FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

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

Volume XXXI, No. 1 February 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 27, 2016
Cape Cod Read & Ring
Brewster, MA

April 9, 2016

Maine Spring Ring
Winthrop High School
Winthrop, ME

April 16, 2016

Connecticut Spring Ring
Valley Community Baptist Church
Avon, CT

April 16, 2016

New Hampshire Spring Ring Concord, NH

April 22, 2016

Vermont Directors Workshop St. Bridgets Catholic Church West Rutland, VT

April 23, 2016

Cape Cod Spring Ring Harwich, MA

April 23, 2016

Vermont Spring Ring West Rutland High School West Rutland, VT

May 7, 2016

Massachusetts Spring Ring Tewksbury Memorial High School Tewksbury, MA

May 17, 2016

Boston Handbell Festival Old South Church, Boston, MA

June 23-26, 2016

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

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...



This is my first message to you as Area 1's Chair, and I must admit that at the moment I feel rather like a duck: calm above the waterline, paddling madly underneath it! I look forward to building on the sturdy foundation laid by my predecessor, Sue Wilber, and to working with our excellent Area 1 Board, including new Board members Krishna Ersson (Chair Elect), Dan Moore (Secretary), and Cheryl Harger (Treasurer).

While we are entering into the "quiet" year of our two year cycle--that is, the year without a Festival/Conference--by no means does this mean a lack of activity. We begin on September 26 with a "Back to Bells" event, sponsored by our National office and hosted locally in every Area. This free workshop is designed specifically to help entities with unused or underused bell sets, whether current Guild members or not, put those sets back into service. You can help us by letting your state chair know of the churches, schools, community organizations, or individuals in your community with "bells in the closet." Whatever contact information you have will be helpful, and we will reach out to those organizations directly.

In the spring we will have Spring Rings and Project Education ensemble ringing workshops.

And then, at the end of June, we re-launch the Area 1 Family Handbell Camp at Oceanwood Camp and Conference Center on the shore in Ocean Park, Maine. This event is a great opportunity for your family's ring-a-holics to satisfy those urges, while the non-ringers can swim, sun, and generally kick back at one of Maine's best beach vacation locations. And all at an affordable price; what could be better? (Oh, and yes--singles and couples are as welcome as families!)

Although it's almost two years away, planning has already begun for Festival/Conference 2017. We are not yet ready to announce a location or clinicians--watch this space!--but I'm pleased to report that Sue Wilber has agreed to serve as the event Chair.

Let's ring! Martha Goodman, Area 1 Chair

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back bay ringers

Boston's community handbell ensemble

Workshop with Michael Joy



Spend the day ringing and learning with renowned handbell conductor, composer, and arranger Michael Joy. The workshop will include several breakout sessions of your choice and repetoire readings of music selected by Michael.

Saturday, May 14, 2016 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wellesley Hills Congregational Church Wellesley, Massachusetts

To register go to www.backbayringers.org and click the "Joy Workshop Registration" link on the home page. Cost: \$65 (includes one free BBR concert ticket) plus \$10 for optional lunch.

> Presented by Back Bay Ringers and hosted by Wellesley Hills Bells.

Special 10th Anniversary Concert



A celebration of handbell artistry and promotion of music education through our chime donation program.

Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.

Old South Church, Boston, MA

Guest Conductor: Michael Joy Guest Handbell Choir: The Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble

In honor of our 10 festival years, we will be giving two sets of chimes to deserving Boston-area schools.

Come hear BBR at one of our Spring solo concerts "The Art of Handbell Ringing" on Sunday, June 5th at 2 p.m. in Rockport, MA or 7 p.m. in Beverly, MA. Visit www.backbayringers.org for additonal event details.

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REPORT FROM VERMONT

Wintery greetings from the North! Although we do not have much snow, and we had a balmy 68 degrees on Christmas Eve; our calendars say it is winter. Our Holiday performances and services are behind us (Phew!!) Nonetheless, the Vermont Handbell Association is busy making plans for their 35th Annual Spring Ring. Marble Valley Rings, as it is called, will take place on April 23, 2016 at West Rutland High School. We are pleased to welcome Michael Joy as our clinician for what should be a Joyful day of ringing. After the opening bell at 9 a.m., our participants have their choices of workshop offerings divided into a morning and an afternoon session. There are 17 workshop offerings including The Body-Music Connection, Copyright or Copywrong, Decoding Expression Marks, Qigong Tai Chi and Handbells, and 2 sessions of African Drumming. We are excited about the breath of our offerings and having people like Dan Moore, Kim Strepka, Michael Joy, and Phil Brown to lead our workshops.

After our rehearsals, workshops, lunch and abundant snacks to fuel our day, Marble Valley Rings will culminate in a concert at 4 p.m. The approximately 200 ringers will play 4 massed pieces: Celebrate With Ringing, Mazzatenta; Go, Tell It On the Mountain, Duncan; While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, Eithun; and Appassionata, Michael Joy. In addition, there is the opportunity for individual choirs and ensembles to showcase a solo piece during the concert.

