

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc.

American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Atlantic Provinces, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Volume XVII, No. 1

November 2002

AGEHR Area I Officers

Elected Officers

Chair:

Sue Chamberlin

(603-942-7884)

chair@agehrarea1.org

Chair-Elect:

Debra LeBrun

(978-692-1309)

chairelect@agehrarea1.org

Area I Rep:

Ed Henderson

(978-851-3024)

arearep@agehrarea1.org

Secretary:

Sue Menzel

(508-366-2000)

secretary@agehrarea1.org

Treasurer:

Sue Henderson

(978-851-3024)

treasurer@agehrarea1.org

National Liaisons

Handbells In Education:

Bunny Stanley

(207-549-5187)

education@agehrarea1.org

Handbells for Special

Groups:

Nancy Reynolds

(802-748-4760)

specialgroups@agehrarea1.org

Chairs and appointed
officers listed on page 2.

Syllables from Sue

I have been thinking a lot about volunteers lately. Many of us have jobs that we do, perhaps because we love what we do, but at least partially because we need some income in order to pay our living expenses. But think about how many things in our world are done by volunteers – Red Cross, PTA, church committees, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, ..., and handbell choirs. These are the things we do because we believe in them, and because we love them. Some handbell choir directors get paid to be the director, but many of them are volunteers. The ringers are volunteers. AGEHR has only a handful of paid employees. The National officers, the Area boards, the event planners are volunteers. Give yourselves a pat on the back for the all the work you do, and the beautiful music you produce, just because you love doing it.

If you don't have it in your plans yet, please consider attending the Area I Festival/Conference in Amherst, MA June 26-29, 2003. If you have never been to a F/C, you should give it a try. Your choir will grow in leaps and bounds in those four days.

AGEHR's National Directors' Seminar will be in Hartford, CT in July 2003. Here is your chance to attend a National event without traveling halfway across the country.

And a plug for the Fundamental Tone and the Area I Web site — we would like to publicize your concerts and other performances. The Fundamental Tone now has a regular publication schedule. FT will be mailed the first Monday of February, May, August, and November. The deadline for submitting material is

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the 18th of the previous month. Submit your information to editor@agehrarea1.org. Events can be added to the Web page www.agehrarea1.org at any time by contacting webmaster@agehrarea1.org.

I pray that you all have much to be thankful for this year, and that you have a joyous holiday season.

Sue Chamberlin

Reports from Liaisons and State Chairs



The focus in Connecticut this past summer and early fall has been/will be the October repertoire session. By the time you read this, Connecticut will have hosted the Area I Southern Repertoire Reading Session on October 19. There are over fifty people registered for this event, including people from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Rick Wood from First Church of Bethlehem in Bethlehem, CT will be our clinician and we are looking forward to catching some of Rick's enthusiasm!!!

Several concerts are being planned in the upcoming months in our state. Here is the list that I am aware of at the present time:

October 20 – 20th anniversary concert by Joyful Expressions at 4:00 at the King Street Church in Danbury, CT. Joyful Expressions is directed by Diane

Cooke.

November 3 – Concert by The Messengers (directed by Rick Wood) from the First Church of Bethlehem on the Green at 3:00 at Christ Episcopal Church on the Green in West Haven, CT. The concert is sponsored by the West Haven Historical Society.

December 1 – Concert by The Messengers from the First Church of Bethlehem on the Green at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, CT as part of the Mattatuck Museum's 12th Annual Festival of Trees.

December 6 – Music by The Handbell Choirs (directed by Rick Wood) of the First Church of Bethlehem on the Green during the Christmas Town Festival Vespers.

December 7 – Christmas Town Festival Concert presented by The Handbell Choirs of the First Church of Bethlehem on the Green at 11:00 during the Christmas Town Festival.

December 7 (tentative) – The Youth Bell Choir and Youth Choir from the First Church of Christ Congregational, Glastonbury will be playing handchimes and singing at Fanueil Hall in Boston.

Connecticut will also be the site for the 2003 Directors Seminar in July of next summer. Jean Degan has agreed to be the local coordinator for this event.

Susan Wilber, CT State Chair

More AGEHR Area I Officers

State/Provincial Chairs

*Atlantic Provinces
(Canadian):* **Joy Miller** (902-893-0193)
canchair@agehrarea1.org
Co-Chairs **Elizabeth MacLaren** (902-895-1743)
canchair@agehrarea1.org
Connecticut: **Susan Wilber** (203-407-4189)
ctchair@agehrarea1.org
Maine: **Bunny Stanley** (207-549-5187)
mechair@agehrarea1.org
Massachusetts: **Martha Goodman** (781-255-7769)
machair@agehrarea1.org
New Hampshire: **TBA**
Rhode Island: **Lori Kast** (401-727-4585)
richair@agehrarea1.org
Vermont: **Phil Brown** (802-748-8150)
vtchair@agehrarea1.org

Appointed Officers

Festival/Conference **Lori Kast** (401-727-4585)
Chair fcchair@agehrarea1.org
Historian/Archivist: **Daniel K. Moore** (401-438-4299)
historian@agehrarea1.org
Membership: **Jane Nolan** (860-464-2873)
membership@agehrarea1.org
Guild Store **Bobbie Fillioe** (802-438-2974)
Manager: store@agehrarea1.org
Publications: **Ruth H. Bowers** (978-922-8137)
editor@agehrarea1.org
Video Librarian: **Bobbie Fillioe** (802-438-2974)
Manager: store@agehrarea1.org



Maine handbell choirs are beginning to reconvene and work on a vast assortment of music for numerous performances. We welcome the following individuals to the world of handbells in Maine.

1. Eleanor Murley of East Holden, ME. Eleanor started asking questions about the Schulmerich bell placque hanging on the wall in the front of the Holden Congregational Church sanctuary and unearthed a three octave set of handbells stored in the attic! She called me stating she wanted to get the bells going again and could I help her learn the techniques etc.? We scheduled a mini workshop with potential church members on July 20 and the group performed for the first time in years on July 21! Be sure to encourage Eleanor with her new endeavors by sending a note to emurlix@aol.com.
2. Janice Cox of Yarmouth, ME. Janice is organizing a new conductor for the handbells at her church in Yarmouth. She called requesting information about upcoming events. E-mail her at choirlady@bigfoot.com if you have any performances or events happening in your area that she might be interested in.
3. Margaret Cyr, living in Norridgewock, Maine and teaching music at the Smithfield Elementary School. Margaret was in the elementary methods class held this summer at the University of Maine at Orono. I was invited to do a handbell demonstration at that class and Margaret fell in love with the instruments. Her excitement led to an application in the Chime Loan Program and she will begin teaching these instruments this year in grades 4-6!

