



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

Fundamental Tone

NOTES FROM AREA 1 CHAIR

Greetings Area 1!

Happy New Year to you all!

With the holidays behind us (and decorations finally put away!) we look forward to the year ahead. 2017 will be an exciting year for the Area. As it is an odd year (in more ways than one!) it is time for our Festival Conference. The Festival Conference committee, chaired by Sue Wilber, is putting the final touches on the curriculum and registration details. We plan to announce all the classes in March and open registration in April. Keep your eyes on our website for the most up-to-date information.

We will also be electing new officers this spring. This will be the first year in which we will use a completely online voting system. As we transition to online voting, you will all receive a mailed postcard with instructions. Don't worry, it will be easy, painless, and secure! Candidates for Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer will be announced in the coming months. However, it is also not too late to submit your candidacy for any of those positions! Contact Sue Wilber, chair of

the nominating committee (yes, in addition to being Past-Chair, Sue chairs several of our committees; we love all you do for us Sue!). We held our first board meeting of the year this past January. One of the main themes centered around member benefits. This topic is also on the mind of our National leadership, as you saw in the Winter 2017 edition of Overtones. As Jenny Cauhorn, the Guild's Executive Director, reminded us, we are, at our core, a membership association. That is, the National organization and its regional chapters exist to advance our art by serving our communities and our members. One of the ways we do this is through the benefits and services we provide to our members. So I am thrilled to announce that we, the board of Area 1, are looking into ways to improve what we can offer you. Donna Horan, our Fundamental Tone editor, is working on revitalizing the Area's newsletter



Krishna Ersson

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NOTES FROM AREA 1 CHAIR

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From P. 1

with educational articles, online content, and a more timely publication schedule. Pete Larson, our webmaster, is looking at improving how you can see at a glance all the events happening in the Area on our website. Cheryl Harger, our treasurer, is launching a new financial need-based scholarship to assist members who wish to attend Area events. And, as a board, we are looking to add events to cater to even more interests within our Area, such as intermediate-level ringers who are looking for ways to advance their musicianship.

As I mentioned in the previous issue, a great way to get your ideas heard is to join the discussion directly by attending one of our quarterly board meetings. Our next

meeting will be on May 13, 2017 at Jakeman Hall in Ocean Park, Maine. We welcome all members to join us, but ask that you please let us know that you will be attending ahead of time so we can be sure there is enough space and food.

So until Festival Conference, I hope to see you at all the wonderful spring events, including Winter Workshop and all the state Spring Rings. Best wishes for a 2017 full of joyous tintinnabulation!

- Krishna Ersson, Chair
Handbell Musicians of America, Area 1



OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

<i>Chair</i>	Krishna Ersson (781-254-6636) <i>chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Chair-Elect</i>	Carlene Ruesenberg <i>chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Past Chair</i>	Sue Wilber (202-288-5847) <i>pastchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	Daniel K. Moore <i>secretary.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cheryl Harger <i>treasurer.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

APPOINTED OFFICERS

<i>2017 Festival Chair</i>	Sue Wilber (202-288-5847) <i>fcchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Membership</i>	Jane Nolan (860-464-2873) <i>membership.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Webmaster</i>	Peter Larson <i>webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Bradford Scholarship</i>	Jean Degan (860-543-3638) <i>scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Historian</i>	Susan Schutlz <i>historian.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Chime Loaner Chair</i>	Holly Cerullo <i>chimelearner.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Donna M. Horan <i>editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

STATE CHAIRS

<i>Connecticut</i>	Mobby Larson (860-464-7593) <i>ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Maine</i>	Sue Evans (508-982-7992) <i>me.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Gail Granum (508-595-9011) <i>ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Carol Seely <i>nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	Donna M. Horan (401-885-1474) <i>ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Vermont</i>	Pat Pranger (802-446-2066) <i>vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>



NOTES FROM CONNECTICUT

The busy ringing season is over for most of our bell choirs, and I know the sound of bells and chimes added to the joy of Christmas in so many churches. I hope you also got to enjoy at least one of the concerts by our community choirs in Connecticut! But now we are entering the busy time of winter/spring events, with much to look forward to in our own churches, in Connecticut, and in New England.

The plans for the CT Spring Ring are just about finalized and ready to go out. By the time you read this, you should have received an invitation to register through ConstantContact. March 25 is an earlier date for us, so please check this out right away! Our venue is also new for us—at the District 17 Middle School in Killingworth—a fairly central spot in the state. Andy Wallace is our clinician, and we are planning about 6 workshops besides the massed ringing.

