

PLUCK-N-POST



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JEW'S HARP GUILD
508 2ND. ST., COVE, OR. 97824
Volume 8— Issue 3 Autumn 2003

North American Jew's Harp Festival 2003 Special Issue

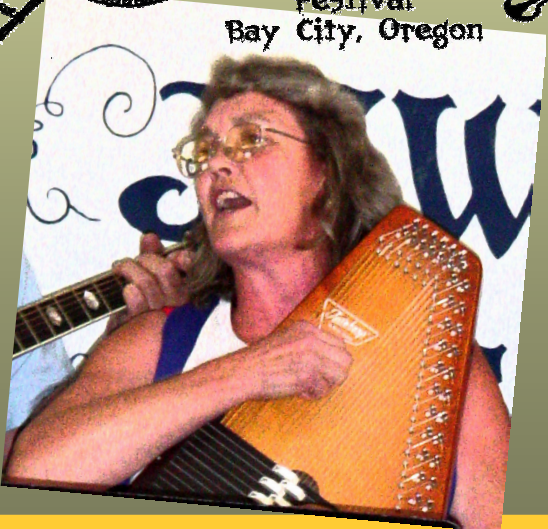
A Short Report
Page 4



2003
11th Annual
North
American



Jew's Harp
Festival
Bay City, Oregon



Festival Recap
Performers and
Participants
Page 5

Inside this issue:

Bulletin Board - Post Your Notes	2
A Brief Review: VIM 11	2
A Word from the Executive Director	3
Pictorial Archive—Kuo Xiang	4

POST YOUR NOTES



Send Notes to:
The Jew's Harp Guild
508 2nd St.
Cove, OR 97824
email:
info@jewsharpguild.org

Use the
Feedback Form:
www.jewsharpguild.org

Have ideas for articles,
pictures, cartoons or other
contributions to the
Pluck-N-Post?

PLEASE CONTACT US

1. This is a really great site. I stumbled onto it when someone mentioned it on the Acutab banjo list. I've got a question concerning the Jew's Harp tuning. How important is it? I know that harmonica players tend to carry an assortment of harps in order to play in various keys. Is this necessary with a Jew's Harp? Could someone play a Jew's Harp tuned to say C# along with someone playing a guitar tune in G?
gcloy@yahoo.com
2. Hello: I'm an 18th Century Amer. Rev War re-enactor and my battalion has an interest in my forming them into a Jew's harp orchestra for evening entertainment and general merriment. Can you tell me what you would recommend for a whole slew of beginners? Any tips or ideas in how to teach a group, and what sort of simple beginning music to consider leading them in (I'm actually a trained operatic soprano with this weird reenacting hobby and I imagine I can at least get the rudiments down of this ancient art form). Many thanks for any guidance. Cathy Thorpe email: **cathy.thorpe@boosey.com**
3. Hi, I play the Jew's harp in my Celtic and Swiss accordion bands. I am interested in learning some information about playing the Jew's harp in my Renaissance band. Is there any documentation of this as a true instrument of the Renaissance, and any information on how it could be played? What kind of tunes etc?
Dawn dawnhoebee@shaw.ca

A change is in the future of the VIM journal.

Editor and publisher, Frederick Crane, starts this issue with a

Farewell, Sort of. In the opening paragraph he states,

"After 21 years and 11 issues, VIM is wishing its readers

farewell. Just sort of a farewell. **For its place will be taken by the new *Journal of the International***

Jew's Harp Society. At his age, the editor and publisher will not change much between now and the end of 2003, which should bring the first issue of the new journal, and it will look a lot like the old one— a bit of a new look may be the only difference worthy of note. The journal will go to members of the IJHS; it will cost more, as the annual dues will also pay for a newsletter and other expenses of the Society. But it will be a still very modest \$20 a year, and I hope you'll stay with us. So — hail and farewell.". Fred told me in an email that he will remain editor and printer.

These 116 pages overflow with photographs and reproductions. Most useful to any collector (or Ebay bidder) are pages 67 through 116 which highlight reproductions of *Trumps In American Musical Instrument Trade Catalogs*. These clear, crisp images, with text that is almost entirely readable, have already become my reference standard to identify English, Irish, Scotch and American harps from 1874 through 1982. The catalog pages also show measurements and descriptions. Speaking of references, this issue supplements the Trump bibliographies previously published in VIMs 7 & 9.

Being an expert on medieval musical instruments, Fred has a penchant to include historical data and translations covering word origins (Trompe, Cacapensieri), personalities (Koch), and folklore (Trolls and Trumps). I have faith that the new-look *Journal of the IJHS* will continue this inclination as it rounds out my education and understanding of the history of the instrument.