Be sure to register for the October 26, 2002 reading session happening at the Bristol Consolidated School. This event will be conducted by Ray Cornils, director of the Parish Ringers from Brunswick. Information has been sent out in the recent Fundamental Tone. If you have any questions be sure to call 207-549-5187 or e-mail me at bstanley@u74.k12.me.us.

Parish Ringers will be performing December 23, 2002 at the Portland Merrill Auditorium. All are invited.

If your bell ringing choir has events that are coming up be sure to let me know. We have had several requests

asking where individuals can go to hear handbells.

Information regarding the Maine Spring Ring will be on its way soon. We look forward to seeing you all again this year.

Bunny Stanley, ME State Chair



I know that there are a lot of bells ringing in New Hampshire. I keep hearing about new handbell choirs in the schools. But New Hampshire needs someone to help coordinate events in the state, to provide some communication between directors, and to be a liaison with the Area I Board. If you are interested, would like to volunteer, or would like more information about serving as NH State Chair, please contact me.

Sue Chamberlin, 603-942-7884, chair@ahegrarea1.org



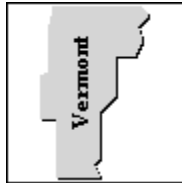
Two annual events in Rhode Island continue to offer ringers and directors opportunities for ringing and instruction. This is especially important for those ringers and directors looking for preparation opportunities to ring the repertoire for the 2003 Area I Festival/Conference BEFORE the festival...here's what's in store in RI:

A sight reading session for the Festival/Conference 2003 repertoire (massed, tins and coppers) was held on Friday, September 27 at the RI "Repertoire Reading" session being held at Woodbury Union Church, Warwick, RI. Leading this session was MA State Chair, Martha Goodman. We selected the music for our Spring Ring at this repertoire reading session. Rhode Island's Sixth Annual "Back to Bells" workshop for ringers and directors will be offered on Saturday, September 28 at Woodbury Union Church. Lorri Simmons, Jean Degan, and Andrew Wallace joined Martha in leading classes for ringers and directors that would help them prepare skills for Festival/Conference 2003. Hats off to the ringers and Ethel Thompson,

Director, for hosting this fun event.

The Sixth Annual "Spring Ring" is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, 2003. A host site has not yet been determined. The repertoire for the ring will be selected from the Festival/Conference 2003 repertoire. As always, we invite any choir to be a part of this event, especially as it prepares us for Festival/Conference 2003. For more information, contact me.

Lori Kast, RI State Chair.



2003 Events:

Directors Roundtable - January 25, 2003: This event is held the last Saturday of January to help directors get a head start on the Vermont Spring Ring massed music. A sharing session is held over lunch to renew friendships and discuss concerns. The afternoon session will be devoted to previewing the massed music for F/C '03. A central location in either West Lebanon or Rutland is being sought for this event.

Vermont Youth Ring 2003 - Saturday, April 5: Averill Tinker has agreed to chair this event and host it in the West Lebanon/White River Jct. area. We are hoping that a more central site will attract a larger number of young ringers to this event. The Dothan Brook Elementary School has been reserved for this event. Directors have been confirmed: Kathy Luzader, Kim Strepka and John Leonard. A committee meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14 to determine music and other details.

Vermont Spring Ring 2003 - April 25 & 26, 2003. Spring Ring will be in the Essex Jct/Burlington area in 2003. A host committee including Carolyn Harris, Sally Yankee, David Ashley, Sylvia Stebbens and Kathy Brown met on August 20th. A contract has been signed with the A. D. Lawton Middle School to use their facilities again. Jane Anderson from First Baptist Church in Topeka, KS has agreed to serve as clinician. Music selection is in process and will be finalized by October 1st.

Other issues:

A group of ringers in the Jericho/Underhill area are interested in starting a community auditioned bell group. They have been meeting to make plans, and have begun to "spread the word". A mailing was done to all Vermont choirs inviting interested ringers & directors to an exploratory meeting on Sept. 8 at the Camel's Hump Middle

School.

South Church Handbell Ringers to perform at Mount Washington Hotel: The South Church Handbell Ringers of St. Johnsbury, VT return to the Mount Washington for carol ringing programs during the holiday season. SCHR will be ringing for Victorian Tea in the hotel conservatory on Saturday, December 14 at 4:30 p.m. The ringers will return for encore performances on Friday, December 20 at 5:00 and 9:00 pm. SCHR will ring a program of American and European carols in an informal atmosphere under the direction of Phil Brown.

Phil Brown, VT Chair

Education Liaison Report


The Handchime Loan Program is off to a great beginning for the school year 2002-2003. Four of the five sets owned by Area I have been placed in schools. We welcome the following teachers and schools to the fun and challenges of handchimes!

1. Margaret Cyr, living in Norridgewock, Maine and teaching music at the Smithfield Elementary

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School, Smithfield, Maine. She will be using the chimes with students in grades 4 through 6. Her music classes are forty minutes long and are attended by up to twenty students per class. She is planning on using the chimes in the school's Christmas Program.

