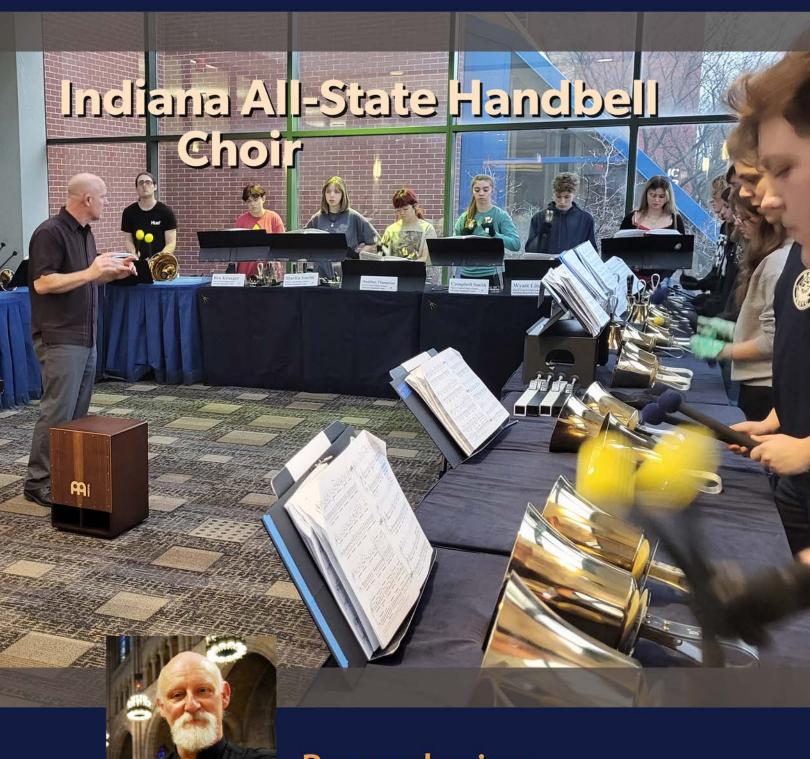
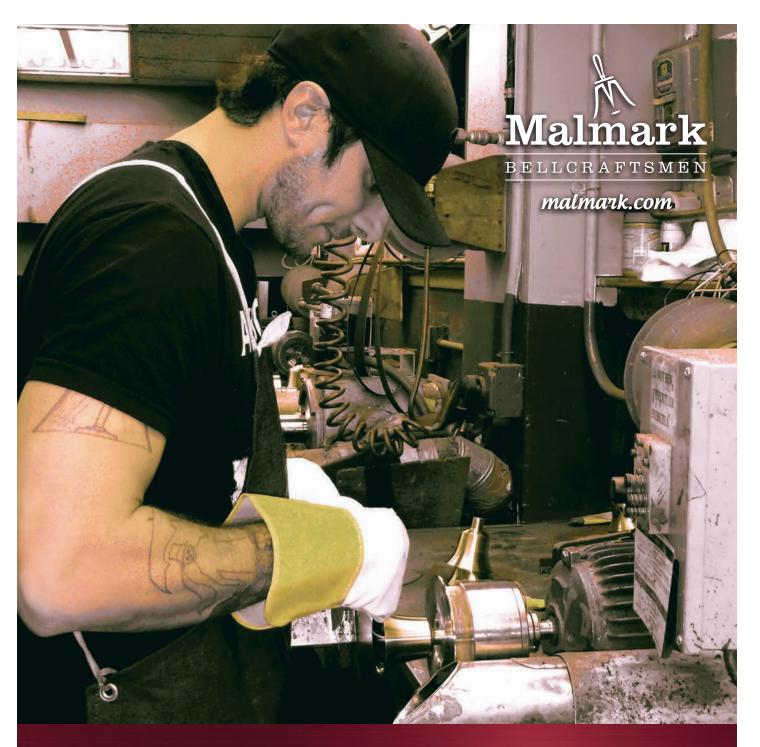
OVERTONES Summer 2024 The Official Journal of Handbell Musicians of America



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Uniting People Through a Musical Art

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc., dba Handbell Musicians of America, is a nonprofit organization established in 1954 to promote the art of English handbell ringing.

OUR MISSION

Handbell Musicians of America is dedicated to advancing the musical art of handbell/handchime ringing through education, community, and communication.

OUR VISION

Uniting people to create a diverse community in which handbell musicians of all skill levels realize their full potential through a musically-respected art form.

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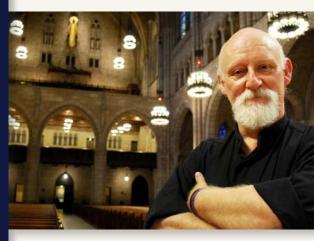
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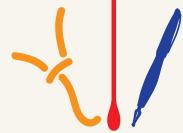


Indiana All-State Handbell Choir

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Remembering Tim Waugh



Handbell Musicians of America

NATIONAL SEMINAR

National Seminar Heads to Area 1 in July 34



Thoughts from the Editor

by J.R. Smith

Don't Belong to a Group?

There is still a place for you as a member of HMA



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If you are reading this, then chances are good that you are already a member of HMA. Thank you! We're glad to have you.

But this article is geared to those handbell musicians who are not members because they don't actively play in an existing group. Perhaps you don't have a group nearby or the rehearsals of groups around you do not fit into your schedule.

That is the case with myself. I don't belong to a group, but as a handbell musician, I still enjoy playing the instrument and regularly seek out places to play. I'm talking about attending local, state, and area festivals. Did you know that as an HMA individual member, you can attend state, area, and national events, entirely on your own, without belonging to an established group? This can be a fun way not only to play but also get to know others and make new friends.

When attending an event on your own, many festival organizers will place you with a group where you can use their equpment and play alongside their members. At an event in Cleveland, Ohio, a few years ago, I rang next to another individual attendee and we became friends. We have since seen each other at other Area 5 and national events and regularly keep in touch.

As someone who enjoys traveling solo, I'll sometimes stay an extra day and seek out interesting local sites, attractions, and eateries.

Some tips on attending events as an individual:

- Check with the festival organizers to find out if you can be placed with an established choir.
- Be sure to secure your music well ahead
 of time and learn it, so that you can keep
 up with the ensemble you're placed with.
 Don't worry, they won't expect you to be a
 bronze-level player unless you're ringing in
 a bronze division.
- Be sure to bring gloves, even if you don't normally use them, since you'll be playing

on someone else's equipment.

- If you know what ensemble you'll be placed with, reach out to the director to find out if you should bring anything.
- Stay to help the group you ring with tear down
- Be prepared to have a great time.

Besides the ability to attend events, as an individual member, you'll receive our journal, *Overtones*, and have access to members-only resources on our website. You'll also have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping the organization and the artform to thrive.

If you are already a member, why not lend this issue to a non-member you know and encourage them to consider joining.

JUST FOR FUN

Unless you've been in hiding, you know that on April 8, a good portion of eastern US experienced a total solar eclipse. HMA member Laura Swafford, Baltimore, MD, captured this image on a bell casting. She posted it on Facebook saying, "Eclipse on a handbell. Because why not?"



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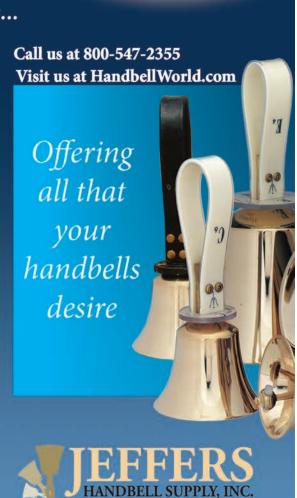
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Executive Notes

Messages from the Executive Director by Linda Onorevole



Linda Onorevole **Executive Director** lonorevole@

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Being an Enthusiast

You may have noticed that Handbell Musicians of America uses the term "Handbell Enthusiast" in our publications, on our website, and in presentations. Perhaps you have wondered who we are referring to when using this phrase.

An enthusiast is a person very interested in a particular activity or subject. I am a Handbell Enthusiast, and even if I were not the executive director of HMA. I would still be one. Although I do not play the instrument (not for others' lack of trying to get me to do so!) I greatly respect the musical skills and talent involved in handbell playing, and love to hear performances. Since I have been sharing more about handbells with the people in my life, I have recruited many more Handbell Enthusiasts who now make sure to tune in to livestream concerts, support HMA's activities, and attend performances where they live.

All of the audiences at your concerts are filled with Handbell Enthusiasts, as are of your congregations, communities, and schools.

We are encouraging Handbell Enthusiasts to join HMA. I like to think of our Handbell Enthusiasts as similar to symphony society members or public radio members. The membership is about supporting the art form, while also providing benefits like special rates to concerts and a subscription to Overtones. To help with recruiting the existing (lowercase) handbell enthusiasts in your life to become (uppercase) Handbell Enthusiasts, we encourage you to share this copy of Overtones when you are done reading it.

While these memberships do support HMA National, they help strengthen our regional Areas. Areas have the opportunity to offer tiered ticket prices to HMA members to help provide additional revenue. And by utilizing HMA's outreach tools, like the section of Overtones detailing Area activities, audiences can grow to include more and new Handbell Enthusiasts.

An enthusiast is a person very interested in a particular activity or subject. I am a Handbell Enthusiast. and even if I were not the executive director of HMA, I would still be one. Although I do not play the instrument (not for others' lack of trying to get me to do so!) I greatly respect the musical skills and talent involved in handbell playing, and love to hear performances.

We know there are lots of people out there that appreciate handbells and our YouTube channel's growth in the last year is testament to this. There are many potential audience members for your handbell concerts that we can help you reach. The more we unite and engage those who love this instrument, the more enthusiastic we will all be!

EVENTS!

Learn all about handbell festivals, seminars, and concerts in your town, state, and regional area as well as nationally.



HMA Event Calendar HandbellMusicians.org/events





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To learn more about the Sustaining Partner membership option, visit Handbellmusicians.org/get-involved/donate/ All gifts are tax deductible.

