

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area I, Inc. • American Guild of English Handbell Ringers

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

Volume XXII, No. 4

November 2008

Upcoming Events

November 7–8, 2008
Area I Adult Ringer Weekend
Sunday River Resort, Newry, ME

November 15, 2008
6th Annual Greater Lakes Region Handbell Festival
Laconia, NH

January 24, 2009
Rhode Island Handbell Workshop
Pawtucket, RI

January 31, 2009
Vermont Directors' Roundtable, Directors' Roundtable

February, 2009
Think Spring Mini-Rings
St. Johnsbury, VT
and March, 2009
Weybridge, VT and Burlington, VT

February 6–7, 2009
2009 Directors' Seminar
Sheraton Framingham Hotel
Framingham, MA

March, 2009
Massachusetts Spring Ring

April 24–25, 2009
Vermont Spring Ring
Barre, VT

March 28, 2009
Maine Annual Spring Ring
April 25, 2009
Rhode Island Invitational Ring
Westerly, RI

June 25–28, 2009
Festival/Conference '09
University of Maine at Orono

May 19, 2009
Boston Handbell Festival
Boston, MA

**Important
Registration
Information**
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Sue Says... *a few words from the Chair*

What the heck happened to summer?? Ah, well, we welcome the fall, beautiful foliage and the beginning of or resuming another handbell season. There are so many events of which you should all take advantage—rep reading sessions, youth events, the **Adult Ringer Weekend** at our new location at Sunday River Resort in Bethel, Maine. These are all opportunities to hone your ringing skills and prepare for FC'09 in Orono. I encourage each of you to attend these events as well as urging your fellow ringers to do the same. Area I has a wonderful network of events that promote the art of bell ringing and working to improve the art—come on—sign up!!!!

We still have space at the Adult Ringer Weekend for last minute sign-ups—this is such a wonderful opportunity to ring (without any pressure) and get together with folks from the area. The venue is just great—I hope you will consider joining us.

Festival Conference '09 is coming up so quickly! Dan Moore, Dean of Education, has done a fabulous job of recruiting clinicians and redesigning class scheduling. I am sure you will be pleased with the structure and class offerings. Patrick Gagnon, Chair of FC'09, has worked so very hard to make this event a success—look for his article and make sure your group gets ready for a great time.

We continue to teach and learn and share our knowledge. Two of our board members—Sue Wilber and Jane Nolan—are headed to a training session in November in Dayton, sponsored by our national organization. *(continued on page 2)*

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

SUE SAYS...

(continued from page 1)

tion. This training is targeted for treasurers and membership board leaders—perfect!

We continue to focus on building budgets within each individual state to assure that we have a viable organization and are able to support those events within the area that are not able to financially run events without assistance.

And we continue to reach out to our Canadian members and will be inviting representatives to our meeting in January to discuss ways that Area I can support

their efforts. We are also posting an article in this *Fundamental Tone* to clarify the **Sponsored/Endorsed Events** process and benefits. If you will be coordinating or running an event and have questions, please contact me well in advance of the event.

Family Handbell Camp—were you wondering if it would come back? I cannot say for certain, but Camp Wightman in Griswold, CT—YES—CONNECTICUT!—is a distinct possibility. We are very excited about this new location and are looking at August of 2010—I know that seems very far away, but we, and they, need time to plan. Please check out

their website at www.wightman@abcconn.org. Cabins with indoor plumbing—yikes!

Finally, we welcome a new member to our board – **Jeanne Polcari** is our special needs liaison. We “welcomed” her at our recent board meeting at the Henderson vacation home in New Hampshire without heat—auspicious beginning—thanks for being such a good sport—as well as all the other board members. We have a great leadership team and some great folks who really know who to build a fire! 

Sue Henderson
Area I Chair

AGEHR AREA I OFFICERS

Elected Officers

Chair: **Sue Henderson** (978-851-3024)
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Vermont **Jerilyn Bergdahl** (802-425-2177)
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AGEHR

AREA I

FESTIVAL

June 25–28

The University of Maine
At OronoConference
2009

...the newly redesigned
Maine Center for The Arts!

Come one, come all to the 2009 Area I Festival/Conference at the University of Maine at Orono! This event will feature a public performance by 900 ringers who will perform the world premier of the winning piece of the 2009 Area I Composition Contest. The committee and the University are both hard at work planning a stunning event with world-class teachers, repertoire, and a new class/rehearsal schedule allowing for more divisional rehearsal time, more class time, and new programs offered on each of the **four** festival days!

A Important Note About

Registering

For Festival/Conference

This Festival, a Registration Form will be sent *by email to one person in your choir*. Choose that person and send their name and email address, and your organization name to:

bnoss@mac.com

(Note: This person needs to be competent with and have a fairly up-to-date computer. Although the registration process is very simple, they may need to install the latest Acrobat Reader application on their computer.)

*On Following Pages
You'll Find These Helpful
Articles about Festival...*

- *Rates*
- *Repertoire*
- *Performance Notes*
- *Handbell YOU
(classes, tracks, and more)*
- *Bradford Scholarships*



Featuring an opening concert by Embellish.

FESTIVAL Conference 2009

June 25–28

The University of Maine
At Orono

Répertoire

Tins

1. *Ring Jubilee* – Susan E. Geschke, Agape 2437, 2-3 oct., L2
2. *Praise Unfolding* – Sandra Eithun, Choristers Guild CGB523, 3-5 oct., L1
3. *Humbly I Adore You* – Shawn Gingrich, Agape 2345, 3-5 oct., L1+

Coppers

1. *When We All Get to Heaven* – Tammy Waldorp, Alfred 21855, 3-5 oct., L3
2. *Coventry Carol* – Michael Helman, Beckenhorst Press, HB294, 3-5 oct., L3+
3. *Bell Paeon* – Derek K. Hakes, Beckenhorst Press, HB288, 3-5 oct., L3-

Bronze

1. *Prelude on "Herzliebster Jesu"* – Fred Gramann, AGEHR AG47002, 4–7 oct., L5
2. *Dance of the Reed Flutes* – Tchaikovsky/Griffin, Flammer, HP5219, 5 oct., L5
3. *A Walk in The Park* – Karen Buckwalter, Beckenhorst Press HB250, 4–6 oct., L5
4. *Fantasy #4* – Michael Helman, Beckenhorst Press, HB312, 3–6 oct., L4

Massed

1. *With a Bold Voice* – Michael Mazzatenta – AGEHR AG35283 – 3–5 oct., L2
2. *On This Day Earth Shall Ring* – Cathy Moglebust, Choristers Guild CGB461 (Ringer Part) 3–5 oct., L3, [Choristers Guild CGB460 (Full Score)]
3. *What Wondrous Love is This* – arr. Arnold Sherman, Agape 2392, 3–6 oct., L3-
4. *Celebration* – Fred Gramann, Lorenz 20/1397L, 3–5 oct., L2+

Rates

	<i>Early</i> (3/15/09)	<i>Regular</i> (4/15/09)
Single	\$349	\$373
Double	\$309	\$333
Commuter	\$219	\$243
Chaperone (non-ringing)	\$199	\$218

“With a Bold Voice”

Now Available From Jeffers!

With a Bold Voice by Dr. Michael Mazzatenta is now available for purchase from Jeffers Handbell Supply, or directly from the Lorenz Corporation. It is rated at AGEHR L2 and is written for 3–5 octaves of handbells with optional 3 octaves of handchimes. Order your copies now!