Our tentative schedule is:

8:00 - 9:00	Check in and Setup
9:00 - 9:15	Opening Bell / Announcements
9:15 - 10:30	Massed Ring Rehearsal
10:40 - 11:50	Workshops
11:50 - 12:30	Lunch
12:35 - 1:45	Workshops
2:00 - 3:00	Massed ring rehearsal
3:15 - 4:00	Sharing concert
4:00	Closing Bell / Pack out and clean up

The selections he has chosen are:

Repertoire for Massed Ring

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel? arr. Dan Edwards Level 3, 3 or 5 Octaves MCGB464

America the Beautiful, Arnold Sherman Level 3, 3-6 MRRHB0002, MRRFS0002 Full Score, MRRBP0002

Brass parts Festival Massed

Soon and Very Soon by Hart Morris L3+, 3-6 Octaves MHP2274 (MHP2274P=bass and drum part) Festival Massed

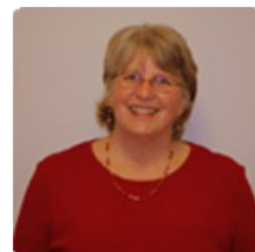
Coppers' Workshop selection

Toccata for a Joyous Day, Paul McKlveen L3, 3-5 oct. MJHS9280 (also digital direct DJHS9280) Festival Coppers

If your entire bell choir cannot attend, we always welcome "orphans"—individuals or several ringers who would like to participate. Membership in Handbell Musicians of America is required, but individual members of a bell choir are covered by their director's membership.

We are working very hard on communications, and I love hearing from you, or from people with whom you have shared some handbell news. Please—don't hesitate to let me know of any handbell musicians you think should be included in our mailings.

If you also know of any churches who need a bit of help getting their bell choirs organized or rejuvenated, please encourage them to get in touch. Or even better—invite them to Spring Ring!



Mobby Larson

Connecticut State Chair
ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org

SNAG A SUB

Directors and ringers, maybe missed this SnagASub notice! There's always a first time for seeing something, and we feel so strongly that this on-line "bulletin board" system-for-finding-a-sub will help to make the handbell community an even more friendly and helpful entity, that we may just keep posting this until you come on board. We need you! At this time the pool of potential subs has grown to 50 ringers and directors, but in order to serve it's purpose, (since it covers a five-state area), it needs to be bigger! Once a ringer is in, it

works exactly like an email: snagasub@googlegroups.com, then "battery ringer needed for (date, place, time, etc.)", and anyone in the group has the option to reply or ignore/delete. Please spread the word. This is not just for directors and ringers who sometimes have a need for a sub, but is also for interested/brave persons who might love an opportunity to ring *more and to get to know other ringers*. Please contact me, Cindy, at cmgconcord@gmail.com, or Gail, at glgranum1@msn.com, to be invited. (See P.6)

CHIME LOANER PROGRAM

Chime Loaner Program at work:

This year, 2016/17, all five sets of chimes with books are out in the community:

- Three sets are in schools,
- One set in a church, and
- One set in a community education group.

Since the September board meeting, there have been 3 more recipients of chimes.

Children's Center for Communication:
Beverly School for the Deaf (Schulmerich)
6 Echo Ave
Beverly, MA 01915
Alexandra Carello alexcarella@cccbsd.org

Second Half Lifelong Learning Inc;
Southcoast Ringers (Schulmerich)
205 Bedford St
Fall River, MA 02720
Diane Ennis dgennis@comcast.net

Canada:
Chester Area Middle School
204 Duke St
Chester, NS BOJ 1JO
Brenna Harriss-Keddy brennaharriss@gnsps.ca

In the past 3 years, there have been 12 sets of chimes and materials loaned to schools, churches, and communities in MA, VT, NH, RI, and CT. Of those 12 places, 10 have purchased their own set of chimes.

All of this helps to fulfill our Mission: "...dedicated to advancing the musical art of handbell/handchime ringing through education, community, and communication."

Please help to spread the word about the wonderful experiences available through our Chime Loaner Program. Go to the website, area1.handbellmusicians.org for information or email me at chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org.

Holly Cerullo,
Chime Loaner Program Chair

DIRECTOR POSITIONS

Belchertown Community Bell Choir located in Belchertown Massachusetts is looking for a Director.

