



AUSTRIA

Tribute

On Saturday 25 May 2019 Austrian harpist Professor Josef Molnar (1929-2018) was laid to rest in the presence of his relatives and friends at the Grazer central cemetery. This is a continuation of his farewell in Tokyo last November.

He was one of the most prominent Austrian harp figures. After being a member of the Vienna Philharmonic, he devoted his life to building Japanese harp culture.

We would like to extend our condolences to his family and friends in Austria and Japan.

Events

The second edition of the “Vienna Harp Days” took place from 22 to 26 July 2019 in Vienna at the Musikgymnasium Wien. This program offers daily masterclasses as well as additional specialized courses on specific topics that are open to all interested listeners. Thirteen students from Austria and Europe were taught by visiting professor Oscar Rodriguez Do Campo from Buenos Aires and the founder and artistic director of the “Vienna Harp Days”, Elisabeth Plank. Exhibitions of harps (single & double-action), scores and strings of harp and violin builder Franziska Kolb and Musikhaus Kerschbaum completed the experience.



Masterclass participants with Elisabeth Plank and Oscar Rodriguez Do Campo.



Single-action harps by Harp and Violin builder Franziska Kolb.

BELGIUM

Achievements

Mathilde Wauters from Belgium received third prize at the USA International Harp Competition as well as the Willy Postma Concerto Prize for the best performance of Joaquín Rodrigo’s *Concierto de Aranjuez*. See also “International Festivals & Competitions” section in this volume.



JAMES BROSHER

Mathilde Wauters of Belgium performs with the Indiana University Summer Philharmonic Orchestra during the 11th USA International Harp Competition.

BRAZIL

News

Gianetta Baril, harp teacher at the Mount Royal University Conservatory, Canada, gave lessons and masterclasses in Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, on April, 2019.

Sasha Boldachev performed and gave a masterclass at the Festival de Maio on May 2019, in Belo Horizonte. He also played the Zabel Concerto in Belem, northern Brazil.

Aricia Ferigato, doctoral harp student at the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, was appointed Substitute Professor of Harp at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, on July 2019.

CANADA

Events

The annual festival dedicated entirely to the music of Turlough O’Carolan (1670-1738) was held in Worchester, VT.

Website: carolanfestvt.com

CHINA

Events

On 8 August 2019 the Closing Concert of the Harp Summer Camp was held at the Forbidden City Concert Hall (FCCH), Beijing. Sixty young musicians aged from 4 to 17, showcased what they had learned for the past four days, performing pieces of harp solos, duos, harp with voices and with other instruments. There were, among them, beginners of the harp, as well as ones who have learned harp for years. They made considerable progress during the four days and enjoyed themselves, sharing music and experience on the FCCH stage.



Harp Summer Camp in the Forbidden City, Beijing.

The Harp Summer Camp is now in its eighth year, created by the artistic director Guan Wang, harp professor of the Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM) Beijing, in collaboration with the Gateway to Music Summer Festival, a well-established educational art festival presented by the FCCH founded in 1995. The first Harp Summer Camp attracted around 20 participants,



all beginners. This year in 2019, there are quite several young ones who have attended the summer camp in previous years. Guan has led a successful team of her students from the CCOM in promotion and education of the art of harp in China.

EGYPT

In Memoriam

Nahid Zikry, first Egyptian harpist and founder of the harp department at the Cairo Conservatory, died in Cairo at the age of 87. Most of the Egyptian harpists studied with her, and she was an idol not only for harpists, but for all whom worked in teaching music in general. She dedicated her life to the harp and her students, and was like a mother to every student of her. Despite her painful health problems she did not stop teaching, and will be missed by the harp community in Egypt.

ESTONIA

Appointments

Iván Bragado Poveda won the audition for principal harp with the Estonian National Symphony.

FINLAND

Events

The Helsinki Harp Festival will be held 13-16 February 2020 in the Helsinki Music Centre. The program includes concerts, masterclasses and workshops. The Helsinki Harp Festival also includes a contest for harpists born after 1994. The festival is organized by the Finnish Harp Society and the Sibelius Academy University of Arts.

Featured harpists: (list will be updated) Reija Bister, Gabriella Bosio, Iván Bragado Poveda, Delphine Constantin Reznik, Johanna Engedal, Erik Groenestein-Hendriks, Laura Hynninen, Pauliina Kallio, Anni Kuusimäki, Sivan Magen, Saara Olarte, Isabelle Perrin, Lily-Marlene Puusepp, Päivi Severeide (artistic director), Laura Stephenson, Liis Viira, and Birgitte Volan.

Website: uniarts.fi/en/HelsinkiHarpFestival

FRANCE

Achievements

Anais Gaudemard was nominated by the Philharmonie de Paris (France) and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (Portugal) to become "ECHO RISING STAR" for the Season 2018/2019. This distinction gives the opportunity to these young "rising stars" to occur in prestigious European concert halls. The tour is organized by the European Concert Hall Organization (ECHO).

GERMANY

Appointments

Emily Hoile got the position of solo harp at the WCR orchestra in Cologne.

The position of second harp at the Opera in Hannover was won by Silvia Podrecca from Italy.

Awards

Isabel Moreton was awarded the prestigious "Hamburger Lehrpreis" for excellence in teaching.

HUNGARY

Events

The 21st International Harp Festival at the Royal Castle of Gödöllő took place under the artistic direction of Andrea Vigh. Performers were Andrea Vigh, Fira Farkas, Elizabeth Jenei, Sara Goda, Joel van Lerber, and Maria Graf.

