

FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXXI, No. 3

August 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

SKILL BUILDING WORKSHOPS

October 15 Greenfield, MA
Clinician: Diantha Dorman

October 22 Cumberland, ME
Clinicians:
Sue Evans & Amy Rollins

October 22 Andover, MA
Clinician: Carlene Ruesenberg

October 29 Gales Ferry, CT
Clinician: Jean Degan

All dates – 9:00 AM check-in
Workshop 9:30 AM-1:45 PM

HIGH SCHOOL RINGOUT

Saturday, November 12, 2016
Dunbarton Elementary School
Dunbarton, NH

WINTER WORKSHOP

January 29 & 30, 2016
UMASS Amherst

June 29 - July 2, 2017
Festival/Conference 2017
UMASS Amherst
Amherst, MA



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...



Greetings Area 1! Here we are at the end of summer. As always, it has just whizzed by, but it's been incredibly eventful and I'd like to catch everyone up as well as set the stage for the fall. We've got a lot planned to get everyone back into "ringing mode!"

First, I'd like to mention three notable events over the summer. Right in our own backyard was the revival of the Friends and Family Handbell Camp, organized by Dan Moore and Ed Henderson, which happened at the end of June at Oceanwood Park in Maine. The event was an absolute success! Everyone had a great time and the event concluded with a well-attended final concert. Dan summarized it nicely, "if you haven't seen the hundreds photos and videos on FB, take time to do that; the spirit was infectious!" We are already looking at returning to Oceanwood in 2018. Camp is back and here to stay!

Area 1 was also active on the National and International handbell scenes! The 17th International Handbell Symposium was held in Vancouver, WA and Area 1's own Bill & Jean Degan, Karen Leonard, Susan Schultz, and Barbara King attended. Another great event was the annual National Seminar, this time held right here in the Northeast in Rochester, NY. Area 1 had a tremendous presence including Dan Moore and Karen Leonard on the faculty and the Back Bay Ringers performing a stunning showcase concert. Apart from the all the incredible performances and top-notch workshops and classes, I had wonderful chats with many other leaders, directors, and ringers from around the country. The National Board provided Area leadership with updates on the state of the Guild and moderated a working session to tackle and solve the most important issues that we as Areas of HMA face. It was a very productive and insightful meeting.

Next, I'd like to highlight the exciting lineup of events we have planned for this fall. Area 1 is hosting several locations for National's "Back to Bells" workshops. These free workshops are designed to reinvigorate handbell programs in communities all across the country by providing a "Handbells 101" overview. If you or someone you know is wondering how to get your bells out of your closet and back into the hands of eager ringers or if you just want a basic refresher on ringing, head over to National's website to find a location near you and register. For your younger ringers, be sure to check out the details for this year's High School Ringout, led by Connecticut's Andy Wallace at Dunbarton Elementary School in NH on November 12. And as we look toward next summer's Festival Conference 2017, we're offering four skill-building workshops in October which will focus on the Festival repertoire. Ringers can get a head-start on learning the music and directors can get insights on how to approach the music from both sides of the ringing table. Look for details on page 9 in this issue.

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Finally, I want to provide you with a few updates from the Area 1 board. I'd like to announce that the long-vacant position of Rhode Island State Chair has been filled by Donna Horan of the Jubilate Ringers from East Greenwich! I'm very much looking forward to having Donna's fresh perspective, energy, and passion for bells on the board. Our Technology Committee, led by Chair-Elect Carlene Ruesenberg has been hard at work to identify ways in which we can streamline our use of technology. We are looking to fully utilize the Google services that already power our HMA email accounts to more effectively collaborate in content creation and meeting and event scheduling. Lastly, we are finalizing the new Communications Director position job description. We will be approving this description during our September board meeting, so look for more info in the next Fundamental Tone issue.

As we begin our fall music season, please remember to keep in touch by reaching out to any of the board members, including your state chairs and appointed officers. You can email any of us directly (contact info in any issue of Fundamental Tone or our website) or find us on Facebook on the official Area 1 page @HMAarea1. We would love to hear from you! Tell us what you're up to and what how we can better support you in your ringing endeavors.

