

Southeastern Harp Weekend

North Carolina, USA, 23–27 October 2015

Well, what can I say? I'm suffering SEHW withdrawal symptoms in the same way a child does after a fruitful birthday or Christmas – laden with gifts and wishing it could go on forever and ever. I'm going to bullet point aspects of this fantastic festival so I don't waffle on....

*Carolyn Deal – SEHW organizer extraordinaire with the patience of an angel. Harpist and composer, who has found an idyllic harp Disneyland setting in the Lutheridge venue, and filled it with amazingly versatile and friendly harpists and vendors!

*The tutors – my favourites – it's hard to go past Deborah Henson-Conant and Maire ni Chathasaigh – I feel like a boomerang student when it comes to these two ladies – they always give me inspiration and I keep going back for more! Then there were two teachers I have always wished to learn from – Emily Mitchell (who reunited me with Maria Grossi and her all-inclusive harp method) and Ray Pool (who reunited me with chord names and shapes I hadn't thought about since studying music at University!) Both of these teachers were amazing and I would highly recommend them!

*The concerts – Friday afternoon was a concert from the presenters – each had around 5 minutes of stage time to play one piece, and share a secret (something harp related) – this had us all wanting more – ingenious! The Friday and Saturday evening concerts each featured four of the guest presenters – wow! Such variety in harps and music. On the Sunday evening DHC was presenting a concert in nearby Asheville – her concerts are not to be missed!!

*The vendor hall – the candy shop for harpists – Dusty Strings, Heyser Harps, Heartland Harps, Thormahlen Harps, Rees Harps, Musicmakers, Stoney End Harps, The Michigan Harp Centre, The Atlanta Harp Centre and more..... with many, many harps to sample and so much music to peruse. And there was the presenters booth – selling a wide range of music from all the presenters. I've heard there were 30 harps sold over the weekend, and I'm not surprised!!

*The Lutheridge in Fall – OMG – autumn colours, falling leaves out the Efrid Hall windows, rustic accommodation cabins, transport by harp (golf) cart, exuding charm – it made me feel like we had entered a kind of Hobbiton for harpists!

*the harpists – you would be hard pressed to find a friendlier group of like-minded, music mad, crazy harp people...anywhere!

*One day workshops – many of the presenters held a day course (limited to 15 students) – it was really hard to choose which to attend – they all sounded soooo good!

*North Carolina – so beautiful in Fall, fantastic local food and super friendly and helpful people – what a great combination!

Anna Dunwoodie



Harp makers deep in discussion on harp design. Ray Mowers (Dusty Strings) and Shane Stewart

Rees Harps



Our lovely harp hostess, Carolyn – she’s probably played every harp on campus at SEHW!!



Stoney End Harps



Mission Hall, The Lutheridge