# FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1, Inc. • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXV, No. 4 November 2011

# UPCOMING EVENTS

November 12, 2011 **High School Ringout** Souhegan High School Amherst, NH

March 24, 2012 **Massachusetts Spring Ring** Tewksbury, MA

> April 14, 2012 Connecticut Spring Ring Windsor, CT

May 5, 2012 New Hampshire Spring Ring Laconia, NH

### Directors Seminar Fri.-Sat., February 10-11, 2012

**Location:** University of Massachusetts Campus Center, Amherst, MA

Guest Clinician: Kevin McChesney

Price: \$170 early bird (by Dec. 30), \$185 regular (by Jan. 27); includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast & lunch, Saturday afternoon snack

**Start Time:** Check-in begins Friday 4 p.m.; first workshop at 4:45 p.m.; **Concludes:** Saturday 4 p.m.

**Lodging:** at Campus Center Hotel; \$90 per room, per night, plus tax

## **Notes From The Chair...**



As of October 1, the "American Guild of English Handbell Ringers" is now officially **Handbell Musicians of America!** You should have received your new membership card in the mail that shows your membership number, the date of your yearly renewal and information about accessing your account, as well as the bene-

fits available to all our members. If you haven't done so already, read the letters from Jenny Cauhorn, the executive director of Handbell Musicians of America, as well as the letter from Lee Afdahl, our newly installed president.

Lee Afdahl's letter has a word in capital letters SIX times. That word is TOGETHER. He says, "I am certain that individually we can all do great things..in worship, school,



community, concert, retail, composing..." Then he continues to say, "TOGETHER, we can do even greater things." He ends by challenging us to "Stay active, become active, and know that we need each other to make our efforts a success...TOGETHER!" Many thanks to Lee for starting his role as president working with all of us as we transform from calling ourselves English handbell ringers to Handbell Musicians.

What is the difference between a handbell ringer and a handbell musician? As musicians, our instrument is a set of handbells. We work (continued on page 2)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Tools for Teaching Handbells4	Giving Back to Communities9
Report from Massachusetts7	Director Needed10
Report from Connecticut 8	

Visit the Area 1 website at **www.area1.handbellmusicians.org** or **www.handbellmusicians.org** for the National office website.

#### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

(continued from page 1)

together so that the instrument plays music. We, the musicians must use our musicality to not just bang out notes but to make music. To be the best musicians we can be, we must always practice and continue learning. Have you attended a skill building workshop yet this year? If not, check the website or look through the Fundamental Tone for events in your area.

So you already know all there is to know about bells? Attend a workshop to refresh your skills and help others to be as good as you are! TOGETHER we get better and raise the level of musicianship of this wonderful instrument—handbells.

To find out more about what is happening locally in Area 1, our website is www.agehrarea1.org There is a calendar at the bottom of the home page where

you can see what is being offered. Presently there are about 20 holiday concerts listed all over New England. Be sure to attend a few. Also, send to our webmaster what you and your groups are doing. You may think, I'm just a little church or school choir. No one wants to come to hear us. You will be pleasantly surprised. If you are within an hour's drive of my home, I just might be there.

There are many mentors working throughout the area. If you cannot get your ringers to attend a workshop for which you know they would benefit, call or write to your state chair. A mentor will be called and someone can come to you! I spent many hours this summer helping several people to get started. It's very rewarding to be a mentor and to introduce people to this team sport of handbell and hand chime ringing.

As I write this the High School Ringout is around the corner. November 12, 2011, at Souhegan High

#### HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

#### **Elected Officers**

Chair: Jean Degan (860-543-3638)

chair@agehrarea1.org

*Chair-Elect:* **Sue Wilber** (203-288-5847)

chairelect@agehrarea1.org

Past Chair: Griff Gall (617-599-8656)

pastchair@agehrarea1.org

**Secretary:** Norah Piehl (617-688-5768)

secretary@agehrarea1.org

*Treasurer:* Sue Chamberlin (203-288-5847)

treasurer@agehrarea1.org

#### **National Liaisons**

Education: Kimberlee Strepka

education@agehrarea1.org

Special Needs: Jeanne Polcari

specialneeds@agehrarea1.org

#### **Appointed Officers**

Festival/Conference Bill Noss (603-886-1512)
2013 Chair fcchair@agehrarea1.org

webmaster@agehrarea1.org

Bradford Scholarship Griff Gall (617-599-8656)

scholarship@agehrarea1.org

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membership@agehrarea1.org

**Linda S. Noss** (603-886-1512)

#### State/Provincial Chairs

Atlantic Provinces To Be Announced

(Canada)

