



Welcome to the first biennial

Young Artist's Harp Competition

July 3–5, 2008

Rabun Gap, Georgia

Rearden Theater of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School

Presented by

Young Artist's Harp Seminar

Providing intensive harp training
to students around the world since 2002

www.harpseminar.com

with assistance from Salvi Harps



Welcome

July 3, 2008

Dear harpists, parents, and friends of the harp:

Welcome to the first **Young Artist's Harp Competition**, presented by the Young Artist's Harp Seminar, in Rabun Gap, Georgia. The competition was announced in September, 2007, and is open to harpists of any nationality, age 11–19 in two divisions (New Artist Division, maximum age 14; Emerging Artist's Division, maximum age 19.) Following an initial DVD round that drew entries from throughout the U.S., France, Spain, Taiwan, and China, our judges selected 12 harpists in each division to compete this week in person.

We envisioned this competition as a way to encourage young harpists to strive for a high level of artistic achievement by providing them with an open forum for performance, positive feedback, and nurturing competition. We are excited to provide this opportunity for today's young harpists, and it has been our number one goal to give each competitor an experience that will raise their level as an artist and enhance their ability as a harpist.

We would like to give our sincere congratulations to every competitor who followed through with their goal of entering the competition, and we wish the best of luck to all those competing in person here this week.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Rowe and Susan Bennett Brady
Co-directors and Artist Faculty
Young Artist's Harp Seminar and Competition

Contact us with your thoughts and feedback:

info@harpcompetition.com

www.harpcompetition.com

info@harpseminar.com

www.harpseminar.com

Thank You

The Young Artist's Harp Seminar would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support, without which the competition would not have been possible.

Patrons (\$5,000 and up)

Salvi Harps, Inc.

Supporters (\$1,000–\$4,999)

Contributors (\$500–\$999)

Camac Harps

Harp Column magazine

Friends (\$100–\$499)

Atlanta Harp Center

Fatrock Ink*

Anonymous

*Special thanks to **Fatrock Ink** for making possible the special prize for the best performance of “Valse”, by Bax, a publication of Fatrock Ink.

Rental harps for the Young Artist's Harp Seminar were provided by the **Virginia Harp Center** and the **Atlanta Harp Center**; the Salvi Apollo harps in use this week are on loan from **Salvi Harps, Inc.**

Thank you to our good friends at the **Rabun Gap-Nacoochee school** for their help with facilities, logistics, and dining.

A very special thank you to our friend and family volunteers for donating their time and services to help our competition run smoothly this week.



Support YAHS

Would you like to help support the Young Artist's Harp Seminar and Competition? We are seeking donations to our scholarship and/or competition funds.

Scholarship Fund

Each year we receive applications from talented harpists throughout the world who need financial assistance to attend the Young Artist's Harp Seminar. Our scholarship fund gives several students partial scholarships to help defray their tuition costs. Recipients are chosen based on talent, recommendation, and financial need. This summer, four students received financial assistance to attend YAHS thanks to donations from our generous sponsors and audience members like you. There are always many more requests than we can fulfill; your donation this year will help a student attend YAHS next summer.

Competition Fund

The Young Artist's Harp Competition showcases talented young harpists every two years in an international competition. The YAHS Competition Fund helps with prize money, facilities rental, and judges expenses.

How to Donate

Donation envelopes are available in the lobby if you wish to contribute today. Or, send your check made payable to the Young Artist's Harp Seminar to:

Young Artist's Harp Seminar
c/o Susan Bennett Brady
1281 Rolling Oaks Drive
Kennesaw, Ga 30152

Be sure to tell us who you are if you would like us to include your name in our concert series program. We will use your donation where it is most needed unless you specify a specific use. Please contact us with additional questions about your contribution at info@competition.com.

We are a non-profit organization in the state of Georgia; your donation may be eligible for tax benefits.

Schedule

All performance events take place in the Rearden Theater. Meals are served in the Student Center located on the lower level of the administration building, opposite the theater. (Meals are available only for those who have purchased them in advance; please present your yellow meal ticket. The buffet line will remain open for a half hour after the starting times posted below.) The July 4th picnic takes place on the lawn.

A detailed schedule with exact performance times for each competitor will be posted outside Rearden Theater after competitors have drawn numbers for performance order. Please note that the schedule below includes estimated times for your convenience. End times may vary depending on the pace of the competition.