See you at workshops and concerts this fall!

Krishna Ersson, Chair
Handbell Musicians of America, Area 1

So long, but not goodbye...

Sadly, I will be stepping down as the Area 1 newsletter editor and this will be my last issue. Some of you know the health struggles within my family, and it is now time to devote all of my energy there.

I have enjoyed my time as editor, and I thank all of the current and past Area 1 Board Members for their support and dedication to our area and to National. These are truly remarkable men and women dedicated to promoting the growth of the handbell community.

I have no doubt the new editor will keep you supplied with the news and goings-on for Area 1.

Until we meet again, Happy Ringing!

Lauré Mackey
Area 1 Newsletter Editor

HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

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REPORT FROM VERMONT



After the round of spring concerts, VT Spring Ring and some early summer parades, the handbell ringers in Vermont have earned a nice vacation. The months of June-August don't bring much in the way of playing but behind the scenes there is plenty of action happening. New music is being ordered, handbells are being repaired and refurbished and ringers are being recruited.

The 2016 VT Spring Ring last April was a great success. The attendees in attendance chose from over 17 workshops and also spent an entire day learning from and playing under Michael Joy. The Ring is the culmination of a year's worth of planning and so this July the Directors from around the state were invited to gather to not only plan the 2017 Spring Ring but also the fall schedule of workshop offerings.

Spring Ring 2017 will be held April 28 & 29, 2017 in the Newport area with clinician Stephanie Wiltse. Considering that the Guild's National Seminar was held so close this year in Rochester, NY, many fellow ringers from Area 1 were in attendance. It was such a treat to run into so many old friends there and to also enjoy the wonderful Back Bay Ringers as one of the featured concerts. I was pleased to see 2 VT Directors along with one of their ringers there. But the biggest thrill was seeing the future of our profession and to cheer on two young VT members of the Distinctly Teen Choir. Way to go girls!!

Pat Pranger
Vermont State Chair
vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org



Distinctly Teen Choir





Handbell Camp! *Did I miss it?*

So sorry to disappoint those who missed it, but Area 1's Friends and Family Handbell Camp has come and gone, leaving a trail of good times, great ringing, new friends, and fond memories!

June 23 - 26 at the Oceanwood Camp and Conference Center in Ocean Park, Maine offered a perfect venue, perfect weather, great food, room to relax and learn, and an opportunity for ringers young and old to raise their handbell abilities. Here's what some campers wrote:

- "Loved the final concert at the temple. Wow! Great audience, too."
- "It really was great to be back at camp again and the fabulous weather didn't hurt either."
- "It was the best handbell event I have ever been to!"

But words alone cannot convey the joy of Handbell Camp - not the ocean, the ringing, the food, the ice cream parlor, the drumming, the door prizes, the Variety Show, nor the Final Concert..... **Please go to the fabulous collections of photos and videos [here](#) , and [here](#).**

And be sure to join us in 2018! Many thanks to our dedicated directors, David, Robin, Larry, and Ed, and Emily, Ronni, the *four* Susans, Mobby, Debra, Dan Evans, The Ocean Park

High School Ring-Out 2016

Date: November 12, 2016

Location: Dunbarton Elementary School,
20 Robert Rogers Road, Dunbarton, NH
03046

Contact person: Shelley Westenberg(DES)
and Tomi Salzmann
(tomiringem@gmail.com)

Clinician: Andrew Wallace, North Stonington, CT

Repertoire:

Resound by Karen Thompson, MCGB934

He's Got the Whole World by Valerie Stephenson, CGB739

Firework by Michael Glasgow, MHP2654

Winter Workshop 2017

Summer 2016 is barely here and we are talking Winter Workshop 2017???

There are a couple of things I would like to know from those people interested in possibly attending Winter Workshop 2017, which will be held at the Campus Center at UMass, Amherst February 3-4, 2017 with Stephanie Wiltse as our clinician. This is not intended to be solely a Director's Seminar. It is a workshop for ringers and directors alike.

