Dear members,

The school year has only just begun and harpists around the state are already busy. Through Perth’s arts festival months of February and March, harps of all shapes and sizes are featuring in the Perth Festival, Fringe World and Amana Living Arts Festival.

Towards the end of 2017 we enjoyed two Harp Society events. The November Gathering was a social play-through of favourite Christmas carols. Singing and playing these familiar songs was a treat, especially when the audience joined in too. A favourite moment was playing O Holy Night with Fred, Kerry and Cate standing amongst us singing in full voice. In December we met again for Carolling in Claremont Quarter. A number of shoppers stopped to give thanks for the beautiful music, and entranced children waited patiently to stroke harp strings in between the carols.

The Management Committee has its hands full preparing for a number of events. In March we welcome Alison Ware, harpist employed by Canberra Hospital, for a weekend experiential workshop on therapeutic harp, and private tutoring. We are almost at full capacity, so now is a good time to secure your registration. No therapeutic experience is necessary - just an open mind, a warm heart, and simple harp-playing skills.

The March Gathering: A Tribute to Turlough O'Carolan will be a treat. A small team of local harp teachers (Jane, Bronwyn and Eliza) arranged some of the last Irish bard's magical
music. Although not all the tunes will be familiar, there are easy and more challenging parts to combine when we meet. If the ink on the page is a bit daunting, ask your teacher to help you out, or simply play single notes or octaves from the chord symbols written above the music notation. Many thanks to gorgeous Eliza Bourgault du Coudray for directing the three events described above. She volunteers her skills and time, and as well, she fulfils her role as Vice-President above all expectations.

I hope you will join us for some beautiful harp music-making this term.
Warmest wishes,
Shamarra de Tissera
President

18th of March Harp Gathering
Tribute to O’Carolan

Article by Ella Scott

Happy New Year everyone. Most of our members will know our next harps gathering will be on Sunday 18th of March. The theme of this gathering is ‘Tribute to O’Carolan’.

Some of you may not know much about him, or even have heard his name. Turlough O’Carolan was born in 1670. His Father was a blacksmith. Turlough was blinded after becoming ill during an epidemic of smallpox at the age of 18. His father’s employer organised and paid for Turlough to be apprenticed to a good harper, after which he was then given a harp, a horse and a guide, and travelled Ireland composing songs for his patrons who would also provide for him while he worked creating music for them. What a dream of a life (or was it)?

He was called the last of the ‘Great Bards’. He travelled up and down Ireland. It was reported that weddings and funerals were delayed until he arrived to play at them. He died after a full life on 25th of March 1738 – three hundred years ago.

A long time ago I was lent a book on his life. It was so fascinating, I read it overnight. Turlough had a lot of adventures. He was tipped out of a boat in a storm on a lake, harp and all. He got tangled up in local wars and squabbles. Altogether, he was quite a character.

I encourage you, as harp players or friends and family of harp players, to take a few minutes to look up information about this amazing, famous (or maybe infamous) harpist. I am sure it will enrich your harp playing to acknowledge that we are part of this great lineage of harpists, especially those of you who have a few drops of Irish blood or ancestry in you. In fact, I challenge you to look up information on this great harpist and bring along some very interesting information to share at the March gathering!

Sunday 18th of March
2.00pm - 4.00pm
John Leckie Pavillion. Corner of Melvista Ave and Loton Rd, Nedlands.
Further details and music available on Dropbox: https://www.dropbox.com/home/Harps%20Gathering%2018th%20of%20March%202018
Bring plate of food to share for afternoon tea.
Visiting Therapeutic Harpists

This year Perth will be visited by two therapeutic harpists; Alison Ware and Tina Tourin. Workshops will be held during both visits. These are exciting opportunities to meet two leaders in the field of therapeutic harp and learn about a new career option for harp players in Australia.