The VT Handbell Association is also sponsoring a Director's Workshop on the evening before Spring Ring. It will be held at St. Bridgets Catholic Church on April 22, 2016 from 6 to 9 p.m. After dinner and a chance to network, Michael Joy will lead a workshop titled How Does it Feel? about bringing rhythmic feeling to performances.

In other news around the state, there have been some changes in personnel. After 15 years of leading Tintinnabula at Grace Congregational Church in Rutland, Rip Jackson has relocated to eastern MA. But stepping into that void is noted percussionist and junior high music teacher Marc Whitman. He is enjoying the challenges of a different percussion instrument and the choir is benefitting from a new sense of rhythm.

Also relocating, but only to Montpelier to take a new job, is Samantha Funk of The Tall Spire Ringers of First Congregational Church of Manchester. A longtime choral teacher who is currently the principle of Dorset Elementary, Rosanna Moran has seamlessly picked up the leadership. She is happy to have a chance to lead a handbell ensemble again and has set up an ambitious performance schedule for the group.

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

FESTIVAL CONFERENCE 2017 UPDATE

It doesn't seem possible that we are already talking about F/C 2017 when F/C 2015 was just 7 months ago, but the planning for 2017 began almost as soon as F/C 2015 was over! The committee is in place and is already hard at work. I am thrilled to report that our directors will be Ed Rollins and Deb Carr, and the Columbia Handbell Ensemble, all the way from Columbia, Missouri, will perform our opening concert!! Mark your calendars NOW for the dates: June 29, 2017 through July 2, 2017, and keep an eye out for other details as they become available. We will be returning to UMASS Amherst, a location that understands our instrument and our organizational needs and they have been a pleasure to work with the many times we have used their facilities.

In the meantime, please direct any questions to me at either pastchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org or events.area1@handbellmusicians.org and I will do my best to get the answers you need.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Area 1 events and at F/C 2017!

Sue Wilber Chair, FC 2017

REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



Now that the holidays are over and we are in the midst of winter, we can look forward to spring once again! There will be various concerts and events of interest within our state, and I will send out an email in April if you will let me know what you would like publicized. So, please make sure I have your up-to-date email contact information!

CT Spring Ring will be held on April 16 at Valley Community Baptist Church in Avon. We will not be holding workshops this year, but will focus on the opportunity for massed ringing. Dan Moore will be our director, and he has selected three pieces for groups to practice before gathering on April 16. After working with him in the morning, there will be a concert in the afternoon. Individual handbell choirs are also invited to prepare and present a favorite selection of their own. Small ensembles are welcome! Please let me know if your bell choir is interested in sharing.

The selections for the massed ringing will be:

My Shepherd's Amazing Grace - Karissa Dennis

3-5 handbells + opt.3-5 chimes Level II, Agape 2725

Celtic Farewell (Thanksgiving Remembrance); Linda R. Lamb

3-5 handbells + opt. Flute or other c instrument Level III-, AGEHR AG35210

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen; arr. Valerie Stephenson

3-5 handbells + opt 2 oct. chimes. Level III, Agape 2236

Rick Wood has also agreed to be a part of our Spring Ring. While the massed rehearsal is being held, he will have a workshop for directors, focusing on conducting, music analysis, and music selection.

Registration will again be through Constant Contact, and each person is responsible for registering her/himself. The link will be sent out to all CT ringers for whom I have a current email address. There will also be a link on the Area 1 website.

Looking ahead to next fall, Steve Mazeau from Westbrook has volunteered to coordinate handbell ringers who would like to perform at the Big E on CT Day, Wednesday, September 21. Steve is looking for 10 or 12 ringers and a director who would be willing to practice over the summer. Rehearsals will be held probably in the greater Hartford area. This is the 100th anniversary of the Big E, and a great chance to highlight handbell music and musicians! Steve's email is steven.mazeau@gmail.com, and his phone number is 860-399-2282. Please contact him if you are interested.

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



Our invitation's in our name: Chime In!

B.Y.O.Bells Concert Series

for casual listeners, curious adventurers, common bell geeks ... of all ages

Saturday April 30, 2016 7:00 pm Center Congregational Church, Torrington, CT

Sunday June 12, 2016 3:00 pm First Church of Bethlehem, Bethlehem, CT

Saturday June 25, 2016 7:00 pm Old Meeting House, Francestown, NH

More dates to come



To ring or not to ring? Either's fine! Which bells to bring? What time to ring? Check our website in advance!

www.ChimeInMusic.org

REPORT FROM MAINE

Happy New Year to all the handbell ringers in Maine. Now that the holidays are over many of us will be preparing new music for upcoming concerts and seasons of the church year.

As I think back on the Christmas season, I am reminded of the beautiful concert I attended at the Merrill Auditorium "Christmas with Cornils." Along with the amazing Kotzschmar Organ brilliantly played by our own Ray Cornils, and the Brass Choir, the concert was enriched by Ray's handbell choir, the Parish Ringers, who performed 3 numbers. What a wonderful choir. I was so grateful for the opportunity to attend this special event.

Other events and plans have also been happening across the state.

