

AREA 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Area 1 welcomes all National Seminar attendees to Hartford this July!

Who has more fun than us?

Here in Area 1, we've been making a joyful noise with handbells for at least 100 years. This summer we are proud to welcome handbell enthusiasts near and far to Hartford, as Handbell Musicians of America celebrates its 70th anniversary right here in New England where it all began. Come see what all this fun is about!

Bravo to Area 1 conductors **Griff Gall** and **Andy Wallace** and Area 1 handbell ensembles **Back Bay Ringers**, **The Bronze Ambassadors**, and **Merrimack Valley Ringers** for playing leading roles at National Seminar this summer. You represent us well on the national stage!

We hope you'll stop by our table and our photo booth at Handbell Commons to say hello and have your picture taken with Flat Margaret...our homage to the First Lady of American Handbells, Margaret Shurcliff.

Then make plans to join us at the next **Area 1 Festival Conference, June 26-29, 2025 in Worcester, Massachusetts**. Our guest conductors are Fred Gramann and Stevie Berryman, joined by guest choir, The Carol Ringers. Visit area1.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference for more details as they become available.



#becauseofhandbells

AREA 1 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

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AREA 1 WEB DIRECTORY

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Youtube: youtube.com/@area1handbellmusiciansofam265

AREA 2 (NJ, NY, PA)



Handbell Musicians of America Area 2

DESTINATION RING: POCONOS



Aug. 3-5, 2024

CAMELBACK RESORT
Tannersville, PA

Dave Harris, Conductor



AREA 2 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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AREA 3 (DE, DC, MD, NC, VA)

Join Us for a Party!

Celebrating Area 3's 65th Birthday!

Join us on March 7–8, 2025, in Ocean City, MD. Clinician Brenda Austin will lead the party, beginning with a Community Ensemble Festival, then continuing with the Area 3 Ocean City Festival and a **really BIG cake!**

Check the Area 3 website for more information:
area3.handbellmusicians.org



AREA 3 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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AREA 3 WEB DIRECTORY

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AREA 4 (FL, GA, SC, PR, BS, VI)

HANDBELLS HAPPEN IN AREA 4!

Ringers across Area 4 came together for several events this spring! Here are a few highlights:

FL: The annual Florida Handbell Festival weekend expanded to two locations this year – the first held in February at the Warren Willis Conference Center in Fruitland Park and the second in mid-March at First Presbyterian Church of Vero Beach. More than 300 ringers combined participated under the direction of Alan Lohr (Carolina Bronze) and Rick Holdsworth (Ring Sarasota) for a weekend of ringing, learning, and camaraderie. During the weekend, Valerie Stephenson and Louise Frier were recognized for their contributions to the handbell community by inducting them into the Area 4 Ring of Fame.

SC: Renowned community group Palmetto Bronze (Summerville, SC) hosted their popular “Lowcountry Handbell Workshop” in early March. Clinician Martha Matthews (Kalamazoo Ringers) led ringers from across South Carolina during the two-day workshop while Palmetto Bronze members facilitated breakout sessions during the Area 4-endorsed event.

GA: In February, the Golden Bells of Atlanta offered a one-day workshop, allowing ringers to “up their game” and take their playing to the next level. Participants called it a “wonderful day of mass ringing, sight reading, and fellowship.”

Looking Ahead:

We are excited to welcome Kevin McChesney and Samantha Beschta as co-clinicians for Bronze Under the Sun, happening June 21-22, 2024 in Gainesville, FL! Visit our website for more details & to register!

Do you want to feel the sun and warm waters of the Caribbean? Please join us at “Bells of the Caribbean” – a new Area 4 ringing event! Join ringers from The Bahamas, St. John,

St. Croix, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, and beyond November 8-9, 2024, at the University of Puerto Rico – Carolina. Space is limited! Visit our website to sign up for updates.



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AREA 4 WEB DIRECTORY

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AREA 5 (IN, KY, MI, OH, WV)

This year has been off to a busy start for Area 5. Representatives from the Board along with handbell directors Greig Ashurst, Brenda Austin, Joe Galyon, and Denise Holmes attended the Indiana Music Educators Association, the Michigan Music Conference, and the Ohio Music Education Association. During the event, the Area 5 Board had the opportunity to share scholarship information to support the musical experience of high school students.

