



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

Fundamental Tone

NOTES FROM AREA 1 CHAIR

Greetings Area 1! Spring is finally here.

The sun is shining, the air is warm (and filled with pollen!), and the sounds of bells were heard at the Spring Rings we had this year, in Connecticut, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont. I was able to attend the former three and was struck by the uniqueness of each event. Of course, massed ringing was at the heart of all three, but while Massachusetts focused on performance with non-stop rehearsals and a concert with many solo performances, Connecticut and New Hampshire added an educational element with morning and afternoon workshop sessions. Additionally, all three massed ringing clinicians, Andy Wallace, Peter Coulombe, and Larry Berdensen, were a delight. They created an engaging experience while doing so within the context of their own individual styles. Peter had everyone wearing "drag queen smiles" in New Hampshire, Andy got everyone groovin' in Soon and Very Soon in Connecticut, and Larry worked up an incredible final concert with brass and timpani in Massachusetts. If you haven't made it to one of Spring Rings, you are absolutely missing out. Next year will include Maine, which happens every other year, and hopefully Rhode Island, which our RI State Chair, Donna Horan, is working on bringing back.

Our Area 1 Elections have now concluded and I am happy to announce to you the new officers that will assume their positions this year:

Lisa Arnold - Chair-Elect,
Cheryl Harger - Treasurer,
Diane Burke - Secretary.

I will transition to Past-Chair and
Carlene Ruesenberg will be your next Chair.

Remember that registration for
Festival Conference 2017 is now open!

If you still haven't decided if you're coming, be sure to check out the huge list of courses being offered and remember that scholarship opportunities are available.
<https://sites.google.com/handbellmusicians.org/area1fc17>

All the details can be found on the Area 1 website. Also, we're already hard at work planning Festival Conference 2019! The site committee, consisting of Carlene Ruesenberg, Dan Moore, Ed Henderson, and Sue Lee are currently identifying and visiting potential sites all around New England.

If you have any suggestions, please reach out to one of them.

As this is my last letter as Chair, I would like to take this time to thank the rest of the board for their support and dedication. In particular, Sue Wilber, Dan Moore, and Carlene Ruesenberg have all gone above and beyond in their duties. We in Area 1 are blessed with such amazing individuals who donate their time and talents to the furtherance and betterment of our musical art form. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you and am looking forward to continuing to do so as Past Chair and beyond.

Hope to see you all at UMASS Amherst in June!



Krishna Ersson

- Krishna Ersson, Chair

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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 dgenis@comcast.net

Canada:
Chester Area Middle School
204 Duke St
Chester, NS BOJ 1J0
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



OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

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

APPOINTED OFFICERS

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

STATE CHAIRS

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



NOTES FROM MAINE

We are certainly happy to see the signs of Spring and look forward to our anticipated church and community Spring concerts. Although Maine has adopted an "every other year" practice of offering Maine Spring Rings, some of our choirs are participating in other Spring Rings.

Rangely's Ecumenical Bell Choir headed to the Vermont Spring Ring at Lyndon College, north of St. Johnsbury in April.

The Penobscot Bay Ringers will be making a guest appearance at the Boston Handbell Festival on Tuesday, May 16th at Old South Church. The group has secured a motor coach that will be departing from Camden at 9 am (with one stop in Waldoboro at 9:30 am), and the public is invited to come along for a fun afternoon and evening in Boston. Stops will include Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Copley Place, and the evening concert at Old South Church. The cost for round-trip is \$50 per person. For more details and to reserve a seat, contact Eve Bell at 207.315.0378 or Bell.Eve.Me8293@gmail.com.

