

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXVIII, No. 3

August 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9-12, 2014

Distinctly Bronze East

New Bern, NC

Kevin McChesney, Clinician

November 8, 2014

**High School Ring Out
15th Anniversary Celebration**

Wachusett Regional School

Holden, MA

November 14-15, 2014

Adult Ringers Weekend

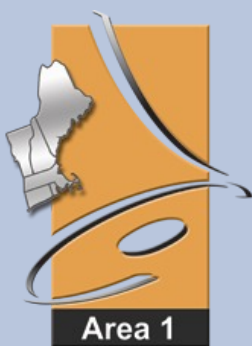
Waters Edge

Westbrook, CT

June 25-30, 2014

Festival/Conference 2014

UMASS Amherst, MA



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

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

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

As I write this, we are already in the second half of July. Summer always seems to go by so quickly – it is the same length as other seasons, but it seems to be gone almost as soon as it starts. I hope you are all able to enjoy some well-deserved rest, relaxation, and time with family and friends before September and all of its activity bursts upon us.

By the time you read this, National Seminar in Atlanta will be over. Area 1 was well represented, both in attendees, faculty, and performers. I unfortunately was not able to attend this year, but look forward to hearing about it from those who did. Next summer Pinnacle returns to Dallas, TX. I am not sure of the dates yet, but I hope Area 1 is as well represented as we were this year in Atlanta. And a reminder that there is scholarship money available from both Area 1 and National if you are a first time attendee to a National event, and I encourage anyone interested to apply.

F/C Chair Paul Contrastano and the rest of the committee have been hard at work on that event, and we look forward to welcoming you to the centrally located UMASS Amherst campus next summer. I did want to call your attention to an error in the item number for one of the Bronze pieces – although you may have already figured that out if you tried to order it. The correct item # for “Remembrance” is MLC201131L, and we apologize for that confusion and any problems it may have caused.

Please review our list of events on the first page of this edition of Fundamental Tone, make plans to attend one, some, or all of them, and most importantly SHARE them with other ringers who may not receive or read Fundamental Tone! The event chairs and clinicians put a lot of effort and thought into creating and planning these events, and we need the support of all of Area 1 to make them successful. A special plug in this edition for our two November events:

(continued on page 2)

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

(continued from page 1)

- Adult Ringers' Weekend at Water's Edge Resort in Westbrook, CT on November 14 & 15. This is a true destination location – so much to see and do at the Resort itself and in that geographic area. Bring your spouse or significant other, and make it a special weekend getaway. Stephanie Wiltse is absolutely thrilled to be coming back to Area 1 – let's all give her a big Area 1 welcome!
- High School Ring Out on November 8 at Wauchussetts Regional School in Holden, MA. This event is celebrating its 15th anniversary and will be led this year by Krishna Ersson.

One of the projects your Board is working on is trying to identify "bells in closets." I'm sure many of you are aware of schools, organizations, churches, etc., who have sets of handbells they no longer use because they either don't have a director or enough people to ring them. If you are aware of any bells that are sitting idle in someone's closet, utility room, etc., please let any member of the Board or your state chair know. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to be proactive and offer to work with the organization to get their handbell program going again, offer workshops, or ask if they might be willing to lend their bells to a local group who cannot afford a set of them at this time but want to ring. It is incumbent on all of us to promote the art of handbell ringing any way we can, and this offers us a great opportunity to do just that – and be good neighbors at the same time.

Another project that Area 1 has been involved in has been working with National trying to identify handbell groups on college campuses. As we try to boost our membership numbers, both in the Area and nationally, the National office is preparing to launch a membership drive targeting college-aged ringers later this year in which they will offer free sub memberships to those whose college group already has an existing membership. If anyone is aware of any handbell groups on college campuses in New England, please send them to me at chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org. Another membership drive for general membership is planned for 2015, so stay tuned for news on that initiative.