2. Lynne Welsh, living in Manchester Center, Vermont and teaching music at the Dorset Elementary School, Dorset, Vermont. The Dorset School has an enrollment of approximately 175 students. Lynn sees her classes once a week for up to 45 minutes. There are between 10 and 16 students in each class. Lynn writes that the Dorset school "has a warm, nurturing atmosphere and educational environment which stimulates a desire to learn and develop. ...I think a handchime program would be well received at the school as a tool for learning basic music skills as well as performance oriented skills." Her email is kels@sover.net. Send her a note and encourage her in any way you can!
3. Gayle Boardman of Fitch Middle School in Groton, CT. I received a call from Gayle after an AGEHR Area I Board member did a demonstration at her school. Gayle was totally amazed at how much music and cooperation were achieved in the short amount of time allowed for the presentation. She was also excited about how well the students "bought in" to playing these instruments. Be sure to welcome Gayle at gboardman@groton.k12.ct.us!
4. Lois Danielle Batstone of Kentville, NS. Danielle is a real "handchime missionary". She established an excellent program last year at the Aldershot Elementary School of Kentville, NS. It was so successful that the Aldershot PTA purchased a 3 octave set of chimes for the school. Lois has taken another music teaching position this year in a school about 100 km away from Aldershot. She will be teaching grades 4-6 in a school with over 600 elementary age students. She has applied for the use of the chimes for a second year to establish yet another program. Congratulations and good wishes Lois!

The fifth set of chimes is still available. If you know of a music teacher who would be interested in this program please have them contact me at bstanley@2u74.k12.me.us.

Bunny Stanley
Education Liaison

Attention: Bronze Choirs

Revised Bronze Requirements for FC '03

Registration materials for Festival/Conference 2003 will be sent out in January, 2003. Included in the registration materials are REVISED bronze level requirements for FC '03, which will determine placement on the bronze ringing floor and inclusion in the bronze division:

BRONZE LEVEL CHOIRS: Bronze Division registrants must submit a videotape of the choir being registered for the bronze division; the videotape must be submitted with the registration materials for the choir. The videotape must show the choir performing TWO pieces of bronze level music (level 4 or higher); the videotape does not have to be of Festival/Conference 2003 repertoire. The videotape may reflect a rehearsal or a performance setting. Names of all ringers in the videotape performance must be included with the videotape, as well as the title/arranger/level of the pieces being performed.

BRONZE LEVEL ORPHANS: Orphan ringers will no longer be placed in the bronze ringing division. Individuals wishing to ring in the bronze division as an orphan must register as a bronze ringer with a Festival/Conference registered bronze choir; similarly, the orphan must meet the videotape requirements for bronze choirs (detailed above).

Ringers and directors will not be allowed to sight-read bronze repertoire.

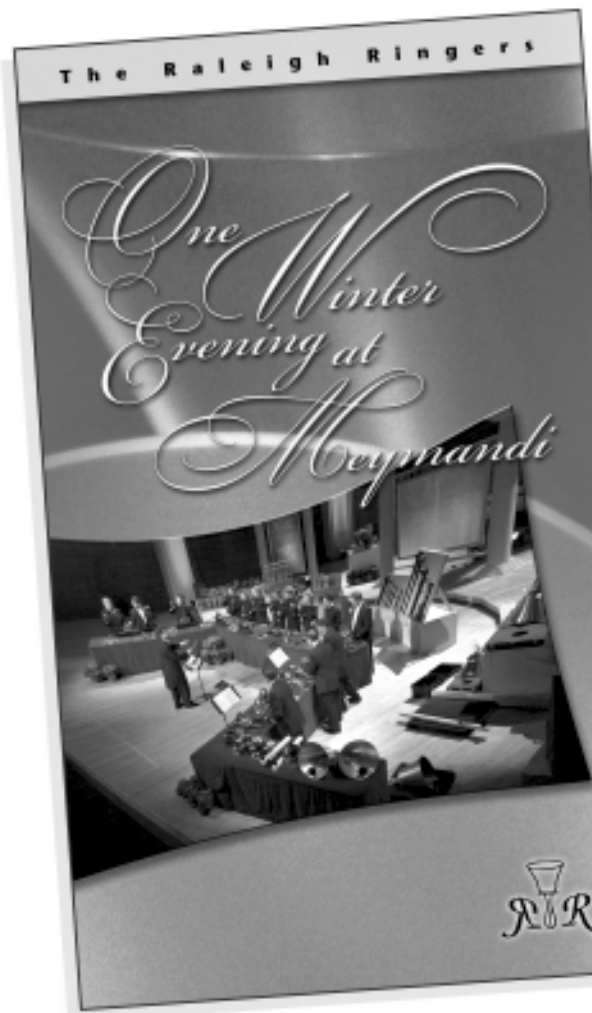
Ringers seeking to be placed as orphans in coppers and tins level choirs will continue as in the past.

Gifts to Bradford Scholarship Fund

The Bradford Scholarship Fund provides partial scholarships for new choirs to attend Area I Festival/Conference and new directors to attend AGEHR National Director's Seminar. The Bradford Scholarship is funded primarily by interest and dividends from the Bradford Endowment. Due to the decline in the stock market over the past two years earnings from the endowment have fallen off dramatically and the funds available for 2003 scholarships are much less than in recent years. The Bradford Scholarship committee believed that requests for scholarships would be higher than usual with the 2003 Festival/Conference in

One Winter Evening at Meymandi

Introducing The Raleigh Ringers' First Video and DVD!



This superb ensemble has set a new standard, and they continue to be leaders in the art of handbell ringing.

Hart Morris, Minister of Music, Asbury United Methodist Church, Tulsa, OK

Recorded in the acoustic marvel of Meymandi Concert Hall using state-of-the-art, broadcast-quality equipment, The Raleigh Ringers' holiday concert video features 20 live concert pieces, including all of *The Nutcracker Suite* works that have been arranged for handbells, plus five Bonus Selections, for a total of over 120 minutes of music!

Special Features on both VHS and DVD include two Rock & Roll encores as well as a Behind-the-Scenes look at The Raleigh Ringers' concert preparations. The DVD adds chapter selection, a tour of The Raleigh Ringers' six different sets of bells/chimes, a still-photo gallery, and the first ever 5.1-channel Dolby Digital audio on a handbell video!!