I would be interested to know what kind of workshops you would like to see for this event. I would, also, like to know if there are any of you interested in teaching at this event. If you are interested, please send me the title of your workshop and a brief outline of what you would include in the class offering.

We had 54 in attendance this year, and we look forward to increasing the number for next year.

Thank you in advance for your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jane Nolan
Chairperson for Winter Workshop 2017
janesjazz@comcast.net

REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



CT News

Anybody going to the Big E in September? Wednesday, the 21st, is Connecticut Day; and we will be represented by a handbell choir that has been rehearsing all summer. Samantha Beschta (from Chime In—Music with a Mission) is directing, and St. Joseph's in Bristol has donated bells and rehearsal space. Steve Mazeau coordinated 15 ringers from five churches all over the state. They will be performing between 2:30 and 3:30 at the CT Pavillion. The program will have about 10 pieces, including "Fantasy on Kingsfold" (Wagner), "Wade in de Water" (Ingram), "Grazioso" (Sherman), and "Semper Paratis" (Wissinger). Stop by and see them. We are so proud to be represented!

Mark your calendars for CT Spring Ring 2017. It will be held on Saturday, March 25 at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. The school is on Rt 81 in Haddam and should be fairly central for most of our ringers. Andy Wallace is the clinician, and we are looking forward to working with him! The music has not yet been selected, but at least one selection will be one of the Festival Conference pieces.

This year we concentrated on the massed ringing pieces and did not offer technique workshops. I would love feedback on this: should we have workshops, and what would you like to have offered?

Happy ringing to all of you as you begin another program year!

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

VIRTUOSO

An Extraordinary Performance Experience

CLINICIAN:

Dr. William Payn

DATE:

Friday, June 9, 2017 -
Sunday, June 11, 2017

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, 2016. 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

REPORT FROM MAINE



This newsletter, the Fundamental Tone, is designed to share stories and information about the handbell world in each of the 6 New England states and the Canadian Maritimes. Although it is summer and most handbell choirs have taken a respite, there is still activity both current and future to report on. To begin with, this **PRESS RELEASE** was issued on May 26, 2016 and is a wonderful story about a handbell choir helping the restoration of a town landmark.

'Save Our Steeple' fund receives boost from handbell concert

Camden, Maine - Due to harsh weather and the effects of time, the Chestnut Street Baptist Church steeple has become structurally unsound. The Camden landmark has been home to the official town clock since 1868. Recent, significant foundation and framing work have stabilized major safety issues, but the steeple still requires extensive repairs. The church body has contributed a significant portion towards this effort, but funds are still needed to reach the committee's goal of raising a total of \$538,000 to complete the restoration project.

The Chestnut Street Baptist Church hosted the Penobscot Bay Ringers in concert on Saturday, May 14. The concert was a fundraising effort for the church's 'Save Our Steeple' Fund. The two groups were pleased to report that \$2,246 has been collected for the cause as a result of the concert. Steeple fundraising chairman, Jeff Foltz, received a ceremonial "big check" from some of the ringers at a recent committee meeting. "We are honored to have such wonderful musicians in our community who are willing to share their beautiful handbell music in support of Camden's iconic town landmark," said Foltz.

Penobscot Bay Ringers is a community handbell choir based in Camden. Founded in 2008, the group performs on five octaves of Malmark handbells and Choirchimes®. For more in-



Members of Penobscot Bay Ringers (L to R) Ann Walker, Leigh Smith, Amy Rollins, Grace Jameson, and Michelle Terry, present a ceremonial "big check" to Jeff Foltz (center), Chairman of the Save our Steeple committee. Not present: Susan Barnard, Debra Hall, Susan Jones, BJ Kopishke, Buffy Ludwick, Evelyn O'Connell, Fran Pan, and Cindy Schofield.

formation on the handbell choir, visit www.PenobscotBayRingers.me.