Membership Matters

Thoughts from Your Regional Membership Coordinators



Kim Braswell
West Regional
Membership Coordinator
kbraswell@
handbellmusicians.org

Play it Forward

In the fall of 2022, I was invited to join a newly forming group of advanced handbell ringers in the local area. Being a handbell ringing addict myself, of course I wanted to join and play with more people, but little did I know I would be "playing it forward." What I found was a group formed to do so much more than I had initially realized. I had an opportunity to sit down with Alan Payne, the founder of Music to Free and director of Bronze Unlimited, to fully understand the mission of what is being encouraged through sharing the art of handbell ringing in the community.

Music to Free is an all-volunteer organization created to support teaching music at the lower income senior living facilities. Bringing music to this aging population is a great asset because music helps the brain mentally and cognitively. It supports a community that is often overlooked, forgotten, and has fewer opportunities to get involved.

I asked Alan why he chose handbells as the means to bring music to these seniors. He responded that it is beneficial to them for many reasons. First and foremost, it promotes the art of handbell ringing to a larger audience and shows that it's not just an instrument for the church. The bimanual operations of playing handbells are good for physical therapy and mental agility. The controlled stroke can be a therapeutic motion. Alan mentioned that he finds handbells much more accessible because ringing utilizes more gross motor skills as opposed to fine motor skills, as with instruments such as flute or violin. Being a team sport, handbells also helps them engage socially with their community.

Bronze Unlimited supports this outreach and other local charities by raising money by performing concerts and volunteering. The concerts generally have a sponsor that covers the operational costs of running the handbell choir. That allows all the donations or profits from concerts to be donated to charities or used to support Music to Free. Last spring, we were able to perform two concerts for charities. Each of the charities

had a representative who spoke during the performance, and donations received were given to that charity. Choir members created a small ensemble to play for area churches while their handbell choirs were off for the summer. This past holiday season, members of the senior handbell choir joined Bronze Unlimited and performed a piece for the first time.

66

Bringing music to this aging population is a great asset because music helps the brain mentally and cognitively. It supports a community that is often overlooked, forgotten, and has fewer opportunities to get involved.

Alan has found that finding donors and supporters happens naturally as more people see what the choir is doing to aid the community. Alan said, "I am humbled to see that the donors are inspired by the mission of Music to Free to teach seniors and want to assist the effort because it is important to them. I am very grateful for all the encouragement from the handbell world, including the ringers who volunteer their time to help support Music to Free."

It is always wonderful to see the art of handbell ringing as a vessel to assist the community around us. Being able to "play it forward" as a handbell musician has been inspiring.

Learn more about Music to Free at musictofree.org



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**Subject to event eligibility



From the President's Pen

by **Greig Ashurst**



Greig Ashurst HMA National Board President

gashurst@ handbellmusicians.org

We Are All Intertwined

Every time I sit down to write an article for Overtones, I start by reading our mission statement and our vision statement, and then I contemplate the values we have as an organization We are an organization dedicated to advancing the handbell art form through education and improvement, community building and inclusion, and effective communication. Like many of you, the loss of Tim Waugh has been on my mind these past few weeks. He exemplified our mission and values so well. He was an icon in our handbell world. In addition to his many contributions to the art form I love, I am grateful for the years of mentoring he gave to me and so many others. The many mentors I have had throughout my life have fueled my love for handbells and my desire to grow continuously as a musician. I believe mentorship is the key to fulfilling and sustaining our mission.

Throughout the entire music world, a virtuous cycle of inspiration, guidance, and support often exists among musicians. Mentorshipthe idea that experienced musicians take up-and-coming talents under their wing and share not only musical knowledge but also life lessons—fuels this cycle. The relationship between mentor and mentee in music is a sacred bond that transcends mere instruction: it is a journey of growth, creativity, and shared passion. Throughout my years as a member of HMA, my handbell mentors have fostered a sense of community and camaraderie within this great organization. I have always been delighted by the guidance and support that more experienced musicians have provided to create a nurturing environment where I felt encouraged and was able to hone my craft.

The sense of belonging and shared purpose that mentorship provides is a powerful motivator. It inspires mentees to overcome challenges and push the boundaries of their creativity. Moreover, musicians who serve as mentors play a crucial role in passing down musical traditions, techniques, and wisdom

to the next generation. This transfer of knowledge from a mentor to a mentee is not just about technical skills; it is about instilling a deep appreciation for the art form and a commitment to realizing their full potential as musicians.

In addition to technical guidance, mentors also serve as role models for aspiring musicians. By sharing their own experiences, triumphs, and failures, mentors provide valuable insights into the realities of the music industry and the dedication required to succeed. Through their mentorship, seasoned musicians can help mentees navigate the complexities of the music business, develop a strong work ethic, and cultivate resilience in the face of adversity. When I was in graduate school, David Davidson and I would meet on Fridays at a great restaurant in Dallas. We would talk for hours, sharing ideas about handbell music and the challenges of navigating life as musicians. In addition, most of what I know about handbell history comes from those afternoon happy hours. In those interactions, I learned that the mentor-mentee relationship in music is a two-way street, benefiting both parties involved. While David would share his knowledge and experience, he often said that he gained fresh perspectives, inspiration, and energy from me. The exchange of ideas and creativity between mentor and mentee can lead to new collaborations, innovative projects, and groundbreaking music that transcends genres and boundaries.

Beyond technical skills and industry insights, mentorship in music also provides emotional and psychological support for aspiring artists. The life of a musician can be competitive, demanding, and, at times, isolating. Having a mentor who believes in their talent, encourages their growth, and offers a listening ear can make a world of difference for mentees, helping them navigate the highs and lows of a music career. We can all agree that Tim's mentorship had an impact far beyond

What's Happening

News and Announcements from the Handbell World

Nick Hanson Slated to Conduct Distinctly Bronze East 2025



Nick Hanson has been named as conductor for Distinctly Bronze East 2025 in New Bern, NC, February 27-March 2, 2025.

After receiving his BA in Music (with concentration in handbell performance) from Concordia University, Irvine, California, Nick began teaching at The Potomac School in McLean, Virginia, in 2006. At Potomac he teaches private handbell lessons and handbell classes

to 4th–12th grade students in six handbell ensembles. He has also been the handbell director at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia, for over 15 years.

Nick is a sought-after faculty, clinician, and conductor for workshops and events throughout the world, having served in this role nationally in over 20 states (as well as Washington, DC) and internationally in England, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore (and in Japan this summer!). He was the first-ever associate conductor for the elite handbell event, Distinctly Bronze, where he shared the podium with esteemed conductor and composer William Payn in 2015; was co-conductor for the Handbell Musicians of America (HMA) All-Star Choir in 2018; and has twice lead HMA's Distinctly Teen ensemble in 2015 and 2023.

In 2022, The Potomac School recognized Nick with the Bill Cook Excellence in Teaching Award, and he was featured in the Arlington Magazine article "Teachers We Love" in 2023. He is a published writer in the HMA journal, *Overtones*, has composed and arranged over 100 pieces of handbell music, and is co-host of the podcast *Two Tacos High: A Handbell Podcast*.

Pamela "P.L." Grove to Conduct Crescendo 2025

Pamela "P.L." Grove has been named as conductor for Crescendo 2025 in New Bern, NC, February 28-March 2, 2025. Crescendo is an event for intermediate to advanced handbell ringers that runs concurrently with Distinctly Bronze East.

P.L. Grove has been a handbell ringer and director for more than 45 years. As a founding ringer with the critically acclaimed Sonos Handbell Ensemble, her more notable performances included those with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the Kronos Quartet, Frederica von Stade and twice on Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion. She served as artistic director for Velocity Handbell Ensemble for over 20 years, has rung at several Distinctly Bronze events, was the Distinctly Bronze West Chair from 2014 to 2016, represented the United States as the director at

the 18th International Handbell Symposium in Australia, and rang in the inaugural Zenith event in 2023.

P.L. is one of a few people to have completed a Bachelor's degree in handbell performance and is a past president of Handbell Musicians of America. Retired from her job as a government public information



officer, P.L. currently works part-time as a publications expeditor for a nonprofit and as a church vocal choir director. In her free time, she spends as much time as possible making music.

Details and registration information for Distinctly Bronze East and Crescendo are coming soon.

Thank You to Our 2023 Donors

We appreciate those who have made contributions to Handbell Musicians of America. Through their generous support, we are better able to serve our mission, members, and handbell community at large. This list includes donations made between January 1-December 31, 2023.

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Kyle Hood Hope Publishing Sandra Hopson Donna Marie Horan Susan Horn Brian Horoho Diane Hould Tessique J Houston Ruth A Howald Verrenia Howard William M Hubbard Henry B Huber Harris Huddle Barbara Hughes Donna Hughes Ginny Hughes Dana Humphreys David F Hunsche Paige Hunt Julie B Hunziker Patricia E Hurlbutt Kathy Huse Karen Huss Chester Imhausen Debbie Isenbera Vickie Iverson Samuel Jackson Karen James James River Ringers Janis Jang Cvnthia A Jean Jeffers Handbell Supply Pamela Jeffries Shirley Jemmett Byron W Jensen Jeanne Jessup Nancy Jessup Jennifer Jewell Carl Johanson Debbie John Bradley Johnson Christina Johnson Dave Johnson Emma Johnson Karen M Johnson Malia Johnson Phil Johnson Yvonne Johnson John Johnston Kerry Johnston Ann R Jones

Evelyn K Jones

Gina Fairchild Jones Sondra A Joten Cindy S Joy Michael W Joy Beth Judd Kermit Junkert Kathryn Jurado John Jurgensen Hilary K Justice Risë Kagan-Erickson Kristin Kalitowski Brian Kaltenbaugh Karen Kaneko Baker Cindv Karm Verdery D Kassebaum **David Kates** Trish Kauhaahaa Mark Keeney Sandy Keeney Renee Joan Keese Anne Kelley Marjorie M Kellner Kathy Kellum Lisa Kelly Morgan Kelly Kathy Kem Margaret Kemp Lynn D Kempter Paula Kennedy Sarah E Kennedy Tim Kennedy Tomi Kent Melissa Kenton Jonathan Kerr Jacqueline M Kerschbaum Aaron Kess Lynn Key Beth A Kilburn Jane C Kimbrel Penny Kindraka Lorraine F King Michael A King Paula King Paul Kingsbury Paul Kinney Donna Kinsey Donna J Kinsler Sharon Kirry Paul Klemme Anne Kleve Joyce Klinck