Wednesday, July 2

6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 pm.	Emerging Artist competitor meeting and number drawing

Thursday, July 3

8:00 a.m	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	Emerging Artist Competition
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m. to 5:15	Emerging Artist Competition
6:00 p.m.	Dinner
7:00 p.m.	New Artist competitor meeting and number drawing

Friday, July 4

8:00 a.m	Breakfast
9:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m.	New Artist Competition
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m. to 4:15	New Artist Competition
7:00 p.m.	July 4th games and activities on the lawn
8:00 p.m.	Picnic dinner served (Advance purchase tickets required.)

Saturday, July 5

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
12:00 p.m.	Lunch*
1:00–2:30 p.m.	Young Artist's Harp Seminar registration
5:30 p.m.	Dinner*
8:00 p.m.	Winners Recital and Awards Presentation
dusk, after concert	Fireworks on the lawn (reserve your spot in advance!)

*note time changes

Repertoire and Prizes

The contestants performing this week were invited to come in person following a preliminary DVD round that was judged in May. Contestants were required to choose one piece from categories A and B and one "free choice" piece.

Emerging Artist Division (ages 11–19; maximum length, 20 mins.)

Category A:

"Harmonious Blacksmith," by Handel

First movement of "Concerto in B-flat," by Handel

Sonata in D Major, by Parry

Any two from "Courante, Pavane, and Bransles," by Francisque

Any one of the following from *Bach-Grandjany Etudes for Harp*: no. 7, 8, or 10

Category B:

"Impromptu Caprice," by Pierne

Any one etude from *Modern Study of the Harp*, by Salzedo

Any one selection from *Spanish Music for the Harp, Vol. 2*, by McDonald/Wood

Any one of the "Images" from *Suites 3 and 4, Op. 35*, by Tournier

"Valse," by Bax

New Artist Division (ages 11–14; maximum length, 15 mins.)

Category A:

Sonata en Re, by Albeniz

First movement of "Sonata in C Minor," by Dussek

"Theme and Variations by Haydn," transcribed by Salzedo

"Rigaudon" from *Solos for the Harp Player*, by Lawrence/Owens

Any one of the following from *Bach-Grandjany Etudes for Harp*: no. 1, 4, or 6

Category B:

"Girl With the Flaxen Hair," by Debussy

"Song in the Night," by Salzedo

"Valse in E-flat Major," by Durand ("Premiere Waltz")

"Le bon petit Roi d'Yvetot," by Grandjany

Any two of the *Quatre Preludes*, by Tournier

Prizes

Emerging Artist Division

First Prize: \$1,000

Second Prize: \$750

Third Prize: \$500

Special Prize: \$150 for best performance of

"Valse," by Bax

New Artist Division

First Prize: \$750

Second Prize: \$500

Third Prize: \$250

All winners have the option of choosing a **Young Artist's Harp Seminar** scholarship in lieu of prize money.

Judging Panel

Emerging Artist Judges



Bridget Kibbey

Acclaimed harpist Bridget Kibbey is a recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Juilliard School Peter Mennin Prize for Musical Excellence and Leadership, Premier Prix at the Chamber Music Competition of Arles, France (in collaboration with flutist Julietta Curenton), and a winner of Concert Artist Guild's 2007 International Competition and Astral's 2003 Auditions. Her solo performances have been broadcast on NPR's Performance Today, WQXR, WRTI's Crossover, and A&E's Breakfast with the Arts. Kibbey holds both Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees from the Juilliard School as a student of Nancy Allen, and is currently on the harp faculties of New York University, Vassar College, and the Juilliard Pre-college program.

Ms. Kibbey will give a masterclass on July 6, along with private instruction, as part of the Young Artist's Harp Seminar Guest Artist series.



Kimberly Houser

Kimberly Houser serves as Professional-in-Residence at Louisiana State University. She received Bachelor, Masters, and Doctoral Degrees in Music from the University of Arizona where she studied music composition as well as harp as a student of Carrol McLaughlin. Houser has performed at the World Harp Congress, the American Harp Society Conference, and at the Soka City International City, in Japan. She served for three years as Principal Harpist with the Billings Symphony, in Montana, and has recently released a CD, Pure Harp, which was reviewed in Fanfare magazine.

Ms. Houser will give workshops and private instruction as part of the Young Artist's Harp Seminar Guest Artist series.

Judging Panel



Hye-Yun Chung Bennett

An award winner at the Fifth International Harp Contest in Israel, Hye-Yun Chung Bennett made her Carnegie Hall recital hall debut in 1979, earning a New York Times review, and has concertized throughout the U.S. under the auspices of the American Harp Society Young Artist program. She has performed at the World Harp Congress, and has appeared as a soloist with many orchestras in the U.S. and Korea. Bennett served on the harp and piano faculty at Louisiana State University, and has adjudicated competitions throughout the U.S. as both a harpist and pianist. She studied at California State University, Columbia University, and at the Juilliard School, where she completed the Professional Study Plan.

