

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXVIII, No. 4

November 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8, 2014
High School Ring Out
15th Anniversary Celebration
Wachusett Regional School
Holden, MA

February 6-7, 2015
Director's Seminar
UMASS Amherst, MA

May 9, 2015
Connecticut Spring Ring
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Bristol, CT

June 25-28, 2015
Festival/Conference 2015
UMASS Amherst, MA

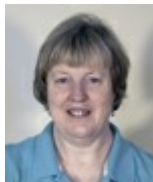
April 29-30, 2015
Vermont Spring Ring
West Rutland High School
Rutland, VT



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...



Happy fall to all handbell musicians in Area 1! The falling leaves and cooler temperatures remind us that the program year is back, the holidays are approaching, and Festival Conference is less than a year away. There's a lot to look forward to over the next several months – but first we need to get through the holidays and our holiday performances!!!

We all know that the use of the Internet and social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) can be a very effective (and free!!) method of advertising and sharing news. As we move into the holiday season, I know there are a lot of concerts out there – whether they be church groups, community groups, solo and ensemble ringers, or school groups. Please remember that you can get free advertising for all of your performances from the [Area 1 web-site](http://Area1web-site)! Don't forget to send all of your concert and event listings to our webmaster Pete Larson at webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org. Articles can also be submitted to our Facebook page for posting by following the link on that page (<https://www.facebook.com/HMAarea1>) and one of the page administrators will post the information. And a new tradition has begun on both Facebook and our website – a spotlight on a monthly group, ensemble, etc. – if you haven't looked at our website for a while, take a look! We are trying to make it a more dynamic and interactive presence, and as I write this, the monthly spotlight is on Hills Bells from Wellesley Congregational Church in Massachusetts. Please feel free to inundate Pete with news of YOUR groups – and if your state chair contacts you for a submission, please say YES! This is an opportunity for all of us to get some new ideas, hear of goings on around our area, and perhaps gain some new ringers. In this era of instant communication, we have to do our part as bell ringers and promote our art in every way possible.

High School Ring Out 2014 is just around the corner – November 8 at Wachusett Regional School in Holden, MA. Krishna Ersson is this year's clinician. Young people are the future of our craft of handbell ringing, and I hope many of you will be able to support their hard work by attending their afternoon concert at 3:00 p.m. on that day. Get the word out to all of your ringers – we all know that an engaged audience is important to the success of a performance, and we have to do all we can to support and encourage these young people on that day, as well as their leaders who have done so much to prepare them for this event.

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

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Some other upcoming Area 1 events:

- The 2015 Directors' Seminar will be held at UMASS Amherst on February 6-7, and our guest clinician will be Brian Childers. From the Charlotte, NC area, Brian is a composer/arranger, and leads both church and community groups. He brings lots of different perspectives to share. Please note this event is NOT just for directors – everyone is welcome. We consider it more of an educational event with multiple ringing and learning opportunities. More information on this event can be found in this edition of Fundamental Tone.
- Festival Conference 2015, at UMASS Amherst from June 25-28, 2015, with Debbie Rice (check out the latest "Overtones" – she was just named an honorary lifetime member of Handbell Musicians of America) and Tim Waugh. The music selections for this event were published several months ago and additional information regarding upcoming registration is included in this issue of "Fundamental Tone."
- Family Handbell Camp – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR JUNE 23-26, 2016! Dan Moore and Ed Henderson have already begun planning this event and want your input on what kinds of things you would like included. You cannot find a better location than [Oceanwood](#) in Ocean Park, Maine). Visit the [Facebook](#) page and let them know what YOU want to see - this is your event and they want to plan it around YOU. Start planning now – let's make this a family tradition in [Area 1](#)!!

By the time you read this, the Fall Skill Building Workshops will have ended. Thank you to the small group of Martha Goodman, Sue Chamberlin, Carlene Ruesenberg, and Jane Nolan who organized these events, and our clinicians Andy Wallace, Krishna Ersson, Rick Wood, Larry Berdensey, and Jean Degan. These were a great way to get a head start on F/C 2015 music! Sadly, one of these workshops had to be canceled due to lack of registrants, and we also had to cancel our annual Adult Ringers Weekend this year due to low registration numbers. The Board of Area 1 wants to make sure we are planning events that appeal to our members and have created them based on what our membership has asked for, but perhaps we need to revisit this issue and revamp the events or find out what we can do better to attract more registrants. This will be a discussion topic at our next Board meeting, and we would like to have your input. Please send any thoughts you have on this topic directly to [me](#).