Winthrop Area Handbell Ringers

The Winthrop Area Handbell Ringers enjoyed a busy Holiday concert season. They entertained for two senior centers, and two libraries plus their annual Holiday concert at the Winthrop Elementary School. They have developed a rapport with these organizations which makes it easier to plan the holiday season performances each year. As a community choir, unlike most handbell choirs who perform at their church, they transport all of their equipment from one venue to another. To ease that task, they have developed a checksheet to ensure that all necessary components for each location have been loaded. What they really need is a road crew!

In addition, their excitement is growing in anticipation of this year's Maine Spring Ring to be held at their very own Winthrop High School. Winthrop Area Handbell Ringer began the tradition of state-wide handbell gatherings on April 21, 1990 by hosting Maine's Annual Handbell Festival. They are honored to host again with the help of the Area 1 chairperson and a wonderful group of steering committee participants. So excited about the beautifully arranged music selections, they encourage all ringers to join them in Winthrop on April 9-2016, and until then wish everyone Happy Ringing!

The Kennebunkport Bell Ringers

The Kennebunkport Bell Ringers did a tour of assisted living facilities in southern Maine, playing carols and seasonal favorites. Atria, of Kennebunk; Huntington Common, Kennebunk; and Seal Rock, Saco were the stops on the tour. Also noteworthy was a performance at Graves Memorial Library in Kennebunkport to a standing room only crowd during the town's "Christmas Prelude" weekend.

Rangely Ringers

The Rangely Ringers is an ecumenical handbell choir based at the Rangely Congregational Church, UCC. Members of the 3-octave choir hail from the Episcopal, Catholic and Congregational churches in addition to others from the wider community. The bell choir rings at all 5 of the local churches during the year, especially for Easter and Christmas, but also during the summer and at the annual "Walk to Bethlehem." In 2015, the Rangely Ringers attended their first festival, the Vermont Spring Ring in April. It was such a wonderful experience that they are very much looking forward to the Maine Spring Ring this year!

Also of interest, many of the bell choir community will have known director of Rangely Ringer's Sue Downes-Borko's mother, Marilyn Downes, who was a long-time bell choir director in Massachusetts. Marilyn offered independent bell cleaning and servicing, and served as the Schulmerich representative for the New England area for 10 years.

Cumberland Congregational

Hard to believe it's been 31 years that Ellie and Martha have been ringing at Cumberland Congregational Church. There have been changes along the way with ringers, bells and chimes added, and skill levels increasing to a comfortable level 3. In addition, this program year they welcomed Sue Evans as their new director. In preparation for Christmas Sunday, the choir worked on "Lo How A Rose" which included the technique of singing bells. Sue suggested they process from the rear of the church while "singing the bells." The arrangement was played as the Introit and received many positive comments, suggesting a spiritual feeling. Looking ahead to 2016 they anticipate new music and techniques, continuing friendships, and participating in the worship.

Penobscot Bay Ringers

And finally, please check out the Area 1 Website and this issue of FT for an article on the commissioning of a piece by the Penobscot Bay Ringers to honor long time handbell ringer and founder of "Ringing in the Season," Leigh Smith. It's a wonderful story about Leigh and a young graduate of Westminster Choir College, Sarah who was present at the dedication of this piece.

Don't forget to register for the Maine Spring Ring.



My best to all.

Sue Evans Maine State Chair

Penobscot Bay Ringers commissions work in honor of group co-founder, Leigh Smith

Penobscot Bay Ringers, a community handbell choir based in Camden, Maine, recently commissioned a new handbell arrangement, entitled *Ringing in the Season*, in honor of Leigh Smith. The dedication on the arrangement masthead reads, "Commissioned by the Penobscot Bay Ringers in honor of Leigh Smith on the 10th anniversary of her concert, 'Ringing in the Season', and as a tribute to her 38-year commitment to the art of handbell ringing."

This new handbell composition was arranged by Sarah Palermo, who also hails from Camden, Palermo is a 2015 graduate of Westminster Choir College, where she received a Bachelor of Music in Music Theory and Composition. She was a member of the Westminster Concert Bell Choir, a nationally touring group ringing on eight octaves of handbells and seven octaves of handchimes. Sarah is currently the Music Director at Vernon United Methodist Church in Vernon, New Jersey. "Ringing in the Season is the first piece I've written which was commissioned in honor of someone. It's a very different and motivating experience, writing music with a real person in mind and trying to make artistic choices that will resonate in them," said Palermo. "Not only surprised, I was deeply honored by this wonderful tribute. I never imagined Sarah, who I oriented to handbell ringing, would one day author an arrangement dedicated to me!" said Smith.

Originally scored for an ensemble of three bell choirs, *Ringing in the Season* is an arrangement of two familiar Christmas songs. In the opening, the melody of *I Saw Three Ships* is passed among the different choirs, as each of them approaches the shore on Christmas morning. Modal harmonies accompany the theme and lead it into *Angels We Have Heard On High*, in which the key is forced from major to minor. The piece's drama peaks when minor bell peals crash like waves into the clanging chords of accompanying choirs, until finally the dissonances resolve back into an echoing round of *I Saw Three Ships*, culminating with a joyous unison from all three groups.