ITALY

Competitions

At the XIX Concorso Giovani interpreti Città di Torino the first absolute prize was awarded to Mata Brezzo, as was the special Rotary Prize

At the X International Competition Città di Treviso first prizes were awarded to Iris Fioretti (Category C), Emma Castellano (Category D), and Virginia Pestugia and Tosca Tavaniello (Category E; ex aequo)

At the 2nd National Music Competition Città di Belluno Miriam Pipitone was awarded a first prize and honor mention (Category D), and Cecilia Amelie Toffoli a First Prize and honour mention (Category B).

A First Prize and Diapason were given to Olivia Bigai (Category A), Adrian Ignjatovic (Category B), Jernej Mistic (Category C9, and Ester Ban (Category D) at the 5th International Competition Diapason d'oro Pordenone.

Francesca Marini, student of the G. Verdi Conservatory in Milan, won the XIV Premio Nazionale delle Arti.

Miriam Pipitone, won the first prize at the 23 International Competition for Young Musicians Povoletto.

Diletta Capua, student at the Conservatorio Tartini di Trieste, won a second prize at the Concorso Internazionale Città di Airola.

Events

The 3rd Festival "Magie d'estate" took place from 1 to 5 July 2019 in Selargius, Sardinia. Its goal is to bring together little harpists, having masterclasses with different teachers and finally playing a joint concert at the end.

Under the artistic direction of Tiziana Loi, more than 30 small harpists from different parts of Italy (Torino, Como, Firenze and Cagliari) worked under the direction of Gabriella Bosio (Suzuki teacher trainer), Ester Gattoni, Emiliana Sessa and of course Tiziana Loi.

All harpists were trained in the Suzuki method, which allowed millions of children around the world to approach music and play a musical instrument. Salvi Harps generously offered several harps for this event.



L to R: G. Bosio, T. Loi, E. Sessa, and E. Gattoni.



The Harp gathering *Arpissima* will continue during Fall 2019 with other two events: Salerno (25 to 27 October 2019), with guest S. Tavormina, and Firenze (29 November to 1 December) with guest Cristina Bianchi.

Salvi Harps hosted the sixth Meeting for Members of the Lyon & Healy/Salvi Technicians Guild in Piasco, Italy, in late March, 2019, where members met for ongoing education, the exchange of ideas and to meet with management from both brands.

JAPAN

Appointments

New teachers at the Harp Department of the Tokyo University of the Arts are Mai Fukui and Reine Takano.

Events

Tokyo University of the Arts invited Isabelle Moretti as a Guest Professor. In July 2019, she gave lessons to eight students as well as a public masterclass.



L to R: Reine Takano, Kazuki Sawa (University Director), Isabelle Moretti, and Mai Fukui.



Back row, L to R: Seri Amano, Nonoko Seki, Reine Takano, Isabelle Moretti, Mai Fukui, Hana Asano, Sonoka Shida, Hana Hrachovinova.

Competitions

The 31th Nippon Harp Competition in Professional divisions will be held 13-17, November 2019 in Soka City. Details were in the Spring 2019 issue. Website: harp-japan.com

20th OSAKA International Music Competition including the Matsuc prize in the harp section will be held in October.

Festival

The 31th Soka International Harp Festival 2019 will take place 16 and 17 November 2019 at Soka City Culture Hall. Artists and Jury will include Naoko Yoshino, Chantal Mathieu, Ieuan Jones, and the 31th Nippon Harp Competition winner.

LIECHTENSTEIN

Events

The annual WalHaTa (Walch Harp Day) took place in the home of Ernst Walch in Liechtenstein for the 25th time on 1 September 2019. 22 harpists and 80 other musicians and parents from the region gathered for a fun evening.



22 harpists assembling during the WalHaTa at the home of Ernst Walch.



WalHaTa in Liechtenstein.

MALTA

Events

On the 27 April 2019, harpist Britt Arend and soprano Gillian Zammit gave a voice and harp recital at the National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta as part of the 13th edition of the International Spring Orchestra Festival. They performed works by Barber, Berlioz, Capulet, Debussy, Saint Saens and Vella Gregory.

On 7 March 2019, harpist Anne Marie Camilleri Podesta and flutist Fiorella Camilleri gave a recital at the Anglican Cathedral, Valletta where they performed works by Vivaldi, Mouquet, Gluck, Ibert, Piazzolla, and Chopin.

Jacob Portelli released a music video <https://youtu.be/FSbvEKmlBH4>.

MEXICO

Events

Every year the Orchestra of the Americas auditions young musicians from the Americas to participate in their summer residency and tour. This year the "Crescendo Tour 2019"



L to R: Alondra Máñez, Alexis Colner, Mercedes Gómez, Emanuel Lara Soto, Saraí Córdova & Keila Lara Soto.

took place in Mexico and young musicians from over 25 countries were selected. The harpists who won the audition were Alexis Colner from the USA and Sarah Veber from Canada. During the residency in Puebla, Janet Paulus was the harp coach along with teachers from the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, the Brussels Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Stavanger Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra of Costa Rica, the Marinsky Theatre Orchestra, the Rome Opera House Orchestra as well as other noted professors.



L to R: Sarah Veber,
Janet Paulus, Alexis Colner.

The programs the Orchestra of the Americas played on their month long tour included many works with harp: Manuel de Falla Nights in the Gardens of Spain, Sombrero de Tres Picos (complete ballet), Intermezzo from La Vida Breve, Enrique Granados Intermezzo, John Rutter Gloria, Modest Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition, José Pablo Moncayo Huapango as well as two contemporary pieces by Mexican composers Maria Granillo and Gabriela Ortiz.

During their stay in Mexico City, Alexis Colner gave a masterclass at the National Music Conservatory.

THE NETHERLANDS

Appointments

Lauriane Chenais has been appointed principal harpist of the North Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, based in Groningen, the Netherlands. During the 2018-2019 season Lauriane was taking part in the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Academy in Amsterdam.