Membership

Publications

Webmaster

Connecticut Mobby Larson (860-464-7593)

ctchair@agehrarea1.org

Maine Brian Wilson (207-781-5880)

mechair@agehrarea1.org

Massachusetts Gail Granum (508-595-9011)

machair@agehrarea1.org

New Hampshire Joan Fossum (603-224-0866)

nhchair@agehrarea1.org

Rhode Island To Be Announced

*Vermont* **Pat Pranger** (802-446-2066)

vtchair@agehrarea1.org

School in Amherst, NH. Teens will gather at 9 a.m. and work with the amazing Mr. Michael Joy, who is fun, talented and works very well with youth. Thank you to Phil Brown, who is once again organizing and promoting this event. Let's keep the kids involved and working at perfecting the art of handbell ringing.

Many people look at the website weekly and you can see by our Facebook page, that it is another popular spot for networking and sharing. (Did you notice the Festival Conference '11 CDs have been mailed? By the way, there are still a few available if you'd like one.) Is there anything you'd like to share with us? There may be an amazing, funny or profound something that has happened during a rehearsal or performance. Send your story to Bill Noss to share with us in the next *Fundamental Tone*.

If you read *E-Notes* recently you will know that there are many national and international events coming up also. Check out the new national website at www.HandbellMusicians.org. So much is listed there from the national master series for conducting or composing in Tucson, AZ, in January and the International Symposium in Liverpool, England, July 31–August 4, 2012. Also listed is the following:

#### TV Show "NEW GIRL"

A December 6 episode (previously scheduled for Nov. 1, 2011) features handbells! Christine Anderson & Linda Krantz worked with the cast and crew of the Fox TV Show "New Girl" to teach them

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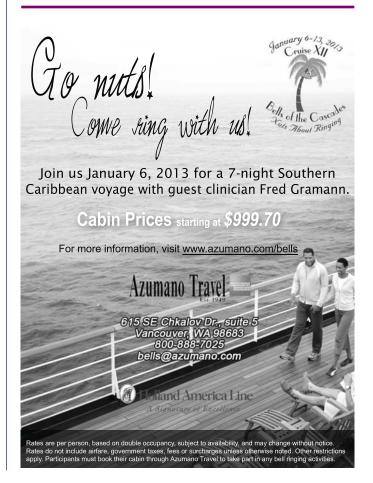
how to play handbells. Christine reported that the show had Malmark ship them everything they needed to start a handbell choir.

She and Linda worked with Zooey Deschanel, who plays the lead, Jess, and a group of child actors to teach them all how to play handbells. The episode focuses on a group of kids who have gotten into trouble and have a choice of suspension or to join the handbell choir. Christine said that she had a great time with the actors and was able to convince the director that the concert should be the kids playing instead of having the music dubbed, because even if they made mistakes that happens and just would make it more realistic.

If you are a TV watcher, be sure to check it out. You never know where handbells will turn up.

And keep practicing to become the best musician you can be.

Jean Degan, Area 1 Chair



# **Tools for Teaching Handbells**

## **Specialized Curricula to Meet Our Instructional Needs**

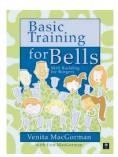
By Kimberlee F. Strepka

Our Festival Conference 2011 Dean of Education, Martha Goodman, provided our attendees with a well-rounded and creative selection of workshop offerings. I had the privilege of compiling the information for, and teaching, one of Martha's brainstorms: *Handbell Curriculum Review.* The following is a summary of that workshop that I hope will be helpful information for those of you not able to be with us at UMass.

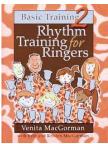
For the review, I chose fourteen resources that fell under one of three categories based on their emphases and target audiences: *methods, collections,* and *special-interest* curricula. This limited list represents only a small percentage of a wide variety of resources, some of which have developed into series which target specific audiences. The following serves as a glimpse into the strengths of these diverse resources.

#### **METHODS**

Methods are considered comprehensive "how to ring" manuals. They are sequential in their skill-building, and provide detailed explanations and exercises for practicing technique, as well as pieces to reinforce those techniques in performance.