Notes to the Audience

In fairness to our competitors who have traveled great distances and spent many months in preparation for their brief moment on stage, we must insist that all audience members observe the following rules:

- Silence all cell phones, pagers, and beepers before entering the auditorium.
- Remain silent while the competition is in progress.
- Do not applaud or acknowledge competitors in any way.
- Absolutely no cameras or video, except by staff.
- Enter and exit only between competitors.
- Do not interact with or disturb the judges.
- Small children who cannot sit quietly should not observe the competition.
- No food or beverages are permitted in the auditorium.

Anyone who does not abide by these rules will be asked to leave immediately.

Judging Panel

New Artist Judges



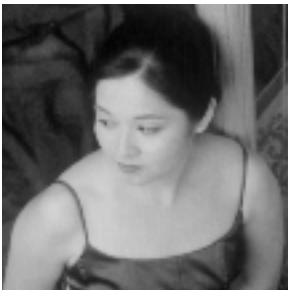
Nancy Lendrim

Principal Harpist of the Toledo Symphony since 1980, Nancy Lendrim forms half of the Salzedo Harp Duo and can be heard on their "Short Stories" CD. Lendrim has appeared as a soloist with the Toledo Symphony and has also performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. She is on the faculties of the University of Toledo and Heidelberg College, the Saratoga Harp Colony, and was formerly on the faculty of the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich. Lendrim is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Alice Chalifoux.



Jan Jennings

Jan Jennings is well known in the harp community for her work with organizations such as the American Harp Society (Past Director at Large and Treasurer) and the World Harp Congress (Board of Directors and Treasurer); she has been a featured artist and faculty member for many national conferences and maintains a thriving freelance business in Orlando, Fla., where she performs as both a classical and pop harpist. Jennings is Music Review Editor for Harp Column magazine, and has published her own collection of books and arrangements for harpists.



Heaven Fan

Taiwan native Heaven Lai has concertized throughout Asia, Australia, Europe, and the U.S., and served as a juror at the National Harp Competition in Taipei, Taiwan, in 2007. She has performed at the Fukai Harp Festival, in Japan, and the World Harp Congress, in Prague. Principal Harpist with the Knoxville Symphony for five years, Lai appeared in concerto performances with them and also with the Knoxville Chamber Orchestra. Lai is a founding member of the Pacific Harp Quartet, and a winner of the Anne Adams Awards in 1996; she is currently a doctoral candidate and Indiana University for harpists.

Judging Panel

DVD Judges



**Cheryl
Cunningham**

As a soloist, orchestral musician, and chamber musician, Cheryl Dungan Cunningham has performed extensively in the mid-Atlantic region. She is a co-founder of the Southampton Trio, and Principal Harpist with the Delaware Valley Philharmonic, Greater Trenton Symphony Orchestra, and Boheme Opera, NJ. Cunningham also serves as Director at Large and 1st Vice President of the American Harp Society. She received Bachelor and Master of Music degrees, as well as a Bachelor of Music Education, from Indiana University as a student of Susann McDonald and Peter E. Eagle.



Kathleen Wilson

Kathleen Wilson's multifaceted career includes achievements in harp, long distance swimming, and politics. As Principal Harpist with the Charleston Symphony Orchestra, in South Carolina, she has appeared as a soloist many times. As an athlete, Wilson has international standing as an open water marathon swimmer and has completed swims around Key West, Manhattan Island, and the English Channel, among others. In 2005 Wilson was elected to Charleston City Council, representing District 12. Wilson continues to pursue all facets of her career and appears as a public speaker through her company AquaHarp Presentations.

The preliminary DVD round was judged in May; our DVD judges will not appear in person this week.

*Due to her recent move to Hong Kong, we regret that it was necessary for **Dan Yu** to withdraw from the judging panel.*

Emerging Artist Finalists



Susanna Campbell
Richmond, Texas
age 18

Pavane and Courante;
Francisque
Concerto in B-flat, second
movement; Handel
Impromptu Caprice; Pierre

Susanna Campbell has studied harp for nine years—previously with Andra Bohnet of the University of South Alabama, in Mobile, and Elizabeth Brownlee, and currently with Therese Honey, of Houston. Susanna began her musical education at age 6 on the piano and studies with Robert Brownlee, a retired piano professor from the University of Houston. Susanna enjoys freelancing and teaching, but her passion is orchestral performance. She is principal harpist with the Houston Civic Symphony and served as harpist and pianist with the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra for four years. Aside from professional performance, Susanna uses her talents to minister in churches and nursing homes. She was selected as a winner of the Jan Pennington Gray Harp Scholarship (2008), first chair harpist for Texas All-State Orchestra (2007), winner of the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Concerto Competition (2005), and 3rd place winner in the Mildred Milligan Harp Competition (2003).