One Winter Evening at Meymandi

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Introduction | 16 Dance of the Reed Flutes
arr. Griffin |
| 2 Christmas Eve (Sarajev 12/24),
(Trans-Siberian Orchestra), arr. Morris | 17 Valse des Fleurs, arr. Yoshida |
| 3 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
arr. Grimsone | 18 God With Us for All Time
arr. Gave |
| 4 Up on the Housetop, arr. Sherman | 19 Stille Nacht, arr. Gave |
| 5 Greensleeves, arr. Mokikust | 20 Rock Introduction |
| 6 Pinnacle, Payne | 21 Sweet Home Alabama
(Lynyrd Skynyrd) trans. Metz |
| 7 Overture to "The Marriage of Figaro"
arr. Thompson | 22 Pinball Wizard (The Who)
arr. Murphy |
| 8 Blue Christmas, arr. Morris | |
| 9 Sleigh Ride, arr. Ivey | |
| "The Nutcracker Suite"
Peter I. Tchaikovsky | |
| 10 Overture, arr. McChesney | |
| 11 Marche, trans. Griffin | |
| 12 Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy
trans. Grimsone | |
| 13 Danse Russe Trepak, trans. Griffin | |
| 14 Danse Arabe, trans. Griffin | |
| 15 Chinese Dance, trans. Litterst | |
| | Bonus Tracks |
| | 1 Tempest, McChesney |
| | 2 Fantasy on King's Westow
arr. Fred Grimsone |
| | 3 Prelude in C [♯] Minor, trans. Smith |
| | 4 Hotel California (The Eagles)
arr. Murphy |
| | 5 The Stars and Stripes Forever
arr. Griffin |

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Amherst, MA and the Director's Seminar happening in Hartford, CT this same summer. The committee took their concern to the Area-I Board meeting in September where two actions were taken to significantly address this issue.

First, the Board gratefully accepted a gift from the St. Luke Concert Handbell Choir from Gales Ferry, CT. "St. Luke applied for and received an Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship to attend our first Festival/Conference at Roger Williams College in Rhode Island in 1997. Someone believed in us. It was the catalyst our seven year old program needed." Since 1997 the St. Luke choir has made two concert tours to England. Upon returning home from their second tour this past summer the choir decided to send some of the proceeds from the "retiring collections" (free-will offerings) they received to the Bradford Scholarship Fund as a thank-offering for the scholarship that had been awarded to them in 1997. At the September meeting the Board accepted this gift and decided to put it directly into the Scholarship Fund to be available for 2003 scholarships.

Additionally, the Area-I board voted to transfer \$1500 from the general fund to the Scholarship Fund to be "available for scholarships" in 2003. These two gifts along with earnings from the endowment bring the scholarship fund up to the same level that was available for scholarships in 2001. Five scholarships totaling \$2800 were awarded in 2001 for the Festival/Conference in Burlington.

Anyone interested in applying for a 2003 scholarship for Festival/Conference or Director's Seminar should visit the www.agehrarea1.org Web site or contact Phil Brown, Bradford Scholarship committee chair at P.O. Box 53, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 for application guidelines and information.

Report from a Bradford Scholarship Recipient

Are you a member of AGEHR who has never attended a Festival/Conference with your choir? Five years ago I was just such a person. We had a seven-year old handbell program that seemed to us to be doing well,

but we had never taken the opportunity to test the waters outside the security of our own sanctuary. We had two handbell choirs at that time and of the two, the high school age ringers were more willing to venture out into the *unknown*.

We had received the flyer for Festival/Conference 1997 to be held at Roger Williams College in Rhode Island. I then read in *The Fundamental Tone* that there was an opportunity for first time attendees to Festival/Conference to apply for an Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship. Were we lucky enough to get a scholarship, we could put it towards our registration for F/C. The committee did choose us as one recipient and we were on our way.

The registration materials talked about "Mini" concerts throughout the F/C where choirs could play a selection of their choice for other attendees. We thought, "Why not?". We had bright red vests and a handbell arrangement we loved. We decided it would be good experience for us.

Festival/Conference was wonderful! We met so many great people, learned so much and really enjoyed listening to all the musical presentations. In short, the whole experience was a real shot in the arm for our ringers and the whole handbell program at St. Luke.

I was extremely grateful to the Bradford Scholarship Committee and its chairperson at that time, Cynthia Hamburger for selecting us. It was definitely the catalyst for our future program. During the ensuing five years, the program at St. Luke has grown to one hand chime choir and five handbell choirs. The Concert Handbell Choir has played for numerous events locally, was the opening concert for Festival/Conference 2001 in Burlington, VT, made 2 CDs, toured England in summer 2001, and accepted an invitation to return to England for an "Encore Tour" and to participate in the Oxford Diocesan Convention in summer 2002.

Festival/Conference is a wonderful opportunity for individuals and/or entire choirs to experience a week-end of fun doing something you love. If you are attending for the first time, consider applying for an Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained, and there is so much to gain!

Jane Nolan, Director of Music
St. Luke Lutheran Church
Gales Ferry, CT

Visit the Area I Web site at: www.agehrarea1.org

How Do I Decide...

Which Division to Ring In at Area I's Festival/Conference Next Summer?

So.....you received the Fundamental Tone in June and you REALIZED you could use those great pieces selected for the Festival/Conference during your ringing year...and ...you received the special August Area I mailing of all of the ringing activities for the next year and you DECIDED to request a registration packet for FC'03 ...and ...you're ready to order music for Festival/Conference....BUT - WAIT!

You're not sure what ringing division to ring in this year! You've looked at the repertoire list and found the Tins playing Level 2, Coppers playing Level 3 and Bronze playing Level 4/5 this year. The massed music ranges from L2+ to L3. You have experienced ringers and relatively new ringers, several have been to festivals before but this will be the first festival for other ringers in your choir - WHAT is a Choir Director to do?

First, remember that YOU are in the best position to assess your choir's ability to learn new music and to understand the instructions that will be given by the

guest conductors once we arrive at Festival/Conference (review the enclosed Conductor's Rehearsal Notes on each piece of music). YOU also know how much "challenge" your choir needs or is ready for - communication with your ringers will quickly tell you if they are interested in really working hard to get a piece that may be slightly beyond their reach, or if they are interested in working at the same level they usually work at that might require only "minimal" stretching beyond their current capabilities. (Remember: the Bronze division has specific requirements - see article on page 5.)

Second, YOU also can best assess how many of your group will likely be able to attend the Festival/Conference. Will it be the whole choir - whereby you can effectively use all of the repertoire from the Festival/Conference using all of your bells in future events at your church or school? Or will it be only a small group from your choir - whereby you might be able to select a ringing division that reflects the abilities more specifically of your small group using fewer octaves of bells, possibly challenging them with the more difficult repertoire or allowing them to really polish more comfortable material.