Our choir:

- is a fun loving group comprised of 12 women, all of whom read music very well,
- practices weekly on Mondays from 7:00-8:15PM at the Belchertown Congregational Church Parish, Park Street, Belchertown,
- has a small music library consisting of secular and non secular music,
- has 4 1/2 octave of Malmkors bells.
- musical level 2+,

and has been providing a musical ministry since 1982, performing in area churches, nursing homes and weddings.

The Director position is non stipend position. We would like someone who is willing to work with all music levels. It is fun loving group who are eager to learn and play handbells.

For more information about us contact Judi Shattuck email: sha-tuck6@charter.net phone: 413-323-7639

The Original Congregational Church, UCC is looking for a new director

The contact for our Search Committee is Lesley Whittemore email: whitluce@comcast.net 508-384-3998
P.O. Box 657, 1 East Street, Wrentham, MA 02093



NOTES FROM MAINE

Greetings and best wishes for a safe and happy 2017. And once again I am asking for folks to take a leadership role in the planning and executing of the 2018 Maine Spring Ring. Of greatest and urgent importance is the setting of a date, procuring a location, and hiring a conductor. So please consider offering your time and talent to the work of this event. I would love some help, whatever you can offer will be appreciated.

I am also happy to report that the October skill building workshop was attended by 13 Maine ringers at the Cumberland Congregational Church in Cumberland, Me. The group represented a variety of ringing levels including beginners and the more advanced ringers. We worked through the 4 pieces selected from the Festival repertoire, honing our skills and techniques, and ended the experience by playing all 4 pieces from beginning to end, identifying, quite quickly, the sections which still required much work. It was a lot of fun and one of the highlights of the day was the lunch presentation by Pearl, an 80 yr. old church member, who had baked a large sheet cake for the ringers and had carefully drawn a multitude of handbells in the frosting. It was a delicious and thoughtful dessert that all enjoyed.

Here are some additional experiences that Maine Handbell Choirs have shared:

From Martha Morrison of the Cumberland Congregational: Bells ring! You know how...and bells can sing! Rub a stout 8" piece of dowel around the rim of a bell held upright and a hum of growing intensity surrounds ringers and listeners. "Lo, How a Rose" arranged by Cathy Moklebus begins using that technique. On the fourth Sunday of Advent, Sue Evans gave the eleven ringers, cues in succession and the bells were soon joined by 3 violins, cello, and bass – a most pleasing, occasional partnership. Musician's hands and worshippers' ears have enjoyed the sounds of the Cumberland church's memorial bells, and memorial chimes along with the various talents of additional instrumentalist for the 32 yrs. the handbell choir has been playing together. In addition to the church's continued financial backing of the choir, its support was evidenced this past Fall when the congregation agreed to remove two rows of pews to allow a better position for the bell choir tables.

From Sue Downes-Borko of the Rangely Ringers:

The Rangeley Ringers ecumenical handbell choir is finishing up a busy holiday season. Between a solo concert fundraiser

and donations, they were able to purchase a 3-octave set of Malmark chimes to complement their bells. They rang at four of the area churches between early December and early January, and now they are trying to decide which Spring Ring to attend in April. Our favorite Christmas song was *Coventry Carol*, a lovely arrangement by Julie Stitt with bells and chimes and C instrument. One of our ringers, Leona Kennett, was so inspired by watching a solo ringer at a past festival, that she taught herself to solo ring *In the Bleak Midwinter* (arr. N. Van-Zant) and received a standing ovation!

From Amy Rollins of the Penobscot Bay Ringers:

As usual, Penobscot Bay Ringers had a tightly compressed



but rewarding holiday ringing season. PBR performed in two fundraising concerts during this past Christmas season. Beneficiaries were Coastal Mountains Land Trust (\$711 donation) and the Second Congregational Church of Warren Steeple Restoration Project (\$898 donation). Some of our favorite holiday pieces played were *Little Drummer Boy* (arranged by Tammy Waldrop), *I Wonder as I Wander* (arranged by Peggy Bettcher), and *Fantasia on Forest Green* (arranged by Lloyd Larson). Sharing our music is a joy unto itself; making music in support of worthy causes is an added bonus!

Thanks to Amy, Sue and Martha for their submissions. Looking forward to hearing from other bell choirs for future editions of the Fundamental Tone.