Rebekah
Efthimiou
New York
age 17

Concerto in B-flat; first
movement, Handel
Mirage; Salzedo
First Arabesque; Debussy

Rebekah Efthimiou began playing harp at age 11 and has studied with Karlinda Caldicott since 2003. In 2007, she attended Alice Giles' Summer Harp Course in Massachusetts. This summer she is studying with Joan Holland at the Interlochen Summer Arts Camp in Michigan. Rebekah played with the Little Delaware Youth Ensemble for two years before joining the Empire State Youth Orchestra in the fall of 2007. This past April she toured Europe with ESYO, performing at venues such as Dvorak Hall in Prague and the Mozarteum in Salzburg. In March 2008 Rebekah took second place in the Anthony R. Stefan Scholarship Competition sponsored by the League of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra. Rebekah is homeschooled, will be a senior, and resides in Delhi, NY with her parents, three siblings, dog, and cat. Besides hanging out with her family, Rebekah enjoys reading, pencil drawing, soccer, and writing.

Emerging Artist Finalists



Naomi Gemmell
Alamo, California
age 18

*Petite Suite; Watkins
Impromptu Caprice; Pierne
Harmonious Blacksmith;
Handel*

Naomi Gemmell is a 16 year old high school junior from Alamo, California. She has been playing the harp for 8 years and presently studies with Linda Rollo. Her previous teachers were Valerie Muzzolini and Bennetta Heaton.



Emily Granger
Parkville, Missouri
age 19

*Asturias; Albeniz
Courante and Pavane;
Francisque
Fantasie on a Theme of
Haydn; Grandjany*

Emily Granger, a junior at Indiana University and student of Susann McDonald, began the harp at 13. A native of Kansas City, she was principal harpist of the Kansas City Youth Symphony and the Missouri All-State Orchestra. She studied with Joan Holland at the Interlochen Arts Camp from 2005 to 2006 where she will return this summer as the Harp Teaching Assistant. Emily is currently Principal Harp in the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, an audition she won earlier this year. As a soloist, Emily has been a guest artist with the Northland Symphony Orchestra, Clay Center Arts Council, and at the Charterhouse International Music Festival in Godalming, United Kingdom. Her accolades also include First Place in the Undergraduate Instrumental Division of the Indianapolis Matanee Musicale in 2008 and The Young Artists Award at the Eastern Music Festival in 2007. Emily also studies with Patricia Masri-Fletcher, Principal Harpist of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Note: Contestants may perform repertoire in any order.

Emerging Artist Finalists



Mackenzie Hammell
Cincinnati, Ohio
age 16

*Impromptu Caprice; Pierre
Etude No. 8; Bach/Grand-
jany
Feerie; Tournier*

Mackenzie Hammell began studying the harp at age 5 with Suzuki instructor Jane Zopff. She currently studies with Cincinnati Symphony principal harpist Gillian Sella. Notable accomplishments during the 2007–2008 season have included being selected as a Focus on Youth performer for upcoming 2008 World Harp Congress in Amsterdam and winning the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra and Blue Ash Montgomery Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competitions. Outside of solo performance, Mackenzie is principal harpist with the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra and Lakota West High School Symphonic Winds. Mackenzie is also a scholar and athlete; she is a 4.0 honors, inducted to National Honor Society, national math honorary, Mu Alpha Theta, and the National Spanish Honorary. She is both a USTA ranked tennis player and a 3-year varsity tennis player for Lakota West High School, being named both 1st and 2nd team to the all-Greater Miami Conference for two years.



Holland Hettinger
Vista, California
age 18

*Fantasie on a Theme of
Haydn; Grandjany
Concerto in B-flat, first
movement; Handel
Maleguena; Albeniz/McDon-
ald/Wood*

Holland began her musical pursuits on the piano, performing for the National Piano Guild and the California Association of Professional Music Teachers, featuring her 2 pianos, 8 hands ensemble. As a young harpist, Holland was selected by Bravo San Diego as a “Star of the Future.” Holland’s musical honors include recognition from the San Diego Foundation, the North County Music Scholarship Foundation, the American Harp Society, the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra, and the Bank of America. Holland was principal harpist for the North Coast Symphony, the San Diego City Ballet Orchestra, and the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra, touring to Russia, Sweden, and Finland. Holland is a student of renowned harpist Susann McDonald at Indiana University’s Jacob’s School of Music. Holland graduated third in her high school class and earned an International Baccalaureate Diploma; she is a member of the Indiana University Hutton Honors College.