Alison is a therapeutic harpist and registered counsellor working in Canberra Australia. Her qualifications include therapeutic harp, clinical musicianship, nursing, counselling, spiritual care and art therapy. She will be teaching a therapeutic workshop on the 3rd and 4th of March and a couple of places are left. Go to the Upcoming Events page here http://www.harpsocietywa.org.au/events for the flyer and registration form.

Tina Tourin is the founder and director of the International Harp Therapy Program and author of Cradle of Sound: A Harp Therapy Manual. She is a second generation harpist, who began playing harp at the age of four. She received her Music Therapy degree from Arizona State University. Tina has 15 recordings distributed internationally and has performed extensively worldwide. An Introduction to Therapeutic Harp workshop will be held while Tina is in Perth, on the 5th and 6th of May. For further details, or to register your interest, email harpsocietywa@gmail.com.

Christmas Gathering and Carolling 2017

Article by Kerry Cockburn-Campbell
On Saturday the 2nd of December I joined a group of 6 ladies from the Harp Society of WA Inc. to perform Christmas Carols at the Quarter in Claremont. I prepared for the event with some trepidation, as it was my very first time performing with a group of harpists in public. However, we were lead with great flair by Eliza Bourgault du Coudray. She was seated right in front of me; leading and directing the group. Just seeing her calm expression enabled me to play better than I had expected, and to sing as well. I had decided beforehand that I would be flat out playing adequately, without attempting to sing. We received some lovely feedback and applause from passing shoppers. Catherine made time to respond to the curiosity of a small child by encouraging her to move in and strum the strings of her Harpsicle harp. The joy on her tiny face was wonderful to behold. I am so glad that I pushed through my nervousness and fear. Looking forward to the next performance.
Article by Margaret van Hennekeler
Once again the members of the Harp Society of WA combined their talents to contribute to the Christmas spirit at Claremont Quarter. For an hour in the afternoon of Saturday, December 2nd, we played – and sang – our repertoire of eleven carols. It was good to interact with the passers-by and it is just possible that some of the youngsters that were there might even consider taking up the harp one day! One group of our appreciative audience found some seats nearby which they used for a while. Organising seating for any future public events might be something for our society to consider. Another idea might be to have some reverie harps available for would-be harpers and a society banner to identify ourselves.

This was my second exposure to busking in such a group and I found the experience not nearly as daunting as the first. It was actually enjoyable! Thank you to Eliza for your encouraging and skilful leadership, to Shamarra and the committee for organising the event and to the Claremont Quarter management for making their centre available.

Harpists in Action
Kira Gunn played harp and Eliza Bourgault du Coudray sang in the choir at the Western Australian Charity Orchestra’s Christmas Concert, “That’s Christmas to Me”, on the 9th of December 2017 at Churchlands Senior High School Concert Hall.

In November 2017 Catherine Lyons-Nash donned a sparkly gown and pretended to be a Greek goddess to play for a charity fundraiser called ‘Party with the Gods’. The funds raised went to Saving Animals From Euthanasia Inc.

One of the pieces Catherine played was the music from the Epitaph of Seikilos. It is the oldest surviving complete musical composition, including lyrics and melody, which was found engraved on an ancient tombstone in Turkey. It has been dated to between 200BC and 100AD. Look it up, it’s definitely out of copyright by now.

- If you have a harp experience you’d like to share, send a short story and a photo (if you have one) to harpsocietywa@gmail.com
Youth Festival – call for volunteers

The committee is looking for volunteers to help organise the Society's annual Youth Harp Festival. Please see below the different roles involved. If you are interested and available, or if you have any questions or ideas, please email Eliza at eliza.bourgault@gmail.com or harpsocietywa@gmail.com

Sub-committee roles prior to the event (a person may do one or more of these)

- Booking a venue (a venue has already been found)
- Liaising with adjudicator
- Designing certificates, feedback forms and programmes and printing them out
- Ordering and picking up trophies
- Working on registration forms and the registration process for the event including fees
- Liaising with teachers to ensure they are aware of this event

Roles on the day of the festival

- Ticking off participants' names as they arrive and collecting their music
- Setting up the seating area
- Assisting the adjudicator with forms and certificates
- Assisting participants with their harps, chairs and music stands to ensure smooth flow to the event

Membership

The benefits of becoming a Harp Society have been reviewed and continue to grow...