Dutch harpist Gwyneth Wentink is appointed as new member of the prestigious Society of Arts. Members of the Society of Arts include leading artists from the full spectrum of the arts. They are chosen on the basis of nominations. Other new members are Krisztina de Châtel and Anthony Heidweiller amongst others.

Competitions

On January 25th and 26th 2020 the fifth Rosa Spier Harp Competition will take place in Tilburg, the Netherlands. This competition is open for all Dutch harpists or harpists studying and/or living in the Netherlands. There are different categories, depending on age and education. The competitions is open for folk harp and concert harp players.

Website: harpvereniging.nl

The Dutch Harp Festival and World Harp Competition is back in 2020 for its sixth edition. Regional rounds will take place in Hong Kong, New York and Utrecht in January and February 2020. Six finalists will be invited to perform at the Dutch Harp Festival on 9 and 10 May 2020 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, all expenses are paid. Have a look at harpfestival.nl for more information!

Events

On 8 September 2019 we will celebrate the 85th birthday of Edward Witsenburg in the Rosa Spier Huis in Laren, The Netherlands. During a special concert Edward Witsenburg will present his new book about famous harpist Rosa Spier. (See interview with Edward Witsenburg in this volume).

Achievements

Dutch harpist Joost Willemze won the first prize at the 8th Suoni d'Arpa International Harp Contest in Italy.

Miriam Ruf, student of Erika Waardenburg and Sandrine Chatron at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam won the 6th prize at the 11th USA International Harp Competition.

New music

Amsterdam based harpist Miriam Overlach will perform a new arrangement of the harp concerto Spelingen by Wilbert Bulsink on November 9th with Asko|Schönberg during the festival November Music in Den Bosch, the Netherlands.

NORWAY

News

Norway means mountains and fjords to most people, not harps. Here, the harp is listed as an endangered instrument. In 2016, Instruments in Focus was formed, to promote these endangered instruments: harp, oboe, bassoon, church organ and double bass. Their goal is to increase the number to students learning, studying, professionally playing or becoming life-long hobby musicians.



First meeting of the Norwegian Harp Association.

Instruments in Focus cooperates closely with experts, depending on them to arrange classes and courses. This past winter, Isabelle Perrin, Harp Professor at the Norwegian Academy of Music and Artistic Director to the World Harp Congress, arranged a Harp Symposium in Oslo, Norway. On a very snowy weekend, 54 harpists gathered to meet and celebrate their instrument – teachers, harpists of all ages, both folk and classical and players alike.

During the symposium, the international group brainstormed ways to help the harp base grow in Norway. Using their combined knowledge, the participants outlined the needs of harpists in Norway and the best way to support them. Now Norsk Harpeforening (Norwegian Harp Association), has just officially been formed and will soon start to support teachers and students throughout Norway. Hopefully in another generation, harps will no longer be endangered here.

Special thanks to: Sparebankstiftelsen Dextra Musica for founding and funding Instruments in Focus and to both Voksenaasen and Isabelle Perrin for arranging the Harp Symposium. Already there is a dedicated group of the harpists in Norway – too many to list here – who work to promote both classical and folk harp, you are all harp heroes!

Contact: Rebecca Harrisson

Email: 4rebeccaharrisson@gmail.com



The founding members of the association are:

Chairman: Elisabeth Soenstevold

Vice-Chairman: Rebecca Harrison

Secretary/Treasurer: Ann Margret Hauknes

Communication chair: Birgitte Volan Havik

Artistic advisor: Isabelle Perrin

Appointments

Dutch harpist Giselle Boeters has been appointed principal harpist with the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Norway.

Events

Sunniva Rødland has toured Norway with her version of John Cage's *Postcards from Heaven*. She has travelled from north to south, with performances in the Northern Lights Cathedral (Alta), the Arctic Cathedral (Tromsø) and in the ruins of the medieval Hamar Cathedral. Next performances will be in Oslo and Stavanger.

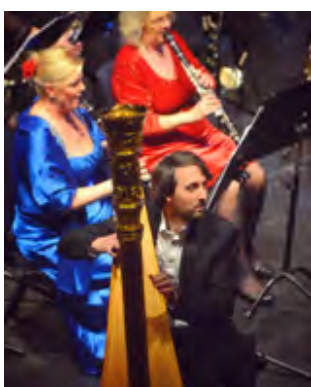
Xavier de Maistre and Diana Damrau performed harp and soprano duets at the main stage at the Norwegian Opera & Ballet, 12 May 2019.

Sidsel Walstad performed *Introduction and Allegro* by Maurice Ravel at the opening concert at the Vinterfestspill, 14 March 2019 in Røros Church, Norway.

Uno Vesje performed his own harp concerto, *Bragi's Harp*, arranged for concert band at the Red cross charity concert with Tønsberg musikkorps av 1919, 6 January 2019 at Oseberg kulturhus, Tønsberg.



Ruins of Hamar Cathedral.



Uno Vesje.

POLAND

Events

8-10 November 2019 Poznań – Academy of Music III Harp's Autumn in Poznan

Concerts, lectures and workshops lead by Paulina Maciaszczyk and Carlos Pena Montoya

Competitions

The International Duo Competition for students of primary, secondary and university schools with harp took place 5-7 April 2019 in Cieszyn.