Area 1 Treasurer Sue Chamberlin and I will be heading to Cincinnati in November for a National Leadership meeting with the focus being on membership and event planning, and we will share our experiences and news from National in the next issue. Please continue to promote the Handbell Musicians of America Sub-Member-

ship option, which is a wonderful opportunity for individual members of an organization that has an existing membership to enjoy some of the benefits of a regular membership for just \$10 per person per year. Do you know of a college handbell program? If the college has a full Handbell Musicians of America membership, there is a new National program that offers a free one-year sub-membership to all group members. This is another opportunity to promote the art of handbell ringing and encourage ALL to become involved in our organization. As you attend concerts during the upcoming holiday season, make it a point to promote the sub-membership – it really is a small price to pay for some great benefits. Some upcoming National Events:

- Master Series 2015 – January 23-26, Hebron, KY.
- Distinctly Bronze West 2015 – February 26-March 1, in Portland, OR.
- Pinnacle 2015 – July 15-18, in Dallas, TX.

Speaking of Distinctly Bronze, the Eastern version was held over Columbus Day weekend in New Bern, NC and Area 1 was well represented by Susan Schultz, Sue Chamberlin, Lisa Arnold, and Krishna Ersson. Check out their picture on the Area 1 Facebook page!!! Visit [National's website](#) for National news and events.

Nominations for the Margaret H. Shurcliff Leadership Award are now open and are being accepted through December 31, 2014. A committee has been named to review nominations and make their recommendations to the Board in early 2015 that will then make the final decision. Information concerning the nomination process and all documentation is included in this issue, and is also on our [website](#). The award will be presented at Festival Conference 2015; past recipients are Phil Brown and Dan Moore. Who will be the third???

Your Area 1 Board will next meet on January 17, 2015. Please remember that our Board meetings are open to everyone and we welcome your input via email, snail mail, or in person. We are not a closed organization and want to plan events and lead Area 1 with all of you in mind. We do have one appointed position open on the Board – the Glove Tree Coordinator. It is bitter-sweet to lose a long-standing member of Area 1, Emlee Kohler, as she moves to a new state (North Carolina) for a new job. Emlee has done a wonderful job of organizing and maintaining the Glove Tree and now it is time to find a new volunteer for that responsibility. Thank you for all you've done, Emlee, and our loss is Area 3's gain! If anyone is interested in assuming this position, please [email me](#).

As I write this it is still mid-October but since the next issue will be out in February, this is my opportunity to thank you all for all you do for Area 1 and the handbell world, and to wish you and your families a joyous and blessed holiday season. I hope to see many of you at concerts and events over the next several months!!

Sue Wilber, Area 1 Chair



Merrimack Valley Ringers presents

Wonders of WINTER TIME

Merrimack Valley Ringers invites one and all to their celebration of ice and snow and all things FROZEN.

"Wonders of Wintertime" features both standard and contemporary fare, including "The First Noel", selections from "The Nutcracker," and (yes!) even a dynamic arrangement of "Let It Go" from Disney's Frozen – all spiced with the flair and flamboyance audiences have come to expect from this "Always Different – Always Fun" handbell ensemble. See you there!



WWW.MVRINGERS.ORG

HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

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REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



The new program year is well underway, and we are all busy practicing and ringing for worship services and for upcoming concerts. Somehow the fall months always fly by!

With the upcoming holidays many of you may be involved with special bell concerts. If you'd like to let me know of particular events, I will be glad to send out an email inviting others to come. Please let me know by November 15 so I can combine them into one email.

After the holidays, we can look forward to the Connecticut Spring Ring, and then to Area 1's Festival Conference in June. As so many of us have learned, attending these massed ringing events builds our skills, our confidence, and our friendships with other ringers. I hope you can come!

The CT Spring Ring will be on May 9 this year, once again at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Bristol. Lawrence Berdensen will be our clinician.

Larry has been a band director for 31 years, currently at West Side Middle School in Groton. He has been the handbell director at Our Lady of Lourdes in Gales Ferry, directing four youth and adult bell ensembles. Larry rings with the Shoreline Ringers and is currently the director of the Hockanum Valley Ringers, a community handbell ensemble based in Vernon. He has also been a clinician throughout Area 1 – at Festival Conference, Director's Seminar, the CT Spring Ring, and Fall Skills Building Workshops. Larry is in the process of selecting the music for Spring Ring, and we will let you know as soon as possible so you can plan your music budgets.