VIM is not stuck in the past. We learn about modern makers (Clayton G. Bailey, USA, claytonbailey.com) (Dr. Abe Kazuhiro, Japan] *My Mukkuri*), the recent fieldwork of José Pignocchi of Formosa, Argentina, (beautiful full-page photographs), and honors to Trần Quang Hai and Mike Seeger. You just don't see this stuff anywhere else!

This issue is superb! It is fitting such quality should denote the last of VIM's long run. I wish I could be half the editor/good-all-around-guy/printer/publisher/musicologist, that Fred has become. VIM is his legacy that I hope will evolve.

A BRIEF REVIEW: VIM 11

By M. D. Poss

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello harpers,

I hope this special NAJHF edition of the Pluck 'n' Post finds all of you well and happy and twangin'!

2003 NAJHF: If you weren't at the 11th annual NAJHF in August, you missed a very good time. We all were very pleased with the new festival location at the Bay City Arts Center. The center provided lots of room for all our activities and we very much appreciated the help and support we received from the folks at the Center as well as the City Council of Bay City.

A very SPECIAL THANKS goes to Denise Harrington and Curtis Chamberlain for all their hard work in coordinating the festival. It was a very casual, relaxed and TOTALLY FUN TIME! Curtis recorded the festival music; copies of individual performances are available upon request.

It was great seeing so many of our past festival musicians again. I often wonder if we shouldn't be calling it a "Reunion" instead of a "Festival" !! We were happy to meet a new Jew's harp friend, Bruce Barlow (from Lawrence, Kansas). He and past festival attendee John Palmes (from Juneau, Alaska) traveled many miles to share the weekend with us.

All in all, it was the perfect weekend. Perfect weather ... terrific food (both from the great cooks at the Arts Center as well as local seafood fare) ... wonderful music ... and fabulous friends. I hope you enjoy the photos and related articles in this newsletter.

NAJHF 2004: We already have some great ideas for next year when the festival will again be in Bay City on July 30 and 31. Festival coordinators will be Denise Harrington, Curtis Chamberlain and Gene Ralph. Next year we hope to give more focus to Kid's Events. Lorraine Tendick volunteered to coordinate those events with help from her daughter, Amanda, and Amber Stiles. If you'd like to be a volunteer or have ideas for events, let me know.

GUILD NEWS: Many thanks go to all those who attended the post-festival Guild meeting. Its always good to get together and brainstorm. Good input was shared regarding the festival and its new location.

Bill Gohring resigned as an active Board member. Since he IS one of the founders of the Festival and Guild, he agreed to remain as an Honorary Board Member. Bill requested that Gene Ralph's name replace his name on the next Board Member ballot. We all want to thank Bill for his MANY contributions to the Jew's harp movement. Certainly, he has been a driving force here in America to bring all of us a little closer to the Jew's harp.

IJHS: As I mentioned last time, the International Jew's Harp Society was looking for another location for the 2005 Congress (apparently the new building that would house the Congress in Amsterdam could not be completed until 2005). We had been asked if it were possible to host it in conjunction with our festival, but we simply lack the funds, location and man-power to host such an event, especially on such short notice. I received word from Fred Crane and it now appears that efforts to hold the Congress in Hungary (Aron and Zoltan Szilagyi) have fallen through. We will keep you posted!

I'd like to close with a reminder that Guild membership renewals will be sent out with our next newsletter. We will be offering several membership renewal specials with discounted prices on 2003 NAJHF T shirts and the 1998-2000 NAJHF Festival Highlights CD (when purchased in conjunction with your membership renewal).

Till next time ... keep twangin' !! Janet Gohring - Executive Director, The Jew's Harp Guild

T-Shirts & CDs

JHG Logo T-Shirt

The official Jew's Harp Guild T-shirt with our "grasshopper" logo in 4 colors

specify size & number when ordering
Only US\$15.00 each

+ shipping USA US\$3—Canada US\$4
International US\$6

North American Jew's Harp Festival 1997 Highlights CD

Features 20 of the best public domain, spontaneous music, & original performances of the 1997 festival

US\$ 12.00 each

North American Jew's Harp Festival 1998-2000 Highlights CD

22 samples from three years of the NAJHF are as diverse as anyone could imagine. There are a passel of world-class players; wonderful solo improvisations; compelling duets; tradition; frivolity.—Crane, PNP2003

