



Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA | Area 1

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

# Fundamental Tone

## NOTES FROM AREA 1 CHAIR

Happy Holidays! If you're like me, December is your busiest month, and it goes by in a flash! Between getting my family ready for Christmas, rehearsals with my church bell choir, and performing with the community choir I play in, I feel like I have no time to just attend a concert and enjoy the music of the season. This year, I hope you'll join me in making an extra effort to attend at least one community choir or church choir concert. We are blessed in Area 1 with so many talented and dedicated community choirs, that I'm sure there's a concert within an hour's drive that you can attend. Some choirs are playing right into January, so if your December is too crowded, you can stretch out the holiday music beyond Epiphany!

Check out the websites or Facebook pages of all of our community choirs to find a concert near you!

**Back Bay Ringers** – [backbayringers.org](http://backbayringers.org)

**Granite State Ringers** –  
[granitestateringers.org](http://granitestateringers.org)

**Hockanum Valley Ringers** – [hvringers.org](http://hvringers.org)

**Jubilate Ringers** – find them on Facebook

**Merrimack Valley Ringers** – [mvringers.org](http://mvringers.org)

**New England Ringers** –  
[newenglandringers.org](http://newenglandringers.org)

**Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble** –  
[northernbronze.org](http://northernbronze.org)

**Penobscot Bay Ringers** –  
[penobscotbayringers.me](http://penobscotbayringers.me) –  
find their schedule on Facebook

**Shoreline Ringers** – [shorelineringers.org](http://shorelineringers.org)

Be sure to read about the annual **Winter Workshop** that is happening on February 2-3, 2018 at UMass/Amherst! Registration is open now, and it'll surely be an event you won't want to miss! Stevie Berryman's joyful exuberance for handbells is infectious, and she will have you laughing, ringing, and learning, all at the same time! I, for one, can hardly wait to work with her again, after meeting her at National Seminar last summer!



Carlene Ruesenberg  
Chair, Area 1

**Did you know?** – There is a **sub-membership** category to Handbell Musicians of America that is only \$10 a year? Directors, you should encourage your ringers to join at that category! They just need your membership number to join. With that category, they will be on our e-mail list so they'll get all the latest info about Area 1 events, plus they'll get National's E-Notes and the Event Calendar, plus their own copy of Overtones. The best resource available to members and

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# NOTES FROM AREA 1 CHAIR

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sub-members is the **Members Only** section of the web-site. All members have access to a wealth of information, including past Member Chats, (playing bell trees, avoiding injuries, playing the National Anthem at sporting events, and much more), Member Notes, and past issues of Over-tones.

Finally, don't forget about our **upcoming Spring Rings!** I'm proud to say that every state in New England is hosting a Spring Ring this year! Be sure to look them up in this issue of Fundamental Tone. They are a day of fun and fellowship for ringers at all skill levels. I remember fondly my first Spring Ring in Maine about 10 years ago, where I met many of the handbell people that are my closest friends today. If you haven't been to a Spring Ring, what's holding you back? They're a blast!

Please spread the word to your ringers and friends about all the things that are happening! As always, if you have any comments or questions, I can be reached at [chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org). I'm looking forward to seeing you at a concert near you!

Happy ringing!  
Carlene

Carlene Ruesenberg, Chair, Area 1  
Handbell Musicians of America  
[chair.area1@handbellmusician.org](mailto:chair.area1@handbellmusician.org)



## OFFICERS

### ELECTED OFFICERS

Chair	<b>Carlene Ruesenberg</b> (603-491-3047) <a href="mailto:chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org">chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
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### APPOINTED OFFICERS

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Historian	<b>Susan Schutlz</b> <a href="mailto:historian.area1@handbellmusicians.org">historian.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
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# NOTES FROM CONNECTICUT

This is the busiest season for handbell musicians—as you all well know! Each year the music for Advent and Christmas becomes more diverse and more beautiful. I trust you are having productive rehearsals and will enjoy a rich season!

The 2018 CT Spring Ring will be held on March 24 at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, and our clinician is Rick Wood, who is the founder and director of Chime In! Music with a Mission. There will be workshops, as well as massed ringing. We will be at the Haddam-Killingworth Middle School, where we met last year. (It is on Rt. 81, about 30-40 minutes from Hartford, New Haven and New London.) The link for registration will be sent out in January, but I want to let you know the music selections for your planning purposes. Rick has picked music that can be used for Lent, Easter and beyond:

## Massed Music

**All Things Bright and Beautiful** by Sondra Tucker (2007)  
(Choristers Guild CGB506) Level 2 Bells: 2 - 3 Octaves  
*A straight forward arrangement with lots of techniques for use in the springtime, particularly at Mother's Day.*

**Aria for Handbells** by Dale Wood (1984)  
(AGEHR AG34005) Level 3 Bells: 3 - 4 (5) Octaves  
Alternate Bells: G4 - D6 (optional)  
*This piece has been around for a long time and still remains as one of the most haunting expressions of the journey to the cross. It is based on the tune "Via Delorosa" named after the road Jesus walked to the crucifixion. It presents an opportunity for expressive ringing.*

**Bound for the Promised Land** by Derek Hakes (2017)  
(Agape HP2806) Level 3- Bells: 3 - 7 Octaves  
Chimes: 3 Octaves (optional)  
*Loaded with techniques, optional chimes, and varied tempos, this piece is fun to ring and makes a wonderful postlude for worship.*