We will again use online registration through Constant Contact, and I will send out the link after the holidays. As we are arranging workshops, I'd love to hear any suggestions - for topics or leaders - that you would like to share.

Meanwhile, happy ringing, and blessed holidays!

Mobby Larson, CT Chair
ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org

Ringers Wanted

Ring with New England Ringers

New England's Premier Handbell Ensemble

- *Challenge your music skills*
- *Ring on one of the largest sets of handbells in the U.S.*
- *Perform classical and contemporary repertoire*
- *Perform throughout New England and beyond*



www.NewEnglandRingers.org



Join Us for an Open Rehearsal

Sunday, November 9, 2014

3:00 - 5:00 PM

**Tewksbury Congregational Church
10 East Street, Tewksbury, MA**

Contact Ed Henderson at info@newenglandringers.org

We have a few open positions in our ensemble.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of NER, please contact our director, Ed Henderson, at info@newenglandringers.org or call 978-851-3024.

REPORT FROM MAINE



Happy Fall to all Maine Handbell Musicians. I begin with an update on the 2016 Maine Spring Ring. A steering committee has been formed and held its first meeting in September. Several items received a consensus as follows:

- The event will be held in close proximity to central or midcoast Maine with easy access to 295 or 95.
- April 9, 2016 will be considered as the event date.
- The Maine Spring Ring will include vendors and workshops as well as the concert with massed ring.

Jean Veneziano and Jenifer Harrington will be working on site selection, Dan Evans will work on vendors, Laura and Joe Begenwald will serve as registrars, Amy Rollins will handle marketing, and Sue Evans will secure a conductor.

Additional tasks will need leadership as we get closer to the event. But once the site, date, and conductor are confirmed, we will be able to focus on other planning considerations. Early on, however, we will need input regarding workshops so we are hoping folks will step forward with ideas or will volunteer to offer a workshop.

The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2015, in Manchester and any Maine ringer is invited to attend. You can contact me for directions.

On another topic, the Area 1 Board of Directors met on September 20, 2014, in Rutland, VT. The topics that were addressed included plans for the 2015 June 25-28 Festival Conference to be held at the U. of MA at Amherst campus. It was noted that the fall workshops were designed to focus on the conference music. Also Brian Childers will be with us for the Director's Seminar in 2015, his first time coming to Area 1. Work has been proceeding on the Area 1 Job Descriptions including the State Chairs. It was announced that the Family Handbell Camp will be offered in the summer of 2016 during the last week in June, and will be held in the state of Maine.

And for your calendar: a traditional handbell event, "Ringing In The Season," will occur on Saturday, December 6 at 4:00 pm at Camden's First Congregational Church, UCC, 55 Elm Street, featuring Choral Bells, Joyful Bells, Penobscot Bay Ringers, Pine Tree Academy Bell Ringers, and handbell soloist Amy Rollins with Steve Weston on piano. Penobscot Bay Ringers will also play a handbell duet with hammered dulcimer soloist, Michelle Terry. A massed ring, directed by Sue Evans, Maine State Chair, Handbell Musicians of America, will conclude the program. Doors open 3:00 pm. Pre-

show piano music with Steve Weston at 3:30 pm. A free-will offering will benefit Coastal Opportunities, a non-profit that assists adults with developmental disabilities to become participating members in the social and economic community. For more information call Leigh Smith at 230-6628.

And finally, I am happy to share this wonderful story about 4 devoted southern Maine handbell ringers. Written by Audrey Cabral, Handbell Director at First Parish Church in Saco, it reflects the powerful draw of handbell ringing, and profiles the qualities of those who ring with loyalty and devotion to this art.

Over 25 years ago, Stewart Shuster, the organist at First Parish Church in Saco, asked my brother, Ken-Jackman, if he would be interested in starting a bell choir there. Ken had been ringing for Stewart since he was 12 years old and Stewart knew that Ken had the musical and handbell knowledge, plus personality, to start a bell choir.

He "found" members of First Parish, who had musical knowledge but no experience ringing bells. They gathered 8 other ringers and began the journey that continues today. Many ringers have come and gone, and between Ken and me, we couldn't name them all. But these four - Lucy, Carol, Joyce, and Ron - have been and continue to be the foundation of the First Parish handbell ringers.