Basic Training for Bells: Skill Building for Ringers by Venita MacGorman (Choristers Guild/Lorenz)



Basic Training 2: Rhythm Training for Ringers by Venita MacGorman (Choristers Guild/Lorenz)



Ringing Basics: A Step-by-Step Approach to the Art of Handbell or Chime Ringing by Beverly Simpson (Harold Flammer Music/Shawnee Press)

#### COLLECTIONS

Some directors may not feel the need to purchase resources that provide comprehensive lesson plans, but rather collections of performance pieces suitable for teaching. These collections are arranged with your ringers in mind, keeping every-

## Fundamental Tone

is a publication of the **Handbell Musicians of America Area 1**It is published four times per year at 3 Sarasota Av., Nashua, NH, Bill Noss, Editor (<editor@agehrarea1.org> or call 603-886-1512.

Publication date is the first Monday in **February, May, August,** and **November.** Editorial copy and advertising is due on the 18th of the month preceding publication.

#### **Advertising Rates:**

Full page: (7.25" w. x 9.625" h.) \$80.00; Half page: (7.25" w. x 4.625" h.) \$50.00; Quarter page: (3.5" w. x 4.625" h.) \$30.00; Eighth page: (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.) \$20:00. Payment is due before publication.

Discounts are available for prepayment of two issues (–5%) and four issues (–10%). Preferred formats for ads is a .pdf or .jpg file.

one busy as they practice good technique in performance. The "Tunes that Teach" series includes short exercises with the pieces and meets the MENC National Standards for music educators.



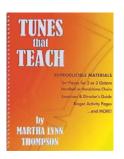
Ready to Ring: Familiar Music for the Beginning Handbell Choir by Martha Lynn Thompson & Frances L. Callahan (Agape/Hope Publishing)



Begin to Ring for 3 Octaves Handbells or Chime Instruments by Martha Lynn Thompson & Frances L. Callahan (Agape/Hope Publishing)



Time to Ring for 3-5 Octaves Handbells or Handchime **Instruments** by Martha Lynn Thompson & Frances L. Callahan (Agape/Hope Publishing)



Tunes that Teach: Ten Pieces for 2 or 3 Octave Handbell or Handchime Choirs by Martha Lynn Thompson (AGEHR/Lorenz)

#### SPECIAL-INTEREST

Special-interest curricula could be described as resources that meet the needs of specific groups of learners, three of which are: young ringers, (continued on page 6)



## Upcoming Concerts

Mashpee Commons (next to MOCEAN) Saturday, Nov. 26

> 34 Steeple Street, Mashpee, MA 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 27 The Rogers Center for the Arts

4:00 p.m. At Merrimack College

315 Turnpike Street • North Andover, MA Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$10 over 65 or under 13;

\$15 at the door, \$12 over 65 or under 13

Saturday, Dec. 3 Orange Congregational Church

205 Meeting House Lane • Orange, CT 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 4 Ste. Anne Church

> 290 Jefferson Avenue • Salem, MA 3:00 p.m.

Franklin Federated Church Saturday, Dec. 10

> 171 Main Street • Franklin, MA 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11 First Congregational Church of Newfane

11 Church Street • Newfane, VT 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 17 HumanArts Series • Assumption College

7:30 p.m. Chapel of the Holy Spirit

500 Salisbury Street • Worcester, MA

Would your organization like to present an NER concert or host and NER-led Skill Building Workshop? Contact us at info@newenglandringers.org or call 978-851-3024. Host venues are currently being sought for the 2012 Spring and Holiday seasons.

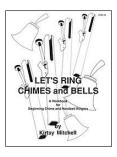
#### TOOLS FOR TEACHING HANDBELLS...

(continued from page 5)

elderly ringers, and advanced ringers. The young ringer resources listed here have a different emphasis and utilize different teaching techniques than the method books. The handbell is used as a tool for introducing the young student to musical concepts and group performance.



Beginning Busy Ringers: First Lessons for the Younger Beginning Ringer by Kirtsy Mitchell (AGEHR/Lorenz)



Let's Ring Chimes and Bells: A Workbook for Beginning Chime and HB Ringers by Kirtsy Mitchell (Choristers Guild/Lorenz)



Beginning Handbells for Children: Secular Songs (1-2 oct. w/piano and C inst.), arr. by Darrell Day (Your Song Press: A Division of Consolidated Music Services)

Large-print collections provide resources for the elderly or other populations with vision challenges. The book listed below not only provides enlarged notes, but contains a collection of pieces that would be greatly appreciated by an older generation.



E-Z Reader Basics (for Two Octaves) by Janet Van Valey & Susan Berry (Lorenz) The last special-interest audience is the advanced ringer. A number of resources are now being written to meet the needs of advanced handbell choirs and their task in developing ringers that can perform bronze-level music artistically.