Area 1 has many wonderful leaders, teachers, mentors, directors, and ringers – and we need you!!! Have you attended an event and thought you might like to become involved in some way? Have you led a workshop locally and might like to move on to a larger audience within the area? Perhaps you have a special skill – technology, finance, planning, etc. We are looking for people to step up and "intern" or "shadow" if you will, with current event chairs, Board members, etc., with the hopes that some more of the great people in Area 1 will step into leadership roles. Another project the Board is working on is writing virtual job descriptions for Board positions as well as event chairs so when those are available (hopefully later this year), we hope many of you will take a look at them and think about contributing in some small way to the success of Area 1. We will also be looking for candidates for new Board positions later this year or in early 2015. If you are interested in serving in a leadership position within Area 1, either on the board or as a clinician, event leader or co-leader, or in any other capacity, please feel free to contact me or anyone else on the Board with your questions. We'd love to have you!

Once again, I would like to ask you to let all of Area 1 and the greater handbell world know what you are doing!!! Send your pictures, news, videos, etc. to our webmaster Pete Larson, at webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org. Our website and social media pages are only as good as we make them – and we need YOU to contribute to their success and make them dynamic and exciting. As you plan your fall and holiday events, keep in mind that 2014 is the 60th anniversary of Handbell Musicians of America – and it all began RIGHT HERE in Area 1! So celebrate that milestone at your events – and share it with the rest of us!



Enjoy the remainder of the summer!
Sue Wilber, Area 1 Chair



Handbell World

HandbellWorld.com

Everything to do with handbells and handchimes is right here! Besides shopping, you can create custom music lists, browse articles, see what music is hot, check out new releases from publishers, search for handbell events in your area or download our latest catalog.

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HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

<i>Chair</i>	Sue Wilber (202.288.5847) chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org
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APPOINTED OFFICERS

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<i>Vermont</i>	Pat Pranger (802.446.2066) vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org

2014 *Adult Ringers Weekend*



An opportunity to combine
ringing under our guest
conductor **Stephanie Wiltse**
and relaxing with other adults in
an upscale vacation
destination.



We are delighted to welcome Stephanie Wiltse as our guest clinician for this event. She is a founding member of Embellish, and is now in her sixteenth year as music director. In addition to Embellish and Campana, Stephanie directs handbells at Trinity UMC, Calvin College (currently on hiatus), and Aquinas College. This year she will complete a six-year term serving on the National Board of Handbell Musicians of America (formerly AGEHR).

She has had great opportunities teaching and serving as a clinician all over the US, as well as at International Symposium in Liverpool in 2012. She still enjoys ringing when she has a chance, mostly at Distinctly Bronze West in Bremerton, WA, and the Bay View Week of Handbells every summer.

Water's Edge Resort & Spa
1525 Boston Post Road
Westbrook, Connecticut

The Adult Ringers Weekend will be held once again at the Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook, CT. The event was held at the resort in 2012 to extremely positive reviews and we return for another exciting event this November. Your registration fee will include lodging plus dinner Friday evening, breakfast, lunch and break on Saturday. In addition, spa services are available at a discounted rate for registered ARW guests. Guests may also arrive prior to the event and remain at the Resort following the event at the adjusted discounted room rate. The rate for the complete weekend will be \$317 p/p – see below for online registration information.



This event is sponsored by Handbell Musicians of America, Inc., dedicated to uniting people through the musical art of handbell and handchime ringing.
www.handbellmusicians.org

On-line registration will be available on Area 1's website August 15, 2014: area1.handbellmusicians.org. Should you have any questions, please email to 2014arw@gmail.com.
Space is limited – register EARLY!!!!

REPORT FROM MAINE



direction of Gail Kelly, the handbell choirs included 11 ringers in the adult group and 9 youth ringers.

Greetings from another summer in Maine.