***With a Bold Voice* – Michael Mazzatenta – AG35283 – L2
– 3-5 8v HB, opt. 3 8v HC**

Performance Notes

Monica McGowan, Conductor, Tins and Massed



TINS

Ring Jubilee,

arr. Susan E. Geschke

- Remember what it says at the beginning, just below the Bells Used Chart: Joyously!
- Observe all dynamics, and rehearse all tempo changes: *poco rit.*, *rall.*, *rit.*, *molto rall.*, *a tempo* and *Tempo I*.
- Doing so will transform the ink on the page to music that touches the heart. When the music we present makes that emotional connection with our

listener's, we have achieved success. Tempi as indicated in the score.

- Prepare for the *Martellato* technique. Remember, the bell is already dead; it is not up to us or the ringer to kill it again. Instruct your ringers to watch closely in m. 23—there will be space between those notes for the *poco rit.*
- I will not conduct "beats" for the *fermata* in m. 24. The preparatory beat will clearly indicate the slower tempo in m. 25.
- The *Echo* Technique is suc-

cessfully executed by simply touching the lip of the casting to the table on the beats indicated. It is much like a skipping stone skimming across the water – too much force or downward angle and the stone sinks. Light touches or skips across the water keep it going. So should the echoes keep on going. The whole notes within the brackets, beginning m. 34 are the notes to be "echoed." The *mart-lifts* on the quarter notes should be very light and not out of character of this section.

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Performance Notes

William Griffin, Conductor, Coppers and Bronze



Some general comments about these performance notes: generally, we will not point out anything written in the

music regarding dynamics, tempo, techniques, ritards, etc. We would ask that directors heed all markings unless noted otherwise in these notes. There may be some occasional reinforcement of some markings or an explanation of how it will be directed. Please note, and stress with your ringers, that acoustical conditions, preparation of groups, and general level of the ringers may change

some of the tempi, dynamics, etc. It is suggested that each piece of music be worked at different tempi and dynamics so the ringers will be able to adapt to the massed ringing setting with a minimum of difficulty.

COPPERS

Bell Paean, by Derek Hakes

- Work for a tempo of 132 to the quarter; we would like to direct it in 1 rather than 3.
- Please observe footnote at bottom of pages 3 (m's 16–20) and 5 (m's 51–55)

and work on suggested doubling.

- Measures 20–35, please use mallets for the staccato notes; use *PI* if you do not have mallets. Work to keep all staccato one dynamic less than the melodic line.
- Measures 55–58 and 63–66 please keep *martellato* very light (very close to the table).
- Measure 94, add a slight and gradual *accelerando* to measure 98.
- Measure 98, a tempo without *molto ritard*, just a *ritard*.

(continued on page 8)

TINS...

(continued from page 5)

- Be thankful for the gift of the *poco rit.* in m. 40 – an opportunity to watch and prepare for *Tempo I* on the next page!!

Praise Unfolding, Sandra Eithun

- Dynamic contrast needs our attention in this selection. Be especially mindful of the *piano* section (trebles) in mm. 37–38.
- The shake (SK) technique can be played musically—shakes do not begin at stun!! After the attack of the clapper to casting, let the shake grow dynamically. We'll have a more musical result!
- Rehearse the *rit. e dim.* mm. 73–76 with the intent of watching the director through the entire conclusion of the piece. Bass bells—be sure to have your mallets at the ready long before m. 77!

Humbly, I Adore You, Shawn Gingrich

- The challenge I find with choirs transitioning from ringing handbells to ringing handchimes is to play the handchimes with greater finesse and gentleness. Even though the melodic line is marked at mf does not require the ringers to over-ring the handchimes. The sound, clarity and pure tone of the handchimes will carry through the sustain of the handbell chords without extra effort.
- Pay attention to the different types of dynamic contrast used in this piece: gradual dynamic changes, as indicated in measures like 13–15 and those of terraced dynamics where entrances change by dynamic degrees, not previous increases. Examples such as these are: mm. 1–4 are *p*; the entrance at m. 5 is *mp*.
- Be prepared for the change in meter for the last line of the composition. You will see a marked difference in my conducting pattern—watch for

beat two to go away from the body. I may conduct this closing section by simply indicating the entrances rather than conducting all the beats.

MASSED

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Cathy Moglebust

- It would be best if all those playing with mallets have two mallets available per ringer. To achieve the drive and motion this piece deserves, malleting with a single mallet will be uneven and exhausting for the ringers. Don't waste your energy—share the load by using two mallets. What an opportunity to practice your sticking technique!!!
- Trebles be aware: you do not carry the primary melodic line beginning in m. 29. Please, please, please play this at the dynamic indicated in the score: *p*.
- Be ready for and observe the eighth note rest, m. 38! A very clean damp is required!
- m. 61: caution bass – not too much energy and force for those off-beat marts! Yes, I know the dynamic marking is *ff* but martellato articulations carry through more powerfully than ringing.
- mm. 70–71 Trebles: please start your shake softly and add *crescendo* where it is indicated to add drama to the end of this piece!

What Wondrous Love is This

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

- Even though it will be tempting to rehearse this piece in four, please conduct it in 2.
- The challenge will be in beginning this piece soft enough and getting all the bells to “speak” when they should.
- Be diligent in the execution of the echoes in mm. 30–33 with special attention to the

change in dynamics between the repeated sequences.


- Strive to be very familiar with the passages between mm. 36–45. This will allow for greater flexibility and execution, giving the conductor the ability to truly conduct the *accel.*, *rit.*, *accel.* for greater musical interest to introduce the restatement of the melodic line which begins in m. 44, beat 2.
- Closely watch for the individual cues for the quarter notes in the last two measures of the piece. Treble bells: have your mallets at the ready long before you arrive at m. 83.

Celebration, Fred Gramann

- I was lucky enough to get to ring this piece at the 30th Celebration of the Bay View Week of

Handbells in 2007. It is a great piece and it really moves.

- Learning from our rehearsals at Bay View, I would like you to add the following additional notations:

- Bass and Battery: remove the swings in mm. 24–26.
- Trebles: be sure to maintain your dynamic marking of *p* at m. 32. It is only the bass that ring *mf*. The same is true at mm. 36 and 40.
- m. 44: trebles add the dynamic marking of *p*; bass add the dynamic marking *mf*.
- m. 46: C6—add an accent to bring out the entrance of the inner melodic line. 

— *Monica McGowan*



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Upcoming Concerts

Saturday, November 29	<i>Bells of Boston</i> Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston, MA
Saturday, November 29	Ste. Anne Roman Catholic Church Salem, MA
Sunday, November 30	Rogers Center for the Arts Merrimack College, North Andover, MA
Friday, December 5	St. Jude Parish, Lincoln, RI
Saturday, December 6	<i>Bells of Boston</i> Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston, MA
Saturday, December 13	<i>Kennebunkport Christmas Prelude</i> South Congregational Church Kennebunkport, ME
Sunday, December 14	<i>Christmas in Newport</i> , The Breakers
Friday, December 19	Trinity Church of Northborough, MA
Saturday, December 20	Bethany Covenant Church, Berlin, CT
Sunday, December 21	South Congregational Church UCC Springfield, MA

Would your organization like to present an NER concert? Contact us at newenglandringers@aol.com, or call at 978-851-3024. Host venues are currently being sought in New England for the 2009 and 2010 Seasons.

COPPERS...

(continued from page 5)

Coventry Carol, setting by Michael Helman

- The first 8 bars are basically an introduction to the main melody. Work it in 2 bar phrases bringing out the treble melody. Add some stress to the first note of measure 2, 4, 6, and 8 – work out the hairpin *cresc./decresc.* Add *crescendi* in measures 1, 3, and 5-6; and *decrescendi* in measures 2, 4, and 7-9.
- Bring out melodic line when melody enters in measure 10, accompaniment lines should be one dynamic less than the melodic lines throughout the entire piece.
- Measures 13-14, 16-17, 21-22—please bring out the counter melody in the alto line (same melody as used in the introduction)

back bay ringers

saturday seminar

Ringling with Cathy Moglebust

Save the date: June 6th, 2009

Workshops will include:

- Percussion techniques for handbell ringers
- Ringing musically!
- Master class featuring back bay carillon
- More than a reading session, music of Cathy Moglebust.