Developing Coordination Skills: Fifty Progressive Exercises for Handbell Choirs by Michael R. Keller (AGEHR/Lorenz)



The Art of Rapid Ringing: A
Manual for Developing Skill in
this Handbell Technique by
Fred A. Merrett (Jeffers
Handbell Supply, Inc.)



The Art of Handbell Ringing: An Accelerated Course for Cross-Training Experienced Musicians by David R. Kent (From the Top Publishing)

We are always looking for your feedback on resources and learning opportunities. Area 1's Chime Loaner Program, coordinated by Holly Cerullo, not only provides the instruments to schools and churches, but complementary curricula as well. We value your feedback on the resources that you use in your own programs, and those that might best meet the needs of our chime loaner recipients. Ring on!

Kimberlee F. Strepka Area 1 Education Liaison

### REPORT FROM **MASSACHUSETTS**



next fall." Handbell skills topics included:

- Developing a More Perfect Ringing Stroke
- Ringing Musically with Techniques
- Sight Reading Skills
- Music Reading Review

Additional statewide and local events are already scheduled and available for your perusal on our Handbell Musicians of America Area 1 website, http://www.agehrarea1.org/. Find Massachusetts area skill-building workshops and featured concerts. Take a look outside your local goings-on and plan to support any of these events. It's a wonderful world of handbell musicians "uniting people through a musical art!"

Feel free to contact me with your comments, questions, or suggestions.

Gail Granum, MA State Chair

Cool, crisp weather finds Massachusetts area handbell ringers and directors alike busy in the preparation of their Holiday performances. Excitement is in the air. From my makeshift chair, here at

the Head of the Charles Regatta, my mind turns to other performers all across the Commonwealth anticipating their church choir preparations and their community ensemble concerts.

A successful Massachusetts Skill Building Workshop was held in Lynn, MA, on October 22nd, hosted by First Lutheran Church, with excellent clinicians from Shoreline Ringers, who ended the day with a wonderful concert. "Everyone seemed happy," said David Wurth, the event coordinator, "and we are already planning another workshop for

# Merrimack Valley Ringers "Always Different - Always Fun!"



MVR is thrilled that their 2011 winter tour brings them both to new venues and back old favorites, including the Worcester Art Museum and Old Sturbridge Village. Join them at an upcoming concert and be a part of the unique musical experience that is Merrimack Valley Ringers!

Friday, 12/2 – Rutland, MA Saturday, 12/3 – Marlboro, MA Sunday, 12/4 – East Hartford, CT Saturday, 12/10 - Burlington, MA Sunday, 12/11 - Amherst, NH Friday, 12/16 - Sturbridge, MA Saturday, 12/17 - N. Chelmsford, MA Sunday, 12/18 – Worcester, MA Sunday, 12/18 – Leominster, MA

www.mvri qers.c

# REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT

The leaves are falling, the turkeys are hiding, and stores are ready to hang up the mistletoe. And all of us are planning and preparing for the busy days ahead.

First, let me briefly introduce myself. I am a retired UCC pastor, now focusing on my avocation and great love of music. Besides having rung in various churches, I am a member of the Shoreline Ringers—ringing next to Jean Degan, Area 1's chairperson, which is how I became the Connecticut state chair!

I also represent the attempt of the Area 1 board to involve more bell people from the "back side" of the tables. I suspect that most bell choirs have people who ring with blinders on—focusing on their music and instruments, hopefully the director, and maybe down the table to our fellow ringers. Those of us behind the tables don't often think about what goes on in the wider bell community, nor how we could benefit from sharing and learning with others.

To that end, I would like to encourage more interaction and participation, by ringers as well as directors. The High School Ring Out is Nov. 12; we have our Spring Ring coming up in April; and we're already looking ahead to 2013 Area 1 Festival. But what more can we do? Is there a need for half-day workshops during the year? Are there kind-of new bell choirs who would like a mentor? Did you know that Area 1 has some handchimes available for



loan? Are there directors who would like to swap advice about selections for their groups to ring? Let me know; we're all in this together!

Speaking of the aforementioned Spring Ring, save the date: it will be Saturday, April 14, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Windsor. Thank you, once again, to Bob Gilbert for offering to host. Karen Leonard will be our guest conductor, and she will also lead a workshop for advanced ringers. For those very few of you who don't know Karen, she is the director of the Merrimack Valley Ringers, is a former national AGEHR chair, and was selected as an honorary life member (a way to nationally recognize 1 or 2 special persons each year who have contributed to the promotion and development of handbell ringing).

