

**AREA 1****Area 1 Spotlight: The Boston Handbell Festival**

Now in its fifteenth year, the Boston Handbell Festival is an annual celebration of handbell musicianship co-sponsored by two Area 1 handbell organizations: the Back Bay Ringers and the Old South Ringers. The Boston Handbell Festival proudly contributes to a musical tradition of handbell ringing at Old South Church that dates back to 1929.

The Boston Handbell Festival brings together local community handbell ensembles—the Back Bay Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, New England Ringers, and Old South Ringers—along with an invited guest choir each year. On May 16, 2023, the invited guest choir was an elementary school group, the Highland Chimes, of Danvers, MA (seen in bottom left photo). The live and virtual audience was treated to an evening of massed and solo choir ringing in Old South's beautiful sanctuary. The massed pieces were conducted by guest clinician Daniel Moore.



The concert is always free and open to the public, and a free-will offering is collected to sustain the Festival and to support a Chime Donation program, whereby a 2-octave set of Malmark Choirchimes® is donated to a greater-Boston-area school. The 2023 Choirchimes® recipient was Mansfield High School.

Area 1 applauds the Back Bay Ringers for introducing so many young musicians to ringing instruments through the long-standing success of the Festival and its Chime Donation program! For more information, visit [backbayringers.org/community/boston-handbell-festival/](https://backbayringers.org/community/boston-handbell-festival/)

**AREA 2**

Handbell Musicians  
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Area 2

**Back to Bells**

Area 2 can offer help in training directors, attracting ringers and getting bell programs started.

- Are your bells packed away and you'd like to investigate pulling them out again?
- Do you know of a church or group that has all the equipment and you would love to help them rebuild their program?

We are eager to help you, and these groups do just that, getting them **BACK TO BELLS**.

Contact me at [mentoring.area2@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:mentoring.area2@handbellmusicians.org)

**Kaye Miller**

## AREA 3

### Upcoming Area 3 Events

**November 10 @ 4:00 pm - November 11 @ 5:30 pm**

#### **Area 3 Youth Festival**

**Epiphany Lutheran Church 1400 Horsepen Rd, Richmond, VA, United States**

**March 8, 2024 @ 4:00 pm - March 9, 2024 @ 5:30 pm**

#### **Ocean City Area 3 Festival**

**Roland E. Powell Convention Center 4001 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD, United States**

**March 15, 2024 @ 4:00 pm - March 16, 2024 @ 5:30 pm**

#### **Southern Area 3 Festival**

**First United Methodist Church 311 3rd Ave NE, Hickory, NC, United States**

**For details, visit [area3.handbellmusicians.org/events-calendar/](https://area3.handbellmusicians.org/events-calendar/)**

## AREA 4

If you are not aware, Area 4 has a scholarship for members to attend National Seminar. This past July, the event was held in Texas, and Debbie Waters from Florida was awarded the scholarship. Here is what Debbie had to say about it!

"Hi, I'm Debbie Waters and I was lucky enough to be the recipient of the Area 4 Scholarship to the National Seminar in Irving, Texas.

As a very new ringer who has zero musical background, I was afraid I was going to be in way over my head. As it turned out, most of my classes were just what I needed, with techniques in mallets and weaving, lots of info on damping and rhythm, and the friendliest, most generous group of people I could hope to meet. Sure, some things flew right by me, but I still came away with a lot more knowledge than I arrived with and I was amazed at all the great concerts I got to enjoy.

The Handbell Commons had everything from bells and bell cases to gloves (lots and lots of gloves!), music of every kind and with access to many of the composers, information on guided tours, and everything else your heart might desire (including lots of cute t-shirts and magnets.) I can't wait to try out my new messenger bag with the National Seminar logo embroidered on it.

As if all the classes, concerts, and shopping weren't enough, I thoroughly enjoyed meeting ringers from all over the country, as well as the world. Our Area 4 dinner had over 20 attendees with members from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Puerto Rico. How cool is that?

I can't wait for next year! I am definitely going to be in Hartford celebrating Handbell Musicians of America 70th anniversary, and I hope to convince a few more Area 4 ringers into joining me."

Thank You, Debbie! Interested in how Area 4 can help you? Visit our website, [area4.handbellmusicians.org](https://area4.handbellmusicians.org) or email us at [area4@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:area4@handbellmusicians.org) for more information on scholarships, and everything else going on!