For more information about the project, visit www.SaveOurSteeple.com or call Chestnut Street Baptist Church at 207-236-2195.

Pine Tree Academy

Twenty-five years ago, following two Pine Tree Academy tours to South America, Doris Krueger, handbell choir director at Pine Tree Academy, was invited to start a handbell choir at Universidad Adventista del Plata, Entre Rios, Argentina; which she did, spending one month there. (Entre Rios is the state.) In another week she will be returning to Entre Rios for their 25th Alumni Handbell Choir Reunion. When ordering some bell parts and supplies to take to them, she asked Malmark if they knew of any other handbell groups in Argentina. They reported that this is the only one they knew of. Along with the bell parts and supplies, Doris is also taking them some new music and mallets. The group has been active with several changes of conductors over the years. Congratulations Doris on the wonderful and lasting outreach effort.

Rangeley Ringers

The Rangeley Ringers, an ecumenical handbell choir from the Rangeley area, is preparing for a solo concert on August 26th. The concert will take place at Church of the Good Shepherd at 7:00pm. Included in the concert will be popular selections such as "Ashokan Farewell", "Let There Be Peace on Earth", and "This Land Is Your Land", in addition to original pieces of music. Their new chimes will play a prominent role in the performance, and other techniques such as singing bell and mallets will also be featured.

The group recently purchased a 3-octave set of Malmark Tone Chimes to compliment their 3-octave set of handbells, and this event is the first fundraiser to pay off the loan. They also will be ringing at each of the 5 churches in Rangeley and Oquossoc between August and October.

Solo Handbell Concert

On July 27th, Sue Wilber, of Hamden, Connecticut, performed a solo handbell concert at Jordan Hall in Ocean Park, Maine. Accompanied by Jerry Scheinfeldt, the summer Music Director, Sue performed 13 pieces and awed the audience with her totally memorized program. One of the highlights of the concert was the performance of the well-known Leroy Anderson piece, *The Typewriter*, ably assisted by Sue Evans on typewriter and her husband Dan Evans on the desk bell. Many chuckles were heard from the audience each time the flamboyant carriage return was executed, followed immediately by the enthusiastically loud desk bell. Some of the pieces included in her program were: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee; There Is A Balm in Gilead, Annie Laurie, Amazing Love, Amazing Grace, Catalonian Carol, Song of Estonia, Glory Bound, Shall We Gather at the River, Morning from Peer Gynt Suite #1, A Friend for Life, Sway, and I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger*.

This was the third consecutive summer Sue Wilber has performed in Ocean Park and she has already been invited back for 2017.

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Volunteers Needed:

On another topic, we will be looking for volunteers for the Maine Spring Ring 2018 committee. We hope to have our first meeting in the Fall, but will do most of our work via email during the rest of the winter and Spring. Kindly volunteer to serve so that we can produce a first class Spring Ring. We already have our Registrar, Marketing Expert, Vendor Coordinator and Workshop Coordinator. However, we still need a co-chair, site coordinator and many small task oriented leadership positions. Please volunteer either alone or with a friend, so that the work can be evenly distributed among many.

In the meantime, if you have the answers to any or all of these questions, please send me your responses:

- Do you know of any bell choirs or directors who might like to have a mentor..... or who would like to be contacted by the state chair?
- Would you offer to be a mentor, or be able to suggest someone who might be a good mentor?
- Are you aware of any churches or schools who have bells that are not being used? Where?
- What kind of events would be helpful within the state for ringers and/or directors?

Fall Workshop

In addition, watch for news from Area I, Project Education. We are hoping to offer a workshop using the format of teaching/reviewing ringing techniques, and practicing them, using the Massed repertoire for Festival Conference 2017. The workshop will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at the Cumberland Congregational Church, UCC in Cumberland from 9:00 am – 1:45 pm. More details to follow.

The next issue of Fundamental Tone will be out in November. So please feel free to submit articles in the coming months about your bell choir activities or a featured ringer in your group.