Karen is busy selecting pieces for the massed ring, which will vary between Level 1 and Level 3. As I learned at my first Festival, it's those challenging pieces that make us grow; so encourage those beginner ringers to come. As usual, there will be workshops throughout the day and a sharing concert in the afternoon. At that concert there will be time for a few groups to share an individual piece, along with the advanced (Level 4) selection and the massed pieces. Watch for flyers and registration forms later.

I did mention I'm a newbie, didn't I? Well, that means I need help! I'm willing to organize, to make calls, to run around; but I don't have long-standing connections with resource people. Can you help me? I need to know what's needed or wanted, who can teach or help out, who can loan bells and equipment, etc., etc. I would love to have a co-chair for Spring Ring; and we really, really need a registrar. (Almost all the pre-event stuff can be done in the comfort of your own home, at your own speed.) Please let me know if you can help out. Or, I'll accept secret nominations of your friends.

Meanwhile, I wish you all rich and blessed holidays in the weeks ahead.

Mobby Larson, Connecticut State Chair

## Giving Back to Communities in Need

#### Many communities around New England

have suffered much devastation this past year due to flooding and tornadoes. In addition to substantial losses to homes and businesses, these communities have suffered significant damage to their handbell equipment, including bell cases, tables, foam, table covers and music libraries. New England Ringers has formed an outreach program to assist those communities and their handbell programs. NER asks that Fundamental Tone readers search their closets and basements in an effort to locate unused, or underutilized, equipment and music. NER is also accepting cash donations and looking for volunteers to assist in relocating equipment. Ed Henderson, director of New England Ringers, comments, "NER is pleased to help these communities in this very small way to restore their handbell programs."

Please contact Carol Elmore, NER president, at (978) 251-3509 (ext. 103) or celmore62@yahoo.com

with donations of equipment or music, your willingness to volunteer, or your wish to apply for relief. Make checks payable to New England Ringers, Inc. and mail to New England Ringers, 135 Green Meadow Dr., Tewksbury, MA 01876, noting in the memo line that the donation is for the NER Handbell Disaster Relief Fund.





#### **Beaded Brilliance**

Lauré Mackey, Owner 603.812.1315 (mobile) www.Etsy.com/shop/Lmmackey email - BeadedBrilliance@aol.com .....,5©©ō。.....,5©©ō。.....,5©©ō。.....,5©©ō。......,5©©ō。.....

#### HANDMADE MUSIC MOBILES

Looking for a unique gift for the holiday season, or perhaps another special music item to complete your décor? Take a look at these hanging mobiles that look great from all angles -- gazing at eye level or from underneath the mobile. Each orb is individually crafted with custom sheet music and matching papers in coordinating colors.

Eight spheres and one unique double sphere ornament hang from stainless steel wires Because of the unique structure of the mobile, you can arrange the spheres to suit your style, and you can order as many sheet music orbs as you would like. Approximately 26" tall and 18" wide, each mobile is handmade; please allow up to 2 weeks for production and travel time, though I can accommodate fast shipping on special orders. Total price of \$45 includes shipping in the continental US; rush orders are extra.

To see additional colorful mobiles for nurseries, game rooms, offices, and more please visit my shop.

http://www.Etsy.com/shop/Lmmackey

#### **Director Needed**

The Hockanum Valley Ringers (HVR) handbell choir is looking for a director to begin in January 2012. Established in 2005, HVR is a community handbell choir with ringers from the Greater Manchester Area. We play 5-octave Malmark bells and 5-octave chimes, music levels 3-5. Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00. Our concert season runs through the Christmas season and in the Spring, in various locations around Connecticut. To contact us, call Greg Fisher at 860-647-1470 or send your resume to hvrringers@cox.net.

#### Responsibilities

- Select and prepare handbell music for concerts in the Greater Hartford Area at Christmas and Spring times
- Prepare for weekly handbell rehearsals through music selection and handbell assignments
- Coordinate procurement and maintenance of handbells and chimes, handbell music library, and supplies with the officers of HVR





# Merry&Bright

A CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON

Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. First Church Somerville, Somerville, MA

Saturday, December 17 at 2:30 p.m. St. Paul Lutheran Church, Arlington, MA

Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. Maple Street Church, Danvers, MA

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

- Teach handbell musicians in proper handbell ringing technique as required to continually advance the
- handbell choir skills
- Recruit interested and talented members for the handbell choir