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Barbara MacKenzie Mark MacKenzie Heather Macphail Deb Madel Walter R Mahns Jill Mahr Jane Malczewskyj Mary E Maley Ron E Mallory Malmark Bellcraftsmen Mike Mandigo David Mangler MaryRuth Manthey Ellen Marcy Cathy Marker Brenda Markkola Lvnne G Marks Barbara Marley Hillary Marotta Ruth Marquette Pete Marsh Barbara Martin Leah Martin Robert Martin Sandy Martin Sheryl Martin Trinity N Martin Jonathan Martz Karl Marzolf Travis Maslen Carla Mason Carmen Massaro Cindy Massey Carolyn Masterson Tim Matthaei Carole Mattis Janice Mattison Tamara K Mauer Kofron Elizabeth C Mays Loebig Jan Mazeau Steve Mazeau Don McAvoy Marcia McBurney Elizabeth A W McCarthy Tiffany McClain Katharine E. McCleary Grace McClester

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Sandy Milner

Jared Miner

Linda Miner Linda Minnotte Tammera Missel Phyllis Mitchell Carol Lynn Mizell Mary Moffett Armin Mohr Cathy A Moklebust Ruth Ann Molloy M Imoto/ MON Bronze Nancy Monical Diana Montgomery Margaret Montgomery Sylvia Moody Cheryl Moore Daniel Moore Judith Moore Kathryn Moore Marla Moore Michele K Moore Peter Moore Rebecca Moore Richard Moore Michael Morales Ellen C Moretz Senja Morgan Roberta Morkin Martin Morley Hart Morris Marty Morris Ralph Morrison Suzanne H Morrison Ruth Morse Chris Mortika Tom Mounts Sara Mowrey Jonathan Mueller Sandy Mullaney Erica Munoz Mark Munson Donna S Murphy Julie Murphy William J Murphy Jennifer Murray David Murtagh Alicia Music Cecilia Myers Jennifer Myers Philip D Myers Christopher Nabors Finn Nagoski Sandra M Najera

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Richard Dean Owen Linda Duffendack Oxley Susan Oxley Anna Laura Page Marie Page John Pall Jan Palmer Debra Pankaskie Robert I. Paraska Roberta Parham Hyosang Park Shannon Park Mary Lee Parks Brian Parrott Diana B Parton Arthur Pascual Brandi Patrick Jane A Patterson Cindy Patz Al Paul John Tyler Pawlenko Terry Pawlenko William A Payn Alan Payne Heather Pearce Chris Peck Marilyn J Pedersen Joan Martha Pelzer Alec Pendry Charlton Pendry Gillian Penn Pat L Penn Jen Perez Sharon Perry Diane Persellin Jill Persichetti Alice Person Michael Perza Cynthia Peterik Charm Peterman Steve Peters Carol Petersen Christine Peterson Donna Jean Peterson Gail Peterson Isabelle Peterson Sharon Peterson Tracy Peterson Susan W Petty John Pfeiffer Brian Pfoltner

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Al Reese

Lois L Reese

Sherry Regiani Darcy Reich Joyce L Reimer Cynthia Reimers Erickson Sandy Reinders Mariann Reinke Megan Reishus Sue Retzlaff Darren Reynolds Greg Reynolds Fred Rheinhardt Stephanie Rhoades Marilyn J Ricciardi Deborah S Rice Vicki Rich Kirsten Richards Rick Richards Elizabeth Y Richey Robert Riker Heather Riley Nancy Ritter Carlos Enrique Rivera-Aponte Kate Robbins Tucker Robbins Jon Roberts Julie Roberts Carla Robertson Nancy Roberts-Small Ana Robins C Milton Rodgers Virginia A Rodgers Alkelis Rodriquez Linnette Rodriguez Margaret Roebke Karen Rolland Amv M Rollins Ed Rollins Carol Roman George M Roper Mitch Rorick Anthonette Rose Jim Rossetti Erik Roth Claudette Rothwell Linwood P Row David Ruder Dian Ruder Roger A Rudy Carlene Ruesenberg

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Blaine Russell Kristen Russo Susan R Rustvold Joy Herald Rutan Veda J Ryan Tarrie Rychlinski Mary Ryrholm Arthur Sabia Svlvia Sabia Catherine Salika Ella Saltonstall James V Salzwedel Sheen Sanchez Karen H Sande Fran Sanders Nathan D Sanders John Sanslow Susan Sargent Rebecca Sawyer Candy Schade Carol A Scheel Tracy Scheel Katie Scheetz Barbara Scheffter **Edward Schell** Mark D Schell Joyce Schemanske Heather Marie Schenck Patti Schindelar Emily Schlosnagle Nancy Schmidt Sharon Schmidt Vicki Schmidt Mary Schmitendorf Nancy Schmitt Ginny Schoenike Robert Schoenike Tambry Schoolcraft Elaine Schroeder Rebecca Schull Schulmerich Bells Susan W Schultz Amy Schulz Judy Schumacher Susan Schwartz Matthew Scinto Jarae Scruggs Jenmarie Seabaugh Marsha Seale Heather Seeber Jeffrey A Seekins Brian Seemann

Catherine Seiler Barbie Senkow Connie Senter Cynthia Seputis Elizabeth Sessions Chris Shaheen Michèle Sharik Christina D Sharpling Debbie Shaw Frica Shaw Stephanie Shealey David Leigh Shearer Sarah V Sheffield Laura Hough Shelton Margaret Sheneman Tim Shepard Don Shier Sara J Shierling Dorothy Shippee Wanda Shoemaker Valerie Shondel Jeanette Showalter Frank Shroyer Michelle Lynn Shuman Jo Shute Irene Kay Shutt Sherilyn Siegmund-Roach Shelly Siemer Lise Sigward Amanda Silvestri Barbara Silvey Shelbie Simmons Susan Simmons Christopher Simon Marilyn R Sink Elizabeth Skarshaug John Smeallie Betsy Smith Carol Smith Debbie K Smith Denean Smith Elizabeth Smith Kathy Smith Larry Smith Linda H Smith Lou-Anne D Smith Martha Smith Melissa Smith Patricia M Smith Sterling R Smith Thomas D Smith

Trevor Smith Ruth Smithheart Denise Smithhisler Renee Sneitzer Kooker Allison Snyder Nancy Snyder Sandi Sommers Diane Sorrels Susan P Sostak Laura Spaulding Ben Spicer Chip Spier Mary Dawn Spikes Lisa Spring Dianne Sprunger St Stephens Episcopal Church Jennifer R Stack Dawn Stafford Joyce Stahl Missy Starkey Glenn Starner-Tate Jill Starr John Staton Amy Steenson Jason Steffenhagen Virginia L Steiger John E Stender Elaine Stephansky Daryl L Stephens Philip Stephens Jackie S Stephenson Sally Sterk Monica Stern Linda Sterrett Carol Stevens Ruth Stevens Anne Stevenson Pamela Stewart Elaine Stien Jacqueline Stilger Sherri Stoffer Lynne B Storms Danny Stover Martha Stowell Samantha Strasser Carol Stratemeyer Jim Stratton Karen Strausser David Strayer Kimberlee F Strepka Madeline Strepka

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Nancy A Trievel Sandra Troendle Carol Trombley Daniel Tsukamoto Sondra Tucker Karen Tull Cyndi Tully Elaine Turner Julie Carol Turner Kevin Turner Dave Tuttle Heidi Twedt Dottie Tweedie Cheryl Ulmer Fran Underwood Susquehanna University Greg Urban Marquise Usher Caroline Valentine Craig Valentine Fernanda R Van Atta Wilson Van Tine Karen Van Wert Doris VanDeKoppel Linda Van Den Berg David VanderMeer Jennifer Vangolen Kristi VanKeersbilck Julie Vaquilar Hollace Vaughan Christine Viscovich Kim Vitray Sharon Vogrinetz Cheryl Boyd Von Ehrenkrook Debbie Wacker Bill Wade Leeann Wade Dan Waits Laurel Lynn Walczyk Libby Waldenville Beverly Walker Colin Walker Edie Walker Robert D Walker Andy Wallace Debra Brown Wallace Joann Wallenburn Barbara Walsh James Walters

Lewis Walton

Cloud Wang Jeff Warbinton Kristine Ward Lacey Ward Lynn M Ward Cheri Warner Brandy Warthman Janice Waterman Debbie Waters Jennifer Waters Marty Watts Timothy Waugh Muriel Weaver Kyle Webber A Cynthia Weber Christine Weber-Kearney Rachel Wehre Cathie A Weissman Paula Weitemier Carol Welsh LaDonna Welsh Abby Wentzel Darcie West Sarah D West Jill Westeyn Jessica Westgard Larson Lynda Weston Maryjane Westra Marilyn Westrum Catharine Wheat Catherine White JoAn White Lisa White Kim Whitehead Darnel Wick Eric Wicks Libby Wiebel Regi Wieland Rose Wiersma Barrett Wilber Susan Wilber Joyce Albrecht Wilcox Mary Ann Wilder Heidi Wildes **Beckie Wiley** Jeffrey Wiley Connie Wilkes Joell Wilkins Joyce Willeke Barbara R Williams

Gina Williams Holly Williams Maribeth Williams Thomas Williams Beth Willis LeAnna Willmore Connie R Wilson Leah L Wilson Lou Wilson Malcolm Wilson Phyllis Wilson Susan Wilson Favlee Wilt Stephanie Wiltse Brenda Wilvert Breezv Winkle Sandra Winter Chad N Winterfeldt Debbie A Wirges Kathleen Wissinger Lisa J Woerner Sarah Woeste Joyce Wolfe Kevin Wolfe Linda J Wolfe **Brett Wolgast** Ann Wood Rick C Wood Sue Wood Kirstin Woodbury Silver Woodbury Justin Wooten Marcia Payne Wooten Katherine Wright Laura S Wrubel Stephen Wurst Kitty Yang Mary Yerks David York Jo Ann Youhas Regina Younger Nancy K Youngman Mary Zimmerman Karl Zinsmeister Diane Zoeller Leah Zumberge

Save the Date!