Emerging Artist Finalists



Natalie Hoffman
Pickerington, Ohio
age 15

Impromptu Caprice; Pierre Concerto in B-flat, first movement; Handel Valse; Bax

Natalie Hoffman began her harp study at age 6 with Jude Mollenhauer in Columbus, Ohio. She immediately displayed exceptional talent and was soon asked to perform for prestigious events city-wide, including performances for the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and The Ohio Supreme Court. Natalie has been featured on Suzuki programs in Snowmass, Colorado, and Quebec, Canada. In 2003, Natalie also began studying with Judy Loman in Toronto Canada. She received third place in the 2007 AHS National Competition held in Chicago, Ill. Recently, she performed the Debussy Danses and the Handel Concerto with local orchestras in Columbus. Natalie is a member of the Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra and is completing her seventh year of piano study. Natalie is 15 years old and is a ninth grade honor student. She enjoys fishing, hiking, horseback riding and hanging out with friends.



Coline Jaget
Nice, France
age 15

Concerto in B-flat, first movement; Handel Impromptu Caprice; Pierre Feerie; Tournier

I was born in Nice, France, on October the 4th, 1992. I have two young brothers who play music too (piano and drums). I play piano too for my pleasure, but I'd like to become a professional harpist and play in an orchestra. I'm actually in the fourth cycle au Conservatoire de Nice, with Michèle VUILLAUME as teacher. In February, 2004, I received the first médaille à l'unanimité dans le degré Moyen I in the UFAM's competition (France). In March, 2005, I received the mark 18/20 in Salvi's competition, in Cannes (France). In June, 2006, I passed an exam in Nice's CRR (Conservatoire de Nice) with a first mention à l'unanimité avec les félicitations du Jury (France). In July, 2007, I entered the Cardiff European Junior Harp Competition, Stage 1 and 2. In November, 2007, I received the third prize in the Nice International Junior competition (France).

Emerging Artist Finalists



**Kam Dick Wong
Kimberly**
Hong Kong, China
age 16

*Harmonious Blacksmith;
Handel
Impromptu Caprice; Pierre
Arabesque; York/Bowen*

I was born in Hong Kong, China, on April 2, 1992, and began to play piano at an early age. I had my first harp lessons at the age of 7 with Amy Tam. When I was 1, I was admitted to the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Junior Program, majoring harp under the tutelage of Barbara Sze. In 2006, when I was 14, I passed the grade eight harp examination of Associated Board of Royal School of Music with distinction. Currently, I am 16 years old and am studying form four (which is equivalent to grade ten) in St. Paul's Convent School (Secondary Section) in Hong Kong. I am interested in music activities and participate in them actively, such as joining the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts' Junior Symphony Orchestra, playing in bands and ensembles, attending harp master classes with famous harpists, and singing in the choirs.



Haley Rhodeside
Merritt Island, Florida
age 16

*Concerto in B-flat, first
movement; Handel
Etude No. 10; Bach/Grand-
jany
Fantasie on a Theme of
Haydn; Grandjany*

Haley A. Rhodeside was born in Abington, Pa. She began playing the harp at age 6 and currently studies with Jan Jennings in Orlando. Haley has performed as a guest harpist for the Stuttgart Student Orchestra, Space Coast Pops, Lynn University Orchestra, Indialantic Chamber Chorus, Brevard Children's Chorus, Brevard Early Music Ensemble, Brevard All-County Orchestra and Band, and Brevard Symphony Youth Orchestra. In 2007 Haley was a winner for the BSYO's Young Artist's Concerto Competition. Haley was a prizewinner in the American Harp Society's National Competition in 2005. She was a semi-finalist in the 2007 American String Teachers Association competition representing Florida. Haley will be a senior at Edgewood Junior/Senior High School where she is a National Merit Scholar finalist this year. Haley participates in cross-country, track, and chorus. She has 2 brothers, 3 cats and 2 dogs. Haley loves to read when she can, do crafts, jam with her brother, and visit friends. She resides in Merritt Island, Fl.