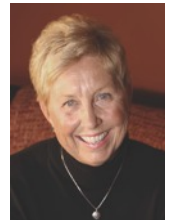
A little bit of news has emerged since our last publication of *Fundamental Tone*. First, kudos to the organizers who brought the Westminster Concert Bell Choir to Camden, Maine. On May 25, my husband and I attended along with many folks who traveled the distance to hear such a unique and wonderful handbell choir. This 16-member choir is composed of undergraduate and graduate students of Westminster Choir College and Rider University in New Jersey. They use the largest range of handbells in the world – 8 octaves, from C1-C9. The choir, under the direction of Kathleen Ebling Shaw, presented a concert titled “Tintinnabulation” at The First Congregational Church of Camden. The program took its title from Edgar Allan Poe’s poem *The Bells*, which describes the sounds of four different kinds of bells and the times and places where they might be heard. The ensemble’s 2014 New England tour repertoire featured original compositions and arrangements of familiar works that highlighted the range and versatility of handbells and choir chimes.

Also, this Spring, I was able to attend the handbell concert of the Riverside Ringers in Skowhegan. Their theme was Broadway Music, a potpourri of familiar songs such as: “Colors of the Wind,” “The Bells of St. Mary’s,” “Phantom of the Opera,” music from “Mary Poppins,” and others. Under the

Penobscot Bay Ringers, a community handbell choir based in Camden, will be hosting a handbell workshop on Saturday, September 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Camden, 55 Elm Street. This is a free workshop, open to anyone who is interested in brushing up on ringing fundamentals, learning new techniques, or finding out more about joining a community handbell choir. Please contact Leigh Smith at 207.230.6628, or email penobscotbaryingers@gmail.com by Tuesday, September 2.

Also, if you happen to know of a 4 octave set of handbells that is available for sale to a newly forming handbell choir, please let me know and I will put you in touch with the new group, who does not yet have a name. They are also looking for a place to store and rehearse in the northwestern part of the state.

And finally, as I wrote in the last *Fundamental Tone*, we are looking for folks to join the steering committee for the 2016 Maine Spring Ring. We have heard from a few folks who have volunteered, but we need “many hands” to make “light work.” Kindly offer your time and talent so that we can all enjoy another successful handbell event in Maine.



*Sue Evans
Maine State Chair*



Portion of the 8 octave Westminster Concert Bell Choir handbells.

Get a Jump on Learning Massed Music for Festival/Conference 2015!

Fall Skill-Building Workshops

Six sessions to be held throughout New England on Saturday, October 18th, 25th or November 1st. Choose the date/place that works for you! Venues are still being booked, so check the Area 1 website for updates.

Registration will open on September 1. All registrations will be accepted online through the Area 1 website.

Workshop Fee:

- \$22 Members (you, your director's or your organization's membership number is required.)
- \$35 Non-Members
- \$17.45 Massed Music Packet (required)

A note about the music packet: It contains the 2015 Festival/Conference Massed repertoire. (4 pieces). You may order the repertoire from Area 1 with your workshop registration, or obtain it on your own (see Area 1 website at <http://area1.handbellmusicians.org> for more information on repertoire). Music ordered with registration will be available at check-in on the day of the workshop.

Why Go to a Fall Workshop?

Small Class size: Get the personal attention you need from experienced clinicians.

Work on Massed Music: You'll learn how to properly execute the various techniques required in the music, and how to move from executing those techniques in isolation to successfully prepare for and play them within the music.

Marking your Music: You'll get ideas on how to identify and mark necessary changes of bells, techniques, dynamics, etc. on your own music.

Start Learning the Music: By the time the workshop is done, you'll have an opportunity to play the music from beginning to end at a moderate skill level.

What else you'll get:

Directors will have an opportunity to participate in a special "working lunch" breakout to address specific musical concerns (bring any questions about the music you're working on with your group).

Everyone will get another opportunity to meet other ringers in your area

What you need to bring:

Gloves, a music binder, and a brown bag lunch. (Lunchtime beverage and dessert will be provided.)

Keep an eye out for updates on the Area 1 website. Registration will open on September 1. For more information, contact Sue Chamberlin, Workshop Registrar, at treasurer.area1@handbellmusicians.org.

