

# YAHS Newsletter



Young Artist's Harp Seminar and Competition, Rabun Gap, Ga.

Fall, 2008

2009

## Important Dates

March 1, 2009

Counselor

Applications Due for  
YAHS 2009

March 15, 2009

Application and  
Scholarship deadline  
for YAHS 2009

June, 2009

Competition Reper-  
toire announced for  
2010 Young Artist's  
Harp Competition.

July 4-18, 2009

Eighth Season of the  
Young Artist's Harp  
Seminar.

2009

## Concert Series

Saturday July 11

8:00 p.m.

Solo and Ensemble  
Concert

Friday July 17

7:00 p.m.

Solo Concert

Saturday July 18

2:00 p.m.

Gala Grand Finale  
Ensemble Concert

for details visit  
harpseminar.com

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## Harpists From Around the World Attended the 2008 Young Artist's Harp Seminar and Competition.

The **Young Artist's Harp Seminar and Competition** welcomed harpists from around the world to Rabun Gap, Georgia, over the summer. Twenty-four talented harpists came to vie for prizes totalling nearly \$4,000 in the first Young Artist's Harp Competition held July 3-4, 2008. Many of them remained in the mountains of Northern Georgia to attend the seventh Young Artist's Harp Seminar, which followed.

Countries represented this summer included Taiwan, China, France, Spain, and Costa Rica. In the U.S. harpists came from California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia to attend the competition and seminar.

Congratulations to Chia-Chi Chiang, of Taiwan, and Celine Jaget, of France, who were among prizewinners in the Young Artist's harp Competition. (Pg. 2)

Several international and American students received scholarship aid to attend YAHS thanks to generous donations from our sponsors and friends. Turn to pg. 5 to find out how to give to next year's scholarship fund.



Top photo, l. to r.: Teresa Gomez-Tejedor, 14, Madrid, Spain; Maricelle Marten Valverde, 15, San Jose, Costa Rica; Ana Cecilia Lizano Dobles, 19, San Jose, Costa Rica. Above left, Kam Dick Kimberly Wong, 16, Hong Kong, China; above right, Celine Jaget, 15, Nice, France; left, Chia-Chi Chiang, 13, Taipei, Taiwan.

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## Sponsors

Thank you to our generous sponsors for making the Young Artist's Harp Competition possible:

Special thanks to SALVI Harps, Inc. for their generous donation of \$5000 at the Patron level.



[www.salviharpsinc.com](http://www.salviharpsinc.com)

Assistance also provided by:

Camac Harps

Harp Column

Atlanta Harp Center

Fatrock Ink

visit [www.harpcompetition.com](http://www.harpcompetition.com) for information on contributing and school advertising.

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## Congratulations to our 2008 Competition Winners!

Read more about our winners and judges at [www.harpcompetition.com](http://www.harpcompetition.com)



### Emerging Artist Division (ages 11–19)

First Prize; \$1,000 (\*tie)

Haley Rhodside, 16, Merritt Island, Fla. (*left*)

Brooke Rowland, 15, Portage, Mich. (*center*)

Third Prize; \$500

Coline Jaget, 15, Nice, France (*right*)

*\*as a result of the tie, no Second Prize was awarded*



### New Artist Division (ages 11–14)

First Prize; \$750

Chia-Chi Chiang, 13, Taipei, Taiwan (*left*)

Second Prize; \$500

Vivian Hsu, 14, San Jose, Calif. (*right*)

Third Prize; \$250

Katherine Siochi, 14, Iowa City, Iowa (*center*)



### Special Prize, Emerging Division

Fatrock Ink Prize for the best performance of

“Valse” by Bax; \$150

Natalie Hoffmann, 15, Pickerington, Ohio

## What the judges said:

**Hye-Yun Chung Bennett:** “I was simply impressed with each and every one of them. [The competitors] were poised and well prepared for the competition and I almost felt like I could have given all of them the first prize!”

**Jan Jennings:** “I was very impressed by the caliber of playing by the competitors. Some of the players were so good that I wasn't sure how to tell them to improve! They all had such wonderful stage presence.”

