

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

Join us this June in Massachusetts, home of the Original American Handbell Festival



When twenty-six ringers gathered at the Crane Estate in Ipswich, Massachusetts in the summer of 1954, an amazing handbell legacy began to unfold. This summer you can help us continue to tell the story at Area 1 Festival Conference.

Join us at Worcester State University, June 26-29, 2025, to find:

- A welcoming host of handbell musicians with conference know-how
- Inspiring clinicians and a massed ringing experience like no other
- A brand new Bronze - Tins Ringer Mentor program
- More than 40 classes to choose from, including 15 new offerings
- Great food, fellowship, and fun all weekend long!

Registration is now open at

<https://area1.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference>



AREA 1 : Where It All Began

AREA 1 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

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AREA 1 WEB DIRECTORY

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Facebook: facebook.com/HMAarea1

Youtube: youtube.com/@area1handbellmusiciansofam265

AREA 2 (NJ, NY, PA)

Area 2 Happenings!



**SPRING
RING
2025**

**April 5, 2025
9am–3pm
Rochester, NY**

Are you a Level 1 or 2 Choir or Ringer? Join us for Spring Ring 2025! Work with clinicians in a massed ringing setting with other choirs and single ringers plus enjoy technique classes and lunch!

\$40 per ringer. Music should be prepared in advance of the event.

Go to: <https://area2.handbellmusicians.org/spring-ring-2025/> for registration info, repertoire, and more info on the day! Space is limited, so sign up soon!

Penfield United Methodist Church
1795 Baird Rd., Penfield, NY 14526



2025 Festival Conference
Split Rock Resort - The Poconos, PA

June 27-29, 2025

**Clinicians:
Michael Helman
(Massed
Ringing), Jason
Krug (Master
Class) and Kathy
Ebling Shaw (Tin
Track)**

Join us for ringing, classes, wonderful concerts, and lots of fun for ringers of all levels! This year we will feature the amazing Sue Garton in our Friday night concert and the talents of our Area ringers in a Showcase Concert on Saturday night.

Go to: <https://area2.handbellmusicians.org/area-2-festival-conference-2025/> for more information!

Split Rock Resort, Lake Harmony, PA

**2025 Read &
Rings/
Festival
Rings:**

Come and spend a few hours reading great music in a Read & Ring Session or reading through the Festival '25 selections!

\$10/session

See Area 2 website for dates and locations!

AREA 2 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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AREA 2 WEB DIRECTORY

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Facebook: facebook.com/hmaarea2
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AREA 3 (DE, DC, MD, NC, VA)

CELEBRATE THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 3!



**2025
Community
Ensemble
Festival**
March 7, 2025
Roland E. Powell
Convention Center,
Ocean City, MD
Conductor:
Brenda Austin



**2025
Ocean City
Festival**
March 7-8, 2025
Roland E. Powell
Convention Center,
Ocean City, MD
Conductors:
Brenda Austin, Kyler Brengle,
Paul Brill, Kerry Johnston,
Al Reese



**2025
Virginia
Festival**
March 28-29, 2025
Mechanicsville
Baptist Church,
Mechanicsville, VA
Conductor:
Kathy Ebling Shaw
Limited to 10 choirs

JOIN US FOR THESE EXCITING EVENTS!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER: [AREA3.HANDBELLMUSICIANS.ORG](https://area3.handbellmusicians.org)

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AREA 3 WEB DIRECTORY

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Facebook: facebook.com/groups/90491126540/

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

ECHOES ACROSS THE ISLANDS: BELLS OF THE CARIBBEAN RINGS IN A NEW TRADITION

The first edition of Bells of the Caribbean was held on November 8-9, 2024 at the University of Puerto Rico-Carolina, featuring 26 handbell ringers. After a hiatus of ringing events in Puerto Rico, this gathering was organized to provide a local opportunity for participants from Puerto Rico, The Bahamas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to come together and celebrate their passion for handbell music. For this inaugural event, Kathryn Jurado served as guest conductor, and several members of the Area 4 Board of Directors—William J. Murphy (Chair), Carlos E. Rivera (Chair-elect), and Alkelis Rodríguez (Islands Chair)—participated as ringers.