The version introduced on December 5, 2015 was a consolidated arrangement for one bell choir. Given Leigh's active participation in this concert, it would have

been virtually impossible for three choirs to rehearse without her finding out about this secret commission, which was six months in the making. Doris Krueger, Director of the Pine Tree Academy Bell Ringers, of Freeport, Maine, graciously agreed to have her ringers debut the selection at this year's 'Ringing in the Season' concert.

Leigh Smith, a retired R.N. who lives in Camden, with her husband Ron, co-founded Penobscot Bay Ringers in 2008. Introduced to bells in 1977 by one of the original Beacon Hill Handbell Ringers, Leigh has rung in several Massachusetts handbell choirs, including the Grace Chapel Handbell Choir, of Lexington, whose music was regularly broadcast live on Boston radio. In 2006, Leigh established 'Ringing in the Season', a charitable handbellprogram staged each year at Camden's First Congregational Church. She also plays with the church's Choral Bells. Leigh is a member of Handbell Musicians of America and supports its vision and goals for the art of handbell ringing.



Sarah Palermo, left, stands with Leigh Smith as they showcase the commissioned piece.





REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



Happy New Year 2016 greetings from your MA State Chair! We, like family, are tied to each other, and this is what all good musicians understand (Billy Joel). I'm so pleased to offer the following communications from groups all around our Commonwealth, as they seek to let you know what's happening. The true beauty of music is that it connects people. It carries a message, and we, the musicians, are the messengers (Roy Ayers).

The winter/spring season of early 2016 finds Massachusetts handbell musicians poised for many exciting state-wide and multiple town events.

Cape Cod Read and Ring

February 27, 2016 Our Lady of the Cape 468 Stony Brook Rd. Brewster, MA 02631 Andy Wallace, Clinician

Cape Cod Spring Ring

April 23, 2016 Harwich Community Center 100 Oak St. Harwich, MA 02645 Andy Wallace, Clinician

MA Spring Ring, celebrating its 30th year! May 7, 2016

Tewksbury Memorial High School 320 Pleasant St. Tewksbury, MA 01876 Ed Henderson and Karen Leonard, Clinicians

Boston Handbell Festival, celebrating its 10th anniversary!

May 17, 2016
Old South Church
645 Boylston St. Boston, MA 02116
Michael Joy, Guest Conductor
Back Bay Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, New
England Ringers, Old South Ringers, Philadelphia
Handbell Ensemble

In addition to these state-wide events, we have exciting things happening in towns all around the Commonwealth.

From Cheryl Kraley, Hancock Church, Lexington, MA

Spring wouldn't be complete at Hancock Church, 1912 Massachusetts Ave (across from the Battle Green) in Lexington, MA without our Annual Patriot's Day Handbell Concert of Patriotic and American music, performed on 5 octaves of handbells and 6 octaves of handchimes on Monday, April 18 at 11:15 am. The concert is timed to start at the conclusion of the road race and end just before Paul Revere arrives at the Minuteman statue. There will be jazz by Duke Ellington, rags, movie tunes, spirituals, American hymn tunes,

and patriotic songs; something for everyone. The concert is family-friendly and handicapped accessible. A suggested donation of \$3 per person funds our Handbell Scholarship Fund. Questions- 781-862-4220 Hancock Church or cheryl@kraley.com.

From Cindy McLean-Greeley, First Congregational Church, Reading, MA

Directors and ringers, be apprised that the SnagASubgooglegroups is up and running! At this time only a small number are on, and it will need to grow to a large pool of potential subs in order to serve its' purpose, which, if you haven't heard about it before, is to be an on-line bulletin board for finding and/or being. a sub. It works exactly like an email: snagasub@googlegroups.com, then "battery ringer needed for (date, place, time, etc.)", and anyone in the group has the option to reply or ignore/delete. Please spread the word. This is not just for directors and ringers who sometimes have a need for a sub, but is also for interested/brave persons who might love an opportunity to ring more. Please contact me, Cindy, at cmgconcord@gmail.com, to be invited on. If you have already received an "invitation", just click "accept".

From Marilyn Sink, First Congregational Church, Chatham. MA

The First Congregational Church of Chatham continues to ring every third Sunday of the month. We played a combined youth and adult choir accompanied by handbells for Christmas and combined with members of the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Harwichport on First Night in Chatham. We played two concerts and packed the St Martin's Lodge on Old Harbor Rd with Christmas, secular and patriotic music. It was fun!

This inspires me to believe that many people would like to ring and listen to more bell concerts on the Cape. So I am still looking for people who would like to play in a Community Bell group throughout the summer and for special events.

We have two events coming up on the Cape...a Read and Ring on Feb 27th at Brewster and a Spring Ring on April 23rd involving many choirs and ringers from all over the Cape and Islands(Please see the Area 1 information on the web site).

Last summer we had a small group of 5 who played at one of the Harwichport Strolls and perhaps starting early would encourage some new people to get involved.

Please contact me at Marilyn377@gmail.com if you are interested or stop by the Congregational Church in Chatham to hear us play.

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MA STATE NEWS...