A workshop both ringers and directors will enjoy.



back bay ringers

Registration will begin December 1, 2008
on-line at www.backbayringers.org

- Measure 17, please add a *poco ritard*, then a *tempo* in measure 18.
- Again, bring out counter melody in measures 21, 28, and 32.
- Measure 38, a very slight *ritard* to measure 39, a very slight pause before starting 39, a *tempo* at that point.
- Measure 71, please change the Bb 6/7 in beat 1 to a B natural.
- Measure 81, slight subdivision on the 8ths at the end of the measure.
- Watch for counter melody fragments again in this section.
- Measure 105 will be subdivided with a *ritard* and a *decrescendo*.
- Watch closely in 105 and 106 for clean ensemble (attacks).

When We All Get to Heaven

setting by Tammy Waldrop

- All as marked – we will see at what tempo we can cleanly play this tune (work it to a 138 to the quarter if possible).
- Bass handbells, memorize measures 6-7 and 56-59.
- Measures 22-29, bring out the melody in the treble clef (down stemmed notes).
- The section that starts with the pick-up into 39, bring out melodic line in the bass.

BRONZE

A Walk in the Park

Karen Lakey Buckwalter

- Keep the entire piece light and relaxed.
- Please use mallets on all staccato.
- When possible please work out handbell assign-

ments, so one person plays the grace note and the note to which the grace note is "tied."

- In measures 16 and 58, the cut-off of the dotted half will be the preparatory for the third beat of the measure. In essence we will be adding a beat to the measure: the dotted half will be beats 1 and 2 with the *fermata* on 2; the 3rd beat would be the cut-off and the preparatory for the 4th beat, the 4th beat would be the D5; the fifth beat would be the G5.
- Please bring out the melodic line in the bass clef in measure 24 (the D4, G4, and Ab4).
- Measure 42, please change the *ten.* to a *fermata* (it will be a short one). We will direct it in a similar manner to measures 16 and 58. When the cut-off is given for the *fermata*, please sustain the D5 into the balance of the measure.
- Measures 67 and 68, please bring out the quar-

ter and eighth notes. Keep the dotted half notes one dynamic less than the quarters and eighths.

- Measures 70-71, please work out the *sfz* to the *pp* to achieve the greatest dynamic contrast possible.
- Measure 72, observe the *fermata* on beats 1 & 2, each eighth on beat 3 will be directed.

Dance of the Reed Flutes

Tchaikovsky/Griffin

- Keep this number light throughout.
- If available please use mallets on all staccato notes.
- In measures 5, 13, 29, 37, 64, and 72; please observe the accent on beat 3.

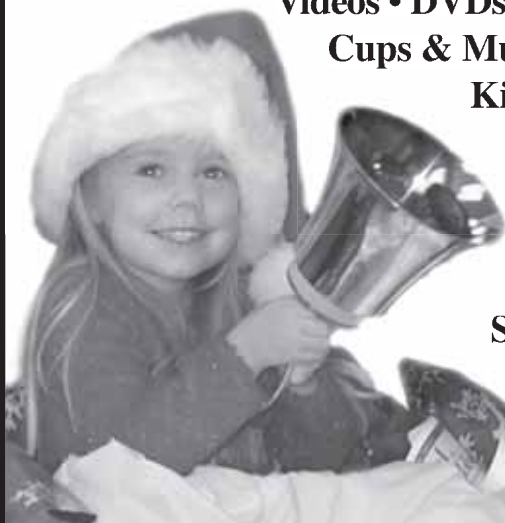
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BRONZE...

(continued from page 9)

- Measures 19–24, please use handchimes on indicated notes (with the “x”).
- Measure 26, leave out the A3 on the and of 4; almost no *ritard* in this measure—do not slow up the 16ths in the bass clef, work out the handbell assignments so this can be covered smoothly; do not use mallets on any part of the bass line in this measure!
- Measure 41, trebles on beat 2 please add the D6 and E6 below the 7’s; on beat 3 add a Bb6; on beat 4 add a C#6 and E6 below the 7’s.
- If you have an F#2 and a C#2, please double the bass line from 51 to the third beat of 59.

Fantasy Number Four, by Michael Helman

- Tempo good as marked.
- Observe all accent marks carefully.
- All staccato notes *TD* (pages 4-6).
- Keep martellato technique light at all times.



Enthusiastic ringers representing six ensembles and one person who had never rung bells before gathered at the First Methodist church in Rutland, VT on Oct. 11 for the second annual **Vermont Skill Building Workshop**. The event was sponsored by Karen James and Bells of Joy. Jeannie Cushman lead activities to help ringers physically prepare to ring. Phil Brown and Karen James, clinicians, worked with ringers on developing accurate ringing strokes and note values, stopped techniques, and reading skills. This information was reinforced by a session of “putting it all together” at the end of the day. “Why can’t we do this quarterly?” and “I learned so many things today” on ringer evaluation forms indicated a very positive experience for those attending.

Prelude on “Herzliebster Jesu”

by Fred Gramann

- Measure 1, add a short *fermata* to each half note.
- Measure 2, we will keep in tempo at about 66 to the quarter. Work for a very legato style through out the piece.
- Measure 6, back the moving 8ths down to a *mf*. Even though the melody is signified with accents, maintain a legato style without too much accent.
- Measure 12, please note that we are still at a *f* level, dim. as marked.
- Measure 17 and 20, do not accent the and of 2, keep it legato.
- Measures 46-58, please play the *Herzliester Jesu* melody on choir chimes; at 56 only the F5 and G5 on choir chimes (not the upper octaves); measure 57 the Eb5 and the D5 (play as a half note).
- Measures 64 through 75, bring out the *Herzliebster Jesu* line as much as possible while maintaining a legato style.
- Watch *rit*. In meas. 82, in measure 83 we will give each 16th note, place a *ten.* on beats 3 and 4.

Final Comments

Please take the time to work all music to the best of your ability before the festival. If possible it would be great for all groups to have performed each of the numbers prior to the festival. Do not assume that another group will pick up your slack—they may be thinking the same thing on the same tune. Any festival is only as good as the prior preparation of the registrants—your guest directors are not miracle workers, but will do everything they can with given resources to provide a good musical experience for all. We look forward to seeing you next June. 🖋️

— Bill Griffin

International Festival of Handbells

June 8–16, 2009

Debbie Rice, Artistic Director
www.harmonyinternational.com OR
<dricenc@triad.rr.com>

This tour will include mass rings in Scotland and England plus lots of sightseeing down the west side of the country. Ringers from the UK have been invited to join. Repertoire is accessible. Groups or ensembles invited to perform solo in concerts. Costs \$2,990 based on current airfares (subject to change) from a major US international departure city. One 7-octave set of bells/chimes will supplement ringing. Please inquire for details!



Area I Members at *Distinctly Bronze*

New Bern, North Carolina, October 2–5

(back to front) Carolyn Gardner, Jeannie Cushman,
Karen Leonard, Karen James, Elizabeth Rice,
Wendy Lewis, Gayle Keinard, Sue Chamberlin,
Lisa Thomas

The back bay ringers invite you to a

Holiday Concert

Featuring beloved carols, holiday sing-alongs,
and music from our newest Christmas CD.

Merry and Bright

A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

Family Concert

Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
Wellesley Hills Congregational Church
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Evening Concert

Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Maple Street Congregational Church
Danvers, Massachusetts



back bay ringers

Boston's only community-based handbell ensemble
For more information visit www.backbayringers.org



Handbell YOU!

