
Reigning Harps

Preview Edition - June 1992

◆ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Changes, plus thanks to Sile!

Well, it's finally happened. Someone has taken Sile up on her long-standing offer to share the editorial wealth! That person is me, Diane Moss, and I thought I'd introduce myself in this first issue. Some of you know me, and a lot of you have "seen me around" at various concerts, workshops, and Third Saturdays. Five years ago, I considered myself an intermediate harper; then I had my son and I reverted to advanced beginner-dom. Last year I had a little girl, and am now once again a full fledged beginner! Until my babes are bigger and I can get back to practicing regularly, I thought doing this newsletter would keep me in touch with the harpers and harping I've enjoyed so much.



We all owe Sile Harriss a huge thank you for keeping this newsletter going for so long. I made the commitment to her to publish it for a year, and I now make a commitment to you out there to put out issues on the following schedule: August 92, November 92, February 93, and May 93. This schedule has two purposes; it skips over my busiest times, so I can actually get the thing done, and it allows advance notice for events like Fort Flagler, Folklife, winter holiday events, and so on.

I envision this newsletter as a forum, and to that end I'd like to make all of you official Reigning Harp reporters. Please send items of interest, announcements of your own concert dates, or reviews of concerts or workshops you've attended. There are a lot of conferences and competitions this summer, and I'd love to get first hand reports if any of you attend these. My address is 20228 21st NW, Seattle 98177; the phone is 542-6034 if you'd rather do it that way.

Finally, about subscriptions. By the August issue, I hope to have a system whereby your subscription date is noted on your address label. Until then, we're kind of on the honor system. If you know you haven't paid for more than a year, please send your \$10. All the money goes toward copying and postage, I promise!

We need a logo (again). Design a black and white logo for Reigning Harps to fit the space above and become a published artist!

◆ THIRD SATURDAYS

Some of you have joined in on our Third Saturday get-togethers at Dusty Strings during the last few years. They have been a great way for us to meet area harpers, swap gossip and tunes, and enjoy fine harp playing. The good news and the bad news this last year was that Dusty Strings had such a fabulous lineup of classes and workshops that our meeting place was often unavailable. So, some of us are considering going to a Harpers' Circle at Home format, maybe on a quarterly basis, and at different locations around the area.

We'll have more details for you by the next issue. And many thanks to Dusty Strings for letting us use your space and enlarge our circle of friends.

◆ CONCERT REVIEWS

This past spring and early summer has seen a wealth of performers come into town. There have been workshops and concerts given by Sylvia Woods, Robin Williamson, and Laurie Riley and Michael MacBean. I managed to attend only the Robin Williamson concert, which was true to his form: beautiful harp work (some of the most haunting of which is seemingly "tossed off" as interlude music while storytelling); original and traditional ballads (one called "Where the Moorcock Calls" was especially effective, I thought); many stories, some silly, some touching, complete with actions and accents; much irreverent humor. If anyone attended any of the other events, please let me know, and we'll write it up!

◆ CALENDAR

Summertime Harp Events

This calendar is one I have gleaned from various sources. Please send notice of any autumn events to me by August 1, and I'll get it in the next calendar.

July 25-26 Northwest Scottish Highland Games, with Harper's Circle (circle usually held on the Sunday afternoon). You should be getting notice of this event in the mail as well, with instructions for getting a pass to attend the circle. Also, according to the Folk Harp Journal, on the Saturday of the Games there will be a performance by "Anderson and Brown," a Canadian duo, harp and guitar. No other info on this group, but certainly worth checking out!



FALL EVENTS COMING UP...

September 5, Songwriting Workshop by Greg Scott at Dusty Strings - 634-1656.
September 12, Intro to Folk Harp Workshop by Sile Harriss at Dusty Strings (date will probably change on this one...call 634-1656 or check next newsletter for new date).

OUT OF TOWN...

July 16-19 Pacific Summer Music Colony Harp Workshop with Joel Andrews, in Santa Cruz CA. Call (408) 336-2788 for more info.

July 31-August 3 O'Carolan Harp Festival in Keadue, Ireland. Classes and competitions for cash prizes. Contact Paraic Noone, telephone (in Ireland) 078-47204.

August 14-16 Milwaukee Irish Fest and Harp School, call Dorothy Walsh (414) 351-2096.

August (date and place tba) Harp Retreat with Kim Robertson and Tina Tourin. For details, write to Harp Retreat, PO Box 48, Jericho Center, VT 05465.

Many events this summer to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Belfast Harpers' Gathering. Northern Ireland, Ireland, Brittany; see page 72 of the Spring FHJ for details.