

## From Helen Liu Gerhold, Executive Director:

Thank you for supporting another outstanding year! Our inaugural Ann Hobson Pilot Award is groundbreaking to the music world and is a testament to your investment in Lyra's young harpists. Your support continues to break our fundraising records--we grossed over \$55,000 at our 2023 Golf 'n' Gliss Benefit.

As we prepare for **Lyra's 20th anniversary year in 2024**, please continue to support us as we transform lives through the virtue of harp music education. Stay tuned for opportunities to celebrate our exceptional students and their accomplishments!



Lyra Family at the 2023 Golf 'n' Gliss Benefit

## Dreams Come True - Lyra's Groundbreaking Ann Hobson Pilot Award

*Alumna, Medgina, was set to graduate college without her own harp. We couldn't let that happen...*



Surprised by an award ceremony disguised as a harp ensemble rehearsal, Medgina Maitre tearfully accepted Lyra's inaugural Ann Hobson Pilot (AHP) Award. The award was presented by Ann Hobson Pilot, Elizabeth Hainen, and Helen Gerhold at Temple University's Rock Hall. Lyon & Healy Harp Manufacturers and Joslyn G. Ewart sponsored the award, which includes a new concert grand harp worth over \$25,000. Medgina is also elated to accept our offer to become a Lyra Teaching Artist and is currently in training with our team.

**About Medgina Maitre:** At age 7, Medgina emigrated from Haiti with her family to Philadelphia. In 2014, she began her harp education in Lyra's *Glissando!* Program with Lizzie Steiner at Girls' High. When Ms. Steiner took her to a harp college fair, Medgina decided to pursue harp for her undergraduate degree. Hearing that decision, Elizabeth Hainen volunteered to provide private lessons to Medgina for her auditions. After receiving acceptances to the Peabody Conservatory and Temple University, Medgina decided to continue studying with Ms. Hainen at Temple, graduating in 2023. In addition to joining Lyra's Teaching Artists, she is now pursuing her master's at Temple.

**About the AHP Award:** The Ann Hobson Pilot Award promotes cultural equity through music education and is aligned with Lyra's mission to make harps and harp lessons accessible to all students. The award provides essential support to an alum of Lyra's *Glissando!* Program who completes a college degree in music performance and pursues a career as a professional harpist.

[For more information, visit [LyraSociety.org/AhpAward](https://LyraSociety.org/AhpAward)]



Top L to R: Zora Dickson, Tina Zhang, Helen Gerhold, Joslyn, Elizabeth Steiner; Bottom L to R: Elizabeth Hainen, Medgina Maitre; Center: Ann Hobson Pilot on Zoom

***"Lyra Society opens doors to diversity in the harp world. The tireless work of Elizabeth Hainen and her staff embody this important change. I am honored by this recognition."*** -Ann Hobson Pilot

**About Ann Hobson Pilot:** Ann Hobson Pilot is an internationally celebrated classical harpist who broke barriers in both race and gender as an African American woman. Like Medgina, Ms. Pilot began harp lessons at Girls' High. She earned her Bachelor of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music. In 1966, Ms. Pilot became the first Black Principal in an American orchestra when she was appointed Principal Harp of the National Symphony (Washington, DC). She was appointed Principal Harp of the Boston Symphony in 1980 (and later, the Boston Pops), retiring in 2009.



Ann Hobson Pilot

## Congratulations to Lyra's 2023 Graduates!: Lyra's College List

Through your support and the work of Director of Education, Maryanne Meyer, and our Teaching Artists, 100% of our seniors continue their education. Our 2023 graduates are enrolled at the following colleges/conservatories:

Arcadia University  
Bloomsburg University

Community College of Philadelphia  
Curtis Institute of Music  
Drexel University

Temple University  
University of Pennsylvania

## From Maya: Her Experience Representing the USA on Tour

Maya's musical journey began with the Lyra's Glissando! Program under Maryanne Meyer's guidance. As a Lyra student, she was appointed a harpist for the National Youth Orchestra of the USA, touring with talented young musicians. Now a freshman harp major at the Curtis Institute of Music, Maya continues to impress with her musical talent and dedication.

"[The 2023 NYO-USA tour] was a month straight out of my dreams - doing what I love with people I love, making music and sharing its magic with the world, and living moments that will be cherished forever. From coachings with incredible faculty to intriguing discoveries in new halls and insightful post-concert reflections, NYO was truly a rich musical experience.

Beyond being a wonderful musical experience, each of the 107 people I spent the month with truly made it the best month of my life. I now have a second family all over the country.

None of this would have been possible for me without the work of the Lyra Society. I am so endlessly grateful to Lyra and its donors for bringing the harp into my life and opening up a whole new world of exciting possibilities for me."



Maya at an NYO-USA Tour stop, in NYO's iconic bright red pants

## Lyra Student Harp Ensemble Awes at Harp Festival in Arlington, VA



Lizzie Steiner, Sophia, Tayla, Maya, and Maryanne Meyer post-performance at the 2023 VHC Festival

The Lyra Society Student Harp Ensemble was invited to perform at the prestigious 2023 Virginia Harp Center (VHC) Festival! Thanks to the generous sponsorship of VHC and its staff including Megan Hoeflicker, students Maya, Sophia, and Tayla were able to attend the three-day festival in March, showcasing their talent and learning from world-class harpists.

Our students lit up the room with their professionalism, grace, and musicality; and their performance was met with accolades from the audience. Congratulations to Maya, Sophia, and Tayla for their hard work and dedication and many thanks to VHC for their generosity and platform; Maryanne Meyer for organizing; and Lizzie Steiner for chaperoning!

## More 2022 - 2023 Highlights:

- Midori & Friends NYC partnership: seven students were taught by Skyla Budd, Teaching Artist in the Bronx, NYC
- Second Annual Fall Student Meetup: students performed for and gave positive feedback to their peers
- All City Orchestra Summer Academy 2023: free orchestra programming for students, Mann Center partnership

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