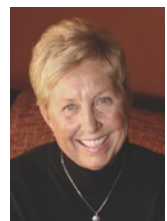
These four people have been the backbone of the group. Their attitude is always positive and they are supportive of all new ringers in the group. They always cheerfully help set up and tear down for rehearsals, as well as lug tables and bells up and down to the sanctuary as needed. When the choir started, it was Ron and Ken who built the tables that were used on the pews in the balcony of the church for ringing.

When Ken couldn't rehearse on weeknights because of his job, they were the ones who encouraged the ringers and convinced them that Friday nights and/or Saturday mornings were just fine for rehearsals. What else would they be doing?

When I took over for Ken, they helped me with everything I needed and are my biggest supporters and cheerleaders. These four still keep us all laughing, are honest when they don't like a piece, and are encouraging to everyone. Fun is the first word that comes to mind when we rehearse.

Ken and I couldn't be luckier, musically and personally, by having these people in our lives, as well as other ringers that have come and gone. They have meant and done more for us than they will ever know.

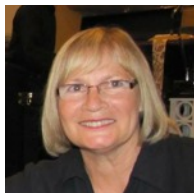
Sue Evans
Maine State Chair



REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



November greetings from your MA State Chair! Gail Granham



The fall of 2014 handbell season finds Massachusetts musicians poised for many exciting state-wide and multiple town events. Read on!

Skill Building Workshops

Massachusetts was host to three of the four Area 1 sponsored Skill Building Workshops in Fall River on Oct. 18, in Chelmsford on Oct. 25, and in Southwick on Nov. 1.

Almost 70 Attend Workshops and Holiday Rep Reading

The Bells of St. Matthew's and The Lincoln Ringers were pleased to sponsor a Holiday Rep Reading and Skill Building Workshop in Acton on Oct. 4 which was endorsed by the Handbell Musicians of America, Area 1.

Offering workshops in addition to the rep reading at this second annual early fall event proved to be a popular idea since attendance increased from last year by over 50%. Several members from the Merrimack Valley Ringers served as instructors for the 11 different courses ranging from handbell basics and stopped techniques to ensemble ringing and advanced weaving. The one issue that we had because of several last minute registrations was not quite enough equipment in some instances, a problem which the sponsors, the Bells of St. Matthew's and the Lincoln Ringers, have promised to address next year. Members from both choirs supplied refreshments throughout the day along with administrative assistance. The Rep Reading, directed by Diane Burke, reviewed several new holiday selections. Attendees were able to purchase the music presented at a 10% discount. St. Matthew's United Methodist Church in Acton provides a very comfortable and relaxed venue for this event. Plans have already started for next year's Workshop and Rep Reading in early October, 2015.

MVR Celebrates the Winter Season

At their fall retreat Merrimack Valley Ringers, directed by Karen Leonard, began rehearsals for the holiday season. The retreat was lengthened this year not only to allow more practice but to include exercises on listening and presentation as well as polishing bells. There was also abundant, delicious food and wonderful camaraderie. Our ten concert tour "Wonders of Wintertime" emphasizes the glories of the winter season, from holidays and snow to icicles and magical legends. The concert schedule is on the MVR website www.mvringers.org, as well as the Area 1 web site concert calendar. Most concerts are free. Please check our website for more details – and for other items of interest!



***Holiday Rep Reading and Skill Building Workshop
in Acton at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church,
October 2014***

The Chapel Chimes, directed by Jeff Hobart

The Chapel Chimes from First Congregational Church of Randolph will be participating in the Rockland Stroll on Saturday, November 29, 2014. Chapel Chimes will perform favorite Christmas selections at the First Congregational Church of Rockland, 12 Church Street (corner of Union and Church Streets), Rockland, MA 02370 (781-878-1790) at 5:00 pm. Cookies and hot chocolate will follow. The Stroll is from 4:00-7:00 pm.

The Chapel Chimes from First Congregational Church of Randolph also will be participating in the Randolph Winterfest on Saturday, December 6, 2014, 2:00 pm. Chapel Chimes will perform some of the season's best at the First Congregational Church of Randolph, 1 South Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368 (781-963-6373). The Winterfest is from 12:00-4:00 pm. You may contact [Nadine Brodie](#) for more information.

***New England Ringers
Directed by Ed Henderson***

Looking for a fun new challenge for 2015? The New England Ringers is having an open rehearsal Sunday, November 9, 2014, for anyone who wishes to audition to ring with this outstanding group. Whether you are primarily treble, battery, bass, or buckets, we would love to see you there. While we strive to perform at the highest caliber of professionalism, an open rehearsal is a time when anyone who is passionate about ringing can relax and play through some pieces with current members and other auditioners, as well as have some one-on-one time with our director, Ed Henderson. The Open Rehearsal will be held at Tewksbury Congregational Church, 10 East St., Tewksbury, MA on Sunday, Nov. 9, from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. The church is located at the intersection of East St. and Main St. by the Town Hall.