US\$ 12.00 each

NAJHF 2003 — A Short Report

Change can be good. And that was certainly the case for the change of venue for this year's celebration of the magical Jew's harp. Thanks to the hard work and organizational skills of Denise Harrington & Curtis Chamberlain, their group of local volunteers, and the folks at the Bay City Arts Center, the belatedly announced event came off with very few glitches indeed. So well in fact that **we plan to host the event in Bay City, Oregon again in July, 2004.**

Mild sea breezes and daytime temps in the 70s are marked changes from the smoke-filled skies and stifling heat we sometimes experienced in the previous location. The grand old southern-style mansion that is the Bay City Arts Center comes pre-equipped with piano and stage within an expansive, resounding room that is perfect for our performances (little or no set-up required!). The Arts Center folks provided many reasonably priced meals from the well equipped (open) kitchen and large dining room. Campers and RVers found inexpensive refuge in the adjacent city park.

Bay City (population around 1200) was a pleasant surprise to those of us who've never visited this part of the Oregon coast. A short walk away from Tillamook Bay. A short drive from Rockaway Beach and other scenic locales, it offers a bushel-load of vacation opportunities (make a week out of it).

Even though attendance was low this year (the late announcement), many locals and tourists found

Good people make great events. A quick glance at the Festival Recap will reveal the names of all the fine folks that participated this year. Many are returning friends from past festivals, and there are several newcomers.

While Open Mike performances and workshops were rather sparsely attended, those that were there were treated to a variety of musical expressions. Everyone seemed to enjoy the chance to try their hand at the Musical Saw (Thanks, Curtis and Alan), were surprised by the throat singing Andy and the pop-n-clap routine by Bruce. Whether laid-back or high-energy, all the performances were a treat to hear.

The highlight of the festival was Saturday as the crowd swelled with the influx of local folks to experience the Band Scramble and featured performances. Baby Gramps and Curtis Chamberlain picked up the energy level with their very unique set while Jim Nelson soothed us all with his Celtic harp. There was a little bit of everything packed in to these few hours and every one of the local folks I talked to were astounded, and thrilled to welcome our show to their town.

Every new machine needs a little tune up to run smoothly and we do have a little work to do for next year. I hope that having this time to get the word out about NAJHF 2004 we can inspire many more folks to join us in our annual celebration

Pictorial Archive— Send us pics of your unusual 'harps

Kou Xiang—Chinese Brass 'Harp Sets

These are similar to the type that Gordon Frazier played at NAJHF 2003. Not tuned to a specific key, but tuned to each other, to produce a wonderful set of tones. Played all together or separately; on the lips or just close to the mouth.



2003 North American Jew's Harp Festival Recap

FESTIVAL COORDINATORS:

Denise Harrington and Curtis Chamberlain

Performers participating in the Open Mike, the Grand Jam and the Band Scramble:

Allan DeLay - Musical Saw, Portland, Oregon

Bill Gohring - Jew's Harp, Sumpter, Oregon

Bruce Barlow - Jew's harp, Lawrence, Kansas

Curtis Chamberlain - Ukulele, Musical Saw, Washtub Bass, Jew's harp, Kazoo, Clackamore, Portland, Oregon

Dan Adams - Piano, Tillamook, Oregon

Dan Gossi - Jew's Harp, Clackamore, Didj, Boise, Idaho

Denise Harrington - Jew's Harp, Garibaldi, Oregon

Gene Ralph - Guitar, Jew's harp, Banks, Oregon

Gordon Frazier - Jew's Harp, Clackamore, bones, kazoo, other stuff, Seattle, Washington

Homer Welty - Chorded Zither, Kaiser, Oregon

Ingrid Berkhout - Jew's harp, Seattle, Washington

Jack Roberts - Vocal, Guitar, Banjo, Carson, Washington

Janet Gohring - Piano, Autoharp, Jew's harp, Shakers, Voice, Sumpter, Oregon

Jim Nelson - Guitar, Voice, Clogging, Celtic Harp, Garibaldi, Oregon

John C. Bogert - Harmonica, Fiddle, Orofino, Idaho

John Palmes - Mouthbow, Juneau, Alaska

Lisa Kendall - Voice, Tillamook, Oregon

Mark Poss - Jew's Harp, Clackamore, Hand drums, Odd stuff, Nampa, Idaho

Michael Bruesch - Guitar, mandolin, Clackamore, Jew's harp, Guiro, stir xylophone, shakers, Caldwell, Idaho

Nikki Jones - Ukulele Portland, Oregon

Roger Tendick - Jew's Harp Veneta, Oregon

Wayland Harman - Jew's Harp, Clackamore, MouthBow, Odd stuff, Boise, Idaho

ON-STAGE PERFORMERS:

Curtis Chamberlain & The Blind Rootin' Hogs
Andy

Baby Grams

Denise Harrington & Homer Welty

Wayland Harman

Gordon Frazier

Bruce Barlow

Denise Harrington, Ingrid Berkhout, Janet Gohring and other ladies

Jack Roberts

Chris Towne

Bill Gohring

Jim Nelson and Denise Harrington

The OddTones

WORKSHOPS:

Jew's Harp—Gordon Frazier

Mouthbow—Wayland Harman & John Palmes

Musical Saw—Curtis Chamberlain & Allan DeLay

Denise Harrington



BAND SCRAMBLE:

BAND #1- "The Mother Shuckers"

Gene Ralph, Denise Harrington, Bill Gohring, Nikki Jones, John Palmes, Homer Welty, Roger Tendick, John Bogert

BAND #2 - "Tennessee-ans"

Michael Bruesch, Bruce Barlow, Gordon Frazier, Dan Gossi, Lisa Kendall, Dan Adams, Curtis Chamberlain

BAND #3 - "Weapons of Mass Destruction"

Jack Roberts, Ingrid Berkhout, Chris Towne, Wayland Harman, Allan DeLay, Mike Stiles, Janet Gohring

PLUCK-N-POST

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
JEW'S HARP GUILD

THE PLUCK-N-POST is published by the Jew's Harp Guild, 508 2nd. St., Cove, OR. 97824 on a quarterly basis. Subscriptions to this newsletter are available with JHG membership. Information in this newsletter is also posted on the Jew's Harp Guild Website at: <http://www.jewsharpguild.org>

Janet Gohring - Executive Director JHG

Kathi Vinson - Secretary JHG

Mark D. Poss - Editor, Pluck-N-Post & Webmaster

Frederick Crane - Contributor

The Jew's Harp Guild is a non-profit organization under section 501C(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code of 1954.

© 2003 The Jew's Harp Guild

We're on the Web
www.jewsharpguild.org

VIM

601 N. White St. - Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 U.S.A.
**Seven back issues of VIM (Nos. 1-3 and 6-9)
US\$ 10.⁰⁰ each.**

Subscriptions are invited to Nos. 10 and 11 at US\$20.⁰⁰ for the two issues. Payment may be by a check on a U.S. bank, domestic money order, or international postal money order. Prices include postage anywhere in the world.

Lindsay Porteous:

Scottish Champion Jawharpist

Tutor Pack

How to play and have fun with the Jew's Harp

Book, CD, or cassette with harp

(Book, CD or cassette may also be purchased separately)

Jew's Harp & Mouthbow Tutor Cassettes

New CDs *The Art of the Pickin' Bow*
& *The Art of the Trump*

For list and information:

Lindsay Porteous - Tron House

Culross, Fife, KY12 8JG Scotland

Phone: ++01383-880271

NOTE: See recent newsletters for info concerning Mr. Porteous

Original Art Featuring Jew's Harps

**Blank note cards
w/envelopes**

**Christmas Cards
w/envelopes**

**Limited numbered,
signed prints**

R. Vinson, Artist

39995 Sumpter Valley Hwy.
Baker City, OR 97814

(541) 894-2345

rvinson@eoni.com

Gohring Jew's Harps

Hand Made and Tuned
To keys A through G

\$25 each (Plus Shipping)
(please specify key when ordering)

Please write for prices and information on other Jew's Harps available:

I make different styles of my own design
Plus I import metal harps from Austria and
Bamboo Kubings from the Philippines
Send check or money order to:

Gohring Jew's Harps

508 2nd. St., Cove, OR. 97824
www.billgohring.com

Sorry no credit card orders or CODs.

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Shipping (US Post Office):

1 Harp \$3.⁰⁰ 2 Harps \$4.⁰⁰

3 Harps \$5.⁰⁰ 4 or more harps \$6.⁰⁰

TRUMPS FOR SALE

Hörzing from Austria
Szilágyi of Hungary

Classic American **Whitlow**
Schlütter of Germany

Wayland Harman's
CLACKAMORE
MOUTH BOWS

CDs & tapes

www.mouthmusic.com

www.jewsharp.com

Mouth Music Press

PO Box 6444 - Boise, ID. 83707 USA

Credit Card Orders: 208.841.8780

**The OddTones "We're Allowed" CD
Now Available**

**Don't forget to renew your J H G membership
Right NOW we'll include discount prices on
T-Shirts and CDs with your paid dues**