**Heaven Lai:** “It was truly impressive to be able to see these young artists perform. No doubt they are the great harpists of the future. The level of artistry and talent was remarkable and I am excited for them!”

**Kimberly Houser:** It was an honor to be a judge for the Young Artist's Harp Competition! The level of playing was very high and it was great fun to hear so many wonderful young talents.”

### Where Are We?

*The Young Artist's Harp Seminar is located at the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, in the Northern Georgia "foothills" region of the Smoky Mountains. It is about two hours north of Atlanta and 1.5 hours southwest of Asheville, N.C.*

*At YAHS students have access to the state-of-the-art dormitory and theater facilities at the school, while also enjoying the plentiful mountain recreational opportunities that surround us.*

*To read more about the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School visit [www.rabungap.org](http://www.rabungap.org)*

## Summer 2008 in Review

Summer 2008 marked many exciting "firsts" at YAHS. In addition to the first Young Artist's Harp Competition and the record number of international students who attended, we also launched the YAHS Guest Artist Series with **Bridget Kibbey**, renowned soloist and harp instructor at the Juilliard Pre-College Program. In addition to serving as a judge on our competition panel, Kibbey kicked off the seminar with a masterclass featuring eight talented YAHS participants. (Plans are underway to select our 2009 guest artist; watch our website for an announcement soon.)

Students, competitors, families, faculty, judges, and YAHS staff alike had a blast at the first Fourth of July YAHS Picnic, which included field day events and a performance by competition judge **Jan Jennings**. We hope to make this an annual YAHS event. Another YAHS first you might not have expected? Fishing at a nearby trout farm!

Of course many things at YAHS remained the same. Lots of practice and hard work at the harp yielded three concerts for the community that showcased some of our best playing ever.

Congratulations to Rebekah Wallen, who won the 2008 **Young Artist of the Year Award** and a scholarship towards future YAHS attendance. Our **Mock Audition** winners this year were Katherine Siochi, Brooke Rowlands, and Natalie Hoffmann, who were featured as soloists on the Gala Grand Finale concert. Jennifer Ellis, Meghan Kruitbosch, Coline Jaget, Liana Alpino, Natalie Hoffmann, Amy Thompson, Ana Lizano, and Alicia Reid performed for Bridget Kibbey. (Performers pictured second from top, clockwise from left; Ms. Kibbey is seated next to the harp.)



*From Top: YAHS 2008 students; masterclass with Bridget Kibbey; harp ensemble rehearsal (all 31 of us!); fishing for dinner; Emily and Taylor take a break from practicing.*

## Where Are They?

YAHS Alumni are currently studying music at the finest music schools with top instructors throughout the country:

Arizona State  
Lynne Aspnes

Cleveland Inst.  
Yolanda Kondonassis

Curtis Inst.  
Judy Loman;  
Elizabeth Hainen

Furman  
Anita Burroughs-Price

Hayes  
Jacquelyn Bartlett

Oberlin  
Yolanda Kondonassis

Peabody  
Jeanne Chalifoux

Rice  
Paula Page

Temple Univ.  
Elizabeth Hainen

Univ. of Georgia  
Monica Hargrave

Univ. of Denver  
Suzanne Moulton-Gertig

Univ. of Toronto  
Judy Loman

Vanderbilt  
Marian Shaffer

## Alumni News

We're proud of our alumni and we want you to know what they've been up to!

Four YAHS alumni (pictured right) began undergraduate programs in harp this year. **Brittany Stokes** (2002–2008) is a Harp Performance and Psychology major at Furman University, in South Carolina, studying with Anita Burroughs-Price. **Kelsey Canady** (2007–2008) is attending the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University as a Harp Performance and Music Education Major, studying with Jeanne Chalifoux. **Carie Ann Schlie** (2005–2006) received a scholarship award to attend the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University, in North Carolina, as a student of Jacquelyn Bartlett. **Anna Odell** (2005) is a Harp Performance Major at the University of Toronto, studying with Judy Loman.

