

Quick Takes

Symphony event

Fund-raiser will have a Parisian theme, April 7

Music lovers have long savored the golden images of the city of Paris, the capitol of eating fine food and drinking romantic elixers, of glamorous nightlife, fabulous shows and the subtle waft of perfume.

Event if you haven't been to Paris, The Illinois Chamber Symphony invites area residents to "come to the cabaret" at its 2001 annual gala benefit

Harp-felt

Janelle Ream plays her soothing string sound weekly at Mill Race Inn

By Martha Quetsch
Sidetracks editor

Show tunes, standards, ballads, classical music, one local musician can play it all, believe it or not, on a harp.

For those who won't believe it until they hear it, harpist Janelle Ream appears every Friday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. at Mill Race Inn in Geneva.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's music from "Phantom of the Opera," George Gershwin's "Embraceable You," and Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" and Pachelbel's Canon in D are among Janelle's and her listeners' favorites.

"I think it's all pretty on the harp," said the harpist.

Janelle has been playing her harp at Mill Race Inn in Geneva on Friday evenings for the past 12 years, when her first child was just three weeks old. When she was a teenager, she started performing at the restaurant at Christmastime and New Years.

She went to high school in St. Charles and now lives in Elburn, where she and her husband, Randy Ream, operate Elburn Market. The couple met years ago when they both played in the Fox Valley Concert Band.

Because she has lived in the area for so long, and has per-



Randy Pomaro — Chronicle photo staff

Janelle Ream, of Elburn, plays the harp from 7 to 9 p.m. Fridays at Mill Race Inn in Geneva.

formed at Mill Race since she was a teen-ager, 38-year-old Janelle is acquainted with many of the patrons.

Between "sets," she chats familiarly with diners sitting at tables near her harp, answering questions about her music and other interests. She seems to know nearly everyone there, and makes friends with others.

"Quite often, people who are hiring me for future weddings come to hear me play," said Janelle.

Janelle was 9-years-old when she began playing the harp, starting out on a folk harp. When she was big enough, she progressed to a concert grand harp.

And it truly is grand. The harp not only sounds beautiful, it is a striking, elegant instrument. And it's big. Janelle said she has a special harp dolly to move the instrument between her van whatever venue she is playing.

There is a great call for harpists at weddings, so Janelle is a busy musician. In fact, she's a busy woman, being a mother to three young children and helping out at the family store.

But her busy schedule and its variety suit Janelle fine.

"It's fun because I get to wear so many different hats. I have the mom hat, the family business hat, and once a week, I get to dress up and go play the harp," said Janelle.