- Being part of the growing community of harpists in Western Australia
- Making new friends and networking with fellow harp players
- Being notified about harp events, workshops and concerts
- Receiving the Harp West Newsletter
- Receiving discount harpist rates at Gatherings – member harpists $5 and non-member harpists $20
- Discount entry rate for Solo Harp Sections in the WA Youth Harp Festival
- Free listings/advertising in the newsletter for teachers, performers, harp makers and other harp businesses
- 5% off all sheet music and CDs from the ‘WA Harp Centre’ when spending over $100 in one transaction
- AGM voting rights (members over 18 years)

Harp Society memberships run from July 1 for a period of 12 months and cost $30 for the year. Lapsed financial members are not eligible for pro-rata fee payments and must pay for the full year.

Pro-rata membership for new members: 1 January 2018 – 30 June 2018: $15.00
1 April 2018 – 30 June 2018: $7.50

Calendar

Here are the events currently planned for the upcoming year:

4-5 March 2018 – Workshop with Certified Therapeutic Harpist, Alison Ware. Flyer and registration form here: http://www.harpsocietywa.org.au/events

Sunday 18 March 2018, 2-4pm – Harp Gathering: Tribute to Turlough O'Carolan
5-6 May 2018 – Workshop with the creator of the International Harp Therapy Program, Tina Tourin. Email harpsocietywa@gmail.com for further information and to register your interest.

Saturday 2 June 2018, 2-4pm – Harp Gathering: Winter Lullabies

8 June 2018 - Harp West submissions due

1 July 2018 - Membership renewals due

Saturday 28 July 2018, 2-4pm – Youth Harp Festival

Saturday 25 August 2018, 2-4pm – AGM and Harps Gathering

**Harp Events in the Community**

**Concert of Echoing Harps**

8 harp ensemble with guest artist Bronwyn Wallis. Enjoy a selection of music from around the world, well-known favourites and classical pieces. Sunday 11 February 2018 at 3pm. St Paul’s Church, 164 Hampden Road, Beaconsfield (Fremantle). There is no charge for the concert, but a gold coin donation to one of the church’s charities would be appreciated.

**Pluck & Strum** performing for FRINGE WORLD

Thursday 15th and 22nd of February
6.00-7.00pm
Babushka in Leederville
$20 adult, $10 children under 12 years old
Tickets available from at the door or from www.fringeworld.com.au

**The Therapeutic Harp Circle** meets on the last Saturday of every month. We play music and improvise together, explore skills and concepts related to therapeutic harp and share ideas, knowledge and experience. The cost is $30 per session. To join the mailing list or make an enquiry, contact Shamarra: 0410 386 292 or shamara.det@gmail.com .

**Kioloa Winter Harp Course with Alice Giles, 10-16 July 2018**

Due to the popular demand of the Summer Courses, Alice Giles will be adding a Winter Harp Course in July 2018 at the Kioloa Coastal Campus, Australian National University, 40kms north of Batemans Bay. Come and work with one of the world’s leading harpists in an intensive course set in a relaxed beach-side atmosphere. All ages and level of player welcome - from beginner to professional! Informal concert on Sun 15th July. There will be extra evening classes and activities. For the brochure and registration form go to the Noticeboard on the Harp Society website http://www.harpsocietywa.org.au/harpwest-noticeboard
**Harp Workbench**

As a service to the subscribers of this newsletter, Brandden Lassells of Harps and Harps will answer questions you may have pertaining to the making, maintenance or repair of harps.

*This edition will address the question received about Transporting a pedal or other large harp*

First off, when transporting any harp, I highly recommend that the harp be in a padded bag or other padded protective covering. The padding will minimise any inevitable knocks, scrapes and dings that occur when your harp is moved. The most frequent obstacle causing this damage is a door way, either in a building or vehicle. Pedal harps and other tall harps are especially susceptible to being bumped into the top of doors in a building. If you do not have a padded transport or carry bag, often a sleeping bag will suffice.

