

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXX, No. 2

May 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

[May 9, 2015](#)

Connecticut Spring Ring
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Bristol, CT

[May 19, 2015](#)

Boston Handbell Festival
Old South Church
Boston, MA

[June 25-28, 2015](#)

Festival/Conference 2015
UMASS Amherst, MA

[October 23-25, 2015](#)

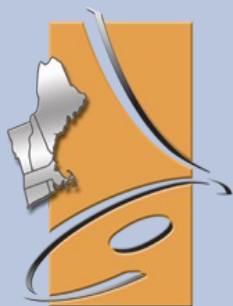
Coppers' Classic
Red Lion at the Quay
Vancouver, WA

[June 23-26, 2016](#)

Friends & Family Handbell Camp
Oceanwood Conference Center
Ocean Park, ME

[July 26-30, 2016](#)

17th Int'l Handbell Symposium
Vancouver, Canada



Area 1

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...



After a long and difficult winter for all of us, I am so pleased to say Happy Spring to all of you! The daffodils are blooming, the grass is turning green, and we can all look forward to more hours of daylight, warmer temperatures, and a welcome respite from shoveling! Planning our Spring Rings and Skill Building Workshops is a sure way to beat the winter doldrums, and once again, these events have been very successful. There is still one Spring Ring left – so if you haven't been able to attend the Massachusetts or Vermont events, head to Connecticut on May 9. The Boston Handbell Festival will be held at Old South Church in Boston on May 19 at 8PM, and look for new Skill Building Workshops this coming fall and next spring, when our focus will be on conducting and solo/ensemble ringing.

Registrations are rolling in for Festival/Conference 2015 – at last count we have more than 400 registrants! Paul Contrastano and his team have planned a great four day event with some new course offerings (like steel drums!) – Area 1's Festival/Conference is legendary, and we have people coming from not just Area 1 but from other states (Kansas, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, Illinois) and other countries (Iceland!). It promises to be a great event and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone to UMASS in June.

Please join me in offering a huge thank you to Martha Goodman who chaired the 2015 Directors' Seminar. We were honored to have Brian Childers with us who shared his perspectives on conducting, arranging, and managing a bell program with us. Looking ahead in 2015 beyond Festival Conference, the High School Ring Out will return on November 14 to Wheeler School in Rhode Island and the clinician will be Kim Strepka. Look for more information on that event later this spring/summer. And in the summer of 2016 we will welcome back Family Handbell Camp at Oceanwood Camp and Conference Center on the shore in Ocean Park, Maine. Dan Moore and Ed Henderson are working very hard behind the scenes organizing this event and planning will ramp up this summer after Festival Conference. Check out the [Facebook](#) page for this event!

Your Area 1 Board wants to know what events are important for you and your ringers as we plan for 2016 and beyond. It may be time to tweak

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

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some of our events, eliminate some, or plan new ones and we need your help to do that. To that end, we have developed a brief survey on our events which can be found on our [website](#) – please take a few moments to help us out and complete it so we can ensure we are planning events that meet the needs of Area 1. If you'd like a hard copy of the survey, please contact one of us on the Board and we will provide that to you.

On the National level, I hope to see some of you at Pinnacle in Dallas in July. Next year's National Seminar will be relatively closer to home – Rochester, New York. So start planning now! The International Symposium will also be in North America in the summer of 2016 in Vancouver, Canada. On a more local note, September of 2015 has been designated Handbell Month, and as such National hopes to target churches with dormant bells by offering free "start a bell program" workshops in each area on a Saturday in September. National will develop the curriculum for these workshops, and is asking areas to host these events by securing a site and faculty that we hope to announce before Festival Conference. They hope to partnership with Handbell Industry Council, and will market it as a free event to AGO and Choristers Guild members. The ultimate goal will be new memberships. We will post the information as to location and date on the [website](#) as soon as we have it confirmed, so keep your eyes open.