A Spring Handbell Festival will be held at the Brewer First Congregational Church at 4:00 pm on Saturday May 13, 2017. Participating Bell Choirs are from: Hampden Highlands United Methodist Church, Church of Universal Fellowship in Orono, First Congregational Church in Lincoln, Columbia Street Baptist Church in Bangor and the Brewer First Congregational Church

Plans for the 2018 Maine Spring Ring 2018 have begun with the formation of a committee consisting of: Amy Rollins, Laura Begenwald, Gail Kelly, Kim Visbaras, Sue Evans, Dan Evans; Debbie Hillman will be joining the group at our next meeting on August 17th in Rockland. The United Methodist Church of Auburn will be our host bell choir. As soon as the site location is confirmed, a conductor will be secured for the event so that we may begin developing the list of potential repertoire to be ordered in early Fall. The committee is so looking forward to getting started and hopes that some of you will volunteer to help out in anyway you are able.

My best to all our



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

me.area1@handbellmusicians.org

Maine Ringers and Directors,

Spring Ring
Handbell Festival
Brewer First Congregational Church
35 Church St, Brewer (behind Brewer City Hall)
5 Churches with 6 bell choirs are involved
Saturday May 13, 2017
Beginning at 4:00 pm
Suggested donation: A non-perishable food item to benefit the
Brewer Food Pantry
Participating Churches:
Hampden Highlands United Methodist Church
Church of Universal Fellowship, Orono
First Congregational Church, Lincoln
Columbia Street Baptist Church, Bangor
Brewer First Congregational Church

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)



Merrimack Valley Ringers
MVR
Always Different,
Always Fun!

Check out our website for information about our upcoming tour "Metanoia," and to find an MVR concert near you!

WWW.MVRINGERS.ORG



**10-Day Panama
Canal Cruise**

January 2019



More details are coming soon. Receive the latest information by joining our mailing list at:

www.bells of the cascades.org/signup

Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and start planning for

PANAMA!

Bells of the Cascades

NOTES FROM RHODE ISLAND

On Sunday, May 7, Emmanuel Episcopal Church will host the Shoreline Ringers of CT at 4:00 PM. Emmanuel is located at 42 Dearborn Street, Newport, RI.



Spring Handbell Concert

Shoreline Ringers, a community handbell choir based in Southeastern Connecticut, awes and inspires audiences with their ringing. Under the direction of Jane Nolan, this dynamic group is dedicated to musical excellence and handbell education through exciting and uplifting performances of secular and popular music, including a variety of techniques and rhythms that promise fun for all.

Sunday, May 7 - 4:00
Emmanuel Church
42 Dearborn Street, Newport, RI
www.shorelineringers.org

There has not been a Spring Ring held in RI for nearly a decade, so it was with a great deal of hope (and trepidation) - that we set out to plan the event for 2017. Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel the event - that's the *bad* news - the good news is that we will schedule a Spring Ring for 2018 and are hopeful that with the continued contacts made throughout the state and the area we *will* host a successful Spring Ring in 2018 - Stay tuned!

After a very successful holiday handbell extravaganza last November, it was decided to attempt this as an annual event. This year the annual

Ringin in the Holidays Handbell Spectacular

will be held on **Saturday, November 18, 2017** at time and

place TBA.

The Jubilate Ringers of East Greenwich, RI are preparing for a very busy fall and holiday season. They promise to keep us posted on their upcoming events. In the meantime, they will participate in summer events hosted by the Merchants Association of East Greenwich in conjunction with musicians from St. Luke's Ep. Church.

It is also reported that the JR will be holding auditions in August 2017 - if you are interested in joining this group and would like more information contact Dan Moore mimkdkm@gmail.com. JR rehearsals are scheduled on Monday mornings 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM at St. Luke's Church, East Greenwich, RI.



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

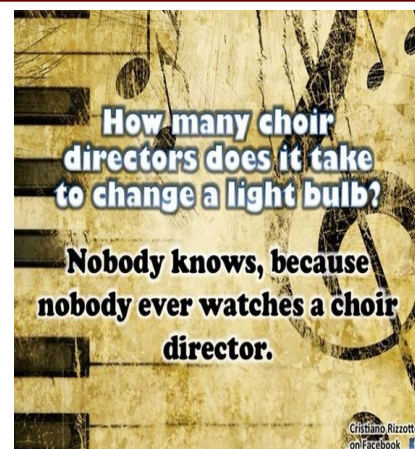
HUMOROUS NOTES

"Your marts sound like seven people with a bad cough"

"If he doesn't mart there - hit him with your mallet."