New England Ringers is pleased to announce that it will distribute profits from its upcoming tours to its Director and Ringers. Director Ed Henderson stated, "I am very pleased that NER is taking this important step in recognizing the high degree of professionalism that its ringers bring to the handbell community." NER is currently recruiting ringers for its 2015 tours and is encouraging qualified musicians to contact Director Ed Henderson. Ehenderson6@verizon.net

***Michelle Gordon, Director of Music
Mattapoisett Congregational Church***

We are happy that we got 3 new members in our Bell choir at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church, and can now ring our full complement of 3-octaves of bells and chimes. We began rehearsals last week with a "brush-up" on Technique, and we are excited to begin our Church Year.

David Lussier Trinity Lutheran Church

Rehearsals have started at Trinity Lutheran Church in Chelmsford, MA. We are doubling our efforts to have more pieces ready so our choir can offer more music in our worship. One of our musicians will be composing a trombone part to add to "Carillon" that was in the latest issue of Overtones. We are down two ringers which has impacted the choir but we carry on.

William Ness First Baptist Church

Both Salisbury Belles and First Handbells have begun rehearsals with future performances in mind. FH played in worship on October 26 as the only musical group represented (no chancel choir). SB is planning a joint concert and several Christmas concerts in December. (No performance at Mechanics Hall this year because they are giving the entire Christmas brown bag concert to the All Saints Church musical organizations.) FH is playing at Briarwood on Tuesday, December 2, at 6:30pm along with Handbell Extravaganza on December 19 with First Congregational of Tewksbury, First Congregational of Shrewsbury, and First Congregational of West Boylston. FH is planning to attend the Mass Spring Ring, March 21.

***Marjorie Kellner, Original Congregational
Church, Wrentham***

Chapel Bells will hold their Holiday Concert on December 6. This past summer we removed 2 pews from the Sanctuary to make room for the bell tables so we can leave them up permanently, rather than moving them from the practice room to the Sanctuary every time we play. We are also hoping to have a young children's Chime Choir this year.. We've had one in the past, but last year it didn't work out, so we're hoping that it will this year.

(continued on page 8)

***Marilyn Sink, Handbell Choir Director
First Congregational Church, Chatham***

I am still directing the church handbell choir which plays once a month and practices every Thursday morning. We may start a youth handchime group this year. I continue to think about starting a community bell choir or at least bring back on cape the yearly mass ring with many groups attending. I play with the Harwichport pilgrim church bell choir as well.

Does anyone have a list of all the churches with handbells you could share with me?

Griff Gall, Back Bay Ringers, Boston

Back Bay Ringers, under the Artistic Direction of Griff Gall, began its 11th year, and will focus its programs on the theme of Memories. We hosted a summer ring in August at First Church Boston, attended by BBR members and other ringers from the community. After a successful evening of auditions, we welcomed three new and thirteen returning members to the ensemble for the 2014-15 season. We will perform our winter program - Christmas Memories - at venues in Boston, Danvers, Framingham, Waltham, and Worcester the first two weekends in December.

Martha Stowell, Copious Notes, Wellesley

Copious Notes has begun its fall season with a very full table of enthusiastic and amazing ringers. Under the direction of Dan Moore, we are preparing for our third annual Christmas Concert at the Newton Free Library which will be presented on the evening of December 11. We are currently setting up additional gigs for our

program which focuses this year on music of Celebration and Peace. We rehearse at the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and welcome all inquiries to Martha Stowell at CNhandbells@gmail.com or cpbranwell@gmail.com.

Martha Stowell, The Hills Bells, Wellesley Hills

The Hills Bells of the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church has recently expanded to five octaves of Schulmerichhandbells and five octaves of Malmarkhandchimes. We are so grateful to all of those who enabled the expansion of the group! As always we are so grateful to those who ring! And, miracle of miracles, even with the additional bells and positions, we begin the year blessed with a full table. The repertoire for the next few months includes Bwana Awabariki (S. Nelson), Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (Moklebust), Change Ring Prelude on Divinum Mysterium (Gramann) and the Sussex Carol with Choir. In addition to our ringing in church, you will hear some of us ringing in front of Roche Bros. with the Salvation Army pot in December and ringing carols for the Angel Run in Medfield. We always welcome new ringers to our fold. You need not be a member of the church to ring. All inquiries should be directed to Martha Stowell at cpbranwell@gmail.com.