For pedal harps and other heavy harps, a specialised harp trolley is advisable not only to save your back but it makes manoeuvring your harp much safer and easier. Special harp trolleys are made with the upright part matching the angle of the back of the harp where as a standard trolley has the platform and upright at right angles and the harp will not fit on it properly if at all. There are a number of harp trolleys available and the one that I recommend is the “Harpo” trolley. The Harpo is very light weight and collapsible and most important it has large wheels with pneumatic tires which absorb bumps and is able to climb stairs as well as transverse rough terrain. Other trolleys available with large pneumatic wheels are also good in this respect. The shape of the Harpo trolley handles makes going down inclines and stairs easier. I recommend going down stairs with the trolley in front of you. I personally do not care for the 3 wheel “stair climbing” trolleys as on the flat, the wheels are so small that manoeuvring can be a challenge and some do not actually climb stairs that well. Obviously whatever harp trolley is used, it should have padding to protect the harp and straps to secure the harp to the trolley. Note, Harps and Harps are dealers for the Harpo Trolley and so have a financial interest in it.

If you do not have a harp trolley and are not a body builder/weight lifter, I recommend that two people are used to care the harp especially when manoeuvring stairs. In this case, one person should carry the base and the other person carry the neck/pillar top.

Loading your heavy harp into your harpmobile can be challenging. Ideally you have a rear door that opens up to reveal a flat floor. If this is the case and your harp is in a padded bag, they usually will slide into the car. First turn your harp sideways and then gently lower it (disc or lever side up) on to the rear ledge, then lift the base of the harp and slide it in. Ideally you will have some padding such as a foam pad on the floor of the vehicle, although this helps protect the harp giving it a softer ride, it also can make sliding the harp in more challenging. Or you can slide the harp into the vehicle and then use 3 pillows to support and cushion the harp, one at the base one at top of the pillar and the third at the kneeblock. Here is a link to a commercially available harp loading platform and it shows the procedure. (Disclaimer, I have no financial interest in this item).  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fj8ftUr6EYM  A sheet of plywood with or without casters will do a similar job. This video may help clarify what I described above.

The procedures for loading harps and using trolleys are numerous and sometimes hard to put into words, but if you “Google” it you will find a number of “U Tube” files.

To carry a harp short distances one normally grips the back of the harp in the second or third sound hole with one hand and the other grasps the column. The harp can them be lifted, bending your knees, and carried.
Questions and comments for future “Harp Workbench” column of this newsletter can be addressed to harpsocietywa@gmail.com or to Brandden.

Brandden Lassells is the proprietor of Harps and Harps, home of the light weight all carbon fibre harp. In addition to making all types of harps and being a dealer for Dusty Strings, Triplett, Rees/Harpsicle, Stoney End, Heartland and Camac Pedal and Lever Harps, Brandden specialises in the repair and restoration of harps. Brandden can be contacted on (07) 4125 8393, 0419 692 286 or through his website www.harps.com.au

**Notices**

Custom harp trolleys are available from Fred Brewer. Prices range from $200-$230. $25 of each purchase is donated to the Harp Society. Contact Fred brewer at (08) 9419 3558.

**Therapeutic Harp** – Helen Punch, Harpsounds 0427 217 664 www.harpsounds.com.au

Therapeutic Harp - Private treatments available at The Harp Studio. Contact Shamarra: 0410 386 292 or shamara.det@gmail.com

To find harp teachers go to the Harp Teachers page on the website: http://www.harpsocietywa.org.au/harp-teachers

**Harp for sale:**
Black Salvi Daphnie. 47 strings. Straight, decorated sound board. Harp is in beautiful condition. No issues mechanical or with wood. It is about 15 years old and has a lovely tone. Comes with a dust cover and padded travel cover, both in terrific condition, plus a harp trunk and tuning key. $14,500.00 Sarah Bowman 0417 179 436

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Harps Australia Sales and Rentals

*Where Salvi and Lyon & Healy meet…*

**2018 Grand Opening Sydney Showroom**

Showroom customers may order any models or finishes of Lyon & Healy/Salvi harps not in stock at 2017 prices

this weekend only!