The winners are:

Category I (students until 13 years)

First Prize: Anastazja Kacprzak, Magda Niedźwiecka

Second Prize: Klara Tarnowska, Helena Korniluk

Third Prize: Dominika Głowacka, Lidia Dombrowicz

Prize for the best presentation of polish work:

Hanna Węgrzynowska, Tymon Janusiewicz (Marta Ptaszyńska: *Jeu-Parti*)

Prize for the best presentation of contemporary work:

Wojciech Trefon, Maria Gmyrek (Ida Gotkovsky: *Eolienne*)

Category II (students until 16 years)

First Prize: Zofia Janiak, Kacper Malinowski

Second Prize: Natalia Skonieczna, Małgorzata Bobińska

Third Prize: Maja Mišta, Emilia Jastrząb

Category III (students until 19 years)

First Prize: Wojciech Trefon, Maria Gmyrek

Second Prize: Hanna Węgrzynowska, Tymon Janusiewicz

Category IV (students until 26 years)

First Prize: Angela Rief, Fabian Kohring

Second Prize: Ewa Bemowska, Wojciech Sojka

Third Prize: Fanni Nizalowski, Maria Korzeniowska
Amelia Tokarska, Jesse Reis

Category V (competition with works composed after 2017)

First Prize: Ewa Bemowska, Wojciech Sojka

Second Prize: Noemi Hańczyk, Weronika Ogonowska

Third Prize: Wojciech Trefon, Maria Gmyrek

GRAND PRIX

– Wojciech Trefon, Maria Gmyrek

– Ewa Bemowska, Wojciech Sojka

Prizes for composers of new works composed after 2017:

First Prize: Wojciech Sojka: *Introduction et Dance*

Mateusz Winślaw: *Metamorphoses, Ovid's request*

Second Prize: Jan Paweł Przegendza: *Flashback for flute and harp*

Agnieszka Grela-Fedkiewicz: *Reminiscencje*

Third Prize: Eduardo Frigatti: *Armorial*

Prize of honor for composer-student:

Wojciech Trefon: *Rollercoaster*

At the II National Competition for piano and harp Youngs Talents for students of primary school 26 to 27 April 2019 in Szczecin the following prizes were awarded:

Category O (students of 1st class of primary music school)

First Prize: Maria Jaworska

Second Prize: Emma Grygier

Third Prize: Weronika Depta

Category I (students of 2nd-3rd class of primary music school)

First Prize: Zuzanna Górecka

Second Prize: Sonia Ługawska, Zarina Zaradna

Third Prize: Lilina Ciešlar

Category II (students of 4th class of primary music school)

First Prize: Antonina Wieczorek

Second Prize: Magda Niedźwiecka

Third Prize: Hanna Sprawka

Category III (students of 5th class of primary music school)

First Prize: Anastazja Kacprzak, Klara Tarnowska

Second Prize: Kaja Kieferling

Third Prize: Magdalena Gogolin, Oliwia Miazga



Category IV (students of 6th class of primary music school)

First Prize: Kalina Nowaczek

The winners of the II Groll National Competition for Harp in Warszawa (24 to 26 June 2019) are:

Category I (students of 1-3 class of primary music school)

First Prize: Zofia Młodawska, Anna Spóz-Parol
 Second Prize: Amelia Grzywińska
 Third Prize: Zofia Szkudlarczyk
 Awards: Sonia Ługowska
 Oliwia Wójtowicz
 Hanna Gorgol

Category II (students of 4-6 class of primary music school)

First Prize: Ligia Nowak
 Second Prize: Magda Niedźwiecka
 Third Prize: Antonina Wiczorek
 Awards: Oliwia Miazga
 Witold Pojawa

Category III (students of 1-3 class of secondary music school)

First Prize: Kalina Nowaczek

Awards: Natalia Skonieczna

Category IV (students of 4-6 class of secondary music school)

Second Prize: Rozalia Dmochowska

Third Prize: Aniela Rybak

Awards: Zuzanna Pierzak
 Laura Jurčova

The V National Competition „Miniature for lever harp” for children up to the age of 12 will take place 25 to 26 October 2019 in Łódź. Obligatory pieces: new works special composed for this competition by Kamil Cieślík and Zuzanna Niedzielak.

Events

The IX International Harp Festival in Katowice took place 30 May to 2 June 2019 at the Academy of Music.

The program included a workshop on Jazz improvisation by A. Bzhezinska, a masterclass of Early Music for the harp by J. Seitz and an inauguration concert at the Concert Hall of the Academy of Music, dedicated to Helga Storck, artistic director of the festival. Other concerts included special guest Isabelle Moretti, the Alina Bzhezinska Jazz Quartet, the Duo Milonga (Aneta Salvinska and Konrad Salvinski), Dorota Szyszkowska and the Wiktroška Harp Open, directed by Anna Sikorzak Olek, and Mareelina Dabek, Ligia Nowak, Paulina and Agata Pospieszny.

PORTUGAL

Events

Maria Sá e Silva gave a solo recital at the Church of Our Lady of Fatima in Porto on 26 June 2019. Maria studies with Irina Zingg in Milan, Italy.

Frederica Campos gave a solo recital at the Theater “Campo Alegre” in Porto on 16 July 2019. Frederica studies with Daphne Boden at the Royal College of Music in London.

PUERTO RICO

Events

The II String Festival took place in Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Anthony Junior Soto Hall. A Masterclass was given by Lillian Lau.



IVONNE ESCUDERO



MARIA TORRES

II String Festival: Isabel Laboy, Isabel Laboy, Andrea Rivera, Jonathán Schneider, Ana Pilar Escudero, Lillian Lau, Elisa Torres, and Velmary Trinidad.

Maria Luisa Rayan and Elisa Torres.



Workshop at the Puerto Rico Music Conservatory with María Luisa Rayan.

Glissando 2019 took place 29 May to 1 June 2019 at the Puerto Rico Music Conservatory.

Glissando was the first harp camp organized in Puerto Rico. Eleven harpists from all ages and levels participated in this 4-day intensive harp workshop, ending with a Harp Ensemble Concert and featuring guest harpist, María Luisa Rayan. This event was made possible by a grant from the American Harp Society.