FESTIVAL

conference



JUNE
25-28



2015



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Area 1

FC 2015 Bronze Division Audition Rubric

Points	Musicianship	Tempo	Contact	Assignments
4	Pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression are all correct throughout both pieces	The repertoire is performed at the tempo marking indicated by the composer.	The choir and the conductor are in contact at all times. The choir is responsive to the conductor's gestures with the intended musical results.	All ringers are playing bell assignments that enable musical success.
3	Some errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression...only a few ringers make errors.	The repertoire is performed at a slightly different tempo marking than indicated by the composer.	The choir and the conductor have a moderate amount of contact. The choir is somewhat responsive to the conductor's gestures.	Most ringers are playing bell assignments that enable musical success.
2	Many errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression...several ringers make errors.	The repertoire is performed at a substantially different tempo marking than indicated by the composer.	The choir seldom responds to the conductor's gestures.	Several ringers are playing inappropriate bell assignments and appear unable to resolve some passages.
1	Errors are present in pitch, rhythm, dynamics and expression are pervasive in the presentation.	The repertoire is performed at a totally different tempo marking than indicated by the composer.	The choir never responds to the conductor's gestures.	The assignment of bells impedes a successful and musical performance.

Bronze Division Festival/Conference 2015

The Bronze division is composed of advanced groups and is typically the smallest ringing division. Deb Rice will be directing this division which is generally represented by groups with many years of experience, extended sets of bells and chimes, and a desire to ring “bronze-level” music, which is graded by Handbell Musicians of America levels 4-6.

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure a positive experience for all choirs in the Bronze division at FC15 by confirming that all Bronze choirs share the same desire and ability to achieve the level of musicianship required by the repertoire and the director. This process is similar to that implemented at previous Area 1 festivals.

In order to continue the high level of musicianship and technique in this division, the following criteria for Bronze division choirs will be applied:

1. Each Bronze choir must submit a **YouTube** video of 2 of the 4 pieces selected for the FC15 Bronze division.
 - The recording shall contain both sound and images in which the choir and director are clearly visible. If multiple cameras are not available, the videographer should position the camera to capture both the choir and director at the same time. Different camera angles for each piece are recommended.
 - The ringers on the recording **MUST** be the ringers who are registered for FC15 and must be permanent members of the group registering for FC15. Substitute ringers or orphan ringers are not permitted in this application process or at the Festival.
2. The recording can be either a rehearsal or a performance, but should be of the highest available audio and video quality.
3. Submitted video will be reviewed by an impartial anonymous committee that will evaluate the performance based on the rubric found listed below. You may wish to review and discuss this rubric with your choir before recording and submitting your audition video.
4. Audition video must be uploaded to YouTube. (More information regarding uploading to YouTube will follow in the November Fundamental Tone). Videos should be uploaded as soon as you are prepared, but no later than **January 15, 2015**.
5. All choirs and directors will receive emailed feedback from the committee chair no later than January 31, 2015. Content will include an overall performance evaluation along with the score breakdown of each rubric category.
6. The lowest score is 9; the highest is 40. A choir must score a minimum of 30 to be recommended for the Bronze division. Choirs are solely measured against the rubric and not each other.
7. Should the reviewing committee deem that the submitting choir is not prepared to participate in the Bronze division, the choir may:
 - a. Choose to ring in the Coppers division.
 - b. May be asked to work on specific issues with an Area 1 mentor, and then submit a new video within 4 weeks of notification.

The Bronze repertoire selections for FC15 are:

Staccato-- Gramann L4+ MCGB812
Remembrance--Moklebust L5+ MLC201131L
Transitions--Payn L5 MAG57019
Valse Brillante--Buckwalter L4+ MBEHB421

REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



Mid-summer, and at-rest, Massachusetts handbell musicians are enjoying the slow pace of the season.

Memories of spring's concerts are sweet, whether in churches, in schools, or in community ensembles.

Thoughts of making new music, meeting new people, sharing new surroundings – these beckon to us from a quick flip of the calendar page.