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I think the following sums it up, as written in 1993 by Karen Leonard, current AGEHR President and past Area I Chair: "The point is that you must think and evaluate the process. Do what is best for your ringers and your situation, but also do what is best for the division and its director in the Festival/Conference atmosphere. Don't get in over your head by letting pride affect your decision, but don't sell yourself short on your ability and experience. Experience is a wonderful teacher and each Festival will equip your choir for the next situation."

Lori Kast, Chair
Area I Festival/Conference 2003

AREA V
HANDBELL COMPOSITION CONTEST

3-5 Octaves

Non-sacred

Original Composition

(No Higher Than Level 3)

Prize: \$500.00

Deadline: June 15, 2003

For contest rules send a self-addressed,
stamped envelope to:

Barbara A. Singleton

Area V Composition Contest

105 Nancy Dr.

Richmond, KY 40475

bsingleton@iclub.org

Area I Young Ringers Event 2004

Area I is making plans for a multi-day (because we know kids like to go away overnight) festival for the youth. We are considering two divisions for massed ringing, classes, social events, and a final Sunday afternoon concert. It is tentatively scheduled for May 21-23, 2004. We are looking for input from directors of youth choirs and for people who would be willing to serve on the event committee. Please contact me if you have a choir that might be interested in such an event. Sue Chamberlin, 603-942-7884, chair@ahegrarea1.org

Area I New Members

Please welcome the following new members to Area I:

Elaine Allen, Greendale Peoples Church, Worcester, MA
Ann Andersen, Norfolk, MA
Elizabeth Audet, Underhill, VT
Elizabeth Barcomb, Hampton United Methodist Church, Hampton, NH
Sarah Baugher, North Hero, VT
Barbara Blokland, Jericho, VT
Barbara Brown, New Haven Handbell Choir, Bristol, VT
Regina Cunliffe, Houlton, ME
Ned Dahl, Union Congregational Church, Peterborough, NH
Acquisitions Periodicals Department 90669223, Library of Boston Athenaeum, Boston, MA
Brother Philip Desrosiers, Bishop Guertin High School, Nashua, NH
James Erps, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
Christine Everett, Sterling, MA
Stephanie Harding, Rutland First Congregational Church, Rutland, MA
Marcey Johnstone, College Street Congregational Church, Burlington, VT
Carol Kana, Riverside, CT
Kristy Kerins, Federated Church of Hyannis, Hyannis, MA
Barbara King, Norfolk, MA
Emlee Kohler, Hancock, NH
Shirley Langlois, Seventh Day Adventist School, South Hampton, NH
Roberta Leacock, Quaboag On The Common, West Brookfield, MA
Linda Lozis, Noank Baptist Church, Noank, CT
Pastor Paul Meier, Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church, Trumbull, CT
Kathy Metivier, Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford, NH
Laura Nassau, College Street Congregational Church, Burlington, VT
Alan Rechel, Tewksbury, MA
Fred Schoenfeld, Manchester, CT
Marilyn Schroer, Jefferson, NH
Joanne Spring, New Milford United Methodist Church, New Milford, CT
Suzanne Tall, Friend of Music, Rutland, VT
Cheryl Van Ornam, Newton Presbyterian Church, Newton, MA
Lynne Welsh, The Dorset School, Dorset, VT
Handbell Director, United Methodist Church, New Fairfield, CT

Coming Events in Area I

Date	Event	Location	Contact		
11/9/02	High School Ring Out	Holden, MA	Jeffrey Heath		lightdman@charter.net
11/15-16/02	Adult Ringers Weekend	Bretton Woods, NH	Nancy Reynolds	802-748-4760	dnreynol@sover.net
12/1/02	Concert by The Messengers	on the Green, Waterbury, CT			
12/7/02	Concert by Bell Choirs of First Church of Bethlehem	on the Green, Waterbury, CT	Rick Wood		
12/14/02	Concert by South Church Handbell Ringers	Hotel Conservatory, Mt. Washington	Phil Brown		VTChair@agehrarea1.org
12/20/02	Concert by South Church Handbell Ringers	Hotel Conservatory, Mt. Washington	Phil Brown		VTChair@agehrarea1.org
12/23/02	Parish Ringers in Concert	Merrill Auditorium, Portland, ME			
1/25/03	VT Director's Roundtable		Phil Brown	802-748-3894	kbpb@together.net
1/30-2/2/03	AGEHR Master Class - Conducting	Dayton, OH	Karen Leonard	978-256-8404	wcumckel@aol.com
1/31-2/1/03	Area I Directors' Seminar	Bedford, NH	Cynthia Arbour	413-774-2238	arbour@facil.umass.edu
3/15/03	MA Youth Spring Ring	Worcester, MA	Jennie Valentine	508-833-3709	jennieval@aol.com
3/29/03	RI Spring Ring		Lori Kast	401-727-4585	kaszo@aol.com
3/29/03	Merrimack Valley Handbell Festival	Tewksbury, MA	Karen Leonard	978-256-8404	wcumckel@aol.com
4/5/03	VT Youth Ring	Hartford, VT	Averill Tinker	603-448-0275	averill.tinker@valley.net
4/25/03	VT Director's Workshop	Essex Junction, VT	Kathleen Brown	802-748-3894	kbpb@together.net
4/26/03	VT Spring Ring	Essex Junction, VT	Kathleen Brown	802-748-3894	kbpb@together.net
5/21-23/03	Area I Youth Ringers Event	Tentative date	Sue Chamberlin	603-942-7884	Chair@agehrarea1.org
6/19-21/03	High Challenge	Anaheim, CA	Nancy Jessup	714-545-3213	nanjessup@aol.com
6/26-29/03	Area I Festival/Conference	Amherst, MA	Lori Kast	401-727-4585	kaszo@aol.com
7/17-22/03	National Director's Seminar	Hartford, CT	AGEHR	800-878-5459	office@agehr.org
9/9-13/03	Family Handbell Camp	Lisbon, NH	Linda Lamb		vze3q47q@verizon.net
9/26-27/03	RI Back to Bells		Lori Kast	401-727-4585	kaszo@aol.com
10/9-12/03	Distinctly Bronze	Sprigmaid Beach, NC	AGEHR	800-878-5459	office@agehr.org
1/15-19/04	Pinnacle		AGEHR	800-878-5459	office@agehr.org
7/24-27/04	Spectacular	Norfolk, VA	AGEHR	800-878-5459	office@agehr.org
8/3-7/04	International Symposium	Toronto, Canada	AGEHR	800-878-5459	office@agehr.org

Rehearsal Notes for Festival/Conference 2003
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
July 26-29, 2003

Massed and Tins Selections, Timothy Waugh, Conductor

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

In directing massed ringing at festivals, I've discovered some rehearsal suggestions for directors that assist in preparing your groups for festivals and massed ringing situations.