Inspiring 2024 took place at University of Indianapolis on February 17-18. Under the direction of Kyle Webber, 21 ringers from 4 out of 5 of Area 5's states took part in rehearsal and team-building activities culminating in a closing concert in the Ruth Lilly Performance Hall. The event was generously supported by some of Area 5's community groups (Joyful Sound, Stow Heritage Ringers, Columbus Rings) Jane Snow, and the late Tim Waugh.

Masterclass 2024 took place at Stonybrook United Methodist Church in Gahanna, Ohio on April 13. Director Dean Wagner led Jojo Beans: Stow Heritage Rings, Inc., Columbus Rings, Lancaster Handbell Ensemble, and Queen City Bronze took part in a weekend of fun activities and sharing each other's repertoire.

Harmony Ringers of Ohio held their first concert on April 13 and performed a myriad of pieces including The Girl from Ipanema, Monkeys Spinning Monkeys, the Theme from Star Trek, and a medley of Beach Boys Tunes.



The Tuesday Musicale of Greater Pontiac Massed Ring took place at Clarkston United Methodist Church in Clarkston Michigan on April 14. This performance was a collaboration between Bell Choirs Bellissima, Adele Thomas Ringers, Laudate Bells, Jubilation Ringers, Silver Bells of Windsor, Ontario, and Chapel bells of Orchard Lake Community Church. The Massed Ringing sessions were directed by Al Fisk, Judy Mellen, and Judy Phillips.

AREA 5 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY BOARD

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AREA 6 (AR, AL, MS, LA, TN)

LOUISIANA LAGNIAPPE*

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 26 - 27, 2024



*more info at www.area6.handbellmusicians.org

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AREA 7 (MN, ND, SD, WI)

EVENTS PLANNING IN AREA 7

Imagine having a board member plan, organize, and execute high-caliber events for your Area. Then the following year this stellar board member does it again and again and again for 15 years. Area 7 is blessed to have the talented Alanna Teragawa on our board. After serving Area 7 as the Chair in 2006-2008, it was clear we had an event planner in our midst. Up to this time, it was common to have the Chair lead the way in planning our festival conference. Alanna was finishing her term as Past Chair when the board asked if she would be willing to continue serving on the board in a new capacity as the events coordinator. To our great pleasure, Alanna agreed, and the rest is history.

Fast forward 15 years to a legacy of event programming for Area 7. Alanna has a computer full of spreadsheets, contracts, and countless hours of experience. She makes planning events look easy—but we know that is only her extensive experience shining through.



Thank you, Alanna, for your outstanding leadership in event planning for Area 7!

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Announcing ANTHORNIS 2024



Cathy Moglebust, clinician

**Westwood Lutheran Church
St. Louis Park, MN
October 25-26, 2024**

For those who want to ring more challenging music

area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2024

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AREA 8 (IL, IA, KS, MO, NE)

INCARCERATED BELLS AT CHRISTMAS

The Lansing (KS) Correctional Facility hosts the East Hill singers, a choir comprised of incarcerated men and volunteers from metro Kansas City. I proposed that handbells could find a place in this Arts in Prison program. In November, two churches lent their bells and chimes and the warden's approval was granted.

For six weeks 15 men learned to handle bells and ring together. They quickly were able to perform basic note values and rhythms. One ringer asked, "So, can we ring Carol of the Bells?" With adaptation of a basic piano arrangement, the men eagerly rehearsed the setting to success. They named themselves the East Hill Ringers.

The weeks culminated with a Christmas party to which men from the prison were invited. The program consisted of demonstrating handbells, change ringing, a layering of repeated ostinati and, of course, Carol of the Bells. Then the audience was invited to join the ringers in singing carols using Ardis Freeman's "Ring Along Christmas Favorites" and two sets of handchimes.

I marveled at the sincere, hardy sound of 40 men — young and old, bulked up and not, tattooed and undecorated — together proclaiming "O come, let us adore..." and reflecting "...all is calm, all is bright..."

These men sang with gusto and grins of "I can do this!" Where tension may exist, I saw men helping and tutoring one another; where joy may be absent, I saw laughter and camaraderie; where hope may be hard to find, I saw optimism.

I realized anew how we can offer the joys of music making and friendship, to be a part of "[u]niting people to create a diverse community in which handbell musicians of every skill level realize their full potential..."