The 2009 AGEHR Area I Festival/Conference is an event that will fulfill the board's mission of bringing P.O.E.M.S. to the Area I membership. Performing, Organizing, Educating, Mentoring, and Socializing are all part of the plan for June 2009, and we hope to see almost 1000 of you in Maine to be a part of the premier of *With a Bold Voice*, the commissioned piece that honors one of our founders, an educator named Elizabeth Bradford. With a new

emphasis on providing opportunities for learning, FC09 offers both traditional and new classes to pique your interest and help improve your ringing skills and musicianship. But when you need to relax, there will be opportunities for that, too.

FC09 Offers:

- Tracks in Music Theory, Conducting, Theory and Musicianship, Musicality and Independent Learning, and Tins Mastery, a special track
- Technique Electives in high, middle and low bells, multiple bell techniques, table and off-table techniques, and mallets.
- Repertoire Sessions for Bells in Worship, bells with vocal/instruments, seasonal repertoire, and general repertoire at all levels. Rep Sessions will be offered three

for all Tins choirs to work with Master Teachers on the issues of the less experienced choir/ringer.



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MVR is producing a new CD, featuring selections from our Spring 2008 tour! Details on our website.

Appearances at Faneuil Hall in Boston, and concerts throughout December!

Visit our website for more information:
www.mvringers.com

times and cover two complete sets of titles.

- General Electives in copyright, choosing repertoire, bell trees, memorization, a bronze track choir, solo and ensemble ringing, handbell maintenance, handchime instruments, youth choirs, change ringing, history and lore, physical warm-ups, and notation symbols.
- New electives in event organization, inventing new sounds for handbells, marketing and identity, program design, motion language for handbells, observing massed directors, ringer/director communication, and African drumming.
- Fun Sessions where you yell at the event chair, Patrick Gagnon (yes, time will be scheduled for that!), exercise with Capoeira, sing-a-long with Jeannie Cushman (bring your guitar), learn and play creative musical games and puzzles, paint floor cloths, and try your hand at origami.

By The Numbers:

- 17 Class sessions
- 5 Tracks
- 52 Electives (most available to all ringing levels)
- 33 Master Teachers, Instructors and Facilitators
- 140 Repertoire Reading Titles

New Program for Tins Choirs

Tins Choirs will automatically be scheduled into Tins Mastery. These three special session tracks, taught by master teachers, are designed specifically for newer, less experienced choirs and less confident ringers, and their directors. Using the Festival Conference repertoire, these skill-building sessions will cover ringing techniques, musicality, basic form/theory, tracking drills and practice strategies, recognizing the language of the conductor, presentation and confidence. These sessions are designed as a group experience and it is important that all Tins ringers attend. Tins ringers will have the opportunity to also choose several additional classes.

Tins directors will be encouraged to set up individual appointments with the Master Teachers to discuss specific director/organizational issues.

NEW THIS YEAR: Choosing the Right Classes/ Designing Your Personal Schedule

Ringers who select tracks or other sequential classes are encouraged to attend all sessions; tracks and sequential classes are planned to move from topic to topic or skill to skill in a particular order. As you read the class descriptions,

please note that your FC music will be used in many classes. Requirements for each class are included in the class description.

By designing their own schedule, ringers can:

- avoid any potential conflicts with massed or divisional rehearsals
- plan class sessions according to personal energy levels
- attend more than one offering of a class where it is taught by a different instructor
- participate in two different repertoire reading sessions in the same category
- focus on classes for individual and whole choir benefits
- enroll in tracks while still having ample opportunities to attend other classes.

All class selections should be a group/choir project. By carefully choosing your choir's classes, it will be possible to "share the wealth" after this Festival/Conference by teaching one another the lessons you learn in individual class sessions. Classes and tracks are offered at appropriate levels in sessions which do not conflict with massed or divisional rehearsals. Registrants should choose classes or tracks to extend improve both their musicianship and ringing skills.

I look forward to hearing you ring and watching you learn at FC09! Have a great year. 🗡️

Dan K. Moore, Dean of Education, FC09

Sponsored/Endorsed Events: A Member Benefit

One of the best things we can give our Area I members in AGEHR is high quality events. Events can develop technical skill, musicality, director skill, repertoire knowledge, and can generate new memberships. Bringing our members together for performances and social events, as well as meetings with mentors helps fulfill our board's mission of *P.O.E.M.S.* (Performing, Organizing, Educating, Mentoring, and Socializing).

The board currently oversees and *sponsors* Area-wide events that receive sponsorship from AGEHR: Festival/Conference, Directors' Seminar, Adult Ringer Weekend, High School Ring-Out, Family Handbell Camp (coming back for 2010!), draw ringers and directors from across New England and the Canadian Provinces.

Additionally, we *sponsor* state and regional Spring Rings, Skill-Building Workshops, Beginning Technique Workshops, Mini-Rings, Fall Festivals, and other events that bring together ringers and directors from smaller geographic areas. These events also receive the benefits of AGEHR sponsorship, and I hope reading a bit further will encourage you to think about creating new events, and getting them sponsored by AGEHR.

Does your church choir have wonderful teachers and ringers? Does your community choir want to reach out with an "educational" arm? These are instances where a "non-AGEHR" event could be **ENDORSED** by AGEHR. All of the same benefits are extended to endorsed events as are given to sponsored events, but an entity other than the Area I board would be running the event. According to the national Sponsored/Endorsed (S/E) policy, endorsed events are to pay Area I a per-registrant fee (ranging from \$0.75 - \$1.50 depending on the number of participants), but the Area I board waives this fee.

A way to think about the "to do it or not to do it"

dilemma is to ask yourself "what if?" "What if" someone was injured at your event? "What if" a box of bells that someone loaned to your repertoire reading was stolen? "What if" money went mysteriously missing? "What if" no one came to your event because they didn't know about it? If your church, for example, is hosting the event, how much do you know about the insurance policy held by your church? Does your community choir carry liability insurance?

This is not meant to be a scary article. Take a moment, however, to read the list of benefits for S/E, and realize that getting these benefits only costs an event organizer a few moments and only TWO pages of forms to fill out.

Starting a New Event

Probably the best person to contact is your AGEHR Area I State Chairperson:

Connecticut **Greg Fisher**
ctchair@agehrarea1.org

Maine **Brian Wilson**
mechair@agehrarea1.org

Massachusetts **David Wurth**
machair@agehrarea1.org

New Hampshire **Joan Fossum**
nhchair@agehrarea1.org

Rhode Island **RI Handbell Advisory Council**
richair@agehrarea1.org

Vermont **Jerilyn Bergdahl**
vtchair@agehrarea1.org

*These are the people who will help make
your handbell dreams come true!*

Here comes the list:

Liability Insurance

AGEHR Sponsored/Endorsed (S/E) events are covered by the National AGEHR umbrella liability policy. This policy generally conforms to the stipulations that venues such as hotels and resorts set for an event rental. The policy has a per-occurrence limit of \$1,000,000 and an additional aggregate limit of \$2,000,000. A separate Excess Liability Policy provides additional coverage of \$4,000,000 per occurrence.

Borrowed Equipment Insurance

Equipment borrowed for S/E events (NOT bells used for massed ringing, such as at a Spring Ring or FC) for classroom use, repertoire reading sessions, and other teaching is covered against theft or disaster under this umbrella insurance policy. There is a \$1000 deductible, and it is highly recommended that any equipment borrowed for an event be exactly recorded (for example – the number of octaves of bells, the brand, the estimated value of the equipment, and detailed information about the owner of the equipment).