During the concert, we were honored to have Francisco Abad, arranger of *El Cóndor Pasa*, alongside Enrique Bayoán-Ríos, who played traditional Andean instruments including the charango (a stringed instrument), bombo (bass drum), and zampoña (pan flute).

The second edition of Bells of the Caribbean will take place on November 7 and 8, 2025. If you're interested in participating, please contact us at chair.area4@handbellmusicians.org



UPCOMING EVENTS IN AREA 4

February 22, 2025 - Georgia Spring Ring, clinician Dr. John Behnke

March 21-22, 2025 - Florida Handbell Festival, clinician Karen Buckwalter

June 6-7 - Bronze Under the Sun

November 7-8 - Bells of the Caribbean

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AREA 4 WEB DIRECTORY

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Facebook: facebook.com/area4handbells

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

Area 5 is excited for our upcoming Columbus Spring Ring on April 25-26 which will take place at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Ohio. We are inviting individuals and choirs from all throughout Handbell Musicians of America to take part in two days of learning music concluding with a final performance at 5pm on April 26th. During the Spring Ring, participants will be guided by Composer and Director Fred Gramann.

Director Fred Gramann holds degrees in organ performance from Syracuse University and University of Michigan. He has provided the handbell community with many amazing arrangements throughout the years. He previously served as the director of music for the American Church in Paris and is also the honorary associate director of the Raleigh Ringers.

Ringers of all levels are invited to attend and will be divided into different categories of Tins and Coppers. During the final performance, Tins and Coppers will each perform two pieces on their own which they will rehearse separately and together all participants will play three combined pieces.

Early Bird Registration ends February 1st and is \$99, after this day registration increases to \$115. Registration for the Columbus Spring Ring can be found on Area 5's website including all repertoire, hotel information, and the entire event schedule: <https://area5.handbellmusicians.org/spring-festival-2025-columbus-ohio/>



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AREA 5 WEB DIRECTORY

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Facebook: facebook.com/area5HMA

Instagram: instagram.com/area5hma

Twitter (X): [@area5hma](https://twitter.com/area5hma)

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



Handbell Musicians
O F A M E R I C A

| Area 6

2025 Events & Workshops in Area 6 States

Arkansas Festival

February 22, 2025
Little Rock, AR
Bob Bidewell, Clinician
arkansasbells.org

Central Alabama Handbell Festival

Feb 28 – Mar 1, 2025
Birmingham, AL
Brian Childers, Clinician
cahandbells.com

River City Ring

March 1, 2025
Memphis, TN
Bob Bidewell, Clinician
wtbells.org

Middle TN Handbell Festival

March 1, 2025
Old Hickory, TN
Jason Krug, Clinician

Chattanooga Handbell Festival

March 7-8, 2025
Chattanooga, TN
Michael Glasgow, Clinician

Area 6 SPRING RINGS

March 22, 2025
Lafayette, LA
Stephanie Rhoades, Clinician
area6.handbellmusicians.org

Area 6 SPRING RINGS

March 29, 2025
Jackson, MS
Stephanie Rhoades, Clinician
area6.handbellmusicians.org

Smoky Mountain Ring

April 4-5, 2025
Knoxville, TN
Brenda Austin, Clinician
knoxareahandbellfestival.com

AREA 6 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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AR: Lisa Hester, ar.area6@handbellmusicians.org
LA: Barbara Williams, la.area6@handbellmusicians.org
MS: Paul McGahie, ms.area6@handbellmusicians.org
TN: Carole Millard, tn.area6@handbellmusicians.org

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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)

RINGING EVENTS IN AREA 7

In addition to our large festival conference, Area 7 enjoys holding ringing events. We look to our membership and see where we can benefit our ringers and directors by holding events to increase their ringing skills.