I hope you have been enjoying our monthly spotlights of different handbell groups throughout our area that we have been featuring on our website. Please remember to keep sharing your pictures and news of your events with us – a dynamic website and social media presence is so important in this technological age! Items for the website can be sent to our [Webmaster Pete Larson](#); Facebook postings can be sent to Pete or to [me](#). And directors - encourage your ringers to take advantage of the sub membership program and enjoy its benefits, such as the online edition of "Overtones." This is a great way to get people involved in our world of handbell ringing – I can speak from personal experience that if someone had not given me a gift membership many years ago, I would never have become as active in handbells as I currently am. Spread the word!

By the time you read this, our elections will be over and we will have a new Chair Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary which will be announced at Festival/Conference. This will be my last column as Chair – Martha Goodman will take over as of July 1. It has been an honor to serve as Chair for the past two years and work with such wonderful people dedicated to promoting and advancing our musical art form both in Area 1 and nationally – I have enjoyed meeting many of you at events or concerts and I look forward to meeting many more of you at Festival/Conference. Let's continue to set the standard for others to follow in Area 1 – "where it all began!"

Happy ringing!
Sue Wilber, Area 1 Chair

Free Education Tool - Spread the Word Chime Loaner Program

3 octave set of chimes. Fantastic educational materials, including "Ring, Dance, Play" by Griff Gall and Paul Weller and "From Voice to Hands" by Sandra Eithun.

Eligibility: schools (all grades), churches, and community programs.

Visit: www.area1.handbellmusicians.org/chime-loan-program or email chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org

Coppers' Classic

Do you LOVE playing handbells? Do you want to advance to the next level of ringing? Then Coppers' Classic is for you! Experience a weekend of ringing that will inspire, educate and motivate you to become all that you can be as a handbell musician.

October 23-25, 2015

Red Lion at the Quay, Vancouver WA

go to Area-10.97048.info click on the *Coppers' Classic* link

Position open

Handbell director for Level 3-4 church choir.

Duties and responsibilities: Weekly rehearsals (September-May), ring during worship service 1-2 times per month, up to 10 concerts per year, attendance at Area 1 F/C, select and order music, coordinate music selections with Pastor and Director of Music, maintain 5 octaves of Schulmerich bells and 4 octaves of Melody Chimes. Salary dep. on experience. Audition required. Send resume to: First Baptist Church of Westwood, 808 High St., Westwood, MA 02090. Phone: 781-461-1730. Email: office@fbcwestwood.org (Music Director/Organist/Chancel Choir Director position also open.)



Even the simplest handbell music requires focus, precision, and the infamous "hive mind" - the intuition that handbell musicians must possess that allows thirteen ringers to become one instrument.

"...the driving, relentless energy of the forces of nature, both terrifying and majestic, are brought to bear with fearsome force, but also with dancing exuberance."

MVR's Spring 2015 tour "Tempest: From Basics to Bronze" is a collection of original handbell works, incorporating almost every major technique. MVR members will highlight the versatility of handbells, pull back the curtain to show audiences a bit of what goes on behind the table, and share stories and noteworthy moments from MVR's nearly 13 years together. Visit our website for concert dates and venues!



HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS

<i>Chair</i>	Sue Wilber (202.288.5847) <i>chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Chair-Elect</i>	Martha Goodman (508.928.2078) <i>chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Past Chair</i>	Jean Degan (860.543.3638) <i>pastchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	Joan Fossum (603.224.0866) <i>secretary.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Sue Chamberlin (603.463.1372) <i>treasurer.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

APPOINTED OFFICERS

<i>Festival 2015</i>	Paul Contrastano (860.877.4608)
<i>Chair</i>	<i>fcchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
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<i>Webmaster</i>	Peter Larson <i>webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
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<i>Chime Loaner</i>	Holly Cerullo
<i>Chair</i>	<i>chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Lauré Mackey <i>editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Education</i>	Carlene Ruesenberg <i>education.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

STATE CHAIRS

<i>Connecticut</i>	Mobby Larson (860.464.7593) <i>ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Maine</i>	Sue Evans (508.982.7992) <i>me.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Massachusetts</i>	Gail Granum (508.595.9011) <i>ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Carol Seely <i>nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>
<i>Vermont</i>	Pat Pranger (802.446.2066) <i>vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org</i>

REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



CONNECTICUT SPRING RING

The CT Spring Ring will be held on Saturday, May 9, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Bristol. Spring Ring will have two workshop slots during the day, two massed ring rehearsals, and a concert in the afternoon. Participants will need to bring their own lunches, but coffee and snacks will be available for those who arrive early!