ROMANIA AND MOLDAVIA

Events

14 March 2019 - Harpist Viktor Hartobanu performed Zabel's *Concerto* op. 35 (first audition). The concert took place in Oradea, with the State Philharmonic of Oradea, conductor Sabin Pautza.

12 April 2019 - Harpist Maria Bîldea, principal harpist at the National Radio Orchestra and member of the Romanian Harpists Association, performed Ginastera's *Harp Concerto* with the National Radio Orchestra, conductor Anastasios Symeonidis.

23 April 2019 - Harpist Ionela Brădean and flutist Ioana Bălașa performed Mozart's *Harp and Flute Concerto* with the Engineering Orchestra „Petru Ghenghea”, conductor Andrei Iliescu.



26 to 28 April 2019 - The festival „Arpissima“ promoted by Salvi Harps, took place in Bucharest at „Sutu Palace“. Special guests harpists were: Catherine Michel, Delphine Constantin-Reznik and Viktor Hartobanu. Harp students had the opportunity to take masterclasses free of charge.

26 July 2019 - Maria Bildea performed a recital of classical masterpieces during the 6th International Summer Harp Academy in Sofia. The recital took place in „St. Joseph“ Catholic Church in Sofia and included pieces by Bach, Rameau, Chopin.

RUSSIA

Announcement - Misprint

There was a misprint in the article of the events in Russia in the Spring 2019 volume: The 110 anniversary of Vera Dulova's birthday was on 27 January 2019, (not in December 2018).

SOUTH AFRICA

News

Christy-Lyn from South Africa is currently on a 2-month Harp Expedition to the USA to film harp makers and their workshops. That way, even those who can't travel can 'meet' the person who made their harp and learn about the harp making process!



At Stoney End Harps: Christy-Lyn interviewed Eve and Gary Stone and toured their huge barn-turned-workshop.

She is also filming fascinating videos about harp therapy, double strung harps and interviewing famous harpists to feature on her YouTube channel, 'Learning the Harp'.

Competitions

The SASMT National Ensemble Competition took place in Eduplex School Pretoria, 30 August to 1 September 2019. The Jury consisted of Thinus Botha, Clorinda Panebianco, and Zanta Hofmeyer.

OPEN Category

- First Prize: Les Trois (Piano/Violin/Cello)
- Second Prize: Joie de Vivre
(Vivienne Janse van Rensburg, harp,
Jonathan Mayer, violin)



L to R: Vivienne Janse van Rensburg, Jonathan Mayer, Aimee Blom, Simon du Toit, and Ronald Davey.

Events

Ingrid Janse van Rensburg organized the 5th National Harp Festival in Johannesburg hosted by Harp Society of South Africa beginning of September. We were privileged to have had Eira Lynn Jones head of harp at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK as our adjudicator.

Eira was in Johannesburg for 12 days and during that time she gave private lessons, a solo concert, a lever harp workshop, a pedal harp workshop, and a performance class.



National Harp Festival in Johannesburg with Eira Lynn Jones.

No prizes are awarded at the Harp Festival as we believe it to be a day of celebrating the harp and music and the progress of our students. Most promising harpist diplomas were awarded to Lilly Weissenberg (Junior Category), Alayna Kuzel (Intermediate I), Marlise Janse van Rensburg (Intermediate II) and Nicole Weir.

SPAIN

Courses

"27th Curs d'estiu d'arpa: *West Harp Story*" at the Escola Municipal de Música de l'Eixample, in Barcelona, 25 to 29 June 2019. This summer course focused on the music of West Side Story by L. Bernstein. The Cor Jove de l'Orfeó Atlàntida (youth choir) collaborated with harpists from all over Catalonia and also from Valencia and was organized by the Catalan Harp association. Salvi Harps and Euromusica displayed a harp and accessories stand.



Summer course in Barcelona.

Cristina Montes gave a masterclass 1 to 5 July 2019 during the festival "Classical music la Vilavella".

Gabriella Dall'Olio gave a masterclass 19 to 25 August 2019 at the Curso internacional de música de Vitoria-Gasteiz. ▶



Festivals and seminars

The Festival Internacional d'arpa de Sentmenat took place 5 to 7 July 2019 and featured artists such as Edmar Castañeda playing jazz on the llanera harp with Gregoire Maret (harmonica); Catrin Finch, harp and electronics with Lee House; Tara Minton (harp and voice) and Ed Babar (double bass); Sasha Boldachev; Ana Crisman, flamenco harp, with Rossi Navarro (singer); Beatriz Rivero (dance); Daniel Jordan, playing on the concert harp, latino american music with llanera and Paraguayan technics.

The VI Jornadas de arpa at the Real Conservatorio de Madrid



Ana Crisman, flamenco harp.



Sasha Boldachev

was organized by AEDA (Spanish Harpists Association). Concerts were given by Anneleen Lenaerts, Whiteveil, Juliette Comeaux, Noelia Cotuna, Alicia Griffiths, and other harpists. An improvisation workshop was given by Camille Levecque.

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Competitions

The Concurso ibérico de música de cámara con arpa (Chamber music with harp contest) will take place in Madrid, Conservatorio profesional Arturo Soria, 29 November to 1 December 2019. The contest is open to harpists up to 35 years. All kind of repertoire for harp and other instruments is allowed. For more information: concursoibericov.wixsite.com

Events

The Loss is a conceptual composition by Claus Vega originally written for Loom Festival Barcelona 2019's yearly topic: *Synesthesia* and was premiered on 4 May 2019.

Claus Vega is a German-Chilean video and music producer, composer and live performer based in Barcelona and Berlin. His music is inspired by various genres and combines both German perfectionism and Latin flow. He modifies recordings of classical instruments and nature to create unusual electronic soundscapes.