We are coming to Kansas for Pinnacle 2025

We are thrilled to announce that Pinnacle 2025 will be held at the Mary Jane Teall Theater at Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Wichita, in Wichita, Kansas July 9-12, 2025.



Pinnacle is a performance-focused event with concerts, classes, and more!

- Ten concerts presented in a professional, 652-seat theater
- Class sessions offering training in ensemble management, ringing techniques, artistic programming, etc.
- Ringing tracks including Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, and All-Star Choir
- Exhibits in Handbell Commons.
- Celebration lunch banquet

Registration and performer application process coming soon.

Learn more about the Mary Jane Teall Theater: bit.ly/TeallTheater

Learn more about the Hyatt Regency Witchita: bit.ly/Pinnacle25Hotel



Greig Ashurst, conductor of the 2024 Indiana All-State Handbell Choir, rehearses the ensemble in preparation for their concert performance.

Indiana Music Educators Association Presents 7th Annual All-State Handbell Choir

Over the last seven years, the Indiana Music Educators Association (IMEA) has expanded its offerings at the annual Professional Development Conference to include an All-State Handbell Choir, along with traditional high school bands, orchestras, and choirs. Initiated in 2018 by then HMA Area 5 chair, Jeff Doebler, this is the first and so far only All-State Handbell Choir.

The IMEA, a federated state unit of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), exists to "support and advance music education...by representing the united interests of music educators and students and by providing professional leadership and service in music education to enhance arts education in schools," according to its website (imeamusic.org).

The organization supports music education by hosting an annual two-day conference. This event includes more than 100 sessions and meetings, along with performances by honors and all-state bands, orchestras, and choirs. Doebler, a music educator and handbell advocate who serves as the director of music education and bands at Valparaiso

University and directs the handbell choirs at Trinity Lutheran Church in Valparaiso, recognized a gap in the conference offerings. He noted that despite the importance of handbells in many school music programs, there was no All-State Handbell Choir included.

So, Doebler set out to develop a concept for the All-State Handbell Choir. He said, "I created a template for what this might look like and put together a committee. And part of what I knew the IMEA people would ask for was a self-sustaining model." A committee of five IMEA members, led by Doebler, was appointed to develop the All-State High School Handbell Choir. According to a handout at the inaugural performance, "The committee members represent a diverse use of handbells, with curricular and extra-curricular programs in high school, middle school, college, summer music camp, and church. All six handbell choir leaders developed a list of questions to allow IMEA members to learn about ways in which handbells are employed in music education."

After developing a model, he took it to the IMEA board

of directors and made the proposal. He said, "I was very pleased that they accepted it. And so, we went right ahead in that first year and got things going."

Doebler served as the conductor for the first year. He said that one of the reasons he was the conductor in that first year is so that he could be completely flexible. He explained, "Depending on what the ability level was with the group, I could change the repertoire. We wouldn't be bringing in somebody from far away who would be upset that we didn't have the level that they were expecting." He continued, "I went into the program with the plan that after the first year, we would turn it over to the committee so that they could continue to develop things."

They appointed Andrew Robinson as chair going forward. Having over 30 years experience as a handbell musician and director and several years as a public school instructor, "He's done a terrific job of leading the program ever since then," said Doebler. He continued, "And the ability level of the group, the performance level of the group, and the size of the group under Andrew's leadership has improved every single year."

ORGANIZATION PROCESS

Organizing the All-State Handbell Choir is a year-long process. Robinson explains that it begins the previous summer when the committee deliberates on how to enhance and expand the program. Additionally, they decide whom to invite as a guest director. He mentions that the remainder of the summer is focused on recruitment and generating excitement and interest. He stated, "I try to seek out other schools, churches, or organizations that we may not have reached out to before."

As the academic year approaches, the process becomes more structured, starting with applications and auditions. Directors of interested students must fill out an online application and upload audition videos of the students. There are specific exercises provided for the various positions to aid in the creation of these audition videos. Robinson explained, "As soon as school starts, the students must record themselves performing a minimum number of these exercises to demonstrate particular skills we are seeking."

While this is occurring, Robinson collaborates with the conductor to select the repertoire, ensuring it is ordered and distributed to the chosen musicians to maximize their preparation time. He expects that students will practice all pieces according to the director's notes provided. Robinson noted, "When they arrive at Fort Wayne, it is not about teaching notes and rhythms but is about making the ensemble gel and working on musicality." The rehearsals then culminate in a concert performance performance.

HMA'S INVOLVEMENT

In 2020, Rhonda Blacklock, then chair of Area 5, was chosen to direct the All-State Handbell Choir. She

recommended that Area 5 take an active role in the program. Then Robinson approached HMA Area 5 about possibly offering scholarships for the event according to Area 5 past-chair Jared Ogier. The board agreed and the area has been offering two scholarships each year. He went on to say that in the last couple of years, they have decided to become involved in other ways. He said, "We decided to step up our involvement a little bit and follow Greig Ashurst's lead and the trends from National to get more involved in the local education associations around Area 5."

Greig Ashurst serves as president of the HMA National Board and is on the Education Committee with other music educators. The purpose of the committee is to offer guidance and resources to educators interested in introducing handbells into schools as both a performance and teaching tool.

Over the last few years, HMA National has been offering The Handbell Playground at various state NAfME events. The "playground" is a bell table setup where attendees can try the instrument. Ashurst said, "We have some quick and easy arrangements. Walk up, and I can teach you how to play handbells in 30 seconds. We can play a song, 'Twinkle Twinkle,' 'Old Macdonald' in another 30 seconds." He continued, "An interesting observation at most of the state conventions is that the students will come back with more people, and then they are ready for a little bit harder song and a little bit harder after that."

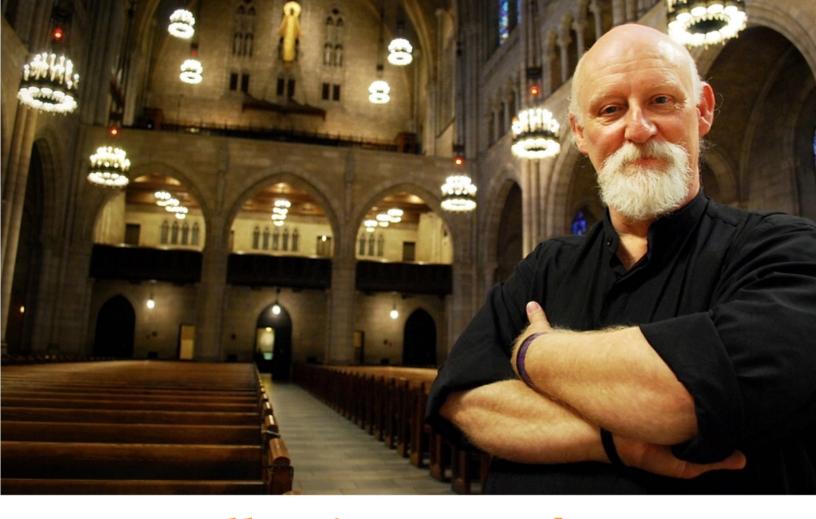
For Indiana's event, Ogier used the Education Committee's materials to run Area 5's version of the Handbell Playground, and the hope is that other areas will continue to follow suit at their own state's events.

FUTURE OF ALL-STATE HANDBELL CHOIRS

According to Ashurst, who is from Louisiana, his state's MEA has approved adding an All-State Handbell Choir in January. Ogier commented that Area 5 is working on making that happen in Ohio as well.

The HMA Education Committee is working on resources for other states who wish to add an All-State Handbell Choir to their state's conventions. Ashurst said, "We're working on a template and a plan on how to start one in your state." Being modeled after what Indiana has built, it will include resources on how to write a proposal, create a budget, and come up with all the things an MEA would require.

Asked what Ashurst thought of the experience he said, "Oh, my gosh, it was fun. They were great kids, every single one of them. There was a wide range of ability levels, but they were all ready and willing to work. They were awesome."



Farewell, Tim Waugh

The handbell, choral, and arts education communities mourn the loss of Tim Waugh, an internationally renowned conductor, composer, and performance arts educator. Tim passed away on February 8, 2024. His absence will be deeply felt within the handbell community. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the musical groups that had the privilege of working with him.

Tim was well-known in many performance mediums, including handbell, choral, church music, and musical theater. Early in his career, he became noted for his work in conducting and teaching children and youth, and was always excited to work with children of all ages. He was a tireless champion for performance arts in the church, classroom, and community.

He continued his work as an independent professional musician, including a career spanning over 33 years of public school music education and with award-winning choral groups in southern West Virginia. He also served many churches throughout his native West Virginia and in North Carolina.

Tim most recently served as the artistic director and founding conductor of Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble, a professional community choir, and a consultant to Charlotte Bronze Mid-Carolinas Handbell Festival, both based in uptown Charlotte, North Carolina. He also served as director of music and coordinator of worship arts at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Tim had a close relationship with HMAs event for advanced musicians, Distinctly Bronze, having rung in the early years with David Davidson and having compositions included in the DB repertoire. The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers board (now Handbell Musicians

of America) named him a Master Teacher of Rhythm and Movement.

In 2008 Dean Jensen of The Handbell Podcast called Tim "the busiest guy in handbells" and he certainly worked hard in the following years to maintain that title. His conducting, workshop, and performance travels took him to almost every US state, four continents, and over 12 countries, including his ancestral Scotland, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Hong Kong, Canada, England, and Ireland.

Some of his most memorable performance venues include Simon Bolivar Hall (Center for Social Action through Music – Caracas); Carnegie Hall, New York City; Hampton Court Palace, Surrey; Sheldonian Theatre, University of Oxford; St. Patrick's Cathedral; Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and just about anywhere there were handbells to be found in Puerto Rico.