This spring we are hosting Copper Ring in Worthington, Minnesota aimed at Level 2 ringers. The event is a great time to learn from our clinician, Jennifer Cadwell, by rehearsing repertoire in a massed setting without the pressure of having to perform the music in a concert. Individual ringers and groups are welcome to join us.

In June, Area 7 hosts Young Ringer's Camp in Waterville, Minnesota with clinician, Bonnie Tranby. This biennial event brings together youth from across the Midwest as they enjoy camp activities like the ropes course, paddling, swimming, s'mores, fun in the mudhole, and HANDBELLS! The ringers celebrate the end of camp with a concert.

In the fall, we host Anthornis, our ringing event for those who want to ring more challenging (L4-L6) music. This fall, clinician Amy Maakestad will share her expertise with the ringers at Anthornis in the Twin Cities.

We can't wait to make music with you!

AREA 7 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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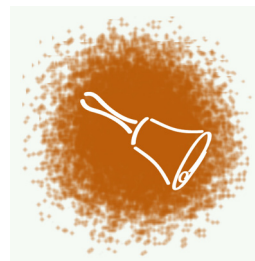
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MN-South: Paul Kingsbury, minnesotasouth.area7@handbellmusicians.org

WI-North: Denean Smith, wisconsinnorth.area7@handbellmusicians.org

WI-South: Lisa Bourget, wisconsinsouth.area7@handbellmusicians.org

COPPER RING



for Level 2 Ringers
Saturday, April 26, 2025
American Lutheran Church,
Worthington, MN
Clinician: Jennifer Cadwell

Join us for this one day ringing event in Southwest Minnesota. Register as an individual ringer or bring your whole group. Rehearse three level 2 pieces in advance, then join us at the Copper Ring as we work on the music with our clinician, Jennifer Cadwell. Ringers also will learn a new piece of music to take home with them.

\$20 Registration, includes one FREE score.

For more details, including repertoire, schedule and registration, go to:

<https://area7.handbellmusicians.org/events>

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AREA 7 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area7.handbellmusicians.org

Facebook: facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansArea7

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

River City Ringers Showcase Handbells at NMEA Conference

On November 21, 2024, the River City Ringers of Omaha had the honor of performing at the Nebraska Music Education Association (NMEA) conference in Lincoln, Nebraska.

In addition to their performance, the River City Ringers of Omaha and Bell-issimo of Lincoln introduced educators and attendees to the joy of handbell music through an innovative and interactive "Handbell Playground," which offered a hands-on experience designed to immerse conference participants in the art of handbell ringing. Attendees of all skill levels were invited to explore the instruments and collaborate to play a short piece of music.

Attendees were excited—especially high school and college students encountering handbells and chimes for the first time. Many shared comments like, "My grandma's church has them," but had no personal experience with the instruments.

Watching their faces light up as they mastered thumb damping and seeing their broad smiles as they performed a lively rendition of "Old McDonald" was heartwarming for all.

One memorable moment occurred when a young man approached the booth with two friends and said wistfully, "I always wanted to play in a bell choir." Without hesitation, Liane Kirmis replied, "Today we're going to make your dreams come true!" She quickly assembled an impromptu 5-minute choir with other passers-by, turning his dream into a reality.

Through their performance and interactive exhibit, the River City Ringers underscored their dedication to fostering a greater appreciation for handbell music and its integral role in music education. Their presence at the NMEA conference was a celebration of artistry, collaboration, and the transformative power of music.



AREA 8 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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AREA 8 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area8.handbellmusicians.org
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AREA 9 (OK, TX)

Don't Miss These Area 9 Opportunities!