Doors open Saturday February 10 11:00 am-4:00 pm
Sunday February 1:00-4:00
Drop in for light refreshments and to try out harps

27 Reuss St, Leichhardt 0432 780 893

**Special Guest:** The Harp Bazaar Pop-Up Shop: Strings, music, accessories, and gifts will be available for purchase. http://www.harp-bazaar.com.au
Stock in showrooms sold “first come first serve” purchase basis only. Or harps maybe be purchased “by proxy” - teacher, friends or family who attend the weekend. Interstate customers who attend: Subsidized shipping (TBC amount) to Melbourne, Perth, and Brisbane.

Customers may book a preview time with us the week before to play any of our harps ahead of time, but sales are first come first purchase on the weekend. Contact us on our Harps Australia Facebook page, email us on wellsprings2@yahoo.com.au or phone us on 0432 780 893.

New in-stock or demo harps : Style 100 (discounted), Chicago CG Ex, Chicago Concertino, Daphne 47 SE, Petite 40 (TBC), Salvi Ana 40, Prelude 40, Una Deluxe 38 (introductory sale price), Gaia 38, Salvi Delta electric harp. Troubadour 36, Ogden 34, Mia 34. Selection of new Sophia harps.

Introductory sale price of two exciting new Salvi harp models (one each in stock):

**The new Salvi Delta electric harp.**

We are offering this first Delta in our Sydney showroom at a discounted introductory price (one in stock only) of $7,500 (reduced from $8,200). The stand can be purchased separately for $800 (no shipping cost for the stand we have in stock). A robust flight/road case can be ordered at additional cost. The harp will be set up with a looper pedal and amplifier (not for sale) for people to try out and experiment with simple effects (loads of fun!). Delta electric harp (stand and amplifier not included). Delta Flight/Road case (may be ordered)

**Salvi Una Deluxe 38 Celtic style instrument**

The Una Deluxe is enriched by a stylish soundboard decoration and 24kt gold-plated mechanics. Lightweight and portable, the new 38-string Una Deluxe features a sophisticated and captivating Celtic design. The Una’s unique Silkgut® Copper strings containing copper powder from 4th octave B to 5th octave D remove any musical “jump” from wire to non-wire strings, creating rich tones and a full-bodied, deep bass.

See Harps Australia Facebook page for pictures of the Salvi Una Deluxe and the Salvi Delta Electric harp.
Would you like to advertise in the WA Harp Society Newsletter?

Advertisements are:

**FREE** to members

- Annual membership ~
  - Individual $30,
  - Family $50,
  - Corporate $50

For non-members there is a minimal fee of:

- ¼ page advertisement $10
- ½ page advertisement $20
- Full page advertisement $40

Contact us with all your details at harpsocwa@gmail.com

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**WA Harp Centre**

WA's **only** specialist harp music supplier!

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- Beginners to advanced,
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- Harp Rental Available

Email waharpcentre@gmail.com to place an order or request, or visit our pop-up store at your next Harp Society event!

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Contact us, we are happy to supply other brands of harps and accessories
Do you have any interesting harp stories to share with us for our next newsletter? Email us! harpsocietywa@gmail.com. If you have any ideas for the website email us at harpsocietywa@gmail.com

The Management Committee meets bi-monthly. We are a committed group, united in our passion to support harping in WA. The committee welcomes nominations. Let us know if you’re interested in coming on board!

President
Shamarra de Tissera

Vice-President & Webmaster
Eliza Bourgault du Coudray

Treasurer
Vacant – seeking a volunteer

Secretary & Harp West Newsletter Editor
Catherine Lyons-Nash

Committee Members
Ella Scott, Helen Punch, Margaret van Hennekeler and Cate Litjens

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