Emerging Artist Finalists



**Brooke Nicole
Rowland**
Portage, Michigan
age 15

*Absidiales; Andres
Impromptu Caprice; Pierne
Concerto in B-flat, first
movement; Handel*

Brooke Rowland currently studies under Suzann Davids of Notre Dame University and Joan Holland from the Interlochen Center for the Arts. Brooke won a gold prize at the Elkhart County Symphony Orchestra's 2008 concerto competition and performed the first movement of Handel's Concerto in B-flat. She placed fourth nationally in the 2005 American Harp Society's National Competition, junior division, in Los Angeles. Brooke won a Bravo! interview with WMUK and performed with other winning high-school students on the radio in 2008. She has played with the Kalamazoo College Community Orchestra (2007), Kalamazoo Junior Symphony (2006-2008), and Southwestern Michigan's Community College Orchestra (2005). Brooke performs at the Kalamazoo Country Club, the Women's Library Association, the Radisson, and for many church and community events. Brooke also loves to read, study, take voice lessons, play piano, and collect stuffed animals. A 15-year-old home-schooled triplet, Brooke takes classes full-time at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.



Rebekah Wallen
Bon Aqua, Tennessee
age 16

*Etude No. 10; Bach/Grand-
jany
Malaguena; Albeniz/McDon-
ald/Wood
Scherzeto; Ibert*

Rebekah is the sixth of eight children in the Wallen family and resides on a small farm in Tennessee. She is homeschooled and entering the eleventh grade. Rebekah has been studying harp for five years and piano for six. She has tested in six levels of the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music exams in both harp and piano, receiving merits and distinctions. Rebekah is a member of two orchestras: Vanderbilt University's pre-college Blair School of Music and that of Middle Tennessee State University. She also plays in the Angelus Harp Ensemble and was a member of Tennessee's All-State High School Orchestra. Rebekah attended the Young Artist Harp Seminar in 2005 and 2006. When not practicing her music, Rebekah enjoys training and riding her two horses. Her future plans are to continue studying harp in college.

New Artist Finalists



**Marianna Lynn
Adelman**
Mathews,
North Carolina
age 14

*Sonata en Re; Albeniz
Girl With the Flaxen Hair;
Debussy
Passacaille; Handel*

Marianna Adelman has already established herself as a poised and talented musician, sharing her gift as a harpist with audiences in Europe and the Carolinas. She began her formal training at age 5, working with Bette Roth, principal harpist of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra. Marianna was selected for the Charlotte Junior Youth Orchestra by age 12. In 2007 she received a grant from the Union County Arts Council to perform at every nursing home and retirement facility in the county, entertaining patients, staff, and families with her solo concerts. She has also played for many special events and at many regional churches as a part of their concerts. In May 2008, Marianna was awarded the President's Scholarship for 2008-2009 from Charlotte's well-known Community School of the Arts. Now a freshman in her home school, Marianna hopes to major in music at college and continue her work in palliative care.



Ruth Boyajian
Lumberton,
New Jersey
age 11

*Rigaudon;
Rameau/Lawrence
Valse in E-flat; Durand/Mc-
Donald
Nocturne; Glinka*

I am eleven years old and have studied harp for three years with Kimberly Rowe. I especially enjoy playing at area nursing homes and churches. Performances with others include soloing with the South Jersey Youth Orchestra, performing with the Philadelphia Harp Ensemble and playing at the Curtis Institute of Music for a Lyra Society fund raiser with 19 other local and international harpists. Other accomplishments include distinction grades in multiple Associated Board of the Royal School of Music harp exams, and most recently first place in the Philadelphia American Harp Society competition, junior division. Other interests include piano and playing the recorder. To balance music, I love soccer league and gymnastics, and am an avid horseback rider. As the fifth of seven home-schooled children, I also help out a lot with cooking, teaching and child care. I find great satisfaction with all kinds of crafts and handwork, but mostly enjoy playing with my family.

New Artist Finalists



Jackie Chia-Chi Chiang

Taipei, Taiwan

age 13

Valse in E-flat; Durand Etude No. 4; Bach/Grandjany

Sonata in D; Parry

Chia-Chi (Jackie) Chiang is 13 years old and has studied harp and piano since 4. She has studied harp with Yi Yin in New Zealand since 1998, and with Menglu Chiu in Taiwan since 2004. She also had private lessons with Sebastien Lipman, the harp professor of Queensland Conservatorium, and with Han-an Liu, the harp professor of Music Conservatorium in Cologne in Germany. Jackie also competed with success in many competitions. In 2008, she won the first prize in a national Culture Cup Harp Competition, as well as the second prize in the National Harp Competition of Taiwan in 2005 and 2007. She was also a prize winner in the international Nippon Harp Competition, Jr. division Japan in 2006.