The players were Laura Boschetti (harp), Jaime Sancho (clarinet) and Andrew Codd (double bass)

The Loss is written for Harp, Doublebass and Clarinet and is carried by Electronic

Live Music, combining diverse genres and technics, such as techno, house, trip hop, trap, salsa, cumbia, classical romance, jazz, modern experimental and more. The Piece is designed to be performed live in festivals, dance clubs, or classical music events, indoors and outdoors.

The whole Piece lasts around 60min and is divided into 5 musical Movements: *Overture - The Loss Of Agency - The Loss Of Familiarity - The Loss Of Time - Finale*.



Laura Boschetti performing *The Loss*.

SWEDEN

Competitions

For a report on the First Pratté competition for harp which took place in May 2019 in Norrköping, see "Pratté International Harp Competition" by Delphine Constantin-Reznik on page 16.

Courses

The Third Scandinavian Harp Course will take place 5 to 9 April 2020 at Konserthuset Gothenburg with Isabelle Perrin and Erik Groenestein-Hendriks, harp, and Stephen Parker, Alexander-Technique. Website: scandinavianharpcourse.com

A jazz and folk music Harp festival will take place 8 June 2019 in Stockholm. Justyna Krzyzanowska, Ismahni Björkman, and Stina Hellberg Agback, harp, will be performing.

"Jazzharp" will take place 30 August to 1 September 2019 in Stockholm. Workshops and concerts with Stina Hellberg Agback and Tara Minton.

In Memoriam

Basel William Sara (1975-2019), a Syrian harpist living in Sweden sadly passed away in June in Örebro. Our thoughts and empathy goes to his family.



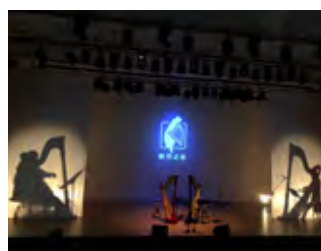
TAIWAN

Events

The second Taiwan International Harp Festival “Harp Rise II” took place in the last week of June with six successful concerts in succession. In the last concert given by Isabelle Moretti, the encore piece played by the surprising guest Emmanuel Ceysson and Isabelle marked the perfect ending to the festival. Also in the same week, the second Camac Prize Taiwan was held. Winners included harpists from Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, and USA.



Emmanuel Ceysson and Isabelle Moretti



Harp Rise II



Participants and winners of the second Camac Prize Taiwan.

THAILAND

Events

Students of Lisa Gracia Supadi at Tamnak Prathom Harp Center, Panitsa Tunchumrus and Luke Sirawit Sumpatchalit, were invited to perform in the ABRSM High Scorer’s Concert at Bangkok Arts and Culture Centre on 30 March 2019.



L to R: Panitsa Tumchumrus, Lisa Gracia Supadi, Luke Sirawit Sumpatchalit.

Ten harp students of Ema Mitarai and Dharavadee Kanothai from the Royal Bangkok Symphony Music School performed as an ensemble along with violin, cello and guitar ensembles at the RBSS Showcase concert at Thailand Cultural Centre on 23 June 2019.



L to R: Students of Dharavadee Kanothai and Ema Mitarai at RBSS.

UNITED KINGDOM

Achievements

Claudia Lucia Lamanna is the top winner at Camac Harps in London competition held 5-6 May 2019.

Events

In May 2019, Sioned Williams, Principal Harpist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, performed on the novel “Soveida harp”, an amazing, quite mind-boggling instrument, with 20 (!) ‘tubular tentacles extending into tombak-like conches’, creating ‘shadow sounds’.



Sioned Williams performing on the Soveida harp.

The “Harp on Wight Festival” will take place 25 to 29 October 2019 at Ryde, Isle of Wight.

A wonderful collection of concerts and workshops, including a performance by the RNCM Harp ensemble, a workshop on Scottish Tunes by Ailie Robertson and a chance to build your own harp!

“Gwyl Cerdd Dant” will take place 9 November 2019 at Furnace Theatre, Llanelli, Wales.

A competitive festival celebrating a mix of Welsh traditional performances, from folk dancing to poetry. The harp is a big feature, not only in the solo and ensemble competitions, but also in the traditional pennillion singing with prizes for both the singer and the accompanist. Adjudicators are Elinor Bennett and Gwenllian Llŷr. Closing date: 1 October 2019.

Competitions

Mared Pugh-Evans won the Nansi Richards Scholarship Competition on 17 April 2019.

The North London Festival, Harp competition took place 5-6 May 2019 in London.

Winners were:

- First Prize: Claudia Lamanna
- Second Prize: Mared Pugh-Evans
- Third Prize: Lise Vandersmissen



Elinor Evans.

JOHN NEED

The Princes Margaret of the Isles Memorial Prize for Senior Clarsach was awarded to Elinor Evans on 8 June 2019.



At the “Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2019”, which took place 3 to 10 August 2019 prizes were awarded to:

- Solo harp under 16: Aisha Palmer
Heledd Wynn Newton
Alaw Grug Evans
- Solo harp 16-19: Anwen Mai Thomas
Rhys Whatty
Cerys Eleri Rees
- Solo harp over 19: Glain Dafydd
Elin Kelly, Mari Kelly
Rhiain Awel Dyer

News

Young Welsh harpist, Alis Huws, has recently been appointed the Official Harpist to HRH the Prince of Wales. A graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Ms Huws is a freelance soloist based in the UK. She won numerous awards during her studies at RWCMD with Caryl Thomas, including the Midori Matsui Prize for music, the Royal Welch Fusiliers Harp Prize and the McGrennery Chamber Music Prize.



Alis Huws, Official Harpist to HRH the Prince of Wales.