Often, directors fall into two groups; those that follow the instructions in the rehearsal notes explicitly (leaving us with inflexible groups that can only play the music at the exact metronome markings) or those that do not look at the notes at all!

These notes are to provide guidelines without being specific to any individual piece. These are concepts and ideas that you can apply to the music that we are ringing, as well as assisting you in preparing for other festivals and music at home.

TAKE TIME TO LOOK OVER THE SCORE

Usually, the composer gives us all the notes that we need. Each composer identifies dynamics, dynamic changes, special techniques, tempo markings, etc.

Most rehearsal notes are nothing more than reminders of things that the composer has already written in. Tempos are also subject to change depending on the acoustical environment. Nothing is cast in stone in a massed ringing event!

You, as director, should make notes in your score to remind your ringers of these locations, especially in the midst of problem or busy spots. These places often have the ringer so occupied to "get the notes" that the "music" is lost.

PRACTICE these spots, going to extremes - tempos much faster and slower than marked, forte really loud, piano really soft, EVERYTHING martellato, or malleted, or thumb damped in the sections that you're rehearsing.

IDENTIFY TRANSITIONS

The big "hot spots" of any massed ringing event are TRANSITION SPOTS. These are identified as key signature changes, time signature changes, tempo transitions, or bellchanges without key signature changes and PAGE TURNS! Usually, these come in combination, especially on the higher levels of literature.

REHEARSE all these sections, backing up 4-5 measures and going through the transitions identified, no matter what happens :-)! Each time, identify things that the ringers did well, and the specific expectation e.g. "Let's work on the DYNAMICS now!" of the next repetition of the section.

PRACTICE BACKWARDS!

Start at the end of the composition and find an ending "section" and run that part until it is smooth. BACK UP and run another section, continuing through the section that you just completed. This gives the ringer a feeling of entering into sections that they are familiar with! Often, in the rush of preparation, the least prepared section of massed rung compositions is the end!

PLAY GAMES

During the rehearsal of the previously identified transitions, play "follow the director" and conduct [without speaking] accelerandi, rubati, dynamic changes, etc.

Encourage the ringers to evaluate their performance and repeat the "game", conducting other changes that are unpredictable. This is a technique to be used after the music is well on its way to completion. Another of the norms during massed ringing is the group [or several groups] that do not look at the director.

Work to identify “check-in” spots, that your ringers need to look up and mark them in some way that is meaningful to you [the ringer].

DISCUSS THE FORM OF THE COMPOSITION

Did you know that most of the handbell compositions are in ABA form? Publishers have discovered that we, as music consumers, like ABA!

Even if the composition isn't ABA, discover how the piece is put together. Have the ringers identify similar measures and sections. They'll be identifying strategies and techniques that they can apply and transfer to other locations in the selection - or maybe into other compositions!

They'll also become aware of the challenges and musicianship that is demanded of others in the group at “the other end of the table”. This will improve their musicianship!

EVALUATE TECHNIQUE

Eventually, even the best ringers become lazy and the kinesthetic [muscle] memory forgets what it feels like to ring correctly. Stand back and watch your ringers as the piece is progressing and insist on good circles when ringing, flexible but good posture, and clean and controlled stopped techniques properly executed. Videotape the group during rehearsals and allow them to see and evaluate themselves.

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Coppers Selections, Karen Buckwalter, Conductor

PROCESSIONAL - Sherman

Learn all of this. We will have a trumpet but not a brass quintet. Be particular with the dotted rhythm so it doesn't relax into a triplet figure.

- Measure 34 and 35 ring close to the shoulder so the 16ths are clean
- Measure 53 eyes up for the ritard
- Measure 60 careful with the RT so we can have silence on the eighth rest
- Measure 61 eyes up for the ritard
- Measure 64 eyes up so the ritard can start in the middle of the 3rd beat

TOCCATA FOR A JOYOUS DAY - McKlveen (quarter note = 116-132)

It would be wonderful to ring this piece at 132 as suggested but we may need to bring it back a notch if some choirs need to ring it slower. Prepare your ringers to be flexible.

- Measure 18-21 change mp to p for treble bells (upstems)
- Measure 26 - C6 ringers should ring a bit less to let the theme come through on beats 1,2,3,4. This includes the C7 ringers in measure 28 as well
- Measure 33-36 should be more lyrical for some contrast
- Measure 54 change treble bells (upstems) to pp. Bring out the chime melody
- Measure 63-65 treble bells (upstems) should be soft. Change the p to pp
- Measure 72 & 74 mart close to the table on beat 4
- Measure 79 & 80 bring out the theme on beats 1,2,3,4. Easy with C6 offbeats
- Observe the crescendo marking to measure 82
- Measure 93 mark f on beat 1 and add a crescendo 93 - 95
- Measure 98 treble bells will damp after each shake

SEASONS OF THE HEART - Buckwalter

The chime part dynamic may need to be mf to bring out the melody.

- Measure 4 & 13 treble clef (downstems) should be softer (See also measures 17, 31, 35, 58, 108, 112)
- Measures 43-46 treble bells (upstems) should be softer (F6, Eb6, and D6)
- Measures 62 beats 2,3 soft D5 and E5
- Measure 85 note the meno mosso
- Measures 27, 38, 54 and similar spots have a ritard

Bronze Selections, Karen Buckwalter, Conductor

FESTIVE PRAISES - Gramann

As you rehearse, remember that the high treble bells are not always the most important musical idea in any given measure, but due to the nature of handbells we know the treble bells certainly come through loud and clear.