It's not a wrong note...

It's an alternative pitch



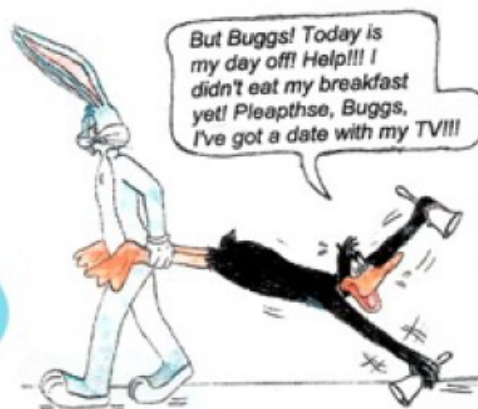
Ringers and Directors!

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, cmgconcord@gmail.com

Name: _____ Name of Choir: _____

Choir Affiliation: _____ Choir Address: _____

Personal Email: _____

Cell (Optional): _____

SnagASub



"Promoting the Art of Handbell Ringing in New Hampshire"

www.granitestateringers.org

CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

*The Granite State Ringers, under the direction of Joan Fossum,
would like to invite you to join us as we present*

DANCE AND CELEBRATION

We will be performing our commissioned piece written by Jason Krug entitled Retrospective.

Saturday, May 6 at 7:00 – First Parish Church, Dover, NH

Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 – St Paul's United Methodist Church, Manchester, NH

Saturday, May 20 at 7:00 – Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church, New London, NH

Sunday, May 21 at 3:00 – Smith Memorial Church, Hillsborough, NH



If you are interested in auditioning for the Granite State Ringers,
please contact Joan Fossum at jeafbell@aol.com



THE KLAPPER KATÉ



Dear *Klapper Kat*:

I direct two handbell choirs, one very novice, and one intermediate. Both choirs are registered for the Festival Conference, and we're fortunate to be able to borrow an extra set of bells. We've never participated in massed ringing before and most of my ringers - especially the least experienced ones - are very apprehensive about being prepared. How do I calm them down to that they can prepare adequately, and have the best possible experience?
Signed: Help me, please.

Dear Help me, please:

Attending an Area Festival Conference - especially in Area 1- should be a joyful, educational, and uplifting experience for you and your ringers. Here are some things you can share and do with your ringers as you *all* prepare:

First, assure your ringers that they will not be the only 'new' kids on the block. There will be many ringers for whom this is their first encounter with a Festival and massed ringing. You and your ringers will be made to feel welcome and encouraged to seek out members of the Festival Conference Committee, or previous attendees to ask questions. You'll feel like you have over five-hundred 'instant' friends! Ask for a 'First Time Attendee' ribbons for your name badges and wear them proudly.

Since you are already registered, the *Klapper Kat* assumes you have made your class selections. Encourage your ringers to gather class notes and share what they have learned with each other. The more classes your groups cover, the more valuable information and experiences they can bring home to benefit the entire ensemble. Each morning, there will be a list of classes which have openings; if a ringer wants to modify their chosen schedule, that is the time to do it. Information on that process will be available when you arrive. When you get home, use part of a rehearsal as a sharing session.

When it comes to actual massed ringing rehearsals, preparation is the not-so-secret ingredient for success. Your ringers should come knowing their music. The massed directors' task is not to teach you how a piece goes, but to encourage you (and everyone in your ringing division) to play the piece with your musical best foot forward. Watching the directors is critical; in a large area, ringers cannot rely on what they hear, but rather on what they see - and that should be the director. Logistically, many choirs are quite a distance from the podium, and watching the director often (once a measure is not too much!) is what keeps five or six hundred ringers together. And of course, they can only watch if they know their music! If you need guidance with your musical preparations, study the published rehearsal notes, seek out an experienced director in your area to help, and/or contact your Area 1 State chairperson. They'll be glad to help.

At some point, your ringers must understand the scope of the experience they are having. Encourage them to individually go sit in the audience's seats for a few minutes and watch and hear this remarkable spectacle.