In addition to his work in handbells, he actively founded community choruses and music festivals and conducted or chaired many festivals for children's choir, middle and high school choirs, and bell festivals for all ages.

He taught and conducted at International Symposium three times, including 1996 in Albuquerque, where his commissioned piece *Fancye* was premiered, 2008 in Orlando, where he was featured as the conductor for the first Distinctly Teen, and 2016 in Vancouver, British Columbia, where he was the mentor/conductor for Sound Effects Youth Division, who premiered his piece *Recollection*.

REMEMBERING TIM WAUGH

by Michael J. Glasgow

While I was honored by the invitation to share a reflection at Tim's memorial service, I found the preparation daunting. With less than a week's notice, I wasn't sure how I could possibly know where to begin. I thought about it, prayed about it, and agonized over it.

At 2:00 a.m. on April 19, I woke up from a sound sleep with an epiphany, the likes of which had only ever happened before with music compositions: everything was just *there*. I opened the "Notes" app on my phone, let it all pour out, and went back to sleep.

When I woke up in the morning, I thought at first that I had dreamed the perfect message, and spent a few minutes trying to recall everything, to no avail. I was elated to find it on my phone: it hadn't been a dream after all! (Thankfully, I left the "Notes" app open, or I might not have seen it before the next day's service.)

When I read what I had typed, I felt that the words were an answer to my prayers, so that's what I shared at his service. The positive response has been deeply humbling: *Soli Deo Gloria*.

The following is a lightly edited transcription of Michael's reflection.

I was asked if I could say a few words about Tim Waugh. No.

Because how can you sum up Tim Waugh in "a few words?"

Tim was always full of surprises. He would make random appearances at places: you'd look up at an event that you didn't expect to see him at and there he was, sitting in the back, just unobtrusively there, "being Tim." Which makes today tough, because I'm fairly certain that will not be happening today.

Yet I feel like Tim very much is here. As trite as it may seem, he *is* here, because a part of Tim beats in each of our hearts whenever we remember him. And so how do we remember him?

There are so many stories I could tell (some which I should not tell in a house of worship), but I think Pastor Lara put it best when she said "Tim was an enigma."

He commanded attention everywhere he went...but he also commanded a very deep respect.

He could teach and inspire with absolutely no words...or with many, many, many, many words; and you knew you were in a safe, wonderful space when he said, "filters are down."

Tim was a joker. You all have seen this, you remember it; it is seared into our collective visions and memory: he would tuck his chin and grin, and look at you over the top of these invisible glasses, sometimes hiding his eyes...yet he also had a very sincere side. Those eyes that sometimes stared at you mischievously were also kind and compassionate eyes.

He knew what he excelled at – and man, it was a *lot* of stuff – but he also had his insecurities.

He was a social butterfly with enormous wings: to meet Tim was just to be immediately pulled into his orbit...and yet he was in many ways very much a "lone wolf."

He faced a *lot* of challenges in his life. From birth to death, he had a lot of uphill climbs...but he handled them with grace, and he always remembered and appreciated the blessings.

Tim is the person that I credit with my handbell career. Back to my first National Seminar in 2006 in Milwaukee (where I met some of you for the first time), I was starstruck and in awe that someone as famous in the bell world as Tim Waugh found me and said, "You're a first-time attendee! How's it going?"

He would later tell "Seminar stories" of me being distracted by Ms. Pac-Man machines, or the time I tried to convince firefighters (when the Firefighter Olympics and handbell Seminar were concurrently happening in one venue) that, no, handbells are not "just like cowbells..."

He taught me when to speak and when to shut up (and sometimes I'm still trying to figure that out), but we had a great trust and friendship. We composed together and hung out together, were sounding boards for each other's new music, and we conducted together many times.

In fact, this past October we were together on the podium again for an event in Toledo, Ohio which was among Tim's last festivals, if not his very last. Our theme for that event was *Across the Pond*: all of the music had either Scottish, Welsh, Celtic, Irish, or English origins or influences. As a nod to our shared Scottish heritage, we decided that unbeknownst to anyone – including the festival coordinators – we would appear for the final concert wearing our kilts.

About a week before the event, Tim called and said, "We have a slight problem here. My kilt's a little snug."

And I said, "Well, mine's a little loose, so it should even out, right?" Then, even through the phone, I could feel that scolding, raised eyebrow that he would send your way, always with love and humor.

So we said, "OK, we'll put it aside for now; we will have another occasion in the future to do this."

And here we are.

When Tim would come to Raleigh-Durham to go to Duke for his kidney checkups, we would always get together, at least for coffee, usually lunch or dinner. This last visit, he had been dealing with a persistent infection, and I had been in close quarters with someone (of course, practicing handbells) who had gotten sick and come down with something.

I said, "You know, with everything you're dealing with, with the tests and infection stuff, I would feel awful if I exposed you to something," and he said, "Well, let's just rain-check it; we're going to see each other in a few weeks anyway at Distinctly Bronze..."

And here we are.

Though I could tell story after story after story – as so many of us could – I think the takeaway that I'll leave us with is just a reminder that none of us knows how many sands we have left in our personal hourglass, and we shouldn't take anything for granted. And I know this in many ways seems "platitudey," because we all can share such messages of assurance, but I think that the strong takeaway is that as we remember Tim – because he will keep showing up in those unexpected places: we will reach for our phones to send him a text, we will think *I've got to tell Tim about this* – we should give thanks every day for

the special people in our lives, for our friends and for our family...and we should all be thankful that we were a part of Tim's.



Above: Tim "crashes" the Raleigh Ringers concert (Rockin' Raleigh Ringers portion) in full Scottish regalia as "Security" apprehends him. Below: Tim conducting.





P.L. Grove has been a handbell ringer and director for more than 45 years. As a founding ringer with the critically acclaimed Sonos Handbell Ensemble, her more notable performances included those with the San Francisco Girls Chorus, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the Kronos Quartet, Frederica von Stade and twice on Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion. She served as artistic director for Velocity Handbell Ensemble for over 20 vears, has rung at several Distinctly Bronze events, was the Distinctly Bronze West Chair from 2014 to 2016, represented the United States as the director at the 18th International Handbell Symposium in Australia, and rang in the inaugural

P.L. is one of a few people to have completed a Bachelor's degree in handbell performance and is a past president of Handbell Musicians of America. Retired from her job as a government public information officer, P.L. currently works part-time as a publications expeditor for a nonprofit and as a church vocal choir director. In her free time, she spends as much time as possible making music.

Zenith event in 2023.

Soloists, Ensembles, Bell Trees

Coordinated by Linda Krantz

Creating a Concert Concept

Music or Theme First?

by Pamela "P.L." Grove

Velocity Handbell Ensemble started with seven ringers playing five to six octaves of bells, so we had to be creative about everything we did — including programming. I get this question all of the time: How do you come up with a concept for your concert? Do you choose the music first, or do you choose the theme? The answer: both.

There's no "right" way to create a concert theme or concept. Sometimes you know in advance that you want to do a concert based on, say, the theme of "peace" (and, btw, this would be an excellent concert idea, because there's a lot of music with this theme at the center). But sometimes it's not that simple.

I remember the year when Velocity looked around, and suddenly, we were a quartet! This happens, you know. People move away for work, get too busy, get pregnant — life gets in the way of handbells, right? But when we started looking for quartet music, almost all of it was classical. We knew we didn't want to do a concert with 100% classical music, so we decided to compose or commission music for the second half of the concert that would be in complete contrast — and we would just call this the "contemporary" half of the concert. Thus, the Vintage & Vogue concept was born. In creating this concept, we decided to further distinguish the second half from the first by making it a completely different experience. So, while the first half was a typical concert experience (play song, introduce next song, play that song, introduce next song, etc.), the second half was created as one long continuous listening experience. We composed musical interludes in between the music that led from one piece to the next. At the end of each piece, the ringers would lower our heads. freeze, and the music would start to play to take us from one piece to the next. Once the interlude music had started, we could move to change our bells and get set up for the

next song. If they were paying attention, the audience would hear pre-recorded selections that contained little snippets of the previous and coming pieces that musically transitioned them out of the previous song and into the next one. We liked this concept so much that we recorded it the following year as our one and only CD (still available at velocitybells. org – thank you for indulging my momentary commercial). And two of the songs we commissioned for the second half went on to become published as full choir pieces!

In the end, this was the *Vintage & Vogue* concert lineup:

Vintage

- Passepied (A. Campra/G. Luethi)
- Allegro Giocoso (G. Bizet/M. Keller)
- Pavane (G. Fauré/A. French)
- Fugue in C Major (I.S. Bach/C. Maggs)
- Sabre Dance (A. Khachaturian/C. Baker)
- Goin' Home (A. Dvorák/C. Maggs)
- The Hallelujah Chorus (G.F. Handel/M. Keller)

Vogue

• Fanfare for an Uncommon Instrument (S. Nelson)

Interlude 1

- On the Wings of the Wind (S. Keeney) Interlude 2
 - Blaze (W. Kyle)

Interlude 3

Recueillir (K. Wissinger)

Interlude 4

• *A Minor Adjustment* (P.L. Grove) Interlude 5

• Ascension (K. McChesney) Interlude 6

• The Closer (J. Gingrich)

For our next endeavor, we did the exact opposite: we knew we wanted to create a concert around the idea of rhythm. We wanted to start the concert with a piece that contained

absolutely no rhythm and then end the concert with a piece that was 100% R&B. But we had no idea what these songs would be. The brainstorming was wild, and we ended up starting with a Gregorian chant going all the way to Cheryl Lynn's *Got to Be Real* – along with several variations of rhythm in between. I realize many of you may have only heard of one or two of these songs, but it's okay because we have the Internet. We took the "R&B" concept two steps further and titled our concept *Rhythm & Bells* – we even wore Red and Black for the concerts (although I'm not sure everyone got that connection). It was honestly one of the best themes we've ever executed!