- Measures 3-4, 6-7 have accents in the middle/bass bells and need to be heard amidst the octave 16ths above
- Measures 19-22 have a clear decrescendo
- Measures 23-30 observe the dynamic markings
- Measures 31-38 have a treble melody
- Measures 39-43 note the crescendo* Measure 61 begins a fugal type section. In measure 63 the treble bells (downstem) must drop back dynamically
- Measure 65 careful with the D6 bell; it's a melody bell in m64, but not on beat 1 of m65
- Measure 69-78 add stress marks to the 1st triplet note of beat 1 and the 1st triplet note of beat 3
- Measure 87 bring out the theme beginning with C5 on beat 1
- Measure 113 eyes up for the ritard

AFRICAN ALLELUIA - Moglebust

Pay careful attention to the tempo marking (quarter note = 84). This may seem slow to you for the opening but works out for the best later.

- Measures 5-23 pluck bass bells as marked
- Measure 24 beat 4 begin using mallets
- Measure 37 mart (use mallet for C3 bell)
- Measures 49-56 insist on clean marts
- Measure 73 bass bells pluck as the piece winds down

NOTE: There is an excellent description by the composer, Cathy Moglebust, in the Choristers Guild magazine January, 2001 issue if you can obtain a copy.

SOLILOQUY FOR BELLS - Buckwalter

- Slightly stress the quarter note beats and ring slightly less on the offbeats.
- Measures 10-11 add a slight crescendo followed by a diminuendo in m12 (treble bells upstems)
- Measures 16-19 add a slight crescendo and a diminuendo in measure 20
- Measure 22 omit the LV so bells from measure 21 will ring through measure 22
- Measures 21 and 22 put stress marks on beats 2,3,4 (G4, Bb4 in measure 21 and G5, Bb5 in measure 22)
- Measures 23-40 stress the 1st and 3rd beat
- Measure 27 notice the mp marking
- Measure 31 add a crescendo beginning on beat 3
- The page turn going from page 3 to page 5 (an editor's decision, not mine) needs lots of rehearsal, especially when going from page 3-4 as we head to the end of the piece measures 35-76. This is always a rough spot. Don't ignore it!
- Measure 45 add a crescendo through measure 46
- Measures 54-62 stress the 1st and 3rd beats
- Measures 63 & 67 eyes up for the ritard
- Measure 68 mf
- Memorize measure 75 for ritard and page turn back to beginning
- Measures 72-75 stress the quarter note beats, not the offbeats
- Measure 79 bring out Eb5 on beat 3 and Eb6 on beat 4
- Measure 82 beat 3 should have a soft C6 (melody is the A6)
- Measures 86 to the end will be very slow! Eyes up!

FROEHLICH TANZE - Buckwalter

- Use mallets
- Measures 3-4 and 11-12 add a slight crescendo
- Measure 26 observe the rests (this will be like having a RT on the 3rd 16th of beats 1, 2, 3)
- Measures 39-40 add a slight crescendo
- Measure 56 beat 4 add a crescendo
- Measure 57 add ff

AGHER – AREA I
Directors' Seminar – January 31 – February 1, 2003

☞ At the Wayfarer Inn ☜
 Clinician – **Janet Van Valey**

For directors and experienced ringers

Janet Van Valey has taught music through schools and churches for the past 35 years. She first played a handbell in 1978 under the directorship of Don Allured and quickly became a bell enthusiast. She has represented Malmark Handbells for the past 20 years, has co-authored the *Learning To Ring* curriculum for bells and chimes, two curriculum guides for the use of handchimes in the general music classroom, and written numerous articles for professional journals on the use of bells and good teaching techniques that work. She is the founder and director of The Kalamazoo Ringers, one of the oldest community handbell choirs in the country, established in 1981. Her passion for the instrument and caring style of teaching are a winning combination not to be missed.

Mrs. Van Valey will emphasize the topic of **Musicianship**, and “how to put it all together” in your choir to produce the most musical performance possible.

The Wayfarer Inn is conveniently located in Bedford, NH off Rte 3, near Manchester (www.wayfarerinn.com) The Seminar begins Friday evening and ends Saturday at approximately 4pm. Registration includes room, Friday dinner, and Saturday breakfast and lunch.

As always, exciting music selection will be provided for your ringing enjoyment and you may purchase those pieces at the conclusion of the seminar (at a discounted price!)

THIS REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY ***DECEMBER 20, 2002*******

PLEASE complete this ENTIRE form and forward to:

AGEHR – Area 1 – Directors' Seminar
 c/o Cynthia Arbour, Registrar
 34 James Street
 Greenfield, MA 01301 Tel: 413-774-2238 E-Mail: arbour@facil.umass.edu

Detach here and return by December 20, 2002. Use 1 form per person. Make additional copies if necessary. Keep a copy!



Name: _____ **AGEHR Membership #** _____

Address: _____ **E-Mail** _____

Town, State, Zip _____ **Phone #** _____

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE FOR THE FULL REGISTRATION AMOUNT TO AGEHR, AREA 1, INC.

Registration Rates:

Full double – including room, meals & workshop	\$145.00 _____
Full single — including room, meals & workshop	\$190.00 _____
Non – smoking _____ Smoking _____	
Commuter - including meals & workshop	\$ 95.00 _____

I would like to room with _____ Please assign a roommate _____

I can provide _____ octave of bells; _____ feet of foam/covers; _____ octaves of chimes

You will be contacted if we need your equipment.

Confirmation, event schedules, directions, & additional information will be sent to all registrants.

Membership Form—The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

- Platinum Membership \$170.00
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 Ringer Membership \$22.00

Must be affiliated with a choir of a regular member.

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Is this a New Membership or Renewal

Membership #: _____

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The Fundamental Tone is being printed on recycled paper for the 2003-2003 year.

The Fundamental Tone is published four times a year (on the first Monday of February, May, August, November) by Area I of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc. Deadline for submitting information for publication is the 18th of the month prior to publication. It is distributed from 25 Pine Road, Beverly, MA 01915. If you would like to place an advertisement in the Fundamental Tone, contact Ruth Bowers (RBowers@attbi.com or 978-922-8137).