**Kristopher Jon
Anthony
Memorial
Scholarship
to Pinnacle 2025**
Area 9 members can
apply on
our website.



FALL FANFARE

August 16, 2025

Texas
Location to be determined

Oklahoma
St. Stephen's UMC, Norman

Rookie Ringers
Workshops
Reading Sessions
Director Sessions



CHIME LOAN PROGRAM



Apply now and be
ready for the next
school year!



Visit us at www.area9.handbellmusicians.org

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Twitter (X): @Area9Handbells

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



Tenth Terrific Year
March 27-30, 2025
Monarch Hotel & Conference Center
Clackamas, Oregon (Portland Metro)

*The nation's premier event founded specifically
to celebrate coppers level musicians!*



"Coppers musicians are the backbone of all of our ensembles yet they are frequently underestimated! I love enticing them with challenges they have no idea that they will conquer. It is a privilege to be on the podium and watch the ensemble evolve from tentative to amazing! It's the best!!"

---Ellie Hodder, Founder/Clinician



See you there!

Details soon: www.coppersclassic.com

AREA 10 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

AREA 11 PRESENTS

RINGERS CAMP 2025



June 8 - 12, 2025
Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby, Colorado
with
Sandra Eithun & Mitchell Eithun

Registration & Payment DUE
April 30, 2025

Featuring workshops, outdoor activities, amazing repertoire and two different ringing levels!

AREA11.HANDBELLMUSICIANS.ORG/CAMP

AREA 11 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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Communications: Nikki Evans, communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org

C.H.I.M.E Chair: Shirley Culp, chime.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Youth Chair: Tessa Taylor, 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 puts on events for all ages! Last September, we hosted Bellz The Next Generation, a festival full of fun for junior high and high school ringers. We had a great weekend with HMA president Greig Ashurst. He flew in from Louisiana to lead our Area 12 youth conference at Concordia University Irvine. Youth had time to socialize, learn new skills and even played a world premier!

The annual Las Vegas Twelfth Night Handbell Festival was a great success this year! Sandra Eithun was the guest clinician and did a fabulous job. We had over 80 ringers comprised of 10 choirs from Nevada and California and one individual ringer. We also had seven of our Area 12 board members participate in the festival (pictured with Sandra Eithun). Next year's event will be on January 9-10, 2026, with guest clinician Brian Childers. Hope to see you there!



AREA 12 LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

BOARD

Chair: Michèle Sharik, chair.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Past Chair: Marci Nuoffer, pastchair.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Treasurer: Kathy Arnold, treasurer.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Secretary: Carol Pickford, secretary.area12@handbellmusicians.org

STATE/SUB-AREA CHAIRS

CA-Central: Maggie Paton, cencal.area12@handbellmusicians.org

CA-North: Cindy Ksiazek, norcal.area12@handbellmusicians.org

CA-South: TBD, socal.area12@handbellmusicians.org

CA-Far North: Nancy Schmitt, farnorcal.area12@handbellmusicians.org

HI: Karen Carlisle, hi.area12@handbellmusicians.org

LA-Metro: Erik Der, lametro.area12@handbellmusicians.org

NV-North: Barbara Walsh, nv.area12@handbellmusicians.org

NV-South: Alison Pruet, vegas.area12@handbellmusicians.org

SF-Bay: Marquise Usher, bayarea.area12@handbellmusicians.org

APPOINTED POSITIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Robyn Baird, membership.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Education: Elizabeth Loebig, education.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Events: TBD, events.area2@handbellmusicians.org

Communications: Cathryn Griggs, communications.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Vendor Liaison: Fran Sanders, vendorliaison.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Historian: Cyndi Tully, historian.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Social Media: Harley Glenn, media.area12@handbellmusicians.org

Webmaster: Gail Berg, webmaster.area12@handbellmusicians.org

AREA 12 WEB DIRECTORY

Website: area12.handbellmusicians.org

Facebook: facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansOfAmericaArea12

Instagram: instagram.com/area12media

YouTube: youtube.com/@area12handbellmusiciansofa52