Here's how that concert turned out in the end:

- No Rhythm *Gloria Laus* (Gregorian Chant, arr. P.L. Grove)
- There's a Little Pulse...
 Fugue in C Major (J.S. Bach, arr. C. Maggs)
- Let's March *Allegro Giocoso* (G. Bizet, arr. M. Keller)
- Let's Dance! The Blue Danube Waltz (J. Strauss, arr. J. Gingrich)
- Syncopation Anyone?
 Maple Leaf Rag (Scott Joplin, arr. C. Maggs)
- Reggae On
 Don't Worry, Be Happy (Bobby McFerrin, arr. J. Gingrich)
- It Takes Two to...

 Tango (Kenny G, arr. P.L. Grove)

- Irish Beat

 Gwerzy (Armstrong/O'Snodaigh/Hagen, arr. P.L.

 Grove)
- Jazz or Rock? You Decide

 Moon Dance (Van Morrison, arr. J. Gingrich)
- Play That R&B Dance Music Got to Be Real (Foster/Paitch/Lynn, arr. P.L. Grove)

All this to say, there's no one way to plan a concert. You can lay out all of the music you love in front of you and try to create a theme in that manner. Or you can pick a theme based on where you're headed, where you've been, or what's foremost on your mind lately. Velocity is no longer a quartet; we're now a full ensemble. We've been through so many changes as a handbell group — at one point, we were even a duet! Our latest evolution has meant that I am no longer directing the group – I am "just" a ringer. My retirement as artistic director and our decision to hire Christian Guebert as our new director has propelled us in an entirely new direction. What will that look like? We have no idea, but it will be very different, as every new direction has been. So, our latest concert theme focuses on that: the idea of moving forward in a new direction. We will see what the musical outcome will be.

And how will you create your next solo or ensemble concert: music or theme first? It really doesn't matter. It's the time and energy that you put into it that will make the difference as to how creative, musical, and engaging your concert will be. Your audiences await you.





Born and raised in Canton, Ohio, Michael lov has lived in Philadelphia, PA, since 1974. He received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Theory and Composition from Baldwin-Wallace University. He studied handbells with Donald Allured and handbell composition with Arnold Sherman. For the last 46 years Michael has been the Music Director at First Presbyterian Church in Ambler, PA, where he started the handbell program in 1978. In 2019 Michael retired from The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA where he taught for 21 years and developed the handbell program there.

Michael is the Executive Editor for the GIA Foundations Series, designed specifically for developing handbell ensembles in schools. He is the co-author (with Sandra Eithun) of Pathways to Musical Ringing, a new reproducible series from Choristers Guild. Michael is a published composer and has taught at Handbell Musicians of America Area festivals and National Seminars, PMEA district and state conferences, and the 2008 International Handbell Symposium.

Handbells in Education

Coordinated by Kathleen Wissinger

Tim Waugh

My Teacher

by Michael Joy

My introduction to the wisdom of Tim Waugh was at the National Handbell Seminar in Dayton, Ohio in 2000. I had heard about him and read good things about him. He and I were both teachers. I was excited to take one of his classes and see what I could learn from him.

The class I took involved different ways to process rhythms through movement. I was in awe of what he had to offer. I learned so much that I went back and took the class again to see what I might have missed the first time. From then on, I was a devoted disciple of Tim and what he had to offer.

Tim was never too busy to answer questions that I had. He introduced me to so many concepts that have shaped who I am as a handbell musician and teacher. The biggest is the idea that the body, NOT the handbell itself, is the instrument. Even though Rudolph Laban said the same thing several years earlier, I heard it first from Tim. He had a background in Dalcroze and Orff and applied movement concepts from these methods to handbell ringing. He made sure that the beat was firmly embedded in the body and that all rhythms evolved around that basic pulse. In his class, we moved around the room, stepping the beat, bouncing tennis balls, shaking hands, and clapping rhythms so that these concepts became a part of our body. That preparation made transferring those concepts to the music easier when we were behind the tables.

Another revelation was his idea that eighth notes are not created equal. Tim had us pat the beat on the foam pads, creating a steady pulse. Placing the other hand a few inches directly above the first, he had us divide the beat so that the first hand was tapping both the table and rebounding to tap the hand above it, creating two eighth notes that were equal in duration, but with the second one

having a lighter feeling. Then he had us back away from the table, no longer feeling the beginning of the beat but still feeling the "and" of the beat as the first hand touched the second hand. The result was proof that, while the eighth notes were equal in duration, they were not equal in terms of musical feeling. There was a definite difference in the resulting musicianship of the eighth notes. Getting the best musical result was always at the heart of Tim's teaching and conducting.

Tim was a consummate musician. He had strategies for getting the best musicianship out of the ringers. One of my favorite techniques was his "pat the puppy" idea to achieve more musical martellatos. This was his way of ensuring that ringers did not hammer the bells into the table but instead used less force while attaining the desired musical result. Using the Dalcroze concept of weight, he ensured that ringers understood how this could provide more possibilities for their musicianship.

Tim was an out-of-the-box thinker. He found innovative ways to stretch people's musicianship. I smile when I think of the many people I would see trying to conduct three in one hand and four in another, a challenging exercise he loved to teach. Tim was responsible for the spread of the cup game wherever he went. This was another way for ringers to experience rhythmic precision, working together, and the joy of having fun with others.

Tim was an incredible mentor. He helped guide me through my first massed ringing conducting experience. He used strategies that guided the ringers and let them be successful right away. His initial approach was to have the ringers play everything with stopped sounds so the ensemble was clean and together. This saved so much precious rehearsal time so that he could work on making music. I remember

watching him conduct the massed ensembles at an Area 2 festival. They were ringing an arrangement of Battle Hymn of the Republic. They were working on the verse which begins, "In the beauty of the lilies." This verse has so much rubato that the ringers were struggling to stay together. Tim had them sing the words as they rang, and the result was magical. The ringing was accurate, and the addition of voices was a magical surprise. I learned so much from watching the transformation.

Tim had a wonderful sense of humor and was fun to be around! At the 2008 National Handbell Seminar, we were "Clink and Clank, The Ringin' Brothers" (based on Click and Clack, the Tappet Brothers from Car Talk). We each taught part of the session, sharing our unique perspectives and favorite approaches. It was just two very good friends having a wonderful time sharing what we loved.

I learned of Tim's passing as I landed at the Dallas/Fort Worth airport. I was on my way to conduct the Snake River Handbell Conference in Nampa, Idaho. During the rehearsals and concert, I was constantly thinking, "Tim

taught me that," and "I'm a better conductor and teacher because of what he taught me." The festival was a success in large part due to what I learned from Tim. One of the festival pieces was Sandy Eithun's arrangement of Steal Away to Jesus. Tim often said that it was his favorite Sandy Eithun arrangement. At one point, I had the ringers sing the refrain of the spiritual as they played:

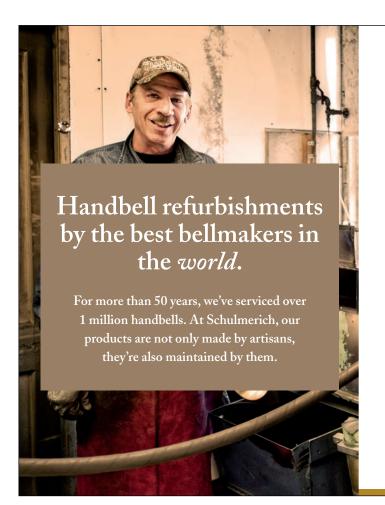
Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus.

Steal away, steal away home,

I ain't got long to stay here.

This was a very poignant moment for all of us, a fitting tribute to Tim and his legacy.

I was so fortunate to be one of the hundreds (and perhaps thousands) of people who were taught, mentored, enlightened, and touched by Tim Waugh: the person, the teacher, the musician, the conductor, the innovator. One of the best ways we can all honor him is to carry on his legacy of creative teaching in our ringing and conducting.



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Julie Kruse has been a member of Embellish for nineteen seasons and enjoys playing primarily in the battery and upper bass. She likes the challenge of handling multiple articulations or difficult rhythms to keep her brain sharp and loves teaching basic ringing techniques to those who want to learn.

She earned her B.A. from Alma College, with majors in psychology and general music, with trombone as her primary instrument. She has continued to play in various groups, including the Kalamazoo Concert Band, Jefferson Street Big Band, and most recently, the Westminster Winds.

In addition to her musical background, Julie is a licensed massage therapist, writer, and disability advocate for her son, who lives with cerebral palsy.

She recently began pursuing her dream of becoming a voiceover artist and has completed a number of small projects. Her ultimate goal is to publish and record her own work.

Community Connections

Coordinated by Lauran Delancy

Handing Off the Baton

Our Successful Search for a New Music Director

by Julie M. Kruse

Hiring a Music Director for a professional-level handbell ensemble can be a daunting task and one that many groups don't want to think about — until it becomes a necessity.

That's exactly the situation the Embellish Handbell Family found themselves facing in early 2023 after longtime Music Director Stephanie Wiltse announced her retirement by the end of the concert season in June.

Wiltse had served Embellish in that capacity since 1998 and Campana — Embellish's sister organization — since its inception in 2007, leaving a legacy of musicality, leadership, and camaraderie that would be hard to replace.

She announced her plans to step down at a meeting with members of both ensembles present, as well as the Embellish Board of Trustees, with whom she already had discussed her retirement. That same evening, the Board publicly posted the news on the group's website and various social media outlets.

Word of Wiltse's retirement was greeted with both surprise and congratulations for her long-standing commitment, not only to the Embellish Family but to the larger handbell community.

At the close of that group meeting, an invitation was issued to members of both ensembles, giving them the opportunity to serve on the Search Committee for the new Music Director. The committee was tasked with determining the process to find and interview interested candidates and ultimately make a recommendation to the Board.

Finding someone to lead an advanced-level ensemble is difficult because of the specificity of skills required for such a niche instrument and market. So, the Search Committee began meeting regularly every other week to explore the steps that would be necessary to determine that process.

They reached out to a few organizations that had undergone changes in leadership and discussed the information shared from those experiences. It quickly became clear that the individual nature of each group's needs would be paramount to the search and hiring process, so the committee began by developing a survey that was sent to the ringers of Embellish and Campana.