Susan I. Evans
Maine State Chair
508-472-6756

me.area1@handbellmusicians.org

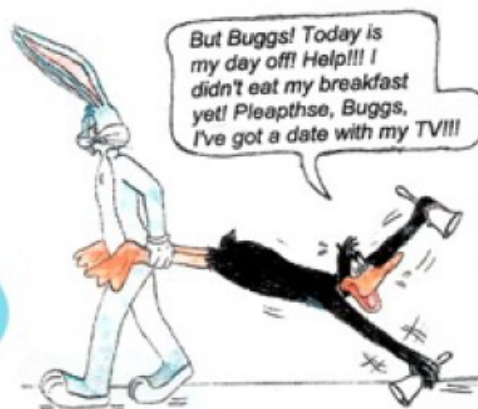
Ringers and Directors!

SnagASub



What the heck is
SnagASub?

SnagASub
is an online bulletin board
for getting subs!



A Great Name For a Great Idea! Does It Work?

Yes!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

SnagASub needs you!

Dare yourself to ring a bit more, get to know other ringers, maybe even have some **Fun!** Simply fill out the form below, and you will be invited by email to join **SnagASub**. If you reply "**Accept**," you're in!

1. Email your request for a sub to **SnagASub@googlegroups.com**
(*"Ringer needed for church/rehearsal, date/time/etc."*)
2. Or, reply to a request (if you want):
(*"I'm in! Please send me directions! etc."*)

Email your information to Cindy McLean-Greeley, cmagconcord@gmail.com

Name: _____ Name of Choir: _____

Choir Affiliation: _____ Choir Address: _____

Personal Email: _____

Cell (Optional): _____

SnagASub

NOTES FROM MASSACHUSETTS

New Year Greetings to you all! My best wishes for a new year filled with wonderful music, innovation, and fun with our unique instrument. Read on about some of the activities going on in our state.

From Abby Schoppe Director of Music Faith Lutheran Church Andover, MA

Ringers of Faith, the bell choir of Faith Lutheran Church in Andover, MA, recently saved up enough donations to purchase G#7 through C8. They put them to use for the first time on Nov. 29 (and again on Christmas Eve). We are excited to now be a four-and-a-half-octave bell choir! The number of interested ringers in our congregation, and in the surrounding area, is a real blessing; we're continuing to save for the lower half of the fifth octave, in large part so that we can involve even more potential ringers in the group.

Back Bay Ringers, Victoria Eells, Communications Director
It's January, that means, if you are reading this, you survived December as a handbell musician. Congratulations! BBR had a successful Christmas season. Highlights include sold out concerts in Boston, Framingham and Rockport at the beautiful Shalin Liu Performance Center, as well as our debut performance with the Boston Pops! Christmas is now behind us and we are eagerly looking forward to this spring when Back Bay Ringers gives back. We will start by co-hosting the annual

our Metamorphosis concert. All proceeds from that evening's concert will be donated to the LGBT Asylum Support Task Force, an amazing organization in Worcester, MA that delivers services to LGBT refugees.

On Sunday June 4, BBR will perform at Melrose Highlands Congregational Church, with proceeds going to help the church refurbish their two-octave set of handbells. We hope to see many of our handbell musician friends at our performances this spring!

MASSACHUSETTS SPRING RING

As winter winds its blustery way through February and March we remember that Spring is just around the corner. Celebrate by ringing in the Spring at the Massachusetts Spring Ring on

SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd

at Tewksbury Memorial High School

Our clinician is Lawrence Berdensen, Director of Hockanum Valley Ringers. The repertoire includes selections from the 2017 Area 1 Festival.

The massed selections are:

Psalm of Celebration, McChesney L3 3-5 oct
Jeffers MJHS95383-5, MJHS9538BB Brass Parts-2 Bb or C trumpets, Horn in F, Trombone, Tuba, Timpani, MJHS9538FS, Full Score/Organ Score
America the Beautiful, Arnold Sherman 3-6 oct
L3 MRRHB0002, MRRFS0002 Full Score, MRRBP0002 Brass parts.

The Tins selection is:

Tuya Es La Gloria, Susan (Nelson) Sylvester L2 3-5 oct. MAG35251.

The Coppers selection is:

King of Kings, arr. Ward – AGEHR – AG36046.

We are pleased that Nottingham Brass will join us again this year to accompany the massed pieces as well as provide a preshow for the concert.

More details and a link for registration are available on the Area 1 website.

Contact is Lynn Masson, 978-501-5641.