They will be amazed!

See you there!



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.

Address questions to *The Klapper Kat* and email them at any time to the Fundamental Tone Editor: editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org

WHO IS THE COLUMBIA HANDBELL ENSEMBLE?

Columbia Handbell Ensemble



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.

CHANGES TO THE *FUNDAMENTAL TONE*

If you are reading this - 'Thank you'!

We are in the process of making changes to 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 has changed and the method of distribution will be through *Constant Contact* as well as a posting on the Area 1 website. If you are not receiving this through your email and would like to, please notify editor.area1@area1handbellmusicians.org. It is planned to incorporate more educational information - technique, theory, etc.

We NEED your input! - What do you like about the *FT*? What don't you like? 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?

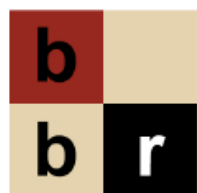
Directors and Ringers - Do you have thoughts you would like to share? Please submit articles for publication.

Fundamental Tone

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editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org
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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.

PREPARING FOR FC: *BEYOND THE MUSIC...*

Several directors were asked "If you had words of wisdom to impart to those attending Festival Conference what would they be?" Amazingly, there were responses! "Thank you" to Dan Moore, Larry Berdensey and Jane Nolan who offered pragmatic and practical suggestions to help us prepare for Festival Conference...*Beyond the Music*.

"Go with an open mind remembering that this art form is still in it's infancy; everything about handbell ringing is still evolving - even the instrument(s). In conversations and classes, take away what works for you. Compare it to other perspectives that you have experienced. No single instructor or event can provide all the answers." - Dan Moore

Larry contributed the following suggestions:

Festival conference is a wonderful event that allows musicians, of all levels, the opportunity to become totally immersed in a truly unique and exciting handbell experience. Massed ringing, participating in classes, and socializing are three main components of festival conference; however, what one does leading up to conference time is equally important. Standing and ringing for long periods of time (1 1/2-2 hrs.), along with walking to and from classes, places many physical demands on our bodies. Like athletes preparing for an event, handbell musicians must also prepare by building endurance for this handbell extravaganza. If you do not exercise on regular basis, now is a good time to start a conditioning routine to help you prepare for conference time. Listed below are some suggestions in preparing for festival conference. As always, it is important to consult with a medical professional before engaging in any type of physical activity or diet plan.

- *Stay hydrated:—Water is an essential part of our daily diets. Each of us is unique, and our daily intake of water will depend upon our daily activities, weight, health, etc. Hydration should happen daily and just not when you are engaged in a physical activity. **Consult your doctor for the proper amount of water to drink on a daily basis.***
- *Now is the time to engage in daily exercise: If you do not exercise regularly, it is important to implement daily stretches and start a daily walking routine. If you are feeling really ambitious, join a gym—it can only help in the long run!*
- *Healthy diet: Eat healthier meals and have healthy snacks while attending festival. UMass offers quite an array of culinary experiences. It is ok to splurge now and then; however, be smart in your choices.*
- *Unpacking/Packing: It is important to avoid any type of strain to your body. This includes unpacking and packing your vehicle, and moving cases, tables and other equipment. When lifting objects, remember to bend your knees and use your legs—not your lower back.*
- *Socialize and have fun: Meet new people through activities that are associated with festival: daily raffles, forming an ice cream social, attending mini-concerts, and going to church.*

And last, but certainly not least, Jane offered the following tips:

Among things other than music, people should bring:

- *comfortable shoes,*
- *their special pillow,*
- *a fan if they are not in air conditioning,*
- *band aids or tape for hand and finger protection with hours of ringing,*
- *bottled water,*
- *rubber mats to stand on - on the ringing floor,*
- *a bag or backpack to carry things in for rehearsals and classes,*

in addition to binders, gloves, choir shirt for final concert.....

People don't need to feel they have to start packing now, but they could start putting things aside.

So there you have it - sage advice and practical suggestions to make Festival Conference a very rewarding experience -

See you at UMASS in June!