Ms Huws is the sixth harpist to be appointed to the role since it was reinstated by Prince Charles in 2000. As part of her role as Royal Harpist, Ms Huws will work with the charity Live Music Now delivering high quality performances in the community, including at schools, hospitals and care homes. She will also perform for the royal family in official events, including a recent performance for Prince Charles and Camilla at their Welsh residence at Llwynywermod in Llanymddyfri during the celebrations of the prince's 50th anniversary of his investiture.

Speaking about her appointment, Ms Huws said: “I am passionate about my Welsh heritage and I would hope to use this platform to be an ambassador for our language, music and culture, whilst raising the profile of the harp in Wales and further afield. I've seen first-hand how uplifting music can be and I am committed to furthering my work in this field.”

Ms Huws is the Youth Co-Ordinator for the next World Harp Congress taking place in Cardiff in 2020.

Review

The Claire Jones Concert *Ensemble* Tour performed from 27 to 29 July 2019.

The Claire Jones Concert *Ensemble* consists of former Royal Harpist Claire Jones, percussionist/composer Chris Marshall and 20 of the UK's finest up-and-coming harpists. Throughout this past summer, we have had our debut concert tour across Wales; performing at the Welsh Proms at St. David's Hall, Cardiff, Brangwyn Hall in Swansea and the Aberystwyth Arts Centre as part of the 2019 Aberystwyth International MusicFest.

We performed an array of pieces arranged by Chris Marshall, including classical such as Vivaldi's Four Seasons, pop, film numbers by John Williams, and jazz pieces by Gershwin. We even premiered a new harp concerto called *Brasluniau o'r Ddinas Brysur* (Sketches of the Busy City) composed by Eilir Owen

Griffiths. The composer himself even came to watch us perform his piece for the first time! The ensemble did not just consist of harps; some multi-talented members accompanied the pieces with the flute, violin, cello, piano, drums and a few even sang some of the pieces. But of course, none of our concerts would have been complete without Claire Jones herself performing alongside us during The Four Seasons, and her husband Chris Marshall playing his drums whilst conducting simultaneously!

We all felt extremely honoured and privileged to have had this amazing opportunity to display our versatility and talent touring across Wales for the very first time. Our concert tour has transformed us harpists into something new and exciting for our friends, families and future audiences to see. This experience has really helped to improve our career prospects by giving us some valuable exposure and promotion. Our ensemble is truly special, and we are all so full of gratitude for Claire and Chris for bringing us all together to become what we are now. They have tirelessly supported us every step of the way and we couldn't have achieved so much without them.

We are beginning preparations for our upcoming London debut tour in 2020, as well as a performance at the 14th World Harp Congress in Cardiff, so plenty of opportunities for you to come to enjoy a performance soon!

— Charlotte Rhodes

USA

Appointments

Katherine Siochi has been appointed principal harpist with the Kansas City Symphony.

Ellie Kirk has been appointed principal harpist with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra.

Haley Rhodside has been appointed principal harpist with the Orlando Philharmonic.

Molly Langr has won a one-year appointment as principal harpist with the Boise Philharmonic.

Matthew Tutsky has been appointed principal harpist with the New Mexico Philharmonic.

Laura Sherman has been appointed to the faculty of the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami in Florida.

Heaven Fan has been appointed to the faculties of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College.

Mary Bircher has been appointed to the faculty of the Glenn Korff School of Music, University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

Rachel Brandwein has been appointed to the faculty of St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN.

Events

20-22 March 2020 Virginia Harp Center Festival; Arlington, VA

21-24 June 2020 44th American Harp Society, Inc. National Conference; Orlando, Florida

4-18 July 2020 Young Artist's Harp Seminar; Gambier, OH; www.harpseminar.com

5-12 July 2020 Young Artist's Harp Seminar Preparatory Division; Gambier, OH



News

Kim Robertson has been selected as recipient of the 2019 Somerset Folk Harp Festival Lifetime Achievement Award.

Abigail Kent won Silver Medal in the 2019 Medallion International Concerto Competition in Atlanta, GA. She will perform a concerto with the Orchestra Noir in their 2019-2020 season.

Rachel Lee Hall won the 2019 Houston Symphony Ima Hogg Concerto Competition. Chloe Tula won third prize.

The Georgia Chapter of the American Harp Society has been named 2019 Chapter of the Year.

Aaron David Miller was selected as winner of the 2019 Weiger Lepke-Sims Sacred Music Award.

National Competitions

Young Artist's Harp Competition 2020

30 June to 3 July 2020, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH

Preliminary video deadline: 1 May 2020

Program:

Preparatory Division (Maximum age 11)

Play each of the following:

Tournier, M.-*Berceuse*

Couperin, F.-*Soeur Monique* (any edition)

Salzedo, C. -*Quietude*

(Note: the Preparatory Division repertoire is set, and does not include a free choice selection.)

New Artist Division (maximum age 14)

(A) Choose one of the following:

Bull/Grandjany-*King's Hunt*

Francisque/Grandjany-*Pavane et Bransle*

(B) Choose any one of the following *Images* by Marcel Tournier:

Les Ânesses Grises sur la Route d'El-Azib

Lolita la Danseuse

La Volière Magique

Soir de Fête à Sedjenane

(C) Free choice selection of the contestant's choosing (time limit, 10 minutes) Free choice composer cannot be the same as A or B choice. (see below)

Emerging Artist Division (maximum age 19)

(A) Choose one of the following:

Handel/Salzedo-*Harmonious Blacksmith*

Bach/Renié-*Pièce en Sol*

One or two sonatas by Scarlatti totaling between 3–5 minutes (any edition)

(B) Choose one of the following:

Godefroid/Grandjany-*Etude de Concert*

Piazzolla/Rayan-*Libertango*

Any number of movements totaling between 3–5 minutes from *Birds in Winter*, by Michael Mauldin

(C) Free choice selection of the contestant's choosing (time limit, 12 minutes) Free choice composer cannot be the same as A or B choice.