Lawrence Berdensem will be our clinician for the Massed Ring. He is currently the Band Director at West Side Middle School, Groton, CT. He has taught band for the Groton Public School system since 1985, where he has served as an elementary school band director before being appointed to Fitch Middle School in 1991. Larry began ringing handbells with Jane Nolan in 2002 and currently rings with the Shoreline Ringers, a community based handbell ensemble in southeastern Connecticut. He has been directing handbells since 2004 and has been the handbell director at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, in Gales Ferry, Ct. His music ministry has included two youth ensembles, an adult choir, as well as an adult and teen quartet.

In January 2012, Lawrence became the director of the Hockanum Valley Ringers, a five octave community

handbell ensemble based in Vernon, CT. Larry has been a clinician throughout Area 1 at Festival Conferences, Director's Seminar, the CT Spring Rings, and the Fall Skill Building Workshops. Larry holds a B.S. in music education from the University of Connecticut (Storrs) and an M.S. in education from Southern Connecticut State University.

Two of the three selections for the Massed Ring, as well as the piece for the Copper level workshop are selections from Festival Conference music.

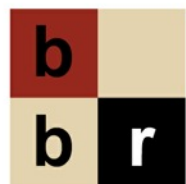
Massed Ring selections:

- § Steal Away –Sandra Eithun: MCGB775, 3-6 oct., L2+
- § An Expression of Joy–John Behnke MAG35300, 3-5 oct., L2+
- § Great is the Lord—arr. By Douglas E. Wagner, MLC201356L, 3-5 oct., L2+

Copper Level workshop selection:

- § Allegro con Moto–Jason Krug MGIG8073, 3-5 oct., L3+

See you soon!
Mobby Larson, CT Chair
ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org



back bay ringers

Boston's community handbell ensemble



Childhood Memories

June 7 at 2:00 p.m. June 19 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church First Congregational Church
Hanover, MA Melrose, MA



**BOSTON
HANDBELL
FESTIVAL**

Tuesday, May 19, 8:00 p.m.
Old South Church, Boston, MA

Participating choirs in the ninth annual BHF include:

BACK BAY RINGERS
HANCOCK CARILLON
MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS
NEW ENGLAND RINGERS
OLD SOUTH RINGERS

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

REPORT FROM MAINE



Greetings, handbell ringers and a welcome hello to Spring. The Fundamental Tone newsletter provides a great opportunity for me to keep in touch with you and all of Area 1 to share what is happening in Maine. For this issue I have chosen to report on the activities and latest meeting of the Maine Spring Ring Steering Committee. I am delighted to report that significant progress has been made on the **April 9, 2016** Maine Spring Ring. Our last committee meeting was held on April 10, 2015 with the following members present: Jean Venziano, Jenifer Harrington, Amy Rollins, Dan Evans, Gail Kelly, Ray Cornils, Laura Begenwald, and me.

The meeting began with a discussion of the site choice. Jean reported on the pros and cons of the top choices and the committee voted to move forward with the Winthrop Public Schools. Jean described them as very welcoming of this event and open to our needs for a catered lunch, use of cafeteria, gym, chairs, tables, and classrooms. Jean and Jenifer will be meeting with the Winthrop folks on April 28 to determine whether we will be using the High School or the Middle School, to view the actual site, and to confirm the terms of a contract for rental or use of the school facilities. Since this will be a Handbell Musicians of America endorsed event, our insurance needs will be covered by the Guild.

In addition, I reported that we had received an enthusiastic response from Peter Coulombe of Old South Ringers to be our conductor for this event. Further discussion on fees, expenses, and massed ring music selections, both tins and copers, will be formalized at the next committee meeting on June 12.