Advertising rates are: Full page: \$80.00 (7" X 9.5")
Half page: \$50.00 (7" X 4.5")
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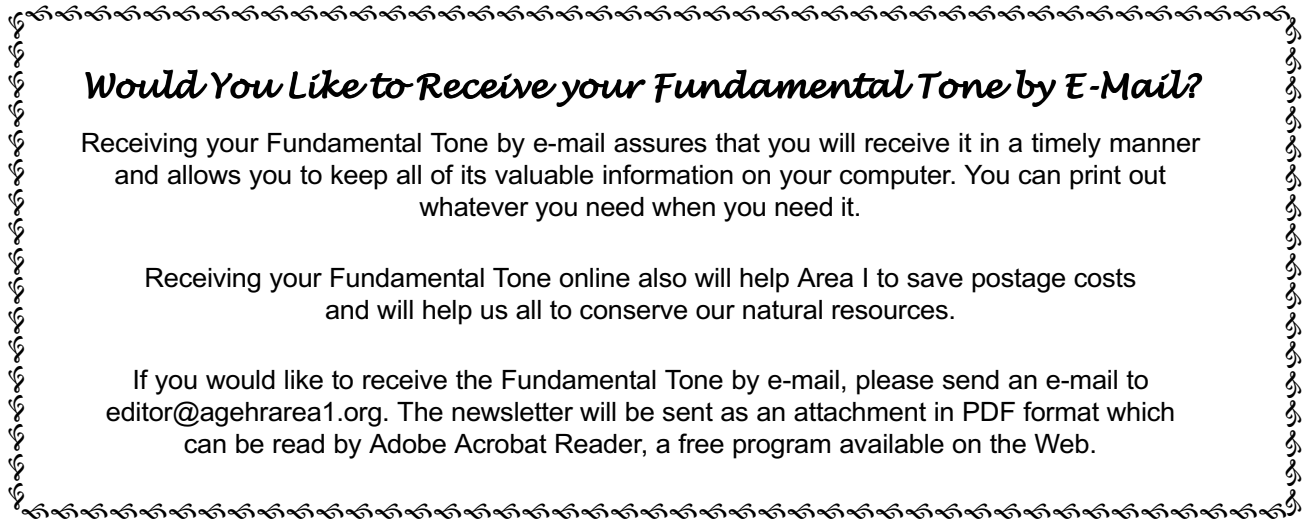
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Receiving your Fundamental Tone online also will help Area I to save postage costs and will help us all to conserve our natural resources.

If you would like to receive the Fundamental Tone by e-mail, please send an e-mail to editor@agehrea1.org. The newsletter will be sent as an attachment in PDF format which can be read by Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free program available on the Web.



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Special Note about Address Changes

All address changes and corrections are handled by the National AGEHR office in Dayton, Ohio. Contact Sara Smith, the Membership Director, at 1-800-878-5459, ext. 112, or by e-mail: membership@agehr.org.

The Fundamental Tone cannot make or process these changes or corrections for you. Please contact the National office directly with your changes or corrections.



AGEHR, Area I, Inc.
Professional Concerns Survey for Handbell Directors

Dear Handbell Choir Director,

The Executive Board of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Area I, Inc. has decided to do a survey of handbell director positions in Area I. We often receive inquiries from churches and/or handbell directors requesting guidelines for job descriptions, benefits, salaries, etc. As a first step toward dealing with this issue, we would like to have an understanding of the variety of handbell director positions in our Area: what they are, what they pay, if anything, what benefits are offered, etc. We plan on compiling the data received from this survey and preparing a report. Hopefully, this will act as a starting point for developing a booklet that offers guidelines for handbell director positions. We realize that many handbell directors work as volunteers. If you are in this category, be assured that we want your input also.

Please complete this 3 page survey and return it to the address on the back page. If you are a handbell director for more than one institution, please fill out two surveys. You may copy this survey and pass it on to other directors you know in Area I. The survey will also be on our Web site at www.agehrareal.org. Please return surveys by **December 31, 2002**.

Thank You for your help with this project!

Debra LeBrun, Chair-Elect

1. Where do you work as a director? (Circle One)

Church Public School Private School College Community Choir

2. In which state or Canadian province do you work?

3. If you work at a church, circle the denomination:

Catholic Methodist UCC/Congregational Baptist Presbyterian
Unitarian-Universalist Lutheran Seventh-Day Adventist Other

4. If you work at a school, circle the type:

Elementary Middle School or Jr. High High School Multiple Grade Levels

Is this a private or public school?

5. What is your annual salary? (If your position includes duties other than handbell directing, estimate the portion of your salary that is for handbell directing duties.)

\$0 \$1-\$999 \$1,000-\$2,099 \$3,000-\$4,999 \$5,000-\$9,999 \$10,000-24,999 Over \$25,000

6. Approximately how many hours per week does your handbell directing position require?

7. What is your highest level of education:

High School Graduate Some College classes Undergraduate Degree Graduate Degree

9. Do you have a Degree in Music? Yes No

10. Do you work as a professional musician other than in handbells? Yes No

If yes, what else do you do?

11. Please fill out the table with information for each handbell choir you direct.

Type of choir (Adult, youth, intergenerational, etc.)	# of rehearsals per week	Length of each rehearsal

12. If your sole responsibility for this organization is as handbell director, do you get any of the following benefits? (Select all that apply)

- Paid Vacation
- Medical Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Paid Professional Leave
- Maternity Leave
- Continuing Education Exp.
- Other _____

13. Do your choirs ever play outside of your regular institution? Yes No

14. If yes, where? (You may select more than one.)

- Schools
- Churches
- Senior Citizen Centers
- Nursing Homes
- Malls
- Town or Community Events
- Handbell Festivals
- Tours
- Other _____

15. Does your choir ever receive any money when playing outside your own institution? Yes No

16. If you charge a fee, what is the average fee you charge per hour of performing?

17. Do you ever ask for a freewill donation?

18. Are you a current member of AGEHR? Yes No

19. Do you have a website for your handbell group or is your group advertised on your institution's web site?

Yes No

Web site address (optional) _____

Optional:

Name:

Address:

Town:

State:

Zip:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

If you would like a copy of the final report with a summary of the data, check here and include your address above:

Other Comments

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