chairs to sit in front of the fellowship hall windows where they could look out onto a beautiful evening while I played, thus heightening the relaxation response by enjoying nature with their eyes while simultaneously hearing the harp music and feeling its vibrations in their bodies. The evening ended with the invitation for anyone who wanted to try the harp themselves to do so after washing their hands. A second grader actually ran from the sink to the harp, and a retired dentist who had always wanted to play the harp got his first chance to try his hands on the strings. Such a lovely memory!

If you might be interested in becoming a certified therapeutic musician, the National Standards Board for Therapeutic Musicians <https://www.nsbtm.org/> provides links to the accredited training programs."

Thank you, Kristin, for sharing your heart (and harp) for those who are in pain.



Youth Summer Harp Adventures!

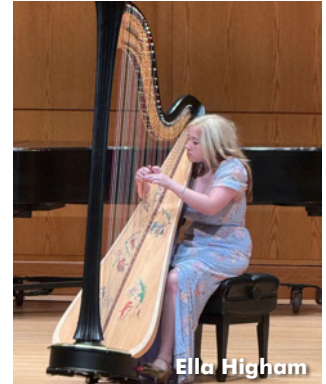
Ella Higham

Ella Higham studied, practiced and performed at the Hayes School of Music Cannon Music Camp this summer.

Way to go, Ella - showing it off with style!!!



Ella Higham



Ella Higham

Renee Dibb

Renee Dibb travelled to the Washington DC area to study and perform several solo pieces and a duet at the Young Artists Harp Seminars.

Renee, you win the harpist with the best hair award!!!



Renee Dibb



Renee Dibb

Tessa Jackson

Tess Jackson attended the Csehy Summer School of Music near Philadelphia, as well as joining Renee at the Young Artists Harp Seminars.

Spreading the harp love far and wide, Tessa!!!



Tessa Jackson



Tessa Jackson



Charlotte Harps



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