*Free choice selections should be taken from the standard solo classical harp repertoire (i.e., no pop or jazz) and should



Caroline Wilkins is the new American Harp Society Concert Artist.

be of equal or greater difficulty than the pieces listed in the A and B categories for each division. Only one work may be chosen in the free choice category; one or more movements of a multi-movement work may be performed, provided the total timing does not exceed the limit for the division. Free choice selections must be for solo harp: do not choose a piece that requires accompaniment.

AHS National Competition Winners:

Young Professional Division (max. age 30)

First Prize: Caroline Wilkins

Second Prize: Hannah Cope

Third Prize (tie): Adam Phan

Juan Riveros

Fourth Prize: Noël Wan

Fifth Prize: Chelsea Lane

Sixth Prize (tie): Anna Ellsworth

Hope Wilk

Honorable mention: Haley Rhodeside

Advanced Division (max. age 21)

First Prize (tie): Claire Thai

Morgan Short

Second Prize: Kaila Geisinger

Third Prize: Caroline Mellott

Fourth Prize: Clara Warfod

Intermediate II Division (max. age 18)

First Prize: Annette Lee

Second Prize (tie): Priyanka Gohal

Shaylen Joos

Third Prize: Danielle Nam

Fourth Prize: Amanda Kengor

Fifth Prize: Lily Primus

Sixth Prize (tie): Julia Johnson

Erika Rosen

Honorable mention: Beth Henson

Intermediate I Division (max. age 15)

First Prize: Kathleen Hopkins

Second Prize: Eunice Park

Third Prize: Isabel Cardenes

Fourth Prize: Sophia Jho

Fifth Prize: Ava Crook

Sixth Prize: Jadelyn Ding

Honorable mentions: Judy Liu

Elizabeth Johnson

Skyler Moon

Belle Divine

Junior Division (max. age 12)

First Prize: Olivia Lee

Second Prize: Erin Choi

Third Prize: Kaila Blodgett

Fourth Prize (tie): Grace Hong

Tessa Jackson

Fifth Prize (tie): Sophia Love

Aaron Stewart



Sixth Prize (tie): Calene Lee
Sarah Smith
Megan Williams

2018 Young Artist’s Harp Competition Results

Emerging Artist Division

First Prize: Claire Thai, USA
Second Prize: Renee Murphy, USA
Third Prize: Janice Hur, Korea
Fourth Prize: Danielle Nam, USA

New Artist Division

First Prize: Yuet Kan, China
Second Prize: Aimee Hang Yu Lam, China
Third Prize: Isabella McCormick, USA

Preparatory Division

First Prize (tie): Lydia Kessler, USA
Goldie Woods, USA
Second Prize: Olivia Lee, USA
Third Prize: Zulaykha Kadieva, Russia



Emerging Artist Division

VENEZUELA

In Memoriam

Juan Vicente Torrealba, harpist and composer whose distinctive sound gave traditional Venezuelan llanera music a stylized symphonic touch that influenced generations of folklorists, died on 2 May 2019, his relatives announced. He was 102 years old.



Juan Vicente Torrealba (1917-2019)



Juan Vicente Torrealba (1917-2019)

“On behalf of the Torrealba family, we fulfill the painful duty of informing you of the death of Maestro Don Juan Vicente Torrealba, surrounded by his children and grandchildren in the peace of his beautiful home,” said his family members through the musician’s Twitter account, without giving other details.

Shortly afterwards in an act of government broadcast on the radio and television, President Nicolás Maduro expressed his

condolences and announced that his government “will pay tribute, remembrance and recognition to Juan Vicente Torrealba.”

Born on 20 February 1917 in a populated neighborhood of downtown Caracas and raised since eight months in the plains of the central state of Guárico, Torrealba recorded 130 albums and composed more than 300 songs such as *La fillo zaina* and *Solito con the stars*.

He learned to play the guitar, the Venezuelan cuatro and the harp, an instrument that was his partner since he was 16 and whose natural virtuosity perfected with degrees in Mexico and Paraguay.

“I slept with the sound of the harp, in the herd there was a pawn that played and they always made partying llaneras,” he recalled in an interview with The Associated Press made in November 2014.

The experimentation was his personal brand. Pieces like *Concierto en la Llanura* demonstrated the possibilities of traditional Venezuelan rhythms to mix with other sounds and instruments, such as keyboards, without losing their character.

The inclusion of the double bass as part of the format of the group was another of his contributions. Nowadays all llanera music ensembles have bass.

“That if it was very difficult for people to accept it, they said it was ending with folklore,” Torrealba told AP. “At the beginning I did not know much, but over time I realized that it was necessary to make a llanera music that could reach more people. I did it my way, but in the end that was what succeeded.”

In 1947 he founded the group “Los Torrealberos” with his brother Arturo and his son Santana, playing with passion and rich nuances the traditional music of the plains, which is distinguished by feeding on the experiences of the peasants, the cattle-raising tasks, the singing of the birds, the melody of the rivers and the trot of the horses. The following year he launched his solo career and performed before crowds in Latin America, Europe and the United States.

In 1971, the recording of the album *Rhapsody Llanera* was key in his career, in which his group was accompanied by a symphony orchestra. Since then the incorporation of the most varied instruments and technical elements was a constant and turned his group into a kind of chamber orchestra.

Among his other compositions are *Sinfonía en el palmar*, *Mujer Guayanesa* and *Barquisimeto*.

La fillo zaina - created in honor of his wife Mirta Pantoja - inspired and gave musical framework to one of the most successful telenovelas in Colombia, in 1993, written by Bernardo Romero Pereiro and starring Aura Cristina Geithner and Miguel Varoni.

Pantoja, who died in April 2017 at age 76, was 18 when she met Torrealba, then 42. They were married for 58 years.