Dr. Seuss expresses it well:

*Think left and think right and think low and think high.
Oh, the things you can think up if only you try!*

Wishing you all a wonderful, thoughtful summer.

*Gail Granum
Massachusetts State Chair*



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- Perform classical and contemporary repertoire
- Perform throughout New England and beyond



www.NewEnglandRingers.org

We have a few open positions in our ensemble.

If you are interested in becoming part of NER, please contact our director, Ed Henderson, at info@newenglandringers.org or call 978-851-3024.



Our Upcoming Concerts

Saturday, Nov. 29 7:30 pm	Franklin Federated Church Franklin, Massachusetts
Sunday, Nov. 30 4:00 pm	Rogers Center for the Arts Merrimack College North Andover, Massachusetts
Sunday, Dec. 7 4:30 pm	Grace Lutheran Church Stratford, Connecticut
Saturday, Dec. 13 TBD	First Parish Congregational Church Wakefield, Massachusetts
Sunday, Dec. 14 TBD	Berklee Performance Center Boston, Massachusetts
Sunday, Jan. 4 7:00 pm	Noank Baptist Church Noank, Connecticut



Hockanum Valley Ringers, Inc.

860-375-0333 • hvringers@gmail.com

CALLING ALL HANDBELL RINGERS!

The **Hockanum Valley Ringers, Inc.**, under the direction of Lawrence A. Berdensey, will be holding auditions for the 2014-15 season:

- ♪ We are welcoming experienced ringers who are committed and dedicated to handbell ringing.
- ♪ We are looking for individuals who are team players, who have a great personality, and are creative.
- ♪ We ring a variety of repertoire from classical to original compositions written for handbells.
- ♪ We present exceptional concerts to our audiences during the Christmas and Spring seasons.
- ♪ Rehearsals take place every Monday evening, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, Vernon, CT.

If you would like to be part of our energetic group, email us by August 26, at hvringers@gmail.com or contact our director, Lawrence Berdensey, at 860-375-0333, for more information.



HIGH SCHOOL RING OUT 2014

Saturday, November 8 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Area 1 is proud to announce its [15th annual High School Ring Out](#), to be held at Wachusett Regional High School, the site of Area 1's very first High School Ring Out. We invite all youth ringers and choirs to participate in this exciting and growing event. The day will include instructional rehearsals of three massed-rung pieces with percussionist and regional and national clinician Krishna Ersson, followed by a closing concert with an opportunity for individual choirs to present solo pieces. There will be breaks for snacks and a BYO lunch, and plenty of time to get to know other ringers. Multi-generational, adult and partial choirs are welcome to attend.

About Our Guest Clinician

Krishna Ersson discovered handbells while studying engineering and math at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. His diverse interests in music, dance, science, and technology, as well as his belief that growth comes through constant challenge have all fueled a passion for exploring the unique artistic expression made through modern handbell ringing. HSRO 2014 Director Before moving away from the Boston area Krishna performed for six years with the Back Bay Ringers, where he founded the Back Bay Quartet, a handbell ensemble known for their entertaining arrangements and exciting performances, and was principal percussionist with the Metropolitan Wind Symphony. He enjoys attending high-level national ringing events, such as Distinctly Bronze, and was a member of the nationally auditioned Handbell Musicians of America All-Stars ensemble that performed at the 15th International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool, England. Recently, Krishna can be found teaching handbell and auxiliary percussion techniques at workshops and seminars throughout New England and nationally. He has taught at many Area I Festival Conferences, Directors' Seminars, and local skill-building workshops. Although originally from Portland, OR, Krishna is currently a senior software engineer at a small startup in Guilford, CT. More Event Details.