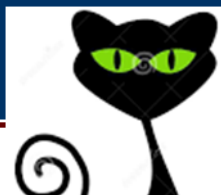
Boston Handbell Festival on Tuesday, May 16. BBR will be joined by the Old South Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, New England Ringers and our invited guest choir, Penobscot Bay Ringers. The concert will feature two massed pieces under the direction of BBR's Artistic Director Griff Gall. This is always a beautiful evening of handbell music. The event supports BBR's Choirchime donation program, which will place its eleventh set of chimes in a local school this year.

Our season of giving continues during the first week of June, when we perform two charity concerts. On June 2, BBR will be joined by Coro Allegro at First Church Boston as we perform



Gail Granum

Massachusetts State Chair
ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org



THE KLAPPER KAFÉ



Dear **Klapper Kat**:

I am relatively new to handbell directing. While I do well with musical issues and techniques, I am often at a loss regarding handbell assignments. Are there some basic rules to follow?

Signed: Distressed Director

Dear Distressed Director:

You are not alone; assigning handbells for true musical expression is a concern of all handbell directors. Here are a few pointers that may help you to become more confident:

- *Adopt an assignment system and stick to it. Your ringers will benefit from knowing that they will have the same assignment (pitches) every time they come to the table. There are many arguments for and against moving your ringers around for different selections, but unless you are directing a more advanced group, the security of learning one position well will serve your ringers and your ensemble well. If you need to move ringers, consider doing so seasonally or annually.*
- *There are two popular systems currently in use (although the second one is less popular), one (The diatonic pairs system) promoted by the godfather of handbells, Donald Allured, and the other (The 8-10 system) by Robert Ivey. Since you'll rarely see a choir using the Ivey system, concentrate on applying the first one.*
- *The Allured system calls for eleven ringers for three octaves, each ringer being assigned two diatonic pitches beginning at C4/D4, known as position #1. A benefit of this system is that every ringer's left hand rings a space note, and every right, a line note. This may be valuable when and if you begin to move your ringers about at the table.*
- *Where ringers encounter 'impossible' passages involving quick bell changes or switching techniques, don't throw your hands up and let them leave notes unsung. The solutions here are two-fold: (1) teach yourself (and the ringer (s)) multiple-bell technique, four-in-hand or Shelley, or (2) look for a neighbor ringer to help out, or reassign a problematic bell more permanently. Remember that the sharps and flats are the responsibility of the ringer holding that particular pitch, period. A D# should be played by the "D" ringer; and Eb should be played by the "E" ringer.*

Finally, always remember that the goal of handbell assignments is to insure that each note can be rung musically and accurately. You may find additional help, articles and other publications on-line, at handbell vendors, publishers, and workshops at local and regional handbell events. Network with other directors in your area to see what issues and solutions that have found. Be musically creative!

Dear **Klapper Kat**:

My faithful bell ringers always seem to ring at the same volume. Even when I point out the loud and soft parts, they just play merrily along at the same level. I know the music will become more interesting to them (and me) if they vary the volume, but I'm at a loss. How do I get them to understand that this is an important part of the music?

Signed: Discouraged Director

Dear Discouraged Director:

First, I encourage you to refer to the loud and soft parts of the music by using proper musical terms: Dynamics - piano (p), mezzo (m), and forte (f). Talk to your ringers using the language of music, and if they don't fully understand these terms, teach them. That's one of your jobs. Understanding the concept of dynamics is an important tool in your

cont. on p 9

WHO IS THE COLUMBIA HANDBELL ENSEMBLE?

Columbia Handbell Ensemble



THE KLAPPER KAT

Cont. from p 8

ringers' bag of tricks; it's part of being a handbell musician. Here are some thoughts about improving your ringers' dynamic skills.

Listening. Get your ringers to listen critically to how they are playing. Do they hear that they are ringing in a dynamic monotone? If possible, you might find an on-line video of another choir playing one of your ringer's familiar pieces with dynamics. Can your choir recognize the difference?

Awareness. Next, are your ringers aware of how to get different dynamic levels from their bells? Have you provided them with adequate instruction and tools to produce what the music asks for?

Your role. Finally, are you reinforcing the dynamics with your conducting gestures? Are you showing them what you want?

Once you are convinced that your ringers possess the necessary skills, then engage them in drills to practice whatever may appear in the music. There are countless ways to do this. If you would like the [Klapper Kat](#) to suggest or discuss specific exercises, just ask.

These were some issues which [The Klapper Kat](#) has overheard in recent months.