Alethea Grant

Candia,

New Hampshire

age 12

Sonata in C-minor, first movement; Dussek Valse in E-flat; Durand La Source; Hasselmans

Alethea Grant has performed regularly at Boston's Mass. General Hospital in the main entrances, waiting rooms, and hallways. She is the youngest GentleMuse to play at the MGH Cancer Center, directed by Cynthia Price-Glynn, in collaboration with the Boston Conservatory. She performed an educational program for the students and teachers of the Perkins Institute for the Blind. She played at Boston Conservatory's masterclass under Sioned Williams. She has performed on stage with the Massachusetts Harp Ensemble, for the Reagle Players, and in a Little Bit of Ireland. Alethea has performed numerous solos, duets, and ensembles both for the American Harp Society's Ensemblefest, and for many churches. She premiered the White Mountain Suite with a five-harp ensemble for New Hampshire's Profile Awards Ceremony. Alethea has studied harp for 3 years under Stephanie Curcio. Alethea does ballet, speech and debate, computer programming, and her new love—robotics.

New Artist Finalists



Rachel Lee Hall
Roanoke, Virginia
age 14

Girl With the Flaxen Hair;
Debussy
Sonata in C-minor, first
movement; Dussek
Malaguena; Lecuona

Rachel Hall began harp lessons with Anastasia Jelison five years ago. She is a member of the Roanoke Youth Symphony Harp Ensemble. Rachel is also harpist and fourth chair first violinist for the Roanoke Youth Symphony Orchestra. Recent awards include first place, 2008 AWANA National Fine Arts Competition; first place, 2007 Sonata Festival; second place, Roanoke Youth Symphony's 2008 Young Artists Competition; and scholarship awards two years in a row from the Thursday Morning Music Club. In 2007, Rachel was honored to be asked to perform with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra at a concert featuring Aaron Neville. Rachel and her brothers are The Hall Trio. They play for weddings and other special occasions and have recently recorded a CD. Rachel enjoys teaching harp and violin. Other interests include sewing, reading, and writing. She plans to go to a music conservatory, majoring in harp performance.



Vivian Hsu
San Jose, California
age 14

Sonata in C-minor, first
movement; Dussek
Valse in E-flat; Durand/Mc-
Donald
Impromptu Caprice, Pierre

Vivian Hsu is 14 years old and started the harp when she was 8. She began the harp with Sonya Yu, and currently studies with Linda Wood Rollo. She has won second place in the Intermediate I Division of the 2007 American Harp Society (AHS) National Competition, fifth place in the Junior Division of the 2005 AHS National Competition, first place in Level 3 of the Inez Stafford Harp Competition by the AHS Bay Area Chapter in 2007, first place in Level 2 of Inez Stafford Harp Competition by the AHS Bay Area Chapter in 2005, and first place in Level 2 of Inez Stafford Harp Competition by the AHS Bay Area Chapter in 2004. Vivian will be performing in the Focus on Youth Program at the Tenth World Harp Congress in Amsterdam. Other than playing the harp, Vivian enjoys running and being outdoors. She has also played the flute for three years.

New Artist Finalists



Wesley Hsu
San Jose, California
age 13

Sonata en Re; Albeniz
Chanson dans la nuit;
Salzedo
Les Anesse grisses sur la
route d'El-Azib; Tournier

Wesley Hsu is 12 years old. He began learning the harp when he was 8, and studies with Linda Wood Rollo. He has won fifth place in the Junior Division of the AHS National Competition in 2007, second place in Level 2 of Inez Stafford Harp Competition by AHS Bay Area Chapter in 2007, and first place in Level 1 of Inez Stafford Harp Competition by American Harp Society (AHS) Bay Area Chapter in 2005. Wesley will be participating in the Focus on Youth at the World Harp Congress in Amsterdam. Wesley enjoys playing sports, and also plays the flute.



Ina McCormack
Rowlett, Texas
age 11

Theme and Variations;
Haydn/Salzedo
"Nocturne" from Petite Suite;
Watkins
Le Bon Petit Roi d'Yvetot;
Grandjany

Ina McCormack was born in Wuhan, China, and became an American at 21 months of age. That same year she saw a harpist performing at an antique shop and was fascinated by it. At age 4 she started taking piano and ballet lessons. At age of 9, she finally began studying harp under her teacher Naoko Nakamura Stromberg, and her love for it has continued. Within about 3 months after starting lessons, she began to perform in public, at church, and at retirement homes. She gave up ballet after 5 ½ years to have more time to study music, which she loves best. Ina's hobbies are reading, collecting Breyer horses, and drawing, and she has recently started to write poetry. Her favorite companions are her two golden retrievers and three birds. Ina has a strong desire to become a musician, performing and teaching both harp and piano. Her dream would be to become a principal harpist in an orchestra someday.