— Bob Abbott

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Area 8 Festival
Columbia, Missouri • June 20–22, 2024
Handbell Musicians of America

Area 8 HMA Festival

June 20–22, 2024, Columbia, Missouri
Greig Ashurst and Stevie Berryman, Clinicians
Concerts by Rezound! and River City Ringers



Classes!
Concerts!
Massed Ringing!
Directors Seminar!
Shopping!
Networking!



For more information, use the QR code (right) or visit
area8.handbellmusicians.org/2024-connect-create-celebrate/

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AREA 9 (OK, TX)



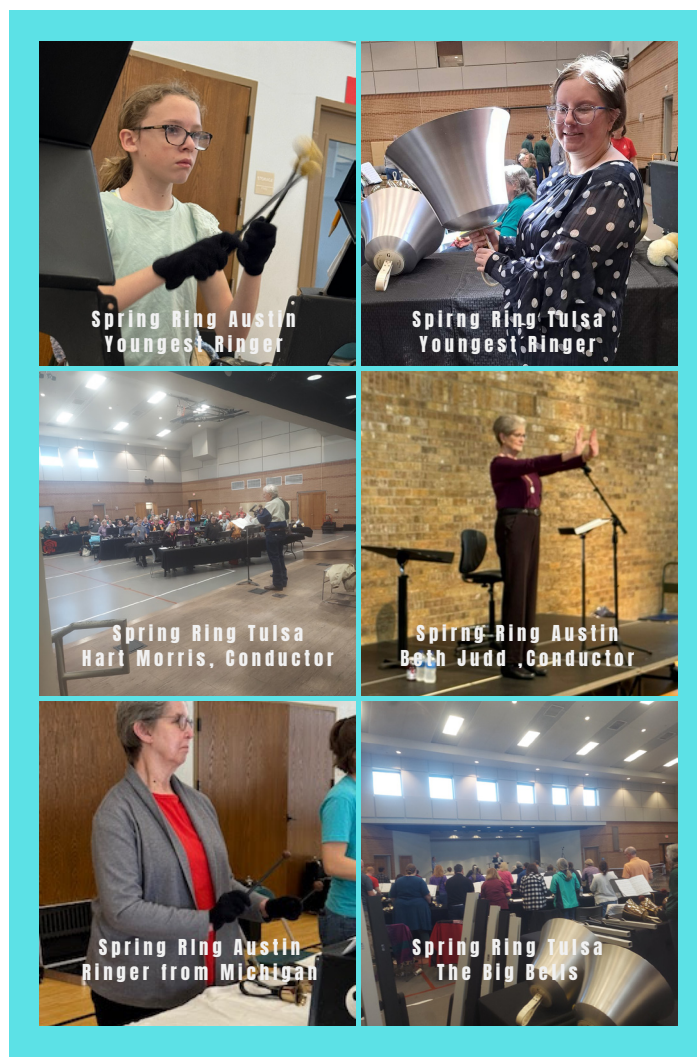
featuring
Matthew Compton
Festival Conductor
and
Forté Handbell Quartet
Guest Artists and Clinicians

Two days of festival ringing, classes, reading sessions and a final concert at 4:00 PM

Friday & Saturday
June 21-22, 2024

All events at the Nigh University Center
University of Central Oklahoma
Edmond, Oklahoma

Visit our Website
<https://area9.handbellmusicians.org/>
for more details!!



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AREA 10 (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA)

CALLING FOR AREA LEADERS

AREA 10 ELECTION

LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES!

Our candidate search is ongoing. We are making progress, but... we need more Area 10 members to offer themselves to serve as either Area 10 Secretary or Chair-Elect.

Are YOU ready to step up to Area 10 leadership? Or, do you know of another handbell enthusiast in our Area who might run for one of these two offices?

You love ringing and want to keep it alive and well in the Northwest, don't you? Then, please help us to keep our organization strong! We need your input to help find new leaders!

Email me about your interest or who else we should contact, and I will be in touch!

Tomi Kent, Nominating Committee Chair
chairelect.area10@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 10 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY BOARD

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OR: Heather Dixon, or.area10@handbellmusicians.org

WA: Julie Hunziker, wa.area10@handbellmusicians.org



BOC CRUISE XVI

A "Whale" of a Cruise

Sail Alaska for 7 nights roundtrip on the Holland America Eurodam!