Workshop possibilities were also considered beginning with a review of the workshops offered in 2012. Other potential clinicians were identified for possible contact, and topics such as rhythm, reading, and solo ringing were added to the list of suggested options. Our own committee members, Gail Kelly and Amy Rollins, will offer workshops on games in the classroom and tools for organizing your music library. It was also suggested that those of us who would be attending the Festival Conference at UMASS Amherst in June, might pick up some ideas for potential workshops or clinicians.

The registrars for this event will be Laura and Joe Begenwald. The committee reviewed the idea of using Constant Contact as our registration tool. Since this program is used by Area 1 for all of its events, we would be able to use it under the umbrella of Area 1 and have the availability of help from the Area 1 Board in the initial set up and use. All ringers may register for this event, date to be determined, under the Handbell Musicians of America membership number of any member of their choir. A reduced price for early registrants will be part of that registration process as well.

Also discussed was the cost of the event per ringer. Maine is currently the most expensive Spring Ring in New England. It was acknowledged that our event attendance is lower than Massachusetts or Connecticut, and Maine offers workshops in addition to the concert, both of which influence the cost per attendee. Every effort will be made to keep that cost down. Also recognized was the need to have the information, including date, place, cost, and music identified before the beginning of September so that choirs have time to purchase and

prepare music as well as engage in any fund raising activities that may be needed.

The topic of getting the word out generated an idea from Amy Rollins, our marketing chair, who suggested we might look into placing a "Save the Date" ad in the Festival Conference program. Since all conference attendees will have a program to use and take home, this made sense. Following that meeting, I contacted the Festival Conference program chair and we are on track for taking out a half page ad. Amy has done a beautiful job in designing the ad, which will feature an outline of the state, the Spring Ring date, location, and conductor.

Dan Evans reported on the vendors who will be invited to exhibit including "The Glove Tree," tables for community handbell choirs and summer music camps, area businesses, handbell specialty companies, and the very popular massage therapists. He will also look into a shirt vendor who would print up a Maine Spring Ring 2016 logo for those who wish to purchase one.

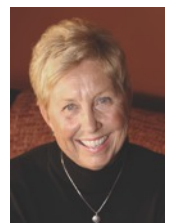
An innovative idea was reviewed which would offer an opportunity for bell choirs to bring music to the event which they are no longer using. This donated music would be placed on a "Music Swap Table." The details of how this would work, without requiring excessive administration, will need to be determined. Ideas are welcome.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on June 12 at the home of Jenifer Harrington in Manchester, Maine. The agenda will include development of the budget and a review of the suggested massed ring music. These meetings are open to any interested ringers or directors who might like to be involved. Please note that we will need some folks to help out in addition to the committee, and our plan is to develop a task list which will identify specific responsibilities to be shared.

We are certainly blessed with some very enthusiastic volunteers serving on this committee and I am personally grateful for their energy, wisdom, and generous giving of their time. So if you would like to become more involved in the work of this committee in any way, we welcome your thoughts and participation.

E.C. McKenzie in his collection of Quips and Quotes says: *"basis for happiness: something to do, something to love, something to look forward to."*

Sue Evans
Maine State Chair



REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



May is here in Massachusetts, and, with it, *S-p-r-i-n-g!*

There's a lot of wonderful music going on in the Commonwealth and several bell choirs have offered their news for the May issue of Fundamental Tone. I'm encouraging communication between bell groups, so may I suggest that you please read and respond to these groups to show your spirit of support?

From David Lussier, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford, MA, papaskwidd@gmail.com

Bjallerklängen from Trinity Lutheran Chelmsford is gearing down for the end of this bell season. However, the group does have two events upcoming. The first being Trinity Talent Show Nite, which is a combined fundraiser for social ministry, on May 3, and our annual Trinity Fest community picnic party in late May. We had a great time at the Spring Ring where we debuted an arrangement done by J. Kace, a ringer in our choir. To all our bell family out there, happy summer!