The survey included questions related to the duties and responsibilities of the Music Director, the qualities and characteristics they should embody, and an overall assessment of both strengths of the group and areas that could use change or improvement. It also included space for the ringers to share anything not already covered and asked if they had recommendations for potential candidates. The ringers were encouraged to be thorough and specific so the committee had useful information moving forward. The committee then met to review the feedback, determine the groups' priorities, and craft a job description.

There was a clear consensus from the information provided that the members prioritized candidates with a strong background in music and conducting, knowledge of handbell repertoire, and experience in ringing. In addition, the groups overwhelmingly indicated importance in the "people" skills required to work with the various personalities and skill levels in both Embellish and Campana, as well as a commitment to support the family-like culture the groups have worked hard to establish and maintain.

Once the committee finalized an official job description, they published it, along with information on the application process and deadline for submissions. Then, they began contacting the various candidates who had been recommended for the position. The consensus among the committee members

from the outset was that they wanted to honor all feedback provided, including reaching out to everyone who had been suggested as a potential candidate.

The committee continued to meet as applications were submitted, knowing there were a limited number of rehearsals left in the concert season, and hoping to have a new Music Director in place before summer break. They began scheduling Zoom interviews with candidates as soon as possible, allowing everyone on the committee the opportunity to tune in and participate in the interview process.

Once those were complete and the committee agreed on which candidates they wanted to interview further, they set up inperson conducting sessions for the candidates to work with Embellish. (Campana members were also invited to observe and participate if they chose.)

The candidates were asked to direct three different pieces of music: a well-known composition that Embellish already had prepared, to see how they would encourage the group to improve on something already established; a mid-level sight-reading composition, to gauge how they would teach and support learning unfamiliar repertoire; and a work of their choice, to get a feel for their personality in programming.

The conducting sessions were livestreamed in Embellish's private group on social media, so members who couldn't attend in person had the opportunity to observe the candidates in action. Immediately after each conducting session, members filled out feedback forms on the candidates, assessing their skills and fit with the Embellish family. The committee collected the feedback and met following each session to discuss the results. This part of the hiring process took a few weeks since several candidates participated, with one present each week.

Once these sessions were complete, the committee presented the members of Embellish and Campana with a simple survey asking which of the candidates they wanted to recommend for hire. After reviewing the results, they recommended the Board of Trustees extend an invitation to Brenda Austin to become the new Music Director.

The groups were thrilled to learn she accepted, and the Search Committee was thanked for their service, and relieved that the process had gone so well.

The Search Committee overwhelmingly agreed that we feel fortunate to have experienced a smooth candidate search and successful transition from one talented Music Director to another. We believe this is due, in large part, to the level of commitment we made to include feedback from the group as a whole in making our decisions. It was essential to consider how to ensure everyone felt heard and that

their input was valued.

The initial surveys were one of our most important tools, and we referred back to them several times to determine who we thought would be the best fit for Embellish and Campana. Similarly, the written feedback forms after the in-person conducting sessions offered great information in our final decision.

The Embellish Family has worked hard to create and maintain a reputation of musical and personal excellence in the handbell community. and it believes that was reflected in the quality of the candidates who applied for the music director position. The ringers put their trust in us to find the best fit for our groups, and we were excited to feel we accomplished that. We are grateful to Stephanie Wiltse for her decades of leadership in building our organizations, and we are excited to see where we go next with Brenda Austin at the helm!



Music for You

As we are in the midst of a milestone year for HMA, here is a vintage piece published in the January 1968 issue of Overtones. We also have an arrangement of Lift Every Voice and Sing by Mitchell Eithun, which is appropriate any time of the year, but especially on Juneteenth (June 19). For printable scores, visit our members only site at HandbellMembers.org



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Lift Every Voice and Sing

'Til earth and heaven ring



"Lift Every Voice and Sing," also called the "Black national anthem," recalls the prescence of God admist a collective and ongoing struggle for freedom. The three-stanza text was written by Harlem Renaissance author James Weldon Johnson in the year 1900 and set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson. Scholar of Black hymnody James Abbington maintains that "it is a religious hymn, but has a deep and profound social, political and societal relevance."

James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)









Beth Ann Edwards serves as Director of Arts at Plymouth Congregational Church in Des Moines, lowa, where she assists with arts programming and directs handbell choirs. Beth Ann holds a Master of Church Music degree with Handbell Emphasis, a Bachelor of Science in secondary English education, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in visual art, and a Master of Business Administration. She attends advanced ringing events, including Bay View Week of Handbells and Distinctly Bronze. She is a founding member and co-director of Des Moines Concert Handbells. Beth Ann chairs the Donald E. Allured **Original Composition** Award committee, serves on the HMA National Seminar Committee, and has served on the lowa and Area 8 HMA boards. She has held several appointed and elected positions in community and civic organizations such as the

Des Moines Choral Society

and Arts in the City.

Handbells in Worship

Coordinated by **Beth Ann Edwards**

Programming Music for Youth and Adult Church Choirs

by **Beth Ann Edwards**

When I started a new job as a handbell director last fall, I faced the challenge of choosing music for the existing Youth Handbell Choir (grades 6-8). Several of the vouths were accomplished musicians and experienced ringers, but a few were brand new to bells. Because of the disparity in ages and experience levels, I talked with the high school ringers and explained the benefits of having them encourage and mentor the younger ringers. If the younger ringers felt comfortable and accepted as members of the choir, they would assimilate more quickly and be willing to take on more challenging music. I also asked them to help recruit more high school friends, and they were able to recruit a couple of new ringers.

My next step was to choose music that would meet beginners and advanced musicians close to their level of proficiency, with just a bit of challenge. The first piece, Festive Flourish by Michael Joy (found in the book Pathways to Musical Ringing, Vol 2: Rhythms, CGB1017), is fairly straightforward with a consistent syncopated rhythm and few bell changes, and we used mallets throughout. The high school students were assigned more than one position, which gave them the challenge they were looking for, and the beginners focused on two bells each.

Our second piece was performed for a Halloween concert, and we had several weeks to rehearse before the concert. Our numbers grew, and we were able to standardize our ringing positions a bit more, so progress was made! The piece *Haunted House* by Scott Pfitzinger (AG36062), called for lots

of malleting, allowing easy transitions to accidentals and key changes. We broke up the piece with humorous drama, giving our new ringers time to breathe between sections. As the younger ringers became more comfortable with ringing, I could identify where they could best be successful. Our youngest ringer was hot to learn four-in-hand, and she easily adapted to the top treble spot, B6/7 and C7/8. I was excited about all the repertoire possibilities for this group while keeping the difficulty level at about 2 or 2+, maybe a 3-.

Historically, I've chosen Advent and Christmas music that is less challenging yet familiar and interesting to the ringers and the listeners. This year's selections included the following:

- Earth Shall Ring, arr. Margaret R. Tucker L2, Choristers Guild CGB214 (individual piece) or CGB968 (included in reproducible collection Glad Tidings Ring)
- In Dulci Jubilo, arr. Michael W. Joy L3-, Choristers Guild CGB1133 (included in reproducible collection Pathways to Musical Ringing, Vol 3: Meters)
- Greensleeves, arr. Cathy Moklebust L2, Choristers Guild CGB322 (two-choir arrangement rung with adult handbell choir)

New music was in order for the spring! I chose each piece with this in mind:

• It fits with the worship theme on the assigned Sunday.

- It keeps the young ringers' interest.
- It presents gentle challenges to most of the ringers.
- · It builds confidence as they learn to ring as an ensemble.
- Each piece is pedagogical: the ringers learn new techniques or musical nuances that will gently move them forward as musicians.

Here's what I programmed for spring:

- Gratitude, Alex Guebert L2-, Ringing Word 8274
- Be Thou My Vision, arr. Julie Turner L2, Ringing Word 8266
- · Let Our Praise Resound, Brian Childers L2+, Soundforth 20/2021SF
- · Humbly I Adore You, arr. Shawn Gingrich L1, Agape 2345
- · Via Dolorosa, Dale Woods, arr. Douglas E. Wagner L2, Lorenz 20/1508L
- · Lord of the Dance, Sydney Carter, arr. Joel Raney and Arnold Sherman L2, Hope Publishing 2997

I was also asked to choose a few pieces for the adult handbell choir, of which I am a member but do not direct. The choir has changed personnel, and some of the more experienced ringers are currently not able to ring. We have enough ringers for five-octave music, and I enjoyed choosing a few new pieces. Again, the top priority was working with the worship service, scriptures, and liturgy. Literature options in our handbell genre continue to grow, and choosing pieces that fit the adult choir was difficult because I had to limit my selections to three. Here's what I selected:

Simplicity, Matthew Compton L2. Evergreen Music EGM109

What a lovely piece! The melody line is soothing and lilting, and the ringers are eager to rehearse it each week.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, John Zundel, arr. Joel Raney and Arnold B. Sherman L3, Agape 2508

This is an excellent piece for Lent. The hymn tunes HYFRYDOL and BEECHER are recognizable as Lenten tunes and are also used with other texts, which makes the piece appropriate for all liturgical seasons.

Glory to God (Gloria a Dios), Peruvian Hymn, arr. Patricia Hurlbutt

L3, GIA Publications G-9802

This piece adds a nice contrast with its strong rhythms and malleting lines. It will be a fun piece for late spring.

Music selection can be overwhelming, so make sure to use

all your resources. A few suggestions:

- Listen to the online recordings as you follow along with the sample pages. Look for accidentals, tempo and key changes, dynamics, and challenging rhythms to see if they are a good fit for your choir and allotted rehearsal time.
- Talk to your director and ringer friends from other choirs for repertoire recommendations.
- Attend handbell events, especially reading sessions and concerts, and learn about new pieces being published, as well as existing pieces that are worth a second look.
- · Be in tune with your ringers and follow their lead on pieces they enjoy and ring well, and take note of individual ringing assignments that work best for each piece.
- Consider purchasing reproducible books. Most pieces are included because they are tried-and-true favorites that work well with most choirs.
- Introduce each piece with a positive approach. This will give you and your ringers more confidence as they go through the learning process.