June 21-28, 2025

Join us on this Alaska cruise featuring clinicians Matthew Compton and Alex Guebert!

We are 'whale'y excited to make new friends and greet old friends after a long hiatus from our favorite handbell activity!

TRIP STARTS AT
\$1,921
PER PERSON
(BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)



Scan me



Cruise fare includes:

- Signature Beverage Package for all guests
- Surf Wi-Fi for guests 1 & 2 in a room
- Shore Excursion \$100 off on tour
- One night Specialty Dining
- Group Cocktail Party
- Pre-Paid Tips
- & More! Note: \$100 discount for non-ringers.

Our Clinicians



Alex Guebert Matthew Compton



For booking questions, contact TravelPerks:
groups@travelperks.com
or (503) 300-4293



For technical questions about performance and the clinic
info@bellssofthecascades.org
www.bellssofthecascades.org

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AREA 11 (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY)



Area 11 Ringers Camp

Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, Colorado



area11.handbellmusicians.org/camp

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AREA 11 WEB DIRECTORY

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AREA 12 (CA, HI, NV)

Area 12 would like to share one way we are connecting with music educators in our area. This past February, we attended the California Music Educators Conference (CASMEC) to connect with music students and teachers from all over California. One of the comments we often hear from new teachers/directors is that they have found a set of bells or chimes in their closet and have no idea what to do with them. It is amazing how many of them do not know that HMA exists and the resources it provides. At CASMEC, teachers and students who have never seen bells before have an opportunity to play the instruments, look at music, and learn about the Guild. We also provide information on upcoming events, like our *Go Nuts* area conference and *Bellz! The Next Generation* youth conference.

While it's wonderful to re-connect with schools that already have bells or chimes available to them, this year we found 17 more schools that we were previously unaware of! Some of them were using bells in their classrooms to supplement existing programs and some had bells in the closet. We also met students who had just launched a new program at their university and hoped to expand it. All these people were searching for resources for handbells.

It was great to make these connections and share the resources HMA offers, especially the updated education resources on the national website. Many attendees signed up for our monthly newsletter, others received information about our handbell loan program, and some committed to attending our upcoming conference. We look forward to next year to meet even more music teachers and students.

— Beth Loebig, Education Director

AREA 12 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY BOARD

Chair: Marci Nuoffer, chair.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Chair-Elect: Michèle Sharik, chairelect.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Past Chair: Tessique Houston, pastchair.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Secretary: Carol Pickford, secretary.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Kathy Arnold, treasurer.area12@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

CA-Central: TBD, cencal.area12@handbellmusicians.org
CA-North: Cindy Ksiazek, norcal.area12@handbellmusicians.org
CA-South: TBD, socal.area12@handbellmusicians.org
CA-Far North: Nancy Schmitt, farnorcal.area12@handbellmusicians.org
HI: Karen Carlisle, hi.area12@handbellmusicians.org
LA-Metro: Erik Der, lametro.area12@handbellmusicians.org
NV-North: Barbara Walsh, nv.area12@handbellmusicians.org
NV-South: Alison Pruett, vegas.area12@handbellmusicians.org
SF-Bay: Marquise Usher, bayarea.area12@handbellmusicians.org



June 20-22, 2024
Area 12 2024 Conference
Modesto CA
Clinician: Barbara Meinke



area12.handbellmusicians.org/gonuts-2024/



Area 12 Youth Conference
September 27-28, 2024
A Youth Handbell Education Event
Concordia University Irvine, CA
Clinician: Greig Ashurst



area12.handbellmusicians.org/bellztng-2024

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: TBD, membership.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Education: Beth Loebig, education.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Events: TBD, events.area2@handbellmusicians.org
Communications: TBD, communications.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Historian: Cyndi Tully, historian.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Social Media: Danel Ujifusa, media.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Vendor Liaison: Fran Sanders, vendorliaison.area12@handbellmusicians.org
Webmaster: Gail Berg, webmaster.area12@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 12 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area12.handbellmusicians.org
Facebook: facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansOfAmericaArea12
Instagram: instagram.com/area12media
YouTube: youtube.com/@area12handbellmusiciansofa52