The Hills Bells rang for the Salvation Army pot on Christmas Eve last year and the intake doubled! The Hills Bells was chosen to be the first handbell ensemble to be highlighted in a new monthly article series on the Area 1 website! Read all about this exciting group!
<http://area1.handbellmusicians.org/2014/10/16/monthly-group-spotlight-hills-bells/>



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.



Area 1 Directors' Seminar 2015

Registration for the 2015 Directors' Seminar, Friday-Saturday, February 6-7, will open on Tuesday, November 11.

We are thrilled to be able to bring Brian Childers to Area 1 to share his wisdom, humor, and insights with us. Brian is multiply talented, with conducting experience in school, church and community settings—and he's a composer, too! We hope you'll take advantage of the opportunity to learn from him and from all our clinicians.

For 2015 we're bringing back the meet-and-greet reception prior to Friday's dinner, which proved so popular last year. We're offering some new classes and new approaches to old topics. Several classes will be specially tailored to the specific needs of class participants. About a month before the Seminar you'll receive a letter that will remind you of these classes and, depending on the class and the instructor's desire, either ask you to send your specific issue to the instructor in advance or encourage you to arrive with your questions and problems in hand. And, in perhaps the biggest change to our traditional approach to programming, we're refocusing our instruction in conducting, with a workshop that concentrates not on general technique but, rather, on problem solving.

Seminar Offerings for 2015

- Three exciting repertoire reading sessions, one with Brian Childers
- Workshops including:
 - Solving Your Conducting Conundrums
 - Certification: What's it All About?
 - Body Awareness and Self-Care for Directors & Ringers
 - Handbell/Handchime Adjustment & Maintenance – Hands On!
- Three workshop sessions (topics to be announced) with Brian Childers, *plus* a performance master class

See the registration materials for a complete list of offerings and the workshop schedule.

2015 Registration Fees

Early Bird (by December 31, 2014)	\$187
Regular	\$217
Early Bird Saturday only, with lunch	\$143
Saturday only, w/lunch	\$157

Fees include all program activities and meals (Friday dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch and snack). Housing is not included; special conference rates are available at the UMass Hotel, which is located in the same building as the Seminar activities. See the registration materials for details on hotel rates and booking deadlines.



Our Guest Clinician

Brian Childers, an accomplished pianist, trumpeter, and composer, earned the Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Appalachian State University in 1993, and the Master of Divinity degree in Church Music from the M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University in 2003. He has served as Minister of Music at First Baptist Church (FBC) of Mount Holly, NC since 2001, where he directs five vocal choirs, five handbell choirs, and the church orchestra. With 100+ musical works published, Brian's choral, instrumental, and handbell compositions have been performed throughout the United States and abroad. Brian is a frequent guest clinician and enjoys working with churches and community groups on special commissioned works. He has two teenage children and is an avid runner in his free time.



NOMINATIONS Are Now Being Accepted For Area 1's *Margaret H. Shurcliff Leadership Award*

THE CRITERIA

The membership and Board of HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 may present this Award every two years, at the Area 1 Biennial Meeting, to a present, former, or deceased member, in recognition of noteworthy and lasting contributions to Area 1, including:

- ... teaching effectively*
- ... promoting healthy handbell ringing practices*
- ... organizing and promoting local, statewide or Area 1 ringing events*
- ... mentoring new choirs and ringers*
- ... upholding the The Guild motto – “Uniting people through a musical art.”*

Is there someone special you know who tirelessly promotes handbells and The Guild for Area 1? Is there a teacher or director who had the patience and took the extra time to get you and your handbell group up to speed? Just how much do they love and promote handbells? Area 1 wants to know about and reward them.


The level of some of our Area 1 talent rises above all others. And those are the people we will honor with the Area 1 Leadership Award, named for Margaret Shurcliff, who began the history of handbells in America right here in New England. Beginning

with ten handbells and ringing with her children on Christmas 1926 at Beacon Hill in Boston then later inviting friends and their friends to her kitchen table to ring with other adults; arranging for others to get sets of bells and setting up massed rings; continuing with the formation of the New England Guild then expanding to the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers in 1954, Margaret worked tirelessly for over 30 years to promote handbells. Although we may not match Margaret's level of dedication again for some time, many individuals continue to work hard to make the art of handbell ring-

ing easy and enjoyable.