My best,
Susan I. Evans, Maine State Chair
Area 1, Handbell Musicians of America
me.area1@handbellmusicians.com



Area 1 at National Seminar.

Fundamental Tone

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Editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org

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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%).

FESTIVAL/CONFERENCE 2017

Mark your calendars now for Festival Conference 2017! We will be returning to UMASS Amherst from June 29 to July 2 of 2017. Planning has already begun and here are some updates on our guests and repertoire:

- Our conductors will be Ed Rollins (currently the President of the National Board) and his wife Deb Carr. Ed will be leading the Coppers and Bronze; Deb will be working with the Tins and Massed groups.
- The opening concert will be the Columbia Handbell Ensemble from Columbia, MO directed by Ed Rollins.
- The repertoire has been set!

Coppers:

Toccata for a Joyous Day, Paul McKlveen L3, 3-5 oct. MJHS9280 (also digital direct DJHS9280)
King of Kings, arr. Ward – AGEHR - AG36046
Carol of the Birds, Deb Carr L4 4-6 oct. MAG45054

Bronze:

Visions of Peace, Karen Buckwalter, L4+ MBEHB438 with flute 3-6 oct
Allegro from Concerto in A minor, Bach/ Vivaldi/Gramann L5 5-7 oct MAG57021
Waltz from Masquerade Suite, Griffin L4+, 5-7 oct. MBEHB369=full score, MBEH369A=Choir 1, MBEH369B=Choir 2, MBEHB369C= Alternate Piano part for Choir 2
And All That Jazz, Nick Hanson L5 4-6 oct. MFM20492

Massed:

Psalm of Celebration, McChesney L3 3-5 oct Jeffers MJHS95383-5, MJHS9538BBrass Parts--
2 Bb or C trumpets, Horn in F, Trombone, Tuba, Timpani
MJHS9538FS Full Score/Organ Score
A New Gloria, Cathy Moglebust L3 3-5 oct MCGB213
America the Beautiful, Arnold Sherman 3-6 oct L3 MRRHB0002, MRRFS0002 Full Score,
MRRBP0002 Brass parts
Soon and Very Soon by Hart Morris L3+ 3-6 oct. MHP2274 (MHP2274P=bass and drum part)

Tins:

Tuya Es La Gloria, Susan (Nelson) Sylvester L2 3-5 oct. MAG35251
Danza, McChesney L1 2-3 oct MJHS9228 bells, MJHS9228B brass (brass part--2 Bb trumpets,
Horn in F, Trombone, Tuba, Timpani), MJHS9228K Keyboard
We Three Kings, Kinyon L1+ 2-3 oct MAP23152

Knowing music budgets are very tight, the repertoire committee made a concerted effort to include one piece in each division that has been played at past Area 1 Festival Conferences with the hopes that many of you still have those pieces in your library. And remember, Jeffers is still offering a discount on all of their music – get it early so you can program it in the upcoming year!

More details will be forthcoming in upcoming months. Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Sue Wilber

Chair, Festival Conference 2017

Email: events.area1@handbellmusicians.org



Skill Building Workshops - Fall 2016

Multiple sessions in October: choose a date that works for you

Sessions throughout New England: less travel!

Small class size: get the personal attention you need

When and Where and Who

Saturday, October 15 Greenfield, MA
Clinician: Diantha Dorman

Saturday, October 22 Cumberland, ME
Clinicians: Sue Evans & Amy Rollins

Saturday, October 22 Andover, MA
Clinician: Carlene Ruesenberg

Saturday, October 29 Gales Ferry, CT
Clinician: Jean Degan

All dates - 9:00 AM check-in
Workshop 9:30 AM-1:45 PM

Contact

Sue Chamberlin
Handbell Musicians of America, Area 1
suecham@metrocast.net
603-463-1372

What You'll Learn:

- How to identify and mark necessary changes of bells, techniques, dynamics, etc., within the workshop music
- How to properly execute the various techniques required in the music, and how to move from executing those techniques in isolation to successfully preparing for and playing them within the music
- How to put it all together and, by the conclusion of the workshop, play the music from beginning to end at a moderate skill level

Directors: 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)

Music for Workshop:

The music for this workshop is the Massed Ringing repertoire for Area 1 Festival/Conference 2017. You will get the most out of this workshop if you purchase your music ahead of time and look at it before you come to the workshop. Note: some of this music has been used previously at Area 1 events, and you may already have it in your bell choir library.