Site Insurance

A venue that needs to be included as an additional insured on the AGEHR insurance certificate (a “named insured”) can receive a certificate with this stipulate. AGEHR charges a \$35 fee for this service.

Employee/Volunteer

Dishonesty Insurance

Individuals who handle money or other valuables for S/E events in an official capacity (for example, a treasurer or a bell captain) are covered by a national AGEHR insurance policy up to a limit of \$250,000. As with the borrowed equipment, appropriate documentation of cash and valuables “on hand” is necessary to insure complete coverage.

Performance Royalties

AGEHR will pay ASCAP performance royalties for music performed at S/E events. For this reason, the final report from sponsored events must include all titles performed, and final number of participants and audience numbers.

Mechanical Royalties

Audio recordings made of concerts performed during S/E events by event officials are permitted by the Handbell Industry Council. This agreement does NOT permit individual participants to record performances for broadcast (making, for example, video performances with cell phones and posting them to “YouTube”) The S/E event is responsible for paying statutory mechanical royalties to each publisher, but this application grants the permission to record.

Advertising

S/E events are listed both in Overtones and on the beautiful new national website:

<http://www.agehr.org/events/eventCalendar.asp>


Mailing Labels

AGEHR will produce mailing labels for S/E events that can be mailed to the event planner, or emailed as an Excel file ready to be “mail-merged.”

HOW-TO

Event planners fill out the application, and present a budget proposal (provided in the application packet); forward these two forms to the Area I Chair for approval or discussion, and the Chair forwards these forms to the national office. The event planner is informed via email when the final approval is given. To view the entire application, visit the national AGEHR website: www.agehr.org/events/Sponsored_Endorsed_Events_Packet.pdf

If your event involves a recording, or you want to be sent mailing labels, there are a few more pages to fill out, but with minimal information.

If you are still reading this article, I thank you. It is my hope that you will consider planning ringing events in your area, and consider getting them Sponsored/Endorsed. If you want to know more, please contact your state chair, or me <chair-elect@agehrarea1.org> and we can talk about developing a new event. 

Happy planning!

Patrick Gagnon, Chair-Elect, Area I

Bradford Scholarships

Choir Scholarships for F/C'09

DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2009

The Area I Board announces the application period for Choir Scholarships for the upcoming Festival/Conference '09 in Orono, Maine, this coming June. If your choir has ever thought about attending this phenomenal Area I key-stone event, now is the time to look into receiving a partial scholarship to help make that dream a reality.

The Bradford Scholarship was established in honor of Elizabeth Bradford, one of the earliest leaders in the handbell world. During Festival/Conference year,

scholarship funds are made available to encourage choirs to attend their first Festival/Conference. These scholarships provide partial payment of registration fees for F/C. Several scholarships are available each round.

Eligibility Requirements

- Your choir or Director must be a member in good standing in Area I, Inc.
- Your choir must be a performing group of 7 or more ringers.
- Preference will be given to choirs having at least 75% of their members planning on attending the F/C.
- Your Choir must fill out a registration form for Festival/Conference and pay a \$100 deposit per person prior to the Festival's early bird deadline (March 15, 2009).

The Bradford Scholarship Application Form can be found in this *Fundamental Tone* or on the Area I website <www.agehrarea1.org>. The form is found under the Bradford Scholarship page under the Education tab. The application asks for some information about your choir, how you plan to fund the rest of the cost of attending, why you would like to attend F/C, and your expectations of the event. The application must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2009, 60 days prior

to the early bird deadline, which allows the Scholarship Committee time to notify recipients prior to that deadline. Applications may be submitted on line, or mailed to the Scholarship Chair, Nancy Reynolds, at the address on the form. There has been some difficulty recently with transmitting information from the website to the Scholarship Chair. To ensure that no applications have been lost to date, anyone who has already applied should contact Nancy at scholarship@agehrarea1.org, or mail a hard copy to her. Anyone applying after receipt of this *Fundamental Tone* is asked to take a moment to email Nancy when you submit the application, so she will be on the lookout for your paperwork and can contact you if it does not arrive in a timely manner. For further information please contact Nancy at the email address above, or by phone at 802-748-4760.

Festival/Conference is an amazing event with multiple benefits for choirs. Community building for the choir, enhanced knowledge and confidence ringing, meeting and sharing with ringers from other parts of Area I and beyond, to name a few, make F/C an unforgettable experience. Won't you take advantage of the help available to you to attend?



Honorary Life Membership

Congratulations to

Karen E. Leonard,

director of the Merrimack Valley Ringers, and Minister of Music at West Chelmsford United Methodist Church, on the receipt of Honorary Life Membership in AGEHR. Karen and William Griffin were presented with this honor at the 2008 AGEHR National Directors' Seminar in Florida in August. Past recipients of this honor have included Elizabeth Bradford, Martha Lynn Thompson, and Jacob Malta. Please join the Area I board in congratulating Karen on this monumental honor.

AGEHR, Area I, Inc.

The Bradford Scholarship CHOIR Application

INSTRUCTIONS for CHOIR APPLICATION:

AGEHR, Area I, Inc. established the Elizabeth Bradford Endowment Fund to provide scholarship assistance to encourage choirs to attend their first Area I 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 enough to provide partial registration assistance for several choirs/directors each year.

Choir Scholarships for AGEHR Area I Festival/Conference are available to Area I handbell choirs who are attending their first AGEHR, Area I 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 I.
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 _____

AGEHR Member Number _____ Phone _____ Email _____

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

Have you ever attended an Area I 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? _____

AGEHR, Area I, Inc.—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 postmarked by January 15, 2009.
You will be notified by February 15 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 \$1000 off your 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 January 15, 2009 to:

**Nancy Reynolds, Bradford Scholarship Chair
206 Boynton Ave.
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819**

For questions, please contact the scholarship chair, Nancy Reynolds, at scholarship@agehrarea1.org

Bradford Scholarships Directors' Scholarships

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 30, 2008

The Area I Board recently voted to make Directors' Scholarships available each year, rather than only during non-Festival/Conference years. In addition, the type and location of eligible events has been expanded. The Bradford Scholarships were established to honor Elizabeth Bradford by providing financial assistance to cover a portion of the cost of registration for educational events.

Under the newly approved guidelines, **the Directors' Scholarships are now offered yearly**; with more funds available during non-Festival/Conference years. Scholarships may be used to help defray a portion of the registration costs for:

- Approved National educational events such as National Seminar, National Festival, International Symposium, and Master Classes.
- Approved Area I educational events, such as Area I Directors' Seminar or Area I Festival/Conference.

Eligibility: To be eligible, a Director must be a member in good standing of Area I, Inc. An individual interested in becoming a director, may be considered if recommended and sponsored by an Area I mentor.

Application Information: For those interested in applying for a scholarship this year, the application form can be found in this *Fundamental Tone* or on the Area I website: www.agehrarea1.org/Pages/DirectorsScholarship.htm.

Because this is the first year for this expanded Directors' Scholarship, the deadline for the Area I Directors' Seminar will be December 30, 2008.

The deadline for F/C, or any other Area I educational event is 60 days prior to the early bird deadline for the event, which will allow the Scholarship Committee time to determine awards and inform recipients prior to that deadline.

Please complete the application form, and mail to the Scholarship Chair: Nancy Reynolds, 206 Boynton Ave., St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819. Please email Nancy at <scholarship@agehrarea1.org> so that she will be on the lookout for your paperwork and can contact you if it does not arrive in a timely manner. This application cannot be submitted on-line. For additional information, please contact Nancy at the email address above or call her at 802-748-4760.

If you have wanted to attend an event to enhance your directing skills, honor Elizabeth Bradford by taking advantage of the assistance available to you. ✍

HANDBELL SERVICES, INC.
1213 Mason Street
Dearborn, MI 48124-2841
phone: (800) 37-Bells
ema'il: info@handbellservices.com
store: handbellservices.com



Everything for handbell/handchime ringers and directors. Gifts, music, services, supplies and more.