From Richard Hill, Unity Church UU, North Easton, MA, rwsnhill@verizon.net

The Handbells of Unity Church UU North Easton will be performing in their annual spring concert at Unity Church 13 Main Street, North Easton, MA, on Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. The concert is dedicated to the memory of Ruth Ashley who for many years was professor of music at Lowell State University. Ruth revised her sister's handbells at St. Mark in Dorchester and together with Unity Church handbells they began several years ago holding fall and spring concerts together. Organist and Handbell Conductor Richard Hill and soprano Susan Maffa will also perform. The concert is free and open to the public. A supper will be served following the performance. All are invited.

From Katherine Murcko, Christ the King Church, Holliston, MA, klmmurcko@gmail.com

As I ready myself to say goodbye to yet another graduating bellringer, I have been reflecting on the wonderful experience of directing and ringing alongside young adults. I direct handbells at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Holliston, MA, and play bells at the First Congregational Church, also in Holliston, under the direction of Karen McCue.

It strikes me how vital these young members are to our bell choirs. Karen and I have been blessed throughout the years with talented students who, despite homework, sports, and after school jobs, ring bells throughout their school years. These young bellringers are the ones who are always ready for a new

challenge. We have had young adults who have not only played at church services, but who have also participated in concerts, ensembles, solos, and Area 1 events. We have had students who directed, arranged, and written bell music. Many of our young ringers are students of additional instruments and have accompanied bell songs on occasion.

Of course, the day comes when we have to let them go. Yes, he or she will be back to play bells during the holidays, but their presence will be missed during those weekly rehearsals. My consolation is in seeing that next group of kids grow up with the program and the hope that those who have grown up and moved on will have a lifetime love of handbells and music.

From Karen Leonard, Merrimack Valley Ringers, Chelmsford, MA, wcumckel@aol.com

Merrimack Valley Ringers Spring Tour is "Tempest: From Basics to Bronze." Tempest -- a ferocious storm or a dance of nature? The 2015 MVR spring repertoire includes original works for handbells that showcase the complex art of handbell ringing. Ringers will highlight the many techniques that are used to produce the instrument's unique sound and exemplify its versatility. We'll also share stories and noteworthy moments about how we prepare for a concert tour, along with other tidbits from when we're not behind the table. Concerts are scheduled throughout MA and NH and listed on our [website](#), as well as the Area 1 website. We hope to see you at one of them!

From Thom Dutton, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Harwichport, MA, and Wellfleet Congregational Church, Wellfleet, MA capecsidemusic@comcast.net

The Pilgrim Congo Handbell Choir was begun in 1990 as a 3 octave group. I've been the director since 10/1999. During that time, we have grown to a 5 octave group. We have 5 octaves of Schulmerich bells and 3 octaves of Malmark chimes. I have 14 steady ringers and 1 permanent sub. Our only real spring news is that we will be giving a concert on Fri, June 5 at 7:30 p.m. Classical to Contemporary - Sacred to Secular.

I am also the director of a 2 octave chime choir at the Wellfleet Congo Church. We have 2 octaves of Suzuki chimes. I have 5 ringers who have been together now for about a year and a half.

There have been rumors floating around for a couple of weeks about bringing back our massed rings. We used to do Spring Rings. I think the last one was in the spring of 1999. The Cape Cod Council of Churches is looking for interdenominational activities and someone suggested the massed ring. Work to be done!

(continued on page 7)

MA STATE NEWS...
(continued from page 6)

**From Laurie Austin, Communications Director,
Back Bay Ringers, Boston, MA**
laustin@backbayringers.org

With "childhood" at the center of Back Bay Ringers' spring concert season, we have tried to reach beyond the traditional concert setting to share our music. On Saturday, April 25, we kicked off the season at the Cambridge Science Festival by presenting "The Science of Handbells," a family program designed to connect the art and the science of ringing. BBR member and materials scientist Cade Murray helped students of all ages understand concepts such as sound waves and metallurgy as the choir played music demonstrating different techniques and sounds handbells and Choirchimes are capable of making. We were pleased to be awarded a generous grant from the Cambridge Arts Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council to support this program.