(continued from page 7)

From Abby Schoppe, Director of Music, Faith Lutheran Church, Andover, MA

At Faith Lutheran in Andover (MA), we are very slowly beginning to raise funds for a fifth octave of bells, but this process is likely to take several years. (Donors in our church community are very generous, but as the church is also engaged in other fundraising endeavors, we are carefully keeping our bell fundraising efforts fairly small-scale.) However, we are super grateful to have had the opportunity to borrow a fifth octave from two other churches in recent months. In early January, we borrowed Tewksbury Congregational Church's fifth octave for one rehearsal and our worship services on Jan. 10. As I write this, the fifth octave from the Westwood Ringers (of First Baptist Church in Westwood, MA) is living in our church - we were able to borrow these bells for four weeks (a full month of rehearsals!), leading up to use in our services on Feb. 7. I'm blown away by the generosity of both these churches in sharing their bells with us; having access to a fifth octave has been a great opportunity to add another ringer to the bell choir and to better challenge existing ringers. Because so many bell choirs rehearse on different nights of the week and don't necessarily play on the same Sundays as each other, I am imagining that there is a lot more room for bell-sharing among churches out there than currently occurs. At Faith, I know we'd be open to sometimes being on the giving (and not just the receiving) end of such collaborations. We currently have 4 octaves of Schulmerich bells and 4 octaves of Malmark chimes although our ringers use all these on a very regular basis, I'd always be open to discussions about lending some of these bells and chimes out on dates when we're not utilizing them!

Abby, abigail.schoppe@gmail.com

From Karen Leonard, Director, Merrimack Valley Ringers, Chelmsford, MA

MVR is still in motion. With our winter tour behind us. we scheduled a time in January to record some of the winter repertoire while it was fresh in our minds and in our hands. Our rehearsal schedule for the spring season began at the end of January and our concert season will begin with the Massachusetts Spring Ring on May 7, with 7 concert dates through June 19. On May 21, in addition to a return concert at Wilbraham Congregational Church in Wilbraham, MA, we will also be offering workshops between 12:00 and 5:00pm. These workshops are open to anyone and will include work on bass bells, 4-in-hand, stopped techniques, chime use, and a sharing discussion called "Turning the Tables": beginner, intermediate and advanced levels will be covered. Visit our website – www.mvringers.org – for our spring concert schedule. Very soon detailed information will be available there also on the May 21 workshops in Wilbraham. Happy Ringing!

From Griff Gall, Back Bay Ringers, Boston

After a successful winter concert season, Back Bay Ringers is looking forward to a busy spring schedule. In May, our organization will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Boston Handbell Festival. Composer and handbell clinician Michael Joy will be leading a workshop for area handbell musicians on Saturday, May 14 at Wellesley Hills Congregational Church in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Please visit our website for more information on the exciting opportunity to work with Michael Joy and members of Back Bay Ringers. Mr. Joy will then be joining us as guest conductor for the Boston Handbell Festival, leading Old South Ringers, New England Ringers, Merrimack Valley Ringers, Back Bay Ringers and our invited guest choir, the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble for the celebration of our tenth Boston Handbell Festival. BBR and the Philadelphia Handbell Ensemble will also be premiering a new work by Michael Joy and Jason Krug, written for this event.

Our spring concert season will take us to Beverly and Rockport, Massachusetts as we perform music celebrating Boston connection to the history of handbells in the United States. This concert will feature talks focused on the contributions of Margaret Shurcliff, and her father Arthur Nichols. Music will highlight the diverse nature of our instrument and will include pieces that could be considered classics in the handbell repertoire.

Finally, Back Bay Ringers is honored to have been selected to perform a featured concert at this summer's National Seminar, sponsored by the Handbell Musicians of America. This event will take place in Rochester, New York from July 12-16. We hope to see many of our Area 1 friends there! www.backbayringers.org

From Carol Elmore, New England Ringers, Tewksbury, MA

New England Ringers is proud to have completed another holiday season. We had the honor to play in Bedford New Hampshire for the Knights of Columbus to benefit the Special Olympics. We concluded our season with another wonderful performance in the beautiful hall at the Berkelee College of Music. NER hopes to see you at the Boston Handbell Festival and Massachusetts Spring Ring in May. info@newenglandringers.org

From Esther Zabinski, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Foxboro, MA

I hadn't heard a bell choir since my high school days. I never had the opportunity to ring in one, but I've always thought they were beautiful, and when I took the position as music minister at St. Marks Episcopal church in Foxboro I was thrilled to find out that there was an active group there. I was even more thrilled when I found out that it was run by someone else, since I knew nothing about it. Sue Evans had been directing the choir for (continued on page 9)

MA STATE NEWS...

(continued from page 8)

years, and she seemed to run the group as the perfect benevolent dictator. I knew we would be friends when I slipped her a note during a planning meeting, it was a quarter rest with a fermata over it that read "shut up", and she laughed.

So, I was very disappointed when only a few years later I heard the news that she and her husband were making a permanent move to Maine. I knew the next question was going to be "Esther, will you take over the bell choir?" I looked at Sue and raised my eyebrows, and she said, "You'll be fine."