If you do not bring your own music to the workshop, we will have music available for you to use, but you might need to share with your neighbor and you will not be able to write on it unless you choose to purchase the music that day.

Music:

Psalm of Celebration, Kevin McChesnesy, L3 3-5 oct Jeffers MJHS9538

A New Gloria, Cathy Moglebust, L3 3-6 oct Choristers Guild MCGB213

America the Beautiful, Arnold Sherman, L3 3-6 oct Red River Music
MRRHB0002

Soon and Very Soon, Hart Morris L3+ 3-6 oct Hope Publishing MHP2274

Workshop Fee:

Members, \$20 (your, your director's, or your organization's membership number required)

Non-Members, \$35

Register NOW at area1.handbellmusicians.org

REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



BACK BAY RINGERS AT HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA NATIONAL SEMINAR

*Summertime, and the livin' is easy.
Fish are jumpin', and the cottonwood's high.*

George Gershwin's soulful jazz number is recognized as one of the most popular songs in the history of recorded music. Here's wishing you all a relaxing late-summer season.

FOURTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY REP READING / FALL WORKSHOPS

After another successful year last year we're holding this event once again in the lovely St. Matthew's facility. We'll have a variety of skill building and fun workshops in the morning followed by an afternoon of rep reading many new holiday selections as well as some oldies but goodies. Music will be available for purchase at a discount.

Mark your calendars for the first Saturday in October, 10/1, and plan to join us at the beautiful St. Matthews United Methodist Church of Acton. It's handy to find right off rte. 2 with plenty of parking. Come for the morning workshops or the afternoon rep reading or both. If you're coming for the day bring a bag lunch. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Watch for our postcard notification when the on-line registration is open. It's easy to get to, it's instructional and informative, and it's fun! See you there!

Lynn Masson, wmasson@verizon.net

SOUTHCOAST RINGERS, FALL RIVER, MA

The Southcoast Ringers, from the Second Half Lifelong Learning Institute, are spending their summer, not relaxing, but working on solo and duet ringing. In the fall we will share what we have mastered with a concert at a local Assisted Living Facility.

Diane Ennis, dgennis@comcast.net

SNAGASUB - see page 13 for the poster

ATTENTION DIRECTORS!!! You might find this SnagASub thing quite useful!!!... *especially if you* and not your ringers are responsible for finding subs! But ALSO if sometime you might need to find a (temporary!) replacement for yourself; (in the present number of 40 SnagASub "members", there are so far 13 directors.) We need more, many more, both directors and ringers, for this system to be really useful, so please encourage your ringers to hop on, too. Why not give it a try? We are now pooled from 4 or 5 states and experience has it that it's a lot of fun with no obligation.... you can sign on and just watch the action, or you can join the action by replying to a request for a sub if you're in the mood and/or have the time. Ta da! Email Cindy McLean-Greely, cmgconcord@gmail.com, with your name, preferred email address, affiliation (church? school?), name of choir, and whether you're a ringer or director. Phone number optional.

Back Bay Ringers was honored to be featured in a solo concert at National Seminar this July. The ensemble entertained the audience with a variety of handbell transcriptions and original works chronicling the history of handbell ringing in the United States, especially their origin right here in our own backyard on Boston's Beacon Hill. During the concert we were especially humbled to work with composer Michael Helman to present his most recent piece, "Prayer for the Innocents," written in memory of the 49 who died in Orlando just six weeks ago. During Michael's stirring introduction to the piece, he explained it was also written in memory of all the innocents whose lives have been senselessly taken through violence. Preparing and performing this piece was truly a moving moment in the Seminar week.