On Tuesday, May 19 we'll co-host the ninth annual Boston Handbell Festival at Old South Church, bringing together five community choirs under the direction of guest conductor Ed Henderson of the New England Ringers. Thanks to the generous donations of those attending last year's festival, we will once again be presenting a set of Choirchimes to a Boston-area school for use in a music education program.

You'll be nostalgic for your youth during our spring "Childhood Memories" concerts. Join us on Sunday, June 6 at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Hanover, MA, and on Friday, June 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church in Melrose, where all proceeds will go toward Bread of Life. Our season ends on Saturday, June 20 at the Boston Hubbub festival, a new festival for children, where we will perform from 3:30-4 p.m. on Copley Square. Stop by and say hello!

From Bonnie Brenner, Federated Church, Orleans, MA,
brennerb@hotmail.com

The Federated Church in Orleans has been in existence for about 25 years. This is my third year directing the choir. Besides ringing once a month for the services, we perform in a concert in December and perform for assisted living and other nursing homes in Orleans and the area. We own 5 octaves and would like to be able to use them all, however I only have 9 ringers. The ensemble developed this year to become very musical and accomplished playing level 3 pieces quite well.

From Norma Atwood, South Yarmouth United Methodist Church, South Yarmouth, MA,
villagemusic@mindspring.com

The South Yarmouth United Methodist Church on Cape Cod has a 10-member bell choir known as the Sanctuary Bell Choir that has been performing for about 8 years. The members rehearse every Monday evening 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Parish Hall and play every fourth Sunday and special occasions from September through June in the Sanctuary. We have a 3 octave set of Schulmerich bells and chimes that are often combined for certain pieces or played separately. Norma Atwood is the Director of Music and Bell Director of these beautiful and spirited players who so joyfully share their time and talents in the pursuit of sharing the beauty of handbell music. Glad to join the parade of players here on the Cape!

From Lynn Masson, Chair, Massachusetts Spring Ring, Tewksbury, MA,
wmasson@verizon.net

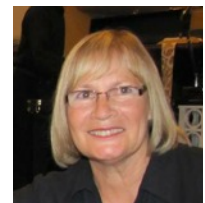
233 RINGERS ATTEND 2015 MA SPRING RING

When the MSR Committee had to change the date to Palm Sunday weekend because of a conflict at Tewksbury High School, we worried that it would reduce the participation. But that worry proved unfounded. This year's Spring Ring was a wonderful success with the most number of participants and a full audience for the final concert. Andy Wallace was very well received as our clinician. It was a full day of rehearsals, camaraderie and fun.



Plans have already begun for next year's MA Spring Ring. It will be the 30th anniversary since its founding, and we're hoping to make it extra special. Karen Leonard and Ed Henderson, the original organizers, will be co-clinicians. The repertoire will reprise some of our favorites from prior years. We'll publicize it in early fall so ensembles will be able to include the selections in their own program year. The MSR Committee could use more volunteers. Let Lynn Masson at wmasson@verizon.net know if you are interested.

Gail Granum
Massachusetts State Chair



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



Save The Dates

June 23 - 26, 2016

AREA 1's Friends and Family

Handbell Camp is BACK!

Oceanwood Camp & Conference Center

Ocean Park, Maine

Check it out on [Facebook](#) and watch the next issues of Fundamental Tone!



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 1

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

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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%).



17TH INTERNATIONAL
HANDBELL SYMPOSIUM
JULY 26–30, 2016
VANCOUVER, CANADA

AN INVITATION FROM CANADA TO THE WORLD!

In July 2016, hundreds of handbell musicians from around the world will travel to beautiful Vancouver, Canada for the 17th International Handbell Symposium. We want you to be among them!

OUR LOCATION Vancouver is one of the world's most beautiful cities and a prime tourist destination for people the world over. It is superbly situated for travel from Pacific Rim countries as well as easily accessible to all North American ringers. British Columbia also has strong ties to its British and European forebears. We look forward to welcoming handbell musicians from all around the world to this "Jewel on the Pacific" that has so much to offer.