All Area 1 ringers and directors are invited to contribute handbell related questions or issues about techniques, repertoire selection, conducting and rehearsing, maintenance, choir management and assignments, or most anything else.

The Fundamental Tone editor and author of this column reserve the right to combine questions and edit submissions for content.

CHANGES TO THE *FUNDAMENTAL TONE*

If you are reading this - 'Thank you'!

There are changes envisioned for the *FT* and we would like your input.

Scheduling changes are contained in the box below - you will see more frequent, shorter editions of the *FT* - the format may change.

It is planned to incorporate more educational information - technique, theory, etc.

We NEED your input! - What do you like about the *FT*? What would you like to see in **your** newsletter? What challenges do you encounter as a musician that you would like to see addressed? Do we need an Area 1 calendar?

Directors and Ringers - Do you have thoughts you would like to share? Please submit articles for publication.

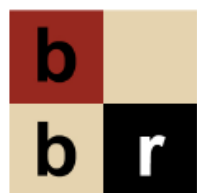
If you have suggestions or questions regarding this or any other aspect of the *Fundamental Tone*, please contact the editor,
Donna Horan email: editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org

Fundamental Tone

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Eighth page: (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.) \$20.00.
Discounts are available for prepayment of two issues (- 5%)
and four issues (- 10%).



back bay ringers

Boston's community handbell ensemble

A celebration of handbell artistry and promotion of music education through our chime donation program.



BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.
Old South Church, Boston, MA

Participating choirs in the eleventh annual BHF include:

BACK BAY RINGERS
MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS
NEW ENGLAND RINGERS
OLD SOUTH RINGERS
PENOBSCOT BAY RINGERS

A season of giving back: this spring the Back Bay Ringers present *Metamorphosis*, a concert bringing hope and light in our changing world. We are proud to donate our proceeds to LGBT Asylum Support Task Force and the newly formed handbell choir of Melrose Highlands Congregational Church.



Metamorphosis

June 2 at 7:30 pm
First Church in Boston
Boston, MA

June 4 at 3:00 pm
Melrose Highlands
Congregational Church
Melrose, MA

With guest performance by Coro Allegro

Please visit www.backbayringers.org to learn about additional performances, receive full concert details, and subscribe to our e-mail newsletter.

NOTES FROM RHODE ISLAND

Happy New Year from RI!

Like many other areas, there was a flurry of activity in RI during the holiday season.

In November, the RI Holiday Handbell Spectacular was held at St. Luke's Church, East Greenwich, RI and was attended by:

- Lawrence A. Berdensen and The Hockanum Valley Ringers (CT),
- Andrew Wallace and Dunns Corners Community Church Ringers (RI) and
- Daniel K. Moore and The Jubilate Ringers (RI).

The event was a **huge** success and will become an annual event.

The **Second Annual HHS** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 18, 2017**, plans include adding a fourth ensemble to the festivities.

RI Spring Ring!



Date: April 29, 2017 - 1:00 PM Setup - 2:00 Rehearsal
Location: Swift Community Center -
 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818
Clinician: Dan Moore
Cost: \$15
Contact: Donna Horan email: ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org
Registration: Available on Area 1 Website - Spring Ring Tab

Festival Conference Repertoire will be featured:

Tins: *We Three Kings* - Barbara Kinyon

Coppers: *Carol of the Birds* - Carr

A New Gloria - Moklebust

Soon and Very Soon - Morris

Register early Area 1 Website - Space is limited

A sharing concert for the community will be held at 7:00 PM

Please contact the RI State Chair for more information about
 Area 1 activities or to learn more about membership to
 Handbell Musicians of America



Donna M. Horan
 Rhode Island State Chair
ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org

Columbia Handbell Ensemble
Opening Concert
Thursday June 29 at 8:15 PM



The Columbia Handbell Ensemble has been active the handbell and musical world for 25 years. Organized in 1988, the Columbia Handbell Ensemble (CHE) was designed to educate the public about the possibilities of excellence through the medium of handbells; to provide the highest quality performances and programming; to be an example to groups interested in moving to a higher level of musicianship; to develop methods of instruction to assist local and regional handbell ringers in their development; and to help promote and celebrate the arts in the city of Columbia and the state of Missouri.



CAROL AND CELEBRATION RINGERS ON TOUR

The Carol and Celebration Ringers, students in junior and senior high school from St. Matthew's UMC, Annandale, VA, directed by Nancy Cappel & Tammy Freeman will be attending the **Area 1 Festival at UMass** in June 2017.