AGEHR, Area I, Inc.

The Bradford Scholarship DIRECTOR Application

INSTRUCTIONS for DIRECTOR APPLICATION:

AGEHR, Area I, Inc. established the Elizabeth Bradford Endowment Fund in order to grant scholarship assistance each year to Directors to encourage them to attend their first AGEHR National or Area I educational event. It is our goal to provide Directors the opportunity to further develop their handbell directing skills through attendance at such an event, and as a result, they will be encouraged to become more active in the Guild. Only the income from the endowment is used for scholarships, but this is enough to provide partial registration assistance for several directors each time scholarships are available. All Directors who are members of AGEHR, Area I, Inc., are eligible, except for the members of the Scholarship Committee. Please be aware that the scholarship will only pay a portion of the registration fee for the event. Applications must be sent to the Scholarship Committee Chair, postmarked no later than 60 days prior to the early bird deadline for the event.

Director's Name _____ AGEHR Member No. _____

Address1 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Email _____

Handbell Group Affiliation _____

Number of Years Directing of Any Type _____ Number of Years Directing Handbells _____

Educational Training for Directing of Any Type _____

Educational Training for Directing Handbells _____

Have you ever attended an Area I Event designed for directors? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you ever attended an AGEHR NATIONAL educational event for directors? ☐ Yes ☐ No

We would like to know a little bit about your experience with handbells. How did you become involved with handbells? How did you become a handbell director? _____

We would like to know a little bit about why you wish to attend an AGEHR National educational event. What do you hope to learn? How do you plan to share that with the handbell organization you direct? _____

Please mail this application, postmarked at least 60 days prior to the event you wish to attend, to:

Nancy Reynolds, Bradford Scholarship Chair

206 Boynton Ave.

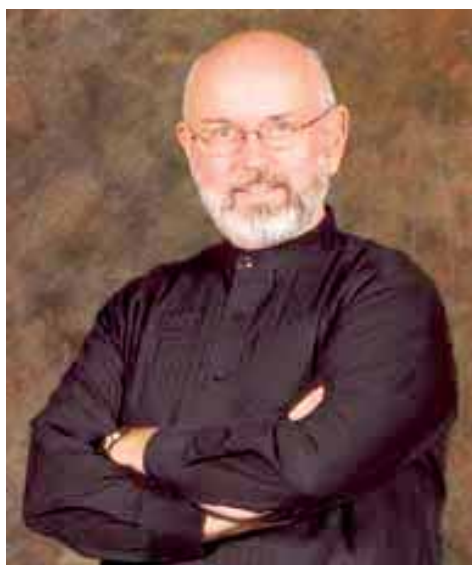
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

For questions, please contact the scholarship chair, Nancy Reynolds, at scholarship@agehrarea1.org

2009 AGEHR Area I Directors' Seminar

Friday and Saturday, February 6 and 7, 2009

Sheraton Framingham Hotel
1657 Worcester Road (Rt 9 west)
Framingham, MA 01701



Guest Clinician: Michael Joy!!!!

Michael Joy lives in Philadelphia, PA and has been directing handbell choirs in churches since 1978 and in schools since 1983. He studied handbells with Donald Allured and handbell composition with Arnold Sherman.

Michael is currently the middle school music teacher at The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA where he conducts 15 different handbell groups. For the last 31 years he has also been the Music Director at First Presbyterian Church in Ambler, PA.

Michael is a published composer and has taught at Area II and III festivals, PMEA district and state conferences, Handbell Exploration and the AGEHR National Seminar. He was named Composer of the Year for 2004 by Jeffers Publishing Company for his composition Dorian Dance. Michael served two terms as Secretary for AGEHR Area II. He is also a ringer and Composer-In-Residence for the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble.

Come to this exciting event for your annual exposure to POEMS!!! (Performing, Organizing, Educating, Mentoring, and Socializing)

Enjoy repertoire reading sessions with 120 of your closest handbell friends!

Enjoy a masterclass with a local community handbell ensemble and Mike Joy!

Enjoy three meals at the beautiful Sheraton hotel!

Enjoy the COMPLETED construction!

Enjoy the attention of Mike Joy and Area I master teachers and clinicians on such topics as:

- Bell and chime maintenance
- Conducting
- Teaching techniques
- Marketing and branding
- Cultivating musical “habits” in your ringers
- Motivation in the youth handbell program!
- Planning, planning, planning!!!
- And MORE!

Registration (classes, conducting piece, three meals)

- Earlybird (12/15/08) - \$148
- Regular (1/15/09) - \$163

Hotel (call the Sheraton (508)-879-7200 by **Tuesday, January 6, 2009** and identify yourself as part of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers)

- \$105 per night for a single or a double (share the room for \$52.50!)

For more information please email Griff Gall, DS09 Co-chair, at ggall@backbayringers.org

Reflections from Bradford Scholarship Recipients

By Griff Gall, Director
Back Bay Ringers
Festival/Conference '07

In June of 2007 the Back Bay Ringers had the honor of attending Area I Festival/Conference as a recipient of the Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship provided through AGEHR Area I. Not only was this the first time Back Bay Ringers had attended a festival/conference, this event marked the first Festival/Conference for many of the ringers in BBR, and they had no idea what they were getting into. The idea of 800 handbell ringers performing at the same time sounds like it could be a bit scary. However, the experienced clinicians guided the ensembles through well-structured rehearsals to produce a fantastic final performance everyone was proud of.


Reflecting on the experience, many of the ringers expressed how this event far exceeded anything they could have imagined. The chance to work with and

learn from so many experienced clinicians, including our two massed ringing directors, and the chance to meet handbell ringers from the New England area are just two of the reasons the members of Back Bay Ringers are looking forward to attending the next Festival/Conference in Orono, ME in 2009. Attending a handbell festival with your ensemble provides many opportunities for your group to grow.

Whether your group is comprised of experienced handbell ringers, or of ringers who have only been ringing for a few months,

Festival/Conference 09 will have a place for everyone.

If your group has never attended a Festival/Conference before, then consider taking advantage of the Elizabeth Bradford Scholarship offered by AGEHR Area I which is designed to encourage ensembles to participate in Festival/Conference by offering partial scholarships that help cover the registration fees for this event.

Festival/Conference is a terrific event filled with learning and fellowship opportunities. 

By Stephen Buck
Music Educator Training Seminar—In Review

I graduated college in December of 2007 with a degree in music education, and was faced with the dilemma of finding a job midway through the school year. I was incredibly lucky to find a position at a junior boarding

school that was only ten miles from my home. I knew from the start that I would be teaching several sections of bells, a course in which I had no experience. Obviously, I had to learn quickly and become familiar with the resources for handbell teachers. Shortly after I joined AGEHR, I was made aware of a
(continued on next page)

The
Glove Tree

Please look for the Area I **Glove Tree** at upcoming fall/winter events. The **Glove Tree** has black, white, & tie-dyed gloves in various sizes available. Directors can save shipping costs by purchasing gloves for their choir through the **Glove Tree**. Checks are accepted made payable to AGEHR Area I. If you have any questions about the **Glove Tree**, please contact Pam Sturdevant at store@agehrarea1.org.


new seminar designed specifically for music educators in grades K–12 using handbells or handchimes in the classroom. AGEHR's Music Educator Training Seminar took place at the Q Conference Center, outside Chicago, on September 13th, 2008. As a new handbells teacher, I will share some of the information I found particularly helpful at this seminar.