Our venue is the Vancouver Convention Centre. Surrounded by the mountains and located on the waterfront at Canada Place in the heart of beautiful downtown Vancouver, the VCC (www.vancouverconventioncentre.com) is an award-winning facility. It opened in July 1987 after originally serving as the Canada Pavilion at Expo '86. Since its inception, the facility has demonstrated a constant commitment to service excellence, technical capabilities, and creative, high-quality banqueting.



OUR THEME Canada's rich aboriginal history and culture, combined with Vancouver's reputation for leadership in sustainability and environmentalism, has provided the ideal focus for this event. Honouring the ancestors of this land, including the aboriginal ways of knowing and being within an environment, has encouraged us to explore the many complementary ways that First Peoples cultures and environmental sustainability intertwine and connect within

community. We plan on a high level of involvement of Canada's First Peoples and integration of Canadian aboriginal history and culture throughout the event. We look forward to other nations sharing the sounds of their lands and lives of their peoples at IHS2016.

Our title, "Soundings," has many faceted, rich associations. The musical association is clear, but the word also evokes thoughts of depth, fullness, resonance (all of which relate nicely to the handbell idiom), as well as observations of the environment and/or water. It evokes the Aboriginal peoples' connection to the natural world, as well as connecting to meaningful ideas in terms of musical depth and the fullness of musical sound of many ringers playing together—a sense of world community. Its relevance to both music and envi-



ronment gives a great deal of scope for composition and will come into play in many other ways during the event as well.

OUR LOGO Coast Salish artist Chris Paul designed the SOUNDINGS logo. It is rich in imagery and captures so well the many facets of our theme: music, community, the environment. Blue for water and sky, the bell and its reflection representing earth and sea, musical sound and echo (reverberation), the present and our history. The eagle — a symbol of grace,

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power and great intellect (all important for handbell ringers!) — enwraps the bell, as the handbell community reaches around the globe. And in one further image emphasizing “community”, the upper eagle shares the ‘clapper’ of the bell with its reflection.

Chris Paul is gaining international acclaim for his limited edition giclee prints, cedar panels, and glass sculptures, and has also gained exposure through the hit television series “Grey’s Anatomy,” in which a number of his prints have been featured. Learn more about him at www.chrispaul.ca.

THE IHS ROTATION

Since 1984, the location of the International Handbell Symposium has rotated among the six members of the International Handbell Committee (America, Japan, Great Britain, Korea, Canada, Australasia). In 2010, Hong Kong was admitted to membership in the IHC; its place in the rotation will be added at the end of the current cycle. Other countries are requesting admission to the IHC so it may be at least 2022 before the IHS is again on North American soil and so easy to get to. You don’t want to miss this opportunity! For 2016 we extend a particular invitation to handbell musicians from many other countries not represented by a national guild—all are welcome!

ON-LINE In keeping with the focus on environmental stewardship, our aim is to make this event as “Green” as possible. Wherever possible, communication will be by electronic means rather than by mailed hard copy. Our website, www.ihs2016vancouver.ca, is now live. Check out our promotional video on the front page! We also have an active Facebook presence: www.facebook.com/IHS2016Vancouver. Please “Like” and “Share” our page!

REGISTRATION Registration will open on our website in the spring of 2015, and you will be able to book accommodations at that point, as well. We will offer a good selection of hotels at a variety of price points. Registration will be handled on-line (subject to the instructions of your national guild), and if you so choose, you will be able to pay with your credit card. A big advantage if you have a card with a loyalty program!

Early-Bird registration is \$1085 CDN. The Canadian dollar is low right now in comparison to many other major currencies. At the time of writing, the USD equivalent is approx. \$950.

We all agree that handbell events are fantastic opportunities to meet with old and new musical friends and share our passion for ringing. An international symposium takes that connection to new heights. How exciting to make friends from around the world, and know that you can meet them again in two years in another corner of the world! Canadian handbell musicians are so excited to host these world-travelling musicians and to share our beautiful country with them.



“Haven’t you just been waiting for an invitation to come here?” Consider yourself invited — See you in 2016!



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