**Emily Palmier**, (2004–2008), joined the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra following a fall audition.



Clockwise from top left: Emily Palmier, Rebekah Wallen, Angela Schwarzkopf, Kathryn Harms



Clockwise from top left: Brittany Stokes; Kelsey Canady; Carie Ann Schlie; Anna Odell

Two YAHS alumni were invited to perform in masterclasses at the 2008 American Harp Society conference, in Detroit. **Rebekah Wallen** (2006–2008), age 16, performed Bach's "Bourree," Etude #10 from the Bach-Grandjany Etudes for Harp, for Judy Loman; **Angela Schwarzkopf** (2005–2007), age 23, performed the Sonate for Harp, by Hindemith, for Isabelle Moretti.

**Kathryn Harms** (2006) won the concerto competition for the Williamsburg (Va.) Youth Orchestra and was featured in a concert with the group on June 1.; Harms also won a scholarship from the Williamsburg Music Club, placing first in the senior division.

For more alumni news visit [www.harpseminar.com](http://www.harpseminar.com). If you have alumni news to share, tell us at [info@harpseminar.com](mailto:info@harpseminar.com). We want to hear from you!

**Co-Directors***Susan Bennett Brady**Kimberly Rowe***Director of Promotions***Emily Ann Taylor***Contact us:***www**.harpseminar.com**info@harpseminar.com**800-582-3021***Non-profit**

In 2008 YAHS was granted non-profit status in the state of Georgia. Your contribution to YAHS may be eligible for tax benefits.

## About YAHS

The Young Artist's Harp Seminar, founded in 2001, is an intensive summer training program for young harpists ages 12–26; our home is the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, in Rabun Gap, Georgia.

Typically, up to 30 harpists and several young professional counselors are accepted to attend the two week program. To apply to the program or receive a counselor application, visit [www.harpseminar.com](http://www.harpseminar.com) or e-mail [info@harpseminar.com](mailto:info@harpseminar.com).

The deadline to apply to the 2009 season is March 15; applications received after March 15 may be considered if space is available.

## Contribute

Would you like to help a young harpist attend YAHS? Each year we receive applications from talented harpists throughout the world who need financial assistance to attend the program. Our scholarship fund gives several students partial scholarships to help defray their tuition costs. Recipients are chosen based on talent, recommendation, and financial need. Send donations 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 so we can mention you in our concert series program!

[www.harpseminar.com](http://www.harpseminar.com)

[www.harpcompetition.com](http://www.harpcompetition.com)

**Counselor and Teaching Assistant****Positions available**

Are you a young professional harpist interested in strengthening your teaching and performing skills while also mentoring students?

We are seeking several counselors and one teaching assistant for our 2009 season.

Counselors must be between the ages of 20 and 26 and include the harp as an important focus of their daily lifestyle; the Counselor position is an unpaid position. The Teaching Assistant must possess a Bachelor of Music degree in harp; this is a paid position. Visit [www.harpseminar.com](http://www.harpseminar.com) for more details and to download an application.



*Congratulations to YAHS 2008 participants!*  
 Back row, left to right: Megan Kruitbosch, Bridget Kibbey (guest artist), Maricelle Marten Valverde, Kelsey Canady, Susan Bennett Brady (artist faculty), Bethany Wheeler, Rebekah Wallen, Shaun Stimson, Emily Palmier, Madeline Olson, Coline Jaget, Amy Thompson, Taylor Mittleider, Kimberly Rowe (artist faculty), Kimberly Houser (guest lecturer), Liana Alpino. Middle row: Amy Coe, Alicia Petrone, Haley Rhodside, Samantha Horn, Tyler Hartley, Jennifer Ellis (counselor), Jordan Bilak, Chelsea Ham, Natalie Hoffmann, Tinsley Stokes. Front Row: Katherine Siochi, Teresa Martin, Ana Dobles, Brittany Stokes, Kristal Schwartz (counselor), Alicia Reid, Michelle Villar, Brooke Rowland, Katherine Campbell, Marissa Knaub (teaching assistant).