The Award is modeled after the national Handbell Musicians of America Honorary Life Membership Award. The Board of Area 1 will present the Shurcliff Award at the 2015 Festival/Conference at the University of New Hampshire. But first, we need nominees. You may download a Nomination Form at Area 1's website: www.agehrarea1.org/Shurcliff/.

As defined in the procedure for the award, all nominations should be sent the The Guild's Area 1 secretary. Jean Degan, Area 1 Chair, has delegated an ad hoc, anonymous committee of three Area 1 members who will receive and evaluate all nominations for eligibility. This committee will present the qualifying nominations to the Board for vote. More than one award may be given in cases of tie votes, or none awarded if no nominees qualify or a majority of the Board vote is not carried.

Please download your Nomination Form, enlist friends and fellow ringers to help complete the form, and return to Area 1's secretary by the December 31 deadline. (Note: Form must be received by Dec. 31.) 

Eligibility Requirements

Handbell Musicians of America Area 1 members to be considered for the Margaret Shurdiff Leadership Award, must have been a member of Handbell Musicians of America (also known as The Guild, formerly American Guild of English Handbell Ringers) Area 1, in good standing, for at least five continuous years prior to nomination. Persons not currently a member of Area 1 (for reasons of age and/or retirement, or change of address out of Area 1) will be considered, as long as the five-year continuous prior membership requirement is met.

As a present, former, or deceased Handbell Musicians of America member, your Nominee has made noteworthy and lasting contributions to Area 1, including

...teaching effectively
...promoting healthy handbell ringing practices
...organizing and promoting local, state or Area 1 ringing events
...mentoring new choirs and ringers
...upholding The Guild motto—
“Uniting people through a musical art.”

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Nominator: _____

Nominator's Address: _____

Nominator's Phone Numbers

Home (_____) _____

Cdl: (_____) FAX: (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Nominee: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

Nominee's Phone Numbers

Home (_____) _____

Cdl: (_____) FAX: (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

No. of years teaching/leading a handbell group _____

No. of years member of Handbell

Musicians of America _____

OR year began as member of Handbell

Musicians of America (AGEHR) _____

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The following questions may be answered in narrative form (i.e., letter form) if you prefer. Please make sure you provide answers for the six areas noted below. Letters of endorsement from others may address one or more of the areas, but please note in your main submission which of the areas are answered by other letters.

1. In what ways has your nominee exhibited the “teaching effectively” requirement of this award?

a. _____
b. _____

For each answer, please indicate what documentary evidence or letters of endorsement, if any, you are providing.

2. In what ways has your nominee “promoted healthy handbell ringing practices” as required of this award?

a. _____
b. _____

For each answer, please indicate what documentary evidence or letters of endorsement, if any, you are providing.

3. In what ways has your nominee “organized and promoted local, statewide or Area 1 ringing events” that would justify receiving this award?

a. _____
b. _____

For each answer, please indicate what documentary evidence or letters of endorsement, if any, you are providing.

4. In what ways has your nominee “mentored new choirs and ringers” that would justify receiving this award?

a. _____
b. _____

For each answer, please indicate what documentary evidence or letters of endorsement, if any, you are providing.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED

By
December 31, 2014

5. In what ways has your nominee “upheld The Guild motto — ‘Uniting people through a musical art’” that would justify receiving this award?

a. _____
b. _____

For each answer, please indicate what documentary evidence or letters of endorsement, if any, you are providing.

6. Other Letters of Endorsement

Provide as many letters from others as you deem appropriate.

Signature of Nominator: _____

Month/Day/Year: _____

Please send this Nomination Form and all supporting documents to:

Secretary, HMA Area 1
15 N Curtisville Rd.
Concord, NH 03301

Nomination forms and all supportive material must be received by the Secretary of Area 1 no later than **December 31, 2014**, in order to be considered. All submitted material will be destroyed at the conclusion of this Margaret Shurdiff Leadership Award committee's activity.

Although materials may be forwarded at any time prior to the December 2014 deadline, please include as many supporting documents as possible with this Nomination Form.

Thank you.