You can visit more pictures of BBR at National Seminar, as well as a list of our upcoming winter season lineup, at: www.backbayringers.org



Composer Michael Helman introducing his new piece, "Prayer for the Innocents"

BACK BAY RINGERS ANNOUNCE 2016 SUMMER RING AND AUDITIONS

SUMMER RING: Back Bay Ringers invites handbell musicians of every age and skill level to join us for a fun evening of rep reading on Monday, August 15 at 6:30 pm at First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston. Please visit our website at: www.backbayringers.org/rsvp-to-summer-ring/ to get more information and to sign up. Questions? Contact Donna Matson, Executive Director, dmatson@backbayringers.org. And of course, there will be snack!!!

2016-17 AUDITIONS: Back Bay Ringers will be holding auditions for the 2016-17 season on Monday, August 22 at 6:30 pm at First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston. Prospective members must have ringing experience, and can expect the audition to consist of sight-reading, rhythmic exercises, and an interview with Griff Gall, Artistic Director.

Please visit our website at www.backbayringers.org/contact/auditions to register for the evening.

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MA STATE NEWS...

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GREETINGS FROM RACHEL C. OF MERRIMACK VALLEY RINGERS!

Following a successful spring tour, MVR members tend to kick back for the summer, especially on even numbered years when there is no Area festival. But this year was different; roughly half the group made the trek out to Rochester, NY for HMA National Seminar 2016 - some, including me, for the very first time.

Oddly enough, I didn't realize this was to be my first national handbell event until two days before I left. I attended what I thought was a national seminar in Portland, ME in 1996. The clinicians were Hart Morris and Michael Keller. I remember one of the massed pieces being "The Great Gate of Kiev" accompanied by a brass quintet. I remember taking a line dancing class, and that there was a choir from Finland there. But I learned that had actually been a National Festival (something that didn't take place anymore), and that this was National Seminar (originally only for directors, but opened up to include ringers). It didn't really change my excitement or anticipation, but it did add a little extra sparkle. I AM attending my first National Seminar!

VR did audition to perform as one of the featured groups at this seminar, but was ultimately not chosen. Nevertheless, MVR members still made appearances throughout the weekend. Artistic Director Karen Leonard greeted every attendee as they moved through the registration line, and taught classes ranging from beginning conducting to cup speed stacking. Lisa Arnold and I got to help kick everything off on the first day as guest performers in Barbara Bocker's bell tree concert. I also got to play with the All Star choir, which presented four pieces in concert during the last day of seminar. And Lisa, Sue Chamberlin, and I got to participate in the Heitz Handbell showcase, along with other accomplished solo/ensemble ringers, debuting new music from that publisher, and giving performance tips and tricks to those in attendance. Though it was mostly in a less "formal" fashion, MVR brought its "Always Different - Always Fun" attitude to Rochester, and spread it to all that they could!

Most of us, I think, have a handful of people in our day-to-day lives with an understanding of what it means when we say "I ring handbells," and recognize what it means to us. But on the whole, at least for me, handbells are not mainstream in any way. I've been told it's not "real music." It's always a challenge, STILL, to convince people of its validity as an art form, and to get close friends and family come to just one MVR concert. I'm used to explaining it to people and getting confused, bewildered, or even disparaging looks. I've had more than one person mockingly refer to conferences as "bell camp." It's difficult for me a lot of the time to balance a full-time job and two preschoolers with MVR rehearsals and concerts; I'm often told (by well-meaning people) of how much "easier" it would be if I "didn't have to do bells all the time."

