



# The Harp Herald

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**Summer, 2011**

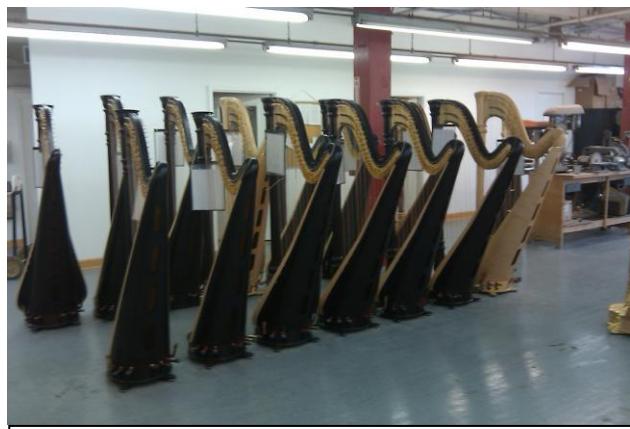
## **Continuing Education**

They say the only constant is change. While the art of harp making is steeped in tradition, it is also a dynamically evolving industry. New harp models, new designs, new solutions to old problems. Though I've been working on harps for over fifteen years, I find that I am always learning: from my colleagues, from my customers, from the harps I work on - which always seem to present me with challenges I haven't encountered before, and from the fine companies who make the harps we work and play on. The first few months of 2011 offered me two great opportunities to grow as a technician, and to remember once again that no matter how much one knows, there is always something new to learn.

## **Cooler by the Lake**

In March, I visited my old hometown of Chicago, to attend the **Lyon & Healy/ Salvi Technicians Guild's Conference for Regulators** at the Lyon & Healy factory in Chicago. This biennial event brought harp technicians from the US, Europe, and Asia together for a two-day festival of learning and sharing.

Technicians from Lyon & Healy and Salvi were on hand to fill us in on the latest



**Harps awaiting regulation at the Lyon & Healy factory, Chicago**

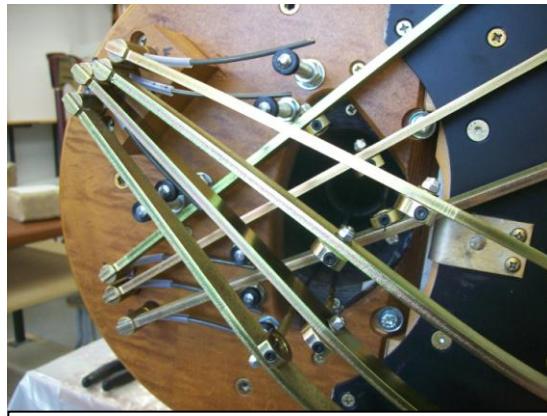
happenings with their products, and engineering and production managers listened to our thoughts and concerns regarding issues we technicians have noticed on harps in the field. We were also treated to demonstrations and hands-on training on common repairs like replacing base bolt bushings and soldering pickups. Our hosts at Lyon & Healy were most gracious, and the icy winds of Chicago's lakefront reminded me just how good I have it now that I've moved to Oregon!

## Vive la France!

In January, I had the opportunity to visit the **Camac** harp factory in the tiny village of Mouzeil, near the city of Nantes, France. I spent a fantastic day and a half with the final assembly and regulation team, first observing the inner mechanics of Camac harps and

then having the opportunity to assemble a harp from start to finish myself. Boy was I glad I brushed up on my high school French!

Afterwards, Camac president Jakez François spent many hours with me covering tips and techniques for regulating and maintaining Camac harps. I came away with a deeper understanding of the ins and outs of Camac's products and a new appreciation for the fine tradition of French harp making, from the days of Érard to today. Jakez and his staff were most gracious hosts as well, and I am grateful for their hospitality. I am pleased to join the list of U.S. technicians who are Camac Certified.



**Newly installed pedals, Camac Harp Factory, Mouzeil, France**

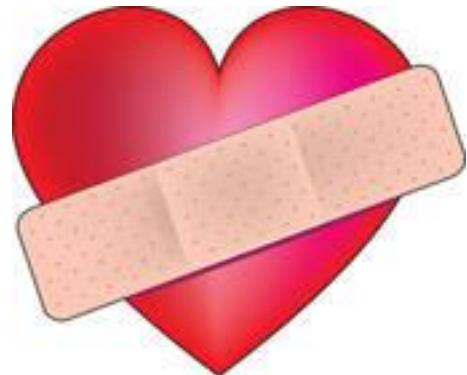
## New Harp Care DVD is now Available!



**Harp Care with Steve Moss**, my new DVD on basic harp maintenance, is now available. Everything you need to know about tuning, replacing strings, moving, and caring for your harp is here. 85 minutes of video are packed with step-by-step instructions, answers to your most common harp care questions, and more. A perfect gift for the new harp student, or for the intermediate harpist who has questions but doesn't know who to ask.

[Visit this page](#) to learn more, to watch an excerpt, and to order online.

# All Better!



As many of you know, I underwent aortic valve replacement surgery on April 11, 2011. My aortic valve was wearing out due to a congenital defect. Doctors replaced it with a mechanical valve that has been stress-tested to last for hundreds of years. Now if only the rest of me could hang on that long!

Since this was an open-heart procedure, I had strict restrictions on how much I could lift during the weeks after the surgery, so I was unable to work for over two months. My recovery went very smoothly, though. I

want to thank my family for caring for me, and so many of my friends and customers who sent cards and offered prayers. I am grateful for your support and happy to tell you that I am back on the job and feeling great.

This procedure forced me to postpone several service visits that I had planned for the spring and early summer, and I am doing my best to work many of these in to my fall schedule. To those of you affected, I thank you for your patience and apologize for the inconvenience.

## About Moss Harp Service



"It is a pleasure to recommend Steve Moss for harp regulations and repairs. Steve is a perfectionist's dream! His results are incredibly thorough and accurate. His intelligence and patience are his gold star qualities. Steve has regulated my harps and the Milwaukee Symphony harp many times, and I have always been 1000% satisfied with his work."

-Danis Kelly, Principal Harpist, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

Steve Moss has been regulating and repairing harps for over 15 years. During eight years with Lyon & Healy, he trained and worked with Master Regulator Peter Wiley. Steve oversaw the company's lever harp production for two years before moving into pedal harp assembly and regulation. He also specialized in training new employees and visiting technicians. As a traveling technician, Steve

has serviced harps across the country. Clients include the principal harpists of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Milwaukee Symphony, the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra, the Utah Symphony, and the Seattle Opera, as well as the Eastman School of Music, Interlochen Arts Academy, Northwestern University, the University of Michigan, the University of Washington, and Brigham Young University. He also makes frequent regulation trips to Lyon & Healy West in Salt Lake City. Steve lives in Corvallis, Oregon with his wife and two daughters.

"It is a pleasure for me to play harps worked on by Steve Moss. They are always perfectly regulated and ex-tremely resonant since he voices for sound as well as regulates for pitch. And he's a really nice guy, too!" -Liz Cifani, Principal Harp (retired), Lyric Opera of Chicago, Professor of Harp, Northwestern University

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**Upcoming Road  
Service Stops**

**August 16-22**

Seattle, WA

**August 29 – September 5**

Ann Arbor and Interlochen,  
MI (schedule is FULL)

**September 10-15**

Rochester, Clifton Park, and  
Syracuse, NY

**September 22-28**

Salt Lake City, UT

**October**

Omaha, NE

Sioux Falls, SD

**November**

Austin, TX

Dayton, OH,

Milwaukee, WI

Chicago, IL