Starting in elementary classes, the educators were taken through several classroom activities presented by Griff Gall, the Area I Educational Liaison and Paul Weller, an elementary teacher from Minnesota. As Griff sang "John the Rabbit," he showed how to integrate handchimes during the vocal response at the kindergarten and first grade level. The expectations for ringing were simple (no need to damp), and the sustained nature of the chimes gives the students a foundation for pitch matching. In the older elementary classes, the handchimes can be used in place of, or in addition to, Orff instruments in song accompaniments. Other ideas for integration included movement, call and response, creating ostinati, and improvisation (rhythmic/melodic). Included in the presentation were two excellent activities focused on improvisation and composition, utilizing the basic rhythmic "building blocks," which gave students a creative edge while focusing on two sometimes-forgotten national standards. As a teacher of primarily middle school students, I found that I could easily modify these activities for grades 6–8.

As a chorus teacher, I found Sandra Youmans' presentation of handbells and vocal music in the classroom quite helpful. Going beyond the idea of singing and ringing the chords to a given song, the handbells can be used for instrumental descants and a means of doubling the harmony/melody of a piece. She urged the educators to be creative and examine the accompaniment of a choral piece to decide how handbells can be integrated. One interesting tip I picked up in the presentation was for a chorus warm-up activity. Pass out the handchimes in the C scale to chorus members and have them take turns ringing the scale, and then ringing the pattern: do-re, do-mi, do-fa, and so on, in order to hear and understand the relationship between intervals.

There were many opportunities for audience participation at this seminar, including ringing, singing, making up accompaniments, and small group discussions. One of the discussion topics was about assessment of handbell programs, such as developing rubrics, setting goals

and objectives in the classroom, and identifying assessment resources for handbells or handchimes. Linda Simms gave a presentation about adapting handbells and handchimes with the special needs population, and welcomed questions and comments from the educators at the seminar.

I have now been to my first AGEHR-sponsored event and I am glad to have had the opportunity to learn more about teaching handbells and meet others who are doing the same. As this was the first annual seminar, continuing interest and support is needed to keep this workshop alive for years to come. Any teacher or director would benefit from the ideas presented in integrating bells into the general music class, strategies in starting a bell program, and providing a firm musical foundation for beginning ringers. 

Stephen Buck graduated from Ithaca College with a degree in vocal performance and music education. He is currently on the faculty at The Fay School, in Southborough, MA, where he teaches four levels of handbells (including two performance groups), choir, and private voice and piano lessons.

Bradford Scholarships At-A-Glance

CHOIRS

Choirs attending Festival for the first time receive partial funds for each choir member's registration fees.

DEADLINE for Application is January 15, 2009 for FC'09

DIRECTORS

Directors attending their very first National or Area I educational event receive partial funds for the event's registration fees.

DEADLINE for Application is 60 days before the event you wish to attend.

Note: The 2009 Directors' Seminar deadline is December 30, 2008.

“Handbells are for everyone”

Everything You Need to Get Non-Music Readers to Ring!

This workshop presents a unique avenue to inspire others to realize that they can “make a difference in this world.” New music programs can be launched that would raise expectations and enhance the quality of life for those who live with a challenge: to include after school programs, senior adult community centers, and organizations that work with people with functional disabilities. An extensive experience in musical training or handbell/handchime ringing is not a requirement.

A workshop to encourage and motivate the Special Needs community to consider handbells as a viable musical enrichment/performance opportunity (specifically for people with functional disabilities and the aging population).

2. Director uses pointing, hand cues, and sign language. Depending on the complexity of the music and the size of the group, one or two directors may be needed. It is important to memorize the music to direct the ringers which are positioned in key board order. The director should have extensive music experience, some handbell knowledge, and a love for this special community.

January 16–17, 2009

Friday- 5:00 to 8:30 PM

(Tours and registration 2:00 to 5:00 PM)

Saturday- 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Location of Workshop:

The Brookwood Community
1752 FM 1489, Brookshire, Texas 77423
(outside Houston, Texas)
www.brookwoodcommunity.org

For further information and registration contact:
Linda McKechnie 713-722-0808
linda@lindamckechnie.com

There are numerous approaches and teaching skills with this special community. During the workshop, there will be two specific and different methods presented by the clinicians. Although the ringers do not read standard music notation, it is exciting to realize that they can make music using creative direction.

1. Director adapts the music, writing color coded letters on a scroll which correspond to the assigned colors on the bells and then points to the chart in desired rhythm. The director should have some basic knowledge of music notation and handbell ringing. Motivation and understanding of this special community is mandatory.

Clinicians:

Cathy Taylor is director of the *Woodson Handbell Choir*, part of the specialized music program for developmentally disabled students in the Abilene, Texas school district. Cathy also directs the *Bell Peppers*, a new bell choir at DRI (Disability Resources Inc.—www.driabilene.org). DRI provides residential and vocational services for adults with developmental disabilities. The groups use a system of adaptive music notation on roll charts that utilize color-coded letters.

Cathy is the secretary of the Area IX board of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

Sue Graves and Joyce Klinck are co-directors of the Joybells at Melmark, a caring community in Berwyn, Pennsylvania that provides residential, educational, therapeutic, and recreational services for children and adults with special needs. Under their joint direction, the handbell ringers, who do not read music, are both taught and directed by hand cues and sign language (www.melmark.org).

Sue is a music therapist and music teacher at Tempo! Music Therapy Services. Joyce currently serves on the Area II American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Board as the Special Group Liaison.

**This workshop is an endorsed event by
The American Guild of English
Handbells (AGEHR, Inc.)**

Report from CONNECTICUT



The fall season is in full swing around the state as bell choirs are resuming rehearsals, concert schedules are being published, and thoughts are turning to the blessings of the holiday season. This fall season kicked off with a small but enthusiastic band of ringers gathered for the Repertoire Ring at First Church of Christ in Middletown, on October 11. Clinician Toni Sullivan was warmly received and directed the group through twenty songs in just under three hours.

The state's two community handbell ensembles are busily preparing for their concert season. The Shoreline Ringers have a concert in Bristol at the Bristol Baptist Church on 43 School Street at 7pm on December 13. Check out their website at shorelineringers.org for more information, and for their January concert schedule. The Hockanum Valley Ringers will be playing in Glastonbury at the Community Center at 300 Welles St. on December

6 at 1pm. Their second concert will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vernon at 4pm on Saturday December 13. HVR will also be the guest performer at the Travelers Choral Club at their annual Holiday Concert at the Bushnell Auditorium in Hartford on Wednesday, December 17, at 7:30pm. Be sure to peruse their website, hvringers.org, for information.

We are also planning to have a Director's Roundtable conference call on October 29. Our hope is to make this a regular meeting where directors can gather to discuss collaboration for statewide ringing events. If you are interested in taking part in the Roundtable, please contact Greg Fisher at [<hvringers@cox.net>](mailto:hvringers@cox.net), or 860-647-1470.

Congratulations to long-time AGEHR Area 1 member Beverly Simpson, on the news of the publication by Jeffers of her four volumes of "Service Music for Bells." Beverly reports the idea was born during her "Creative Ringing" classes at Festival Conference '07. 🖋️

Greg Fisher, Connecticut State Chair

Report from MAINE



I am pleased to report that Maine is actively growing with excitement in the world of handbell ringing. Several new groups have formed and more are on the way.

Maine's first Community Choir is up and playing. The **Penobscot Bay Ringers** is composed of ringers from four local church handbell choirs in the Midcoast area under the direction of Sue Wright. They will be performing at the Camden Opera House at a local Holiday Pop's concert in December.

For more information on the group, look on their website at www.penobscotbayringers.org. Another Community group, yet to be named, is still in the auditioning phase and hopes to be starting right after the first of the year. This group will include people from Central and Southern Maine. I have also learned of several churches taking out their

bells and dusting them off and starting up choirs again. It is great to have some activity building in this State!