It's been interesting taking over for her, both daunting and fulfilling. I am a professional musician, working mostly for theaters as musical director for broadway style shows. I've lead groups of singers who are really actors, having to teach them a show and expect them to memorize it. I've lead groups of musicians, in pit orchestras with only two rehearsals before we perform for an audience. But I've always been able to lead from a piano, which meant that if anything goes wrong, I can cover for them. The biggest challenge I've found in leading a bell choir is that I don't have this to rely on. Oh, and the phrase "I can only ring these bells, I don't know how to read music." How can you say that when you've learned every rhythm that exists? And the line note is in one hand and the space note in the other? Get it together!

Added to this new endeavor, St. Marks also has a new priest, Fr. Ed Cardoza, who was ordained at St. Marks at the beginning of February. The bell choir played for his first service, *Lo How a Rose*. It was beautiful. And, of course, they played for Christmas Eve services, but don't ask me what, it's all a blur now...

I'm looking forward to the Lenten and Easter Seasons, even though they are a little early (eek!), and maybe even having some time to do something fun in April, maybe a little *Blue Tango*?

Esther Zabinski, ezhope480@gmail.com

From Lynn Masson, <u>wmasson@verizon.net</u>, MASSACHUSETTS SPRING RING

Thirty years ago Karen Leonard and Ed Henderson thought it would be fun to get several area handbell groups together for a massed ring. It was called the Chelmsford Handbell Festival with a few ensembles in a church. About 10 years after that the name was changed to the Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival. As participation grew, it had to move to larger quarters, such as school gymnasiums. By 2007 it was known as the Massachusetts Spring Ring. Last year there were over 200 ringers and the audience for the final concert was the largest ever.

This year we're celebrating the 30th anniversary. In honor of that Karen and Ed will be our clinicians, and the repertoire will be some of the favorite pieces we've played at this event in the past. We'll send a notice as soon as the repertoire and on-line registration is available. In the meantime, save the date:

SATURDAY, MAY 7th, Tewksbury Memorial High School.

Gail Granum
Massachusetts State Chair
ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org or
glgranum1@msn.com









Fundamental Tone

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Friends and Family Handbell Camp News From the Directors, Ed and Dan

THE CONDUCTORS: We are excited to announce the three massed conductors and principle clinicians for FFHC 2016. Each of these individuals brings energy, experience, and a unique perspective to handbell ringing: just what camp needs! There will be additional staff to present workshops and activities for young and old - crafts, drumming, etc. More on that in the next Fundamental Tone. Meet Robin, David, and Larry:





Robin Martelle began ringing when she was twelve years old in Newtown, Pennsylvania. She teaches general music for Groton Public Schools and works at Saint David's Episcopal Church in Gales Ferry. Robin received her B.S. in Music Education from the University of Hartford and has a Masters Degree in Education from Eastern Connecticut State University. She lives in Ledyard with her husband and 3 children.



David C. Warfield is currently the Director of Music Ministries at the First Presbyterian Church of Newport Rhode Island. He has served churches in Connecticut, New Hampshire and California. David's first church was a small Lutheran Church in New London Connecticut at the age of 15. David was Music Director for the Granite State Choral Society (NH) from 1989 through 1998, leading the Society's concert seasons with diverse musical styles including major works of Bach, Mozart, Handel, to more contemporary works of Ray. Rutter and a most memorable Tribute to Veterans.

David has served on the board of the New London County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and was responsible for the AGO's January Jubilee day of education held in Norwich in 2014. He also served as NH State Chair for the Handbell Musicians of America (formerly AGEHR) and has been a clinician at several Area 1 events.

Lawrence A. Berdensey is currently the band director at West Side Middle School, Groton, CT. He has taught band in the Groton Public Schools system since 1985, where he has served as



an elementary school band director before being appointed to Fitch DMiddle School in 1991. Larry 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, Gales Ferry, CT. His music ministry has included two youth ensembles, an adult choir, as well as adult and teen quartets.

In January 2012, Larry became the director of the Hockanum Valley Ringers, a five octave community handbell ensemble based in

Vernon, CT. He has been a clinician/director throughout Area 1: Festival Conferences, Director's Seminar, CT Spring Rings, and the Fall Skills Building Workshops. Larry holds a B.S. in music education from the University of Connecticut (Storrs) and a M.S. in education from Southern Connecticut State University.

Friends and Family Handbell Camp Schedule

REGISTRATION: Online registration will begin on January 1 thru May 1, 2016. Rates have been published in the previous FT and on the Area 1 Family Handbell Camp Facebook page.

SCHEDULE: The tentative camp schedule (below) provides five divisional rehearsals and many opportunities for workshops/classes. You will be asked to indicate your class preferences during the registration process, and provide a brief summary of your ringing experience(s) in order to place everyone in an appropriate ensemble. True to camp tradition there will be Bells for the Birds, a Talent Show, Sunday morning worship service, and a closing concert, lots of fun, and NO WHINING!