## AREA 5

**The Area 5 Ringing Event  
for Young Adults**



**INSPIRING!**™

**February 17-18, 2024**  
University of Indianapolis  
Ruth Lilly Performance Hall

Featuring **Kyle Webber**, Conductor




 [www.area5.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.area5.handbellmusicians.org)

## AREA 6



*Thank you, Michael, for your kind, clear, and educational leadership. We received many positive comments about how much ringers learned from you and how much they enjoyed your entertaining manner.*

**ROCKET CITY RING**

*Thank you, Area 6 ringers, for stepping out and participating with such enthusiasm, preparation, and positive attitudes. We appreciate you and look forward to ringing with you again.*

Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA | Area 6



## AREA 7

**Save The Dates!**

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS**

**The Incredible**

**2024 Area 7 Festival**

**"Ringing Between the Bluffs"**

**JUNE (20) 21-23, 2024**

**LA CROSSE CENTER – LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN**

**Clinicians: Sandra Eithun • Alex Guebert • Lee Afdahl**

**Dinner Cruise**

**Beer Choir Event**

Scan the QR Code for:

- Repertoire
- Schedule
- Conductors
- Options and Events



## AREA 8

**Area 8 Festival • June 20–22, 2024**

**Ringing! Classes! Concerts! Shopping! Networking!**

**Save the Date!**

Check the Area 8 website for more information  
[area8.handbellmusicians.org](http://area8.handbellmusicians.org)

**Stevie Berryman, Clinician**

**Greig Ashurst, Clinician**

**Mid- Iowa Handbell Festival Jessica Kite, Clinician**  
**Des Moines, Iowa, Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, 8am to 4pm**





## AREA 9



New for 2023, Area 9 is offering one day “Fall Fanfare” workshops to help start off your ringing season. Offered in multiple locations, there will be classes for ringers and directors, reading sessions, and more. A multi-session “rookie ringer” track will be offered for ringers just starting out or those wanting to review basic ringing techniques. Reading sessions will include selection for use throughout the year, including the repertoire for Area 9’s “Spring Ring” events and our “Rise Up and Ring” Summit in June 2024. Register by clicking your preferred location below!

Fall Fanfare Houston September 9, St. John XXIII College Preparatory, 1800 W Grant Pkwy N, Katy TX 77449 (co-sponsored by the Greater Houston Handbell Association)

Fall Fanfare Oklahoma Saturday, September 23. McFarlin UMC, 419 S University Blvd, Norman OK 73069

## AREA 10

# 2023, a Banner Year for Ringing!

*FEBRUARY - **IDAHO** - Snake River Handbell Conference – Sandra Eithun, Clinician*

*MARCH – **OREGON** - Coppers Classic – Ellie Hodder, Director*

*APRIL – **MONTANA/IDAHO** - Big Sky Handbell Festival – Ellie Hodder, Clinician*

*MAY - **OREGON** - Siskiyou Summit Handbell Conference – Tim Waugh, Clinician*

*JUNE – **WASHINGTON** – FINALLY, WE ALL CAME TOGETHER with  
Guest Conductors Brenda Austin and Marquise Usher for the . . .*

## AREA 10 CONFERENCE: Rendezvous on the Spokane

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## AREA 11

Area 11 invites you to a workshop for  
ringers of all ages!  
Saturday, September 9, 2023  
9:00am to 12:30pm

Classes include: Beginning Bell Ringing,  
Battery Bell Technique, Weaving,  
Four-in-Hand & Shelley Ringing,  
Bass Bell Ringing

Students \$5 Members \$10



## AREA 12



### COMPOSITION CONTEST

Area 12 invites all composers to participate in the Area 12  
Composition Contest for our 2024 Youth Festival.

**Prize:** \$1500

**Deadline:** January 31, 2024

Additional details can be found at:  
<https://area12.handbellmusicians.org/composition-contest/>  
or by contacting Tessique Houston at  
[pastchair.area12@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:pastchair.area12@handbellmusicians.org)

The winning submission will be appealing to a  
youth choir (primarily in the 6-12 grade range), able  
to be learned in a weekend conference, and may  
include percussion and/or vocal parts.



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