New Artist Finalists



Amanda Melton
Kennesaw,
Georgia
age 12

Rigaudon;
Rameau/Lawrence
Rumba; Salzedo
Valse in E-flat;
Durand/McDonald

Amanda Melton has been an enthusiastic harpist since her first harp lesson with Susan Bennett Brady four years ago. Amanda studies with Susan Bennett Brady and is a member of the Atlanta Harp Ensemble. This is Amanda's first harp competition. Amanda's musical talents extend beyond the harp. She has studied violin for four years, and piano for nine years. She was a finalist in 2006 and 2007 for the Georgia Music Teacher's Association Competition for the piano. When Amanda is not busy practicing harp, piano, or violin, she goes horseback riding, ice skates, swims, and takes tennis and dance lessons. Amanda is homeschooled and will begin the seventh grade in the Fall.



Madeline Claire Olson
Ripon, California
age 13

Girl With the Flaxen Hair;
Debussy
Sonata in C-minor, first
movement; Dussek
Chanson de Mai; Hassel-
mans

Madeline Claire Olson began harp lessons at age 8. She debuted with the Mendocino Music Festival Orchestra in 2005 as the youngest musician to ever take the stage with them. During the 2007-2008 season she was harpist for the Modesto Symphony Youth Orchestra, the Central Valley Youth Symphony, and the Modesto Junior College Community Concert Band. She's had the privilege of playing at the Gallo Center for the Arts several times during its inaugural season; most notably as featured harpist with the Modesto Symphony Orchestra in their memorial tribute to her first harp instructor Donelle Page. She played in pit orchestras for productions of Oklahoma! and The Wizard of Oz. She has accompanied several local choirs, and been featured in numerous recitals. Madeline studies harp with Linda Wood Rollo and Laura Porter. She also studies piano. Tutored at home, Madeline loves reading, Spanish, history, and science. She also enjoys swimming and her two Shetland sheepdogs.

New Artist Finalists



**Leah Jeanette
Reeder**
Monroe,
North Carolina
age 13

Theme and Variations;
Haydn
Girl With the Flaxen Hair;
Debussy
Solfeggietto; CPE Bach

Leah Reeder, daughter of Daniel and Laurie Reeder, is a 13-year-old home-schooled student and the second oldest of six children. She has enjoyed playing harp since 5 years of age and currently studies with Bette Roth of Lake Wylie, S.C. Leah is the principal harpist for the Charlotte Symphony Junior Youth Orchestra. She also plays in an ensemble with 3 other harpists, which performs in various events in the community. Leah is a pianist as well and was the piano category winner in the Charlotte Symphony Guild 2008 Young Artists Concerto Competition. Leah sings with Musical Heirs, a concert choir that recently toured the Bordeaux region of France as a missions' endeavor. Leah is actively involved in the music ministry at her church and desires that her music touch the hearts of others and bring glory to God. Besides music, Leah's other interests include volleyball, scrapbooking, and reading.



Katherine Siochi
Iowa City, Iowa
age 14

*Sonata in C-minor, first
movement; Dussek*
Girl With the Flaxen Hair;
Debussy
Impromptu Caprice, Piere

Katherine began harp with Linda Wilson at age 9. In 2006 she placed first in the Cedar Rapids Symphony Guild Concerto competition; in 2007 she performed Debussy *Dances Sacree et Profane* with the Iowa City Community Orchestra. She is a member of the Cedar Rapids Symphony School advanced harp ensemble and the Iowa City High School Orchestra. Her current teacher is Pam Weest-Carasco. An accomplished pianist, Katherine won the Tennessee 2003 and Iowa 2006 State Music Teachers Association Auditions. She performed Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto no.1 in Sydney, Australia, in 2007. Giving to the community through performances at retirement homes and church is essential to Katherine. Church, Scottish Highland dance, travel, and graphic design are also pursuits she enjoys. Katherine is home-schooled, residing in Iowa City, Iowa with her parents, brother and Yorkie. As a 2006 and 2007 YAHS alumna, Katherine owes much to YAHS for developing her orchestral performance and ensemble skills.