THURSDAY 6/23/16

12:00 3:00 Registration

4:00 Free Ring

5:45 - 6:45 Dinner/Announcements

7:15 - 8:30 Massed Rehearsals for all

8:45-10:00 Social

10:00 QUIET TIME

FRIDAY 6/24/16

7:00 - 7:20 Bells for the Birds

7:15 - 8:15 BREAKFAST

8:15 - 9:30 Massed Rehearsal (II)

9:45 - 10:45 Workshop Session 1

11:00 - 12:00 Workshop Session 2

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 - 4:15 Free Time (beach, pool, walk, read,

nap....whatever)

4:15 - 5:30 Massed Rehearsal III

5:45 - 6:30 DINNER

6:45 - 7:45 Workshop Session 3

8:00 - 9:00 FUN AND GAMES

10:00 QUIET TIME

SATURDAY 6/25/16

7:00 - 7:20 Bells for the Birds

7:15 - 8:15 BREAKFAST

8:45 - 9:45 Workshop Session 4

10:00 - 11:00 Workshop Session 5

11:15 - 12:15 Massed Rehearsal IV

12:15 - 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 - 4:15 Free Time

4:15 - 5:30 Massed Rehearsal V

5:45 - 6:30 DINNER

6:45 - 7:45 Workshop SessionVI

8:00 TALENT SHOW

10:00 QUIET TIME

SUNDAY 6/26/16

7:15 - 8:15 BREAKFAST

8:30 - 9:00 WORSHIP

9:15 - 12:00 Massed Rehearsal (s) VI

PACK AND MOVE TO TABERNACLE

12:00 - 12:45 Lunch

1:00 - 1:45 Final Dress Rehearsals

2:00- 2:45 Final Sharing Concert

3:30 Departure







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,

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOURISM VANCOUVER

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

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.



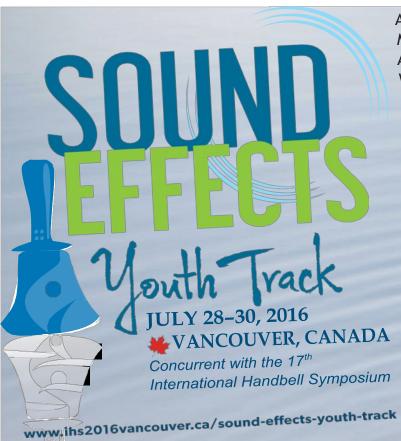
"Haven't you just been waiting for an invitation to come here?" Consider yourself invited — See you in 2016!





www.ihs2016vancouver.ca ihs2016vancouver@hotmail.com





ARE YOU A HANDBELL MUSICIAN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 13 AND 18? DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE?

Running concurrently with the 17th International Handbell Symposium (SOUNDINGS: Music of Our Lands and Our Lives), we are pleased to announce a special event for young ringers.

SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track is an

exciting youth handbell festival designed especially for young ringers who are interested in an international handbell experience but are not yet ready for, or interested in, attendance at an international handbell symposium as a regular delegate. SOUND EFFECTS will run along-side IHS2016 in the same venue (Vancouver Convention Centre), but on a shorter time frame from July 28-30, 2016 (IHS2016 runs from July 26-30).

We are

SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track delegates

will share meals and certain other activities—such as special performances and cultural events—with the IHS2016 delegates in order to allow Youth Track delegates the experience of connecting with ringers from around the world. However, except for the final concert, all SOUND EFFECTS ringing activities will include only SOUND EFFECTS youth delegates under the direction of conductor Timothy Waugh of West Virginia, and assistant conductor Imran Amarshi of BC.

As part of the international experience, SOUND EFFECTS handbell community as a dedidelegates will perform in the final concert on July 30, and are cated and energetic director, comencouraged to invite their friends and family to attend this performance as they share what they have learned over the time spent perfecting their performance pieces. Tickets for the final concert will be available for purchase on our website in the spring of 2016.

CONDUCTORS

so very pleased to have the internationally acclaimed Timothy H. Waugh as our SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track Conductor. With over thirty years experience in public and fine arts education, Mr. Waugh is well known to members of the North American and international

poser, clinician and educator. He is well known for his work in musicality and rhythmic acuity, incorporating techniques from Dalcroze and Orff in many of his workshops. Mr.



Timothy H. Waugh



Imran Amarshi



activities. Parents and/or guardians of Youth Track delegates are responsible for arrangingany supervision of their delegates outside of scheduled SOUND EFFECTS activities and events.

Adults travelling with Youth Track delegates are welcome to register for SOUND EFFECTS as chaperones in order to participate in a non-ringing capacity during Youth Track events (sessions, rehearsals, performances, meals and scheduled cultural activities) with their delegates. Those accompanying adults who do not meet the eligibility requirements to register as an IHS2016 Session Chaperone (details below) are welcome to register as a Chaperone Accompa**nying Delegate(s)** and will be responsible for chaperoning only those youth delegates with which they are associated. Those who meet the IHS2016 Session Chaperone eligibility requirements (details below) may register as either chaperone type.

IHS2016 Session Chaperones (those who will be supervising SOUND EFFECTS activities on behalf of the IHS2016 Planning Committee) will be tasked with the supervision of assigned delegates, which will include being responsible for holding and maintaining their assigned delegates' medical and emergency contact information. IHS2016 Session Chaperones are not required to be affiliated with an attending Youth Track delegate, however, in order to ensure the reliability of our chaperones, applicants for the IHS2016 Session Chaperone position must be Canadian citizens, at least 21 years of age on July 26, 2016, and willing to provide a Police Information Check.

