

IHMP – Post-Class Skype Conference

August 08/09, 2008

(6:00 PM PDT to 7:30 PM PDT)

Present:

Ainslie Allison, Stella Benson, Alice Freeman, Michelle Hatton, Aprille Isham, and Alison Ware

Shared News:

Alison has some exciting job possibilities in healing harp playing and is working on a one-sheet brief to describe her services for a prospective employer. Ainslie is back to work and almost over her cold. Aprille just returned from a trip to Utah for her grandson's wedding and enjoyed a wonderful visit to Lyon and Healey West, the harp showroom and music sales department situated in a lovely old house in central Salt Lake City. Stella is finishing up class paperwork and playing harp part-time at bedside. Michelle has a new Triplet Christina in Walnut. The harp is a factory second with a distinctive appearance, but already has a beautiful tone. She is trying to figure out how to safely take the new harp on the plane when she flies to Alaska this week. Alice is taking a vacation from bedside playing this month and trying to catch up on other things – among them getting in more harp “practicing” by working on technique rather than harp “playing”.

What We Are Reading:

Healing Harps (Pursuing Wholeness Through Music) by Dr. Ron Price. Dr. Price worked over 35 years with music helping people with disabilities. Aprille has recently finished this book and recommends it as well worth reading.

Love, Medicine and Miracles: Lessons Learned about Self-Healing from a Surgeon's Experience with Exceptional Patients by Dr. Bernie Siegal. This book is about how unconditional love is the most powerful stimulant of the immune system. Michelle liked the stories of the miraculous recoveries of patients who believed in the power of love.

Musicophilia, Tales of Music and the Brain by Dr. Oliver Sacks. Dr. Sacks is a neurologist and describes case studies of interesting patients with brain “malfunctions” involving music in one way or another. Not nearly as technical as *The Power of Sound*, Alice found this book very entertaining and it made her think about how lucky she was to have “normal” brain function.

Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman's Search for Everything Across Italy, India and Indonesia by Elizabeth Gibson. Aprille finished this book while on vacation and really enjoyed Elizabeth's journey from a nasty divorce to immersing herself in Italian food and culture while learning the language, meditating in an ashram in India and reconnecting with a healer in Bali.

Live Shared Harp Music:

Devotion – Dedicated to Linda by Michelle Hatton. This lovely piece was composed by Michelle for a blind woman in her 40s. Linda's mother came every day to sit with her as she was dying. The emotional impact of this situation was very strong on Michelle, who loved to play for them as much as they appreciated her coming.

The Cutty Wren. Alice is starting to work on holiday music and this pretty song in Dorian mode can probably be used at other times of the year too. The fifths in the left hand give it a very melancholy sound, in keeping with its history of dating from the 1400s. The hunting of the Cutty Wren (“cutty” means small) takes place on St. Stephen’s day (December 26). Although considered the King of the Birds, villagers would catch and kill a wren and fasten it in the midst of a mass of holly and ivy to the top of a broomstick. Then they would go from house to house singing, dancing and asking for treats. The culmination of the procession was the ceremonial burial of the wren and more dancing. A copy of Alice’s arrangements in D Dorian and A Dorian are attached to this email message and posted on our “new Web site” (see below).

Maori Farewell Song (Now is the Hour) from New Zealand (and via Bing Crosby). Ainslie played a beautiful arrangement she is developing for this song. For people who want more information and the melody with chords, this Web site (<http://folksong.org.nz/poatarau/index.html>) gives quite a history about the background of the melody and the words. I was intrigued to learn more after Ainslie very nicely sang the first verse for us.

If anyone wants to share musical arrangements, just let me (Alice) know. Since I use a music notation program (Sibelius) regularly, we can always figure out a way to import your notes into my program.

Business Tips: Business Cards

Most standard business cards are 3-1/2 by 2 inches. Aprille shared these tips for making your business card stand out from the rest.

- Change the size to 3-1/4 by 2-1/4 or to 2-1/2 by 2-1/2
- Print on BOTH the front and the back of the card
- Change the orientation of the card from landscape (horizontal) to portrait (vertical)
- Many musicians never include a home address on their cards, especially in large metropolitan areas
- Some people also prefer to list cell phone numbers instead of home phone numbers
- Always include an email address
- If you have one, include your Web site too

Business Tips: Responding to Contacts

(In writing up Aprille’s tips I thought of this just now and did not mention it on Friday night.) If someone contacts you initially by email, respond first with a phone call back to them if possible, and then confirm or include additional information in an email message. This puts the personal touch in your business contacts and helps reinforce that people are dealing with a human and not words on a computer screen. When people fill out a contact form on my Web site, I ask for both email address and phone number.

Proposed Topic for September:

Suggested by Michelle: Do you make recordings of your harp playing? What equipment, especially microphones, do you use? Do you record directly to a computer, or other device?

What software (and platform – Mac or Windows) do you use to edit the recordings? What software do you use to burn CDs? Do you put music up on the Internet? If so, how? If you have a lot of technical information (brands, Web sites, etc.), you might consider sending this information to everyone by email before the conference call so we can have it in front of us to review while we're talking.

Proposed Date for September:

Friday/Saturday, September 19/20; 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM PDT

Alison suggested that it might help for future planning if we established the 3rd weekend of every month as our regular meeting time.

Announcement: New Web Site

(NOT mentioned in the Skype conference call – just a wild idea I came up with afterwards!)

I have added a page to my Web site for music and other materials you would like to share with class members. If you have a document (sample business card layout or tri-fold brochure advertising services) or any other items, just send them to me and I will notify everyone when they have been posted. Regarding music, please make sure anything you send me is not copyrighted. I have gone through past emails and tried to find everything we discussed that was not already on the IHMP Web site. Please take a look at <http://windandroses.com/ihmpmusic.htm>, tell me what you think and send me anything you would like to add. This is a “work in progress”, so there are no deadlines. I will maintain the page as long as anyone is interested in the materials.

Please let me know if there are any additions or corrections to the notes for this conference call.

Respectfully submitted, Alice Freeman