THE PROCEDURE

1. Approximately one year before the biannual Handbell Musicians of America Area 1 Festival/Conference, the Area 1 Chair will have appointed an Award Committee of three, including a Committee Chair.
2. The Award Committee notifies membership of Nomination Process, Criteria and Deadline in the following August Area 1 newsletter; they also publish a reminder notice in the following November newsletter.
3. The Area 1 Secretary receives nominations from membership by the December 31 deadline and forwards them to the Chair of Award Committee.
4. The Award Committee evaluates nominations and votes yes/no on those nominations that have fulfilled the award requirements.
5. The Award Committee presents its recommendations to the Area 1 Chair.
6. The Area 1 Chair presents the award recommendation(s) to the Board, who selects the final award recipient by popular vote. In the case of tie votes, both or all nominees receiving the tie votes may be awarded the Shurcliff Leadership Award. If there is only one recommendation for voting, the Board must vote by

majority to select the award recipient. If the majority is not carried, no award will be presented.

7. The Margaret H. Shurcliff Leadership Award is announced at the upcoming Festival/Conference and in the Area 1 newsletter following the Festival.

Note: The Procedure shown here is a synopsis of the Procedure and Timetable sections of the Area 1 Board's Margaret H. Shurcliff Leadership Award document located on Area 1's website.



THE NOMINATION FORM

Note: The following text is taken directly from the official Nomination Form available online in Reader (.pdf) format. Do not use the text from this newsletter to submit your nomination.

To the Nominator: Thank you for taking on an important task in the life of Handbell Musicians of America. As the Nominator of a present, former or deceased Area 1 member for the Margaret H. Shurcliff Leadership Award, you may be contacted by a member of the Leadership Award Committee with request(s) for additional supportive information to assist the Committee in its work. Although secrecy is not always easy, we hope that the presentation of any awards emanating from this process will be a complete surprise to the recipient(s) or close family members. Presumably, you are nominating someone whom you know (knew) quite well, so that providing the necessary documentation to justify the award for your nominee is well within your ability.

*Please download
and complete the
NOMINATION FORM
from Area 1's [website](#)*

You are free to seek assistance from others (e.g., family, close friends, et al), should that be helpful or necessary.

The criteria for receiving the Margaret Shurcliff Leadership Award are published with the Nomination Form. Please review these thoughtfully as you prepare your package in support of your nominee. There are two major categories of service that either separately or together require detailed documentation of exemplary contribution to handbell ringing to justify

receiving the Margaret Shurcliff Leadership Award at this time. The award, if any, will be presented at the Biennial Meeting held during the next Area 1 Festival/Conference.

The more thoroughly you can research the background of your nominee, the better the Committee will be able to judge the merits of his/her nomination. Although there are no particular requirements, documentation may include resumes, testimonial letters of support, published works, etc. As appropriate, such material will be considered confidential.

For reasons of confidentiality, all documents submitted will be destroyed at the conclusion of the nomination process, so please send no original documents of any kind unless there are other copies in existence (e.g., resumes, curriculum vitae, etc.). Only one copy of each item need be sent—the Leadership Award Committee Chair will provide working copies to the rest of the Committee.

(continued on page 14)

Festival /Conference 2015



JUNE
25-28



2015



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 1

Why You Want To Be There...

- The Directors
- The Agape Ringers
- The Instructors
- The People



We are excited to welcome Chicago's premier handbell ensemble, the Agape Ringers, as the guest ensemble for our Festival's opening concert. In addition to offering a dazzling performance, the ringers will share their handbell expertise with you in our Conference offerings.

Agape Ringers
Director David
Weck will lead our
own Coppers and
Bronze Festival
Choirs



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

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Bell Choir Director

Handbell Director needed, teaching role to 10-12 member intergenerational choir of 3 octaves with limited experience in small, growing Protestant church, Foxboro, MA; Sept to May or June position with 30-35 weeknight, one-hour rehearsals, probably Monday evenings at 7 pm but flexible, and 4-5 Sunday morning ringing sessions; ideal candidate will have bell knowledge and strong directing skills; Stipend salary, \$1500 to \$2000 commensurate with experience and duration of ringing year; Office@lcor.org or call 508-543-4071.

FESTIVAL CONFERENCE 2015

Pre-register your ensemble for Festival Conference 2015 now at <http://tinyurl.com/Area1FC2015> to receive curriculum details and registration instructions for you group when they are released in December. Attendee Registration will open on February 1, 2015.



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

Fundamental Tone

is a publication of the **Handbell Musicians of America Area 1**

It is published four times per year from Keene, NH, Lauré Mackey, Editor

Editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org

Publication date is the first Monday in **February, May, August, and November**. Editorial copy and advertisements are 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%).