

*Florida Harpers and Friends bring value to harping.
A non-profit organization for Florida harp players and friends.*

President's Corner

Fall in Florida, time to learn a few new tunes and share them with others. Speaking of which have you found this new Harp website? www.floridaharps.com

It is the creation of Tammy and as webmaster she writes...

This site is for all Florida Harpists regardless of harp society affiliation or harp type. We need your help to keep this site current. Please forward to us all event information, event and harp stork photographs, classifieds, bragging, and news.

Tammy is setting the standard for harp sharing websites and we should applaud and encourage here efforts. It is a labor of love that my fade if we do not support her. So, point your browser to www.floridaharps.com and check out the site. Write Tammy a note on the Contact Us page.



WWW.FLORIDAHARPS.COM

Now, I must mention two local events you will not want to miss...

For those getting started or in need of some one-on-one attention there are two days of harp workshops taught by yours truly, [Marg Chauvin](#), at the [Sunshine State Acoustic Music Camp](#), St. Petersburg on November 14-16, 2008.

Another opportunity is [Sunita Stanislow](#), Tampa on in November or December. She is a dynamic harper with unique ideas. Contact CarolSue for more information harplady1@aol.com

That covers the current announcements. Send me your thoughts and articles to heartstrings@harper.net

Hope to hear you playing at a festival, concert, or backyard picnic,
Marg

Reflections from the top of the mountain

Marg Chauvin, July 2008

This was the year to attend the Grandfather Mountain Scottish Games and visit a few clan tents. We arrived too late for the harp competition so Bill and I proceeded to the clan tents with harp and guitar. At the Pollock tent we were greeted with smiles and hugs and met Clara Ann and AD which put context to the emails and letters. When we asked to play a tune, space was cleared and seats were offered. It was an honor to share a few Scot tunes in the tent and if you



listened closely the harp could be heard under the pipe music. Before we left a harper from Scotland appeared and played us a tune on my harp. (I'll never wash the harp again!)

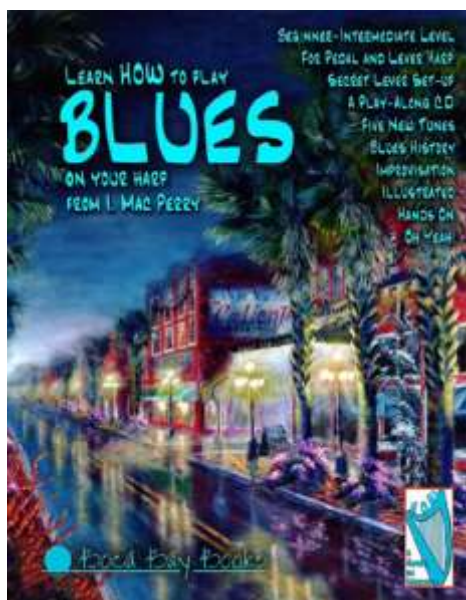
Next we headed to the Douglas tent, Bill's clan affiliation. After a warm welcome Bill said, "Can we play you a tune?" The response came, "Yes and here is a harp." A glance in the indicated direction revealed a familiar looking harp, one I'd sold 14 years ago in Florida to an FHF member. Bill and I played a few tunes and then the harp owner, Jeff Dickey, returned. It was a wonderful reunion; we last met at the 2002 Jacksonville Games! The next hour was filled with tunes and stories. Yes, it was a memorable day on the mountain.

Blues Harp!

Review of "Learn How to play BLUES on your Harp" by I. Mac Perry. www.imacperry.com
by Marg Chauvin, heartstrings.harper.net

I. Mac Perry has opened the world of Blues to the harp community with his book "Learn How to play BLUES on your Harp". Using his no-nonsense, to the point "How-to" technique you will soon be playing the Blues on your harp.

Normally I flip through a harp book, find a few tunes, and start playing but not here; you may as well pour a cup of tea and then settle in for a good read. Mac has written an entertaining book that you want to read before you play. The book is filled with personal experiences from playing drums in the US Navy Jazz band (not your ordinary harp author) to learning the lever harp and then Blues harp. Not only is it a fun read but you will enjoy his art work that grace the pages. The teacher in me appreciates the review quiz at the end of each chapter. The teacher in Mac makes you work to locate the answers because there is no answer key! But the book has an extensive glossary for seeking answers and those of us who have a short memory.



OK, into the book... There are six concise chapters: History, Comping, Improvisation, Playing, Practicing, and Talking the Blues. I highly recommend reading the first few chapters before starting to play although Mac suggests you play along from the start. After touring the Birth of the Blues, Mac deals with those *mystical modes*; you know those modes that confound the average person. Mac clearly explains the four mode/scales used in playing the blues: Mixolydian, Dorian, Minor Pentatonic, and the popular Blues Scale. The secret he reveals is the Special Blues Tuning so you can play all of these modes on a lever or pedal harp. Moving past the modes he introduces us to various comp patterns available when playing with blues musicians. At this point you will want to pop the included CD into your player for the rhythm backup. Blues is about feeling the music and this CD is essential for getting it

right. By now you are ready to tackle the tunes. Mac shares tunes he wrote to help him put the Blues on the harp, recall Mac played Blues and Jazz for years before coming to the harp. Just when you think, "This is getting hard" the tone of the book changes, I rolled on the floor laughing while reading "Requesting Tunes from a Harpist". This article is worth the price of the book! The final chapters include terrific ideas for performing, stage presence, and practice with exercises and blues riffs; also worth the price of the book.

You get the idea; this is a fundamental how-to book for the harp player! You may not want to be a Blues harpist but the knowledge and skills derived from working through this book are indispensable. Shortly after consuming the book I created a base line for a swing tune, a task that had eluded me for years. Currently I'm rearranging my original folk songs using techniques learned from Mac.

Yes, you can order this Blues Harp book online. The book includes a CD, fantastic art work, levity, history, blues tunes, exercises and inspiration. Point your browser to www.imacperry.com, order the book, and get ready for a great experience.

Harp Camps & Opportunities to Expand Your Horizons

There are MANY opportunities to attend a harp camp this year. The only problem is deciding which one... So, pick one, pack your bags & harp, and GO! You will have fun at any of these events.

October 10-12, 2008

[Southeast Harp Weekend](#)

Asheville, NC

November 14-16, 2008

[Sunshine State Acoustic Music Camp](#)

St. Petersburg, FL

November 16, 2008

[Sunita Stanislow](#)

Tampa, FL

Contact: CarolSue harplady1@aol.com

January 17-19, 2009

HarpFeste 2009

Boca Raton, FL

Brian: bwdavey@bellsouth.net

January 30 - February 1, 2009

[For the Love of Harps](#)

Naples, FL

February 28, 2009

Northeast Florida Scottish Games

[Harp Competition & Workshops](#)

Green Cove Springs, FL

June 28 - July 3 2009

Scottish Harp School

[Ohio Scottish Arts School](#)

Oberlin, Ohio

Florida Harp Groups/Circles

There are at least two active harp circles in the state

- Jacksonville, Kathy Pearce, kpearce@sjcds.net

- Port St. Lucie, Tammy, www.floridaharps.com