We are looking for churches who might like to host us for concerts **June 25 – 28**.

We usually arrive at the host church around 4 PM, set-up, rehearse, eat dinner provided by the church, present a 90 minute concert, spend the night in host homes and meet at church the next morning for travel or recreation.

The St. Matthew's Handbell Ringers first came to a Handbell Festival in 1979 when the 25th anniversary of the American

Guild of English Handbell Ringers was celebrated at the University of Maine. Since then the youth have returned to Area 1 many times, presenting the Opening Concert for the University of New Hampshire Festival in 2005 and attending Festival Conferences for many of the 38 years since.

The Carol Ringers have played at the White House, the State Department, Constitution Hall and every year at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. They are always joined by the Peace Ringers, an adult ringing group from St. Matthew's.

To access a concert by the Carol Ringers: enter Nancy Cappel, go to Kennedy Center and click on December, 2015 for last years concert.



© Jim King Photography

Carol Ringers



© Jim King Photography

Celebration Ringers

NOTES FROM VERMONT

Wintery greetings from the North!

It has been a much different start to the winter than last year and we have already had more snow than we had all last winter. The ski area are booming and keeping the economy of VT moving forward. Our Christmas services are behind us and Northern Bronze capped off their season with a pair of concerts last weekend.

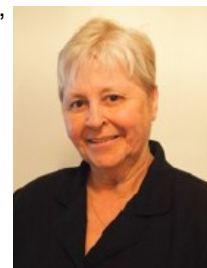
The Vermont Handbell Association is busy making plans for their 36th Annual Spring Ring titled Kingdom Ring. It will take place on April 29, 2017 at Lyndon State College in the beautiful Northeast Kingdom. This is the second time we have been at this gorgeous facility and are grateful to be there. The last time one of the music professors assigned his class to help us ringers shlep, find classrooms, and finally attend our concert. A good introduction to handbells at the college level.

We are pleased to welcome Stephanie Wiltse as our clinician for both the day of ringing and also individual workshops. After the opening bell at 9 am, our participants have their choices of workshop offerings divided into a morning and an afternoon session. There are many workshop offerings including The Body-Music Connection, Bell Maintenance, Call Change Ringing, Score Prep, Bell Trees, Weaving, Tai Chi and 2 sessions of Ukulele 101. We are excited about the breath of our offerings and having people like Karen James, Kim Strepka, Stephanie Wiltse and Phil Brown to lead our workshops.

After our rehearsals, workshops, lunch and abundant snacks to fuel our day....Kingdom Rings will culminate in a concert at 4 PM. The approximately 200 ringers will play 3 massed pieces: Sing We Now of Christmas, Tucker; Passacaglia in C Minor, Gramann; Song of the Spirit, Hakes. In addition, there is the opportunity for individual choirs and ensembles to showcase a solo piece during the concert.

The VT Handbell Association is also sponsoring a Director's Workshop on the evening before Spring Ring. It will be held at United Community Church in St Johnsbury on April 28, 2017 from 6 to 9 PM. After a dinner and a chance to network, Stephanie will lead a workshop titled Towards More Musical Music. We anticipate a good turnout for this event having already received inquiries from New York, New Hampshire, Maine and Canada.

Until the spring, Be Happy, Ring Well and Stay Warm.



Pat Pranger
VT State Chair

vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org

Check out CHE at <http://chebells.homestead.com/chehome.html>

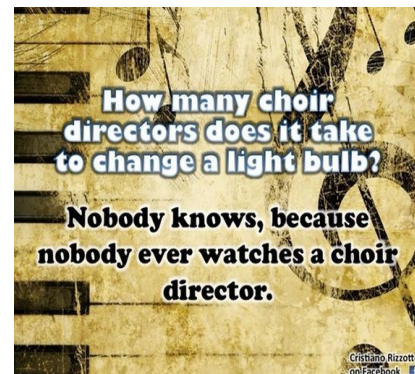
HUMOROUS NOTES

Overheard at a Handbell Musician Leadership Conference:

When asked how long a handbell musician had been ringing, she replied, "I've been ringing since 1992 - I've been damping since 1993!"

It's not a wrong note...

It's an alternative pitch





Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA | Area 1

is proud to announce a **NEW** scholarship opportunity

At the January 21, 2017 Area 1 Board Meeting, a vote was taken to create a NEW scholarship line item in the Area 1 Operating Budget.

The Board would like to award partial scholarships to HMA Area 1 members who are interested in attending the 2017 Festival Conference.