Enjoy the music-selection journey! We all have a few missteps along the way, but it gets easier with experience. Introducing new music to your choir is exciting, and watching a choir succeed as they move from ink on a page (or dots on a screen) to music in worship is rewarding for all involved.

From the President's Pen...

Continued from page 8

what even he could have predicted just by reading the posts on social media.

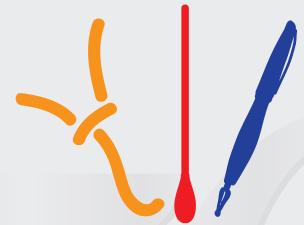
A mentee/mentor relationship, whether intentional or unintentional, is a cornerstone of advancing the art of handbell/handchime playing through education, community, and communication. It has the potential to create a diverse community and to initiate great conversations about equity and inclusion in our organization. Both parties can greatly benefit from the knowledge and insights gained from one another. This mutually beneficial partnership has the potential to generate novel opportunities for introducing fresh concepts, individuals, and collaborations into the handbell community.



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50 Shades of Damping

Michelè Sharik

Adaptive Notation: Evolving into the Digital World

Diana Montgomery

Advanced Bass Bells: Developing the Individual

Ringer and the Section

Justin Wooten

All About That Bass: Digging Deeper

Leslie Lewis

Arranging Rock, Pop, and Jazz for Handbells

Ron Mallory

Audition Skills for Ringers

Sharon Schmidt

Balloons

Stevie Berryman

Basic Percussion Methods

Jack Burdwood

Basics Revisited: Your 100,000 Measure Tune-Up

Michèle Sharik

Be Prepared for the Unexpected

Kevin Mazimas Ko

Beginner Bass Bells: Molding the Individual Ringer

and the Section

Justin Wooten

Beginning Solo Ringing

Ron Bellamy

Behind the Baton

Deborah Rice

Bell Trees Continued: Beyond the First Branch

Laura Blauch

Between the Music

Pamela (P.L.) Grove

Choosing Repertoire for the Classroom

Brian Seemann

Class Composition: A Creative Collaboration

Kathleen Wissinger

Conducting 101: You're the Leader, Now What!?

Joy Toll-Chandler

Coordination Conundrums

Marie Loeffler

Developing Spiritual Community

Mitchell Eithun

Do Not Be Afraid: Theory is Fun!

Joy Toll-Chandler

Easy Music Programming & Recording with

GarageBand

Damien Lim

Engaging Students with Handchimes and

Literature in the Elementary Music Classroom

Charlotte Herbstsomer

Fascinating Rhythms: System of Ta

Susan Capestro

Fewer Hands Can Still Make Big Music!

Kathleen Wissinger

First Look: Strategies for Sight-Reading Success

Stevie Berryman

Going Digital: Using Technology for Music in

Handbells

Rick Holdsworth

Handbells, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence

Mitchell Eithun

"How Do I Conduct That?" Keeping the Bell Choir

Together When the Music Gets Weird

Joel Plaaa

Instilling Musicality in the Beginning Handbell

......

Choir

Daniel Moore

Intermediate Solo Ringing

Ron Bellamy

Introduction to Bell Trees: The First Branch

Laura Blauch

Just 2s and 3s: Rhythms Made Easy!

Brian Seemann

Keep Calm and Carillon

Mitchell Eithun

Left or Right? A Guide to Malleting

Jack Burdwood

Music Activities, Bells, and Chimes for Older Adults

Bruna Marinho de Almeida

Music Theory (and Why It's Important)

Ron Mallory

Musicality in Handbells

David Harris

Off the Table! Handbell/Handchime Activities for

the General Music Classroom

Gillian Erlenborn

Plink, Plank, Plunk: 1 + 2 = Malleting

Damien Lim

Practicing at Home – With or Without Bells

Ron Mallory

Problem Solving for Rhythm Challenges

Marcelle Nuoffer

Quartet Ringing Basics

Sharon Schmidt

Refreshing and New Teambuilding Activities

Greg Urban

Repeatable Changes

Sharon Schmidt

Ringers Rehearsal Techniques

Beth Judd

Roundtable: I'm Excited, Now Where Is Everybody?

Michael Glasgow

Roundtable: Managing Performance Anxiety

Nikki Evans

Roundtable: Next Steps for Bells in Schools

Gillian Erlenborn/Bells in Schools Committee

Roundtable: The Care and Feeding of Your Handbell

Clinician

Brenda Austin

Scavenger Hunt: Deciphering Handbell Notation

Lisa Arnold

Shtick Happens

Stevie Berryman

Spinning Around the Circle of Fifths

Michael Glasgow

Stage Presence and Its Importance

Hillary Marotta

Take It Up a Notch: How to Advance Beyond the

Basics

Jennifer Stack

Take Me Out to the Bell Game!

Lisa Arnold

The Struggle is Real! Rehearsal Techniques and

Strategies for Developing Directors

Lynn Atkins

There's More Than One Way to Peel a Banana (A

Hands-On Overview of Different Assignment

Methods)

Michèle Sharik

Training for Handbells: Building Strength,

Endurance, and Durability

Justin Wooten

Understanding and Integrating Jazz into Handbell

Music

Travis Maslen

Using Boomwhackers with Specials Needs

Populations, Young Students, Seniors, and

Dementia Patients

Charlotte Herbstsomer

Wakeups, Warmups, & Wrap-ups

Michael Glasgow

When Left is Right: Weaving and Displacement

Pamela (P.L.) Grove

See Class Descriptions at Seminar. Handbell Musicians.org

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

Available Until June 30, 2024:

HMA Member

Full Event, \$440 Single Day, \$120

HMA Member/Connecticut Resident

Full Event, \$420 Single Day, \$105

Non-Member

Full Event, \$535 Single Day, \$140

Non-Member/Connecticut Resident

Full Event, \$515 Single Day, \$125 **July Rates**

HMA Member

Single Day, \$135

HMA Member/Connecticut Resident

Single Day, \$120

Non-Member

Single Day, \$155

Non-Member/Connecticut Resident

Single Day, \$140

The Official Hotel for National Seminar is the Hartford Marriott Downtown

The HMA group rate is \$160 USD per night for standard single and double rooms.

This group rate is available two days pre and postevent based on hotel availability.

Group discounted parking rates are \$19 for self-parking per overnight and \$25 for valet.

Free high-speed internet is included for Marriott BonVoy members.

Deadline to Book at Special Group Rate: Friday, June 14, 2024.

IMPORTANT: When following the booking link and clicking on "Check Availability" of rooms, there will be an indicator that there is "1 Room Left." That is not true and it can be ignored.



Area Spotlights

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

What's Happening in Your Area

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 I 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

Chair: Jennifer Stack, chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org
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 $ME: Dana\ Humphreys, me. are a 1@hand bell musicians. or g$

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Scholarships: scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Chime Loan Program: Jennifer Stack, chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org
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AREA 1 WEB DIRECTORY

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AREA 2 (NJ, NY, PA)



AREA 2 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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Treasurer: Shawn Gingrich, treasurer.area2@handbellmusicians.org

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AREA 2 WEB DIRECTORY

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



AREA 3 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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Board Member: Neesa Hart, boardmember5.area3@handbellmusicians.org

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NC: Blaine Russell, nc.area3@handbellmusicians.org
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AREA 3 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area1.handbellmusicians.org Facebook: facebook.com/groups/90491126540/

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,

AREA 4 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

FL: Katherine Lamb Chico, fl.area4@handbellmusicians.org GA: Steve Coldiron, ga.area4@handbellmusicians.org SC: Michael Lopez, sc.area4@handbellmusicians.org Islands: Alkelis Rodriguez, pr.area4@handbellmusicians.org 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.



APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Education Chair: Marcia Brantley, education.area4@handbellmusicians.org
Communications Chair: Katy Ellis, communications.area4@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 4 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area4.handbellmusicians.org Facebook: facebook.com/ area4handbells

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 5 WEB DIRECTORY

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



AREA 6 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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AREA 6 WEB DIRECTORY

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Facebook: facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064537908533
Instagram: instagram.com/handbells.area6

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!

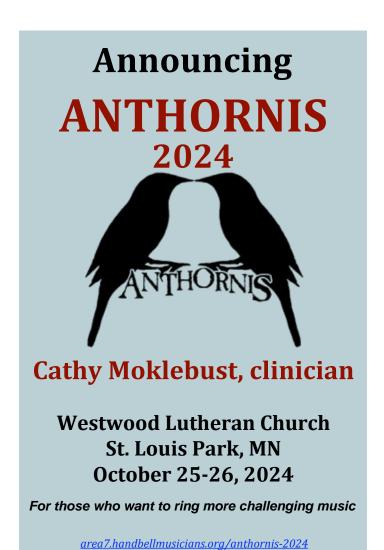
AREA 7 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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C.H.I.M.E. Representative: Michelle Finlon, chime.area7@handbellmusicians.org
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Manitoba Representative: Ron Vert, manitoba.area7@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 7 WEB DIRECTORY

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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

AREA 8 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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AREA 8 WEB DIRECTORY

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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!!

AREA 9 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

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Secretary: Sandy Milner, secretary.area9@handbellmusicians.org
Treasurer: Diana Montgomery, treasurer.area9@handbellmusicians.org
Member At-Large: Kari Daelke, boardmember1.area9@handbellmusicians.org

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Education Co-Chair: Stacie Brown, education.area9@handbellmusicians.org
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AREA 9 WEB DIRECTORY

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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



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AREA 10 WEB DIRECTORY

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



Area 11 Ringers Camp

Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, Colorado



area11.handbellmusicians.org/camp

AREA 11 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

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APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Communications: Katie Gant, communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org

C.H.I.M.E Chair: Paige Ericksonn, chime.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Youth Chair: Nathan Kleve, youth.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Registrar: Lilly Hatch, registrar.area11@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 11 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area11.handbellmusicians.org Facebook: facebook.com/area11handbells

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

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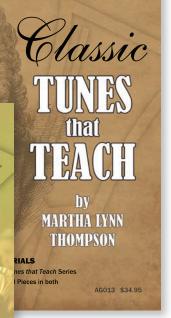
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