Maine will hold its **Annual Spring Ring** on March 28th, 2009. Directors will be Dan Moore and Ray Cornils. More details will be provided in the next *Fundamental Tone*, as well as on the Area I website.

Maine will also have its first newsletter to be coming out in the next several weeks by e-mail.

The highlight of the coming year is the Area I Festival conference *to be held in Maine* on June 25–28 at the University of Maine at Orono.

It has and is a learning experience acting as Chair of this State. I have made many new acquaintances, and hope to meet many more as we continue to expand the wonderful art of ringing handbells! 🖋️

Brian Wilson, Maine State Chair

Report from MASSACHUSETTS



Excitement is here in the Massachusetts bell world! All of our community groups are busy preparing for the hectic holiday season; you can find at least one group every Saturday from Thanksgiving until Christmas outside Faneuil Hall in Boston participating in the annual "Bells of Boston." The **New England Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, Back Bay Ringers, and Back Bay Carillon** all will be participating.

The Back Bay Ringers are performing December 6 in Wellesley during the afternoon, and Danvers the same evening.

The Merrimack Valley Ringers are in Rutland, MA on Dec. 15, Hartford, CT on Dec. 7, Burlington, MA on Dec. 13, Marlboro on Dec. 14, Leominster on Dec. 21, and West Chelmsford on Jan. 3.


The New England Ringers will be in Salem, MA on Nov. 29, North Andover on Nov. 30, Lincoln, RI on Dec. 5, Kennebunkport, ME on Dec. 13, Newport, RI on Dec. 14, Northborough on Dec. 19, Berlin, CT on Dec. 20, and Springfield, MA on Dec. 21.

With all these opportunities to support your fellow

ringers you do not need to travel too far from home. Details are available at each of their web sites. Don't forget to bring a friend!

Karen Leonard and Ed Henderson have agreed to direct the next **Massachusetts Spring Ring** in March 2009. Details will soon be on the AREA I website. This has always been a fun time.

On October 11, Patrick Gagnon hosted about 50 ringers at the second annual Massachusetts Skill Building Workshop. There were many ringers of all ages learning from Karen Johnson, Carolyn Ernest, Krishna Ersson, and Chad Parker, from the **Back Bay Quartet**. This event was not just for "Rookies." Many thanks go to our Hosts from Trinity Lutheran Church in Chelmsford, for the wonderful lunch, (no, Lasagna is not on my diet). Most of all I must thank all the wonderful folks that brought bells, with out the generosity of you loaning bells there would be no classes. THANK YOU!!!!

I am looking for locations to host a director's lunch in the western part of the state, and another on or towards the Cape. If your church has a hall we could use in the spring or summer of 2009, please let me know. 

David Wurth, Massachusetts State Chair

Report from NEW HAMPSHIRE




As the new state chair, I am very pleased to announce the **The Tinnabulators** from Trinity Christian School, Concord, NH, under the direction of Tomi Salzmann, took first place in the larger school division at the National Competition for the National Association of Christian Schools in Greenville, SC. Their musical selections were "Prelude on Heirslebster Jesu" by Fred Gramann and "Comedian's Gallup" arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson. Congratulations!

The **6th Annual Greater Lakes Region Handbell Festival** will be held on Saturday, November 15, at the Gilford United Methodist Church, Gilford, NH.

If you are interested in participating in the workshops, please contact Mary Divers at <mary13150@metrocast.net>. Clinicians for the day are Jane Nolan, Sue Chamberlin and Joan Fossum. The Sharing Concert for all participants will begin at 4:30pm.

Granite State Ringers have a full holiday schedule coming up. If you are interested in attending any of their performances, please check the website www.granitestateringers.org for locations and times.

New Hampshire ringers have good things to share; please feel free to contact me with information for the next issue of the *Fundamental Tone*. 

*Joan Fossum,
New Hampshire State Chair*

Report from RHODE ISLAND



January 24, 2009

Rhode Island Handbell Workshop

Bronze Level Ringing; Level 3–6.....Griff Gall
Advanced Music Theory; Level 3–6 ...Dan Moore


These workshops will be working on music chosen for the Festival/Conference held in Orono, among other pieces.

April 25, 2009

Rhode Island's Invitational Ring will be hosted at Dunn's Corners Presbyterian Church, Westerly, RI,

under the massed direction of Andy Wallace. Participating choirs will be: St. Pauls Episcopal, RI; Granite State Ringers, NH; Back Bay Ringers, MA; Hockanum Valley Ringers, CT; along with Andy's bell choir from Westerly.

This is a bi-annual event flip-flops every other year with the RI Spring Ring so as not to detract from Area I's Festival/Conference.

It is the endeavor of RIHAB to keep publicizing AGEHR events not only to those who are actively involved with handbell ringing, but to open closet doors and get the bells out of hiding. 

— Compiled from RIHAB Board emails

Report from VERMONT



The fall colors are spectacular as I write this article and bell directors and ringers in Vermont have started their fall programs. A very successful Skill Building Workshop held in Rutland, VT, this past weekend, gave me a chance to talk with ringers and directors from several choirs around the State. All are enthusiastically looking forward to ringing events in their schools, churches and communities.

Recent Vermont Events:

- **2nd Annual Skill Building Workshop.** The 2nd annual Skill Building Workshop was held Oct. 11, 2008 9AM-2:30PM at the United Methodist Church, Rutland, VT, hosted by director, Karen James, and her choir. Twelve ringers and directors from seven different groups attended. This Workshop provided a venue for learning and practicing basic skills in a supportive, more informal setting. The participants enthusiastically learned and practiced skills under the directions of Karen James and Phil Brown, our highly skilled clinicians for the day.

Upcoming Vermont Events:

- **The Austin Chimers** handbell ensemble from the First Congregational Church in Burlington will

celebrate its 45th Anniversary December 14, with a concert at 3 PM.

- **Vermont Directors' Roundtable, Directors' Roundtable:** Jan. 31, 2009, West Lebanon, NH, Averill Tinker, host. Directors will have a chance to interact and also read through the Vermont Spring Ring 2009 and Area I Festival/Conference 2009 repertoire with directors Karen James and Phil Brown.
- **"Think Spring Mini-Rings."** An additional Mini-Ring will be added this year in Weybridge, VT, to be held in March, 2009 and hosted by Ida Washington and her choir. The other mini-rings will be held in February 2009 in St. Johnsbury, hosted by Phil Brown, and March, 2009 in Burlington, hosted by **Northern Bronze** community handbell ensemble. Look for exact dates and times in future publications.
- Planning is underway for the 28th annual **Vermont Spring Ring**—"Granite Rock and Ring"—to be held April 24th and 25th, 2009 in Barre, VT. Jane Anderson will be our clinician. The host committee has been formed and repertoire has been selected. 

*Jerilyn Bergdahl,
Vermont State Chair*

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Advertising rates: Full page: \$80.00 (7.25" w. x 9.625" h.); Half page: \$50.00 (7.25" w. x 4.625" h.); Quarter page: \$30.00 (3.5" w. x 4.625" h.); Eighth page: \$20.00 (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.); Business Card: \$10 (3.5" w. x 1" h.). The preferred format for ads is a .jpg file.

New Members

Please welcome our newest members to Area I

Cynthia Bliss
Tewksbury, MA

Norah Piehl
Brookline, MA

**Lutheran Church of
Our Redeemer**
Foxborough, MA

Spring Glen Church
Hamden, CT

**First Congregational
Church of Croydon**
Croydon, NH

**Carter Memorial United
Methodist Church**
Needham, MA

Grace Episcopal Church
North Attleboro, MA

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