Please note: all chaperones are required to pay the Chaperone registration fee which provides access to all Youth Track sessions, meals, performances, and cultural events.

PORTATION There is no single hotel ssociated with our event venue, the Vancouver Convention Centre, so we have negotiated special rates at a number of hotels in and around Vancouver to provide delegates of both IHS2016 and SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track with accommodation options t several price points. To take advantage of these pecial rates, bookings must be made directly frough MCI Canada. For details on these great options and to make your accommodation booking through MCI Canada, click on the "Registration & Hotels" tab at the top of the website homepage.

If transportation between the Vancouver Conention Centre (VCC) and an off-site cultural event is recessary, as a scheduled activity for both IHS2016 and SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track delegates, it will be provided as part of registration. Transportation between delegates' chosen accommodation and the VCC is not included in registration, although all of the official Symposium hotels are within easy walking distance of the VCC or of a Skytrain (tranit) station that terminates directly across the street

For more details on travel to and within Vancouer, go to www.ihs2016vancouver.ca and click on the "Travel Details" tab at the top.



rom the VCC.



SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track Registration Fees

Youth TrackRole	Registration Fees	
All fees are listed and payable in Canadian Dollars (CAD)		
	Regular Anytime up to February 26, 2016	Late After February 26,2016
Sound EffEcts Youth Track Delegate	\$575	\$675
Sound EffEcts Youth Track Chaperone	\$425	\$525

Waugh also brings with him many years experience in other performing arts disciplines such as musical theatre and chorus, making his workshops a dynamic and exciting experience for all.

BC. Currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Music program at egates (both IHS2016 and SEYT) will have an opportunity the University of British Columbia, Imran is the Teaching to explore Vancouver on their own time. Assistant for Bands, as well a Coach and an Assistant Conductor of the UBC Concert Winds. At UBC, Imran currently **APPLICATION®ISTRATION** studies clarinet, bassoon, and conducting with Jenny Jonquil, Professor Jesse Read, and Dr. Christopher Unger. In addition to foundingand directing Synchronous Handbell Choir, a youth ensemble based in Burnaby, Imran is the Woodwinds Teacher at the Salina Cheng Music Academy in Coquitlam, teaches in the VSO Connects educational programs run by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, is the President of the UBC Music Undergraduate Students' Association and is the Youth Representative on the board of the British Columbia Guild of English Handbell Ringers.

REPERTOIRE Delegates will be responsible for purchasing and learning the SOUND EFFECTS repertoire in advance of the event so that the conductors can focus on the overall performance and polish of the music. A detailed list of the selected music will be available in the fall of 2015, but we are please to announce that Matthew Compton of Colorado, USA, has been awarded the Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award and the resulting composition will be a feature selection at the SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track.

Working closely with Matthew, the Donald E. Allured Award Committee, and the SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track Conductor, Timothy Waugh, the IHS2016 Planning Committee has selected this commissioned work to be per-

formed by the young delegates of the SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track as they are conducted by Assistant Conductor Imran Amarshi. What a power-house combination to showcase the astounding talent belonging to the young members of our international handbell community!



Matthew Compton

SCHEDULE/PROGRAM While program specificswillbeavailableinthe Springof 2016, the SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track will include three days of workshop sessions and rehearsals, the chance to attend solo and

feature concert performances by some of the world's best handbell talents, a West Coast Aboriginal experience, and, to close the festivities, the chance to perform at the final IHS2016 concert and celebrate at the closing banquet and Assisting Mr. Waugh will be Imran Amarshi of Burnaby, ceremonies. There will also be a free evening where del-

Those

wishing to participate as either a ringing delegate or a chaperone at the SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track must first apply by filling out the appropriate application form that is now available for download from the IHS2016 website and sending them to our Registrar, Annie Hergott at

hergott@shaw.ca. Once your application has been accepted, Annie will give you a registration code that will allow you to complete your registration online by clicking on the 'Registration/Accommodation' tab on the website and selecting the appropriate registration type from the drop-down list.

Registration for delegates and chaperones includes Youth Track sessions, access to the Marketplace, lunches July 28–30, West Coast Aboriginal Experience July 28, solo concerts, feature concerts, Closing Ceremony and banquet July 30, optional worship service, Symposium t-shirt and pin, and Sound Effects Youth Track program book.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT Thanks to an anonymous, generous donation, BCGEHR has established the IHS2016 Canadian Student Bursary (see last page of this document, or go to www.bcgehr.com/ihs2016 canadian student bursary/). Canadian delegates may also want to contact their own provincial guilds to inquire if there are any other sources of support. We also encourage non-Canadian students to make contact with their local/national handbell organizations to inquire about details of funding options or support they may offer their members.

There are also many fundraising ideas that groups or individuals can organize to help support their participation at SOUND EFFECTS. Share your fundraising ideas, tips and tricks by posting them on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ihs2016vancouver)!

CHAPERONES In addition to the leadership of the Youth Track conductor and assistant conductor, IHS2016 will ensure there is reliable adult supervision for all scheduled SOUND EFFECTS Youth Track events and