Attending National Seminar reminded me of why handbells have been such a pervasive part of my life since I was 8 years old. It's not just the instrument or the music itself...but also the energy of the people making that music. Handbells are not a hobby. They are a necessity - an art form that connects me to people with the same enthusiasm for this amaz-

ing instrument. In the All Star choir, I played alongside three girls from Hong Kong. When introducing themselves, they talked about playing with their "handbell team." Not choir, not group, not ensemble. Team. I'd never heard that before, but it

resonated with me. Yes. YES, that's EXACTLY what we do. What we are. We play handbells as part of a team. It is the ultimate example of collaboration; we unify to create. At seminar, that is what I felt. Unity. Unity between ringers performing in concerts, unity between the performers and the audience throwing energy and love back at them, between clinicians and attendees, between myself and people I've known most of my life, or only see every four years, or working under directors I'd just met, getting roped into helping sell merchandise after the mind-blowing Forte concert and the excitement of tossing handbell (HANDBELL!) CDs and DVDs and t-shirts across to excited people like we were at a rock concert...the message was always there, even if not spoken: We get you. We get this. Let's create and celebrate it together.

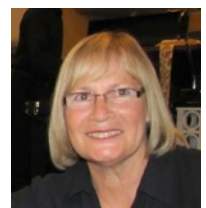
I approach ringing with a new sense of joy. I do not feel the need to make excuses for the art, or justify my love for and commitment to it. I do want new people to discover it and come along for the journey, but it's not a necessity. There will be naysayers for whom this is just not their cup of tea. What matters to me is that, through my ringing, audiences are bombarded with that same energy I felt over those five days in Rochester. Some people may not "get" handbells. But those people can watch someone who does, and see the joy it brings them, and feel that joy in return. My favorite thing to hear from an audience member after a performance is: "You look like you are having so much fun." (Or the sarcastic alternate: "You know, it's a shame you don't have any fun with this.") I believe that is what truly unifies: empathy. Someone may not understand ringing bells. But they certainly can understand feeling joy. And then cannot fault it.

Philosophic stuff aside for a moment... MVR is holding auditions on September 1, 2016. You can find details on our website (www.mvringers.org). Want to play on a handbell team? Feel like bombarding people with energy? Don't mind playing next to someone with purple hair? Join us. Let's create and celebrate it together.

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CALLING ALL HANDBELL RINGERS!

*The **Hockanum Valley Ringers**, under the direction of
Lawrence A. Berdensey, will be holding auditions
for the 2016-17 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. Many of our ringers perform year-round in their churches.
- ♪ We ring a variety of repertoire from classical to original compositions.
- ♪ 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 a part of our energetic group, email us at hvringers@gmail.com or contact our director, Lawrence Berdensey, at 860-375-0333, for more information.



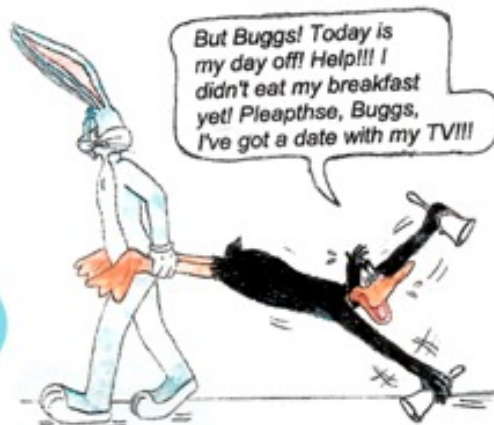
Ringers and Directors!

SnagASub



What the heck is
SnagASub?

SnagASub
is an online bulletin board
for getting subs!



A Great Name For a Great Idea! Does It Work?

Yes!

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

SnagASub needs you!

Dare yourself to ring a bit more, get to know other ringers, maybe even have some **Fun!** Simply fill out the form below, and you will be invited by email to join **SnagASub**. If you reply "**Accept,**" you're in!

1. Email your request for a sub to
SnagASub@googlegroups.com

*("Ringer needed for church/rehearsal,
date/time/etc.")*

2. Or, reply to a request (if you want):

("I'm in! Please send me directions! etc.")

Email your information to Cindy McLean-Greeley, cmgconcord@gmail.com

Name: _____ Name of Choir: _____

Choir Affiliation: _____ Choir Address: _____

Personal Email: _____

Cell (Optional): _____

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