Scholarships will be awarded by the current
Scholarship Committee.

Applicant criteria along with the application can be found in the February edition of the
Fundamental Tone
or on the area website: area1.handbellmusicians.org

Applications **MUST** be received by the Scholarship Committee by
March 1st

Please send to: events.area1@handbellmusicians.org



Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA

Area 1

Festival/Conference 2017 Scholarship Application

Scholarship Includes:

Full or partial event registration to Festival/Conference '17 at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee

Applicant Criteria:

Applicants must be an active member of Handbell Musicians of America or belong to a group that is an active member.

Applicants must describe their desire to attend F/C '17.

Applicants must describe the nature of their financial need.

Applicants must include a statement of support from their director or another member of Handbell Musicians of America.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Guild Member Number:

Name of member organization if not applicant:

Describe why you wish to attend Festival/Conference '17. Include a brief statement about your experience as a ringer or director.
(Additional pages may be added as needed)

Describe the nature of your financial need.

Additional Comments from Applicant (optional):

Your application is not complete until we receive a statement of support from your director or another Handbell Musicians of America member.

Please have that member e-mail: events.area1@handbellmusicians.org with an answer to the following:

Describe why you think this candidate is a worthy recipient of an Area 1 Scholarship.

NOTE: This document will only be viewed by the members of the Scholarship Committee.

Handbell Musicians of America Area 1
The Bradford Scholarship **CHOIR** ***Application***

Festival/Conference 2017• University of Massachusetts Amherst

INSTRUCTIONS for CHOIR APPLICATION:

Handbell Musicians of America Area 1 established the Elizabeth Bradford Endowment Fund to provide scholarship assistance to encourage choirs to attend their first Area 1 Festival/Conference. In non-Festival years we also grant scholarships to directors to encourage them to attend their first national educational event. We hope that attending these types of events helps ringers and directors to develop their handbell skills and helps them to become more active in The Guild. Only the income from the endowment is used for scholarships, but this is usually enough to provide partial registration assistance for several choirs/directors to attend F/C.

Choir Scholarships for Handbell Musicians of America Area 1 Festival/Conference are available to Area 1 handbell choirs who are attending their first Area 1 Festival/Conference. *Please be aware that the scholarship awarded will only pay a portion of the registration fee for Festival.*

1. A choir will be defined as a *performing group of 7 or more ringers*.
2. Preference will be given to those *choirs having at least 75% of their members planning to attend the Festival/Conference*.
3. Prior attendance by a director or a single member of a choir will not preclude eligibility for this scholarship.
4. The choir must be a *member in good standing* in Area 1.
5. You must *fill out a registration form for Festival in its entirety and pay a \$100 deposit per person* prior to the Festival's early bird deadline.

Director's Name _____ Number of years directing this choir _____

Group Name _____

Address1 _____ Address2 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The Guild Member Number _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Number of ringers in choir? _____ Number planning to attend the Festival/Conference? _____

Have you ever attended an Area 1 Festival/Conference? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever attended any other Area or National events? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How many of your ringers have attended Area Festival/Conference before? _____

Handbell Musicians of America Area 1
The Bradford Scholarship Choir Application (continued)

The scholarship will only cover part of the registration fees for your choir.

How are you planning on funding the rest of the cost of the attendance? _____

We would like to know a little bit about your handbell program.

How long has your handbell choir been in existence? _____

Why does your choir want to attend Festival/Conference? _____

What are your expectations for attending the conference? _____

Applications must be submitted by April 15, 2017.
You will be notified by May 1 of our decision.

Applications for scholarship should be sent to the address indicated below. Your Festival registration should still be sent to the Festival registrar. You must fill out the entire Festival registration form prior to the Early Bird deadline for all ringers who plan on attending, indicating on the form that you are applying for a scholarship and sending in a deposit of \$100 per person instead of the entire registration fee. After you have been notified about our scholarship decision you will be expected to pay any remaining balance of your registration fees.

Awards will be distributed on a per ringer basis. For example, if you receive an award of \$100 per person and you have 10 people attending, then you will receive \$1,000 off your total registration fee. If any of your ringers withdraws their registration, your total scholarship will be reduced by the amount for one ringer unless another ringer takes their place.

Please mail this application by April 15, 2017 to:

Sue Wilber
 107 Robertson Dr
 Hamden, CT 06518

For questions, please contact the scholarship chair, Sue Wilber at scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org