

Harp Notes: Fall 2013



Photo: Gerard Jacques - Grenoble vue du Pont d'Oxford (Fontaine).

Welcome back to Harp Notes! I hope you enjoyed a great Summer and great Fall of music and discovery. This issue of Harp Notes marks a bit of an anniversary for me: this triannual newsletter has run continuously since Winter of 2009! Five years ago, the newsletter was only one or two pages long, it now bodes several pages of news and events taking place in our provincial borders as well as out.

In this 14th (!) issue of *Harp Notes*, you will find information about this Summer's Harp Institute, the Ottawa Harp Fest, the Calgary harp regulation trip, our October and November Harp circles and upcoming harp events.

Enjoy!

Cécile Denis

Principal Harp, RSO, SSO

Harp instructor, Conservatory of Performing Arts

Classical Harp Academy Sales Representative for Western Canada

Summer 2013: 1st Harp Institute at the Conservatory of Performing Arts- July 22nd to July 26th



From left to right: Muriel, Cécile Denis (with Giselle) and Laura (with Mira)

Our theme could have been “Harp Babes”! With two participants and two babies, this first Harp Institute was filled with music and baby “noises” ☺. I introduced a new book to Muriel and Laura, “Northern Lights” by Joanne Griffin. We played through a good portion of the book over the short week we spent together and enjoyed playing the very effective arrangements for harp ensemble.

Some of us played one hand only, sometimes by choice and sometimes by necessity: a baby on one arm, a harp on the other. The sounds of the three harps, each with a different combination of both or either treble and/or bass clefs, were very good as we progressed through the piece selections we made on the first day. I had an opportunity to showcase the very portable Juno (27 string Salvi harp) to Muriel and Laura. The Juno is a small instrument with a big voice! (At a reasonable price).

What happened this Fall

Ottawa Harp Fest October 4th to 6th

Craig, Giselle, Max (our family dog) and I drove to Ottawa to visit our family and to take part in the Ottawa Harp Fest. Harp Fest is a harp festival in Ottawa that takes place every two years. A fairly large number of participants attended a series of workshops and concerts. There were also a few vendors available on site to assist people with their choice of a new instrument. During the Ottawa Harp Fest, I helped to staff the Classical Harp Academy booth, assisting Mrs. Mei-Lan Sim with the demonstration of a variety of Lyon and Healy and Salvi lever harps.

With the expert packing advice of Timothy Harps, Craig and I loaded five lever harps as well as many harp books and accessories in our Chevrolet Uplander to bring back to Regina. Harps, books and accessories are available for purchase through me.

Before...



Lyon and Healy Troubadour VI, Ogdens, Dusty Strings
Ravenna 34 (sold) and one Triplett 30 Bubinga.



.... and after!

Classical Harp Academy goes (further) West! Calgary, November 8th to 10th

In early November, my little family was on the road again, this time to Calgary. Gianetta Baril invited me to do a 30 minute presentation about Classical Harp Academy to local harpists and students. My presentation about harps and products available through Classical Harp Academy took place at the Calgary University, right after Gianetta's harp ensemble rehearsal and just before Otto's harp regulation/maintenance clinic. Harpists enjoyed browsing through the many harp books I had displayed for them, some purchased ergonomic tuning keys and all were very interested in the new harp cart I had brought to demonstrate.



Made of lightweight high strength industrial aluminum. Designed to be used with either pedal or lever harps, this cart is highly manoeuvrable (especially on our province's ice and snow).

Height 42", width 24", depth of tray 5", and weight 13 lb. 12" pneumatic tires. 1" wide nylon neck strap, 1 1/2" wide nylon body strap.

Pedal harpists, please note: not designed for ease of use on stairs (pneumatic tires do not offer maximum traction on the way up) best to look for an elevator © Great multi use, light, sporty cart all the same!



**From left to right:
Otto, Gianetta, Kimberley, Lee (with Giselle), Brooke and two little girls
All eager to learn more about installing a new string on a harp the proper way.**

A special thank you to Craig for all the driving ☺



Indoor Carroussel (Chinook Centre, Calgary)

Harp Circles

Saturday October 19th, 1:30pm to 4:00pm

The October harp circle took place in my home in Regina. A harp circle is a great opportunity to meet with new (and old) fellow harpers and share a great moment of music and friendship. Because my living room is also a showroom for Classical Harp Academy, those who attended had an opportunity to take a look at the Lyon and Healy and Salvi lever harps I carry. I also had the pleasure of introducing the latest harp ensemble book by Joanne Griffin “Zephyr Duets”.

I evoked the idea of organizing a harp festival in Regina in 2016, Marguerite, Laura and Sharon welcomed the idea. The Ottawa Harp Fest team would be happy to mentor us in this enterprise.

Saturday November 16th, 1:30pm to 4:30pm

Harpbeat met again to play together, this time at Michelle’s house. I had a chance to further introduce “Zephyr Duets” to the group. The arrangement of “Winter” from

the 4 seasons by Antonio Vivaldi was met with great enthusiasm. We were very productive and finalized a Christmas programme for the group's next get together: some of us will go to Wintergreen Estate, a retirement home in Regina, in early December to share the joy of Christmas Carols with the residents.

If you wish to attend a harp circle and don't have a copy of either the "Northern Lights" or "Zephyr Duets" book, please note that I have copies of each title available for purchase.

January (Date TBD) – Harpbeat will be holding its first harp circle of 2014.

It will also be an opportunity for the group to celebrate two years of harp gatherings in Regina!

Please email Maryanne Schmeiser at maschmeiser@gmail.com if you would like to take part.

Upcoming Harp Events

December 7th – The RSO will be performing at the Conexus Arts Centre:

“A Flicker of Light on a Christmas Night” by the Ottawa-based Platypus Theatre. Through the magic of music, a mysterious stranger helps three disgruntled children discover the meaning of the holidays by weaving a tale about our best-loved traditions from Christmas trees to dreidles, from Santa Claus to Scrooge. With a mixture of popular favorites, traditional music and plenty of sing-a-longs, this concert is sure to lift even the biggest Grinch into the holiday spirit. Here is a clip of the show: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwCefhRmFSM>

The performance starts at 3pm, lasts approximately 55 minutes and is recommended for ages 4 and up. Call 306-791-6395 or email info@reginasymphony.com for more information. Visit www.reginasymphony.com to read about more exciting concerts in the new year!

Also on the 7th, the town of Carlyle will be holding its *11th Annual Dickens Village Festival*. Sharon will be one of many performers that will take people on a magical journey back in time to a Victorian Christmas setting that Charles Dickens would be proud of.