REPERTOIRE

ANTIPHON, Arnold Sherman, L III, 3-5 oct., and: 2-3 oct., or Brass, or Organ, Red River HB0012B.
SHENANDOAH, Jason Krug, L II+, 3-5 oct., Agape HP2570
GLORIA & HODIE, McChesney and Turner, L III, 3-6 oct., Jeffers JHS9482

PARTIAL CHOIRS

If you are planning to ring just the massed selections, you are encouraged to attend with a partial choir of any size. Even if you only have one or two high school aged ringers, you should bring them so they can experience this event. Massed ringing does not require full choirs. You are also welcome to fill out your choir with chaperons or other adult ringers — especially if you would like to offer a solo selection — but remember that all ringers must pay the \$20.00 registration fee.

SHARING

We invite your choir to share a "solo" selection during the concert. Please fill out the appropriate information on the registration form. This must be done in advance for planning and programming. We reserve the right to limit the number of solo selections. You will be assigned a short time during lunch to run through your piece once in the performance area. Please be prompt and courteous to other groups.

This event is sponsored by Handbell Musicians of America, Inc. dedicated to uniting people through the musical art of handbell and handchime ringing. See more at handbellmusicians.org



SCHEDULE

9:00 - Early arrival
9:30 - Registration
10:00 - Opening bell, announcements, stretches
(All choirs set up and prepared to ring)
10:15 - Rehearsal I
11:15 - Break / BYO snacks
11:30 - Rehearsal II / Director's meeting
12:30 - Lunch - BYO / Solo Rehearsals
1:15 - Rehearsal III
2:15 - Dress Rehearsal
3:00 - Concert - Open to the public.
4:15 - Pack up and depart for a safe trip home

Holiday Rep Reading and Skill Building Workshops

Clinician: Diane Burke

Saturday, October 4, 2014

St Matthews Church, Acton MA

8:30 AM - 12:40 PM: Workshops; 1:10 PM – 4:00 PM Rep Reading

Fee is \$10 per person for either the Workshops or the Rep Reading, or \$15.00 for both

This workshop is for YOU if you:

- want to work on your handbell techniques
- get helpful ringing hints from experienced ringers
- are looking for some new pieces to fill out your holiday repertoire this year
- love to sight read and play different positions
- need music for a small number of ringers
- enjoy meeting other ringers and directors
- just can't get ENOUGH of handbells!!

The Workshops will include basic ringing instruction, bass and treble bell techniques, weaving and more. The Rep Reading will introduce ringers and directors of all levels to a wide selection of holiday handbell music, including recent publications, in the spacious modern sanctuary of St. Matthew's United Methodist Church. Participants will enjoy playing various pieces and getting suggestions for their holiday repertoire. We will also offer selections for smaller ensembles for handbell groups with less than the standard number of ringers.

Music will be available for purchase at a discount.

Please join us for an exhilarating day!

Watch the mail for details – On-line sign up will be available through Area 1 website.

Coffee, water and snacks will be served – bring your own paper bag lunch

Sponsored by
The Bells of St Matthews and The Lincoln Ringers

For more information contact Lynn Masson at wmasson@verizon.net, (978) 486-8816

Fundamental Tone

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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%).

VIRTUOSO

An Extraordinary Performance Experience

CLINICIAN:

Dr. William Payn

DATE:

Friday, June 12, 2015 -

Sunday, June 14, 2015

LOCATION:

Raleigh, North Carolina

Virtuoso was created by The Raleigh Ringers to be a unique opportunity for 29 ringers to participate in a professional performance experience, under the baton of renowned conductor Dr. William Payn.

The three-day event will include all aspects of preparing for and presenting a formal concert, culminating in a featured performance on a concert stage as special guests during The Raleigh Ringers' Spring Concert at Meymandi Concert Hall.

Participants will be determined by an application/audition process. Deadline to apply is December 1, 2014. Email RRadmin@rr.org for an application packet.

More information can be found at www.rr.org/events/virtuoso

The Raleigh Ringers, 8516 Sleepy Creek Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613 www.rr.org 919-847-7574

If you are on Facebook, you are invited to join the New England Area Handbell Musicians group. Group members are able to post information about concerts for fellow ringers and enthusiasts and the group also serves as the Facebook portal for news from Area 1.



Handbell Musicians
O F A M E R I C A

| Area 1