## Coppers Track

**Crown of Thorns Crown of Glory** by Cathy Moklebust (2010)

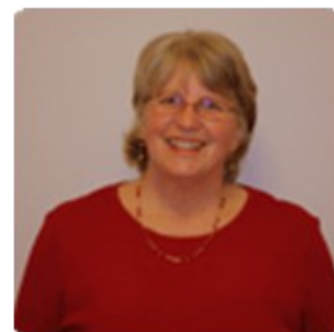
(Choristers Guild CGB668) Level 3 Bells: 3 - 5 Octaves

Chimes: 3 - 5 Octaves (optional)

*This piece wraps "O Sacred Head" with "Crown Him With Many Crowns" creating a beautiful composition for Lent / Holy Week / Easter. Cathy's particular talent for creating a meditative atmosphere is apparent in the first sections.*

As always, I try to connect with all interested handbell musicians 3-4 times a year by email to let you know what is going on with handbells in Connecticut. I am sending out an email listing Christmas concerts by CT community bell choirs. If you know anyone who should be added to the list, or if you prefer not to be included, please let me know!

Wishing you happy ringing and a faith-filled Advent and Christmas!



Mobby Larson  
Connecticut State Chair  
ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org



## NOTES FROM MAINE

Greetings from Maine during this busy season for church and community musicians. Lots of news as follows:

**The Maine Fall Handbell Workshop** was held at First Parish Congregational Church in Saco on October 28th. A total of 23 ringers attended in addition to the two clinicians: Carlene Ruesenberg and Kristen Russo. Audrey Cabral, Director, and members of her First Parish ringers did a wonderful job hosting the event. Four workshops were offered: Basic Music Reading, Weaving, Ringing Shorthanded and Beginning 4 in Hand. The event began with all participants together reviewing handbell techniques and ended with the group, together again, sight reading a new publication. One of the participants, Cathy Marker, had recently had a handbell arrangement published called "Prelude on Holy Manna." Congratulations Cathy.

The ringers who attended came from a variety of locations including: Winthrop ME, Exeter NH, Saco ME, Wolfboro NH, Ocean Park ME and Auburn ME. Many "aha" moments were experienced as we reviewed/learned a few new techniques or a new concept designed to make ringing easier. Those who attended the Basic Music Reading workshop enjoyed particularly the "spoken invention" "My Dog Treed A Rabbit." "Weaving" brought its usual challenges requiring us all to execute some tricky choreography. And some folks were actually able to complete the maneuvers.

Break time allowed us all to enjoy the wonderful snacks and beverages offered by First Parish Ringers and also to interact with other ringers whom we may have met for the first time. Thanks go to Area 1 of the Handbell Musicians of America for orchestrating this experience at no expense to any of the ringers.

On another topic, I would like to give you an update on the **Maine Spring Ring 2018**. The committee is working hard to provide a great experience for all ringers. Registration for the April 7<sup>th</sup> event will open in January. Currently we have lined up the following clinicians: Dan Moore, Carlene Ruesenberg, Kim Visbaras and Sue Evans. Drumming, Beginning Conducting, Weaving and Techniques are examples of possible workshop choices. As I have mentioned before it will be held at the Auburn Middle School and the music chosen has been cited in previous articles. We are excited that Larry Berdensen of Connecticut has agreed to be our guest conductor – a very talented musician and an entertaining personality.

**and more news from Maine.....**

**Penobscot Bay Ringers** will be performing three concerts for the holiday season. First up is Ringing in the Season on December 2nd at 4pm at First Congregational Church of Camden. The following day, the group will perform Holiday Handbells at the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, at 2pm and 3pm. To round out the season, the choir will travel to Portland to perform at Mechanics Hall, 519 Congress Street, for a program of seasonal music, including arrangements set to the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, Christmas Bells (I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day). For tickets to the Portland concert, visit: [mainehistory.org](http://mainehistory.org).

**The St. Alban's Handbell Choir**, directed by James Strand, in Cape Elizabeth played for the church service at end of October and is preparing to play again for the service on Advent 1. They will be part of the Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent. We have a full group this Fall, and a sub. for a person who goes to Florida for the Winter.

**The Village Ringers** will ring traditional Christmas carols throughout the Kennebunk region at these locations and times: Dec. 3 (10:30 am) First Parish Unitarian Church in Kennebunk; Dec. 4 (2pm) Seal Rock Healthcare Facility I Saco; Dec 5 (6 pm) Huntington Common in Kennebunk; Dec 6 (6:30 pm) Atria Senior Living in Kennebunk; Dec 9 (1 pm) Graves Library in Kennebunkport; Dec 10 (10 am) Christ Church in Kennebunk; and Dec 11 (2:30 pm) Bradford Building in Kennebunk."

**Pine Tree Academy Bell Ringers.** After tours to many European and South American countries, this past June the Pine Tree Academy Bell Ringers finally toured in the beautiful country of Norway. Sixteen people with 20 checked items such as bells, chimes, tables, music, 16 personal checked bags, plus carry-on and personal items flew from Boston to Trondheim.

This miracle tour came together in less than two months after we lost our travel agent and our Scandinavian coordinator. The ten students, playing 5 octaves of handbells and 5 octaves of chimes, presented concerts in the Lillehammer and Oslo city squares, two retirement/assisted living/nursing homes, and nine Lutheran and Seventh-day Adventist churches in the cities of Trondheim, Sykkylven, Stranda, Lillehammer, Bo in Telemark, and Bergen.

At every church concert people were present who either were connected with a chime or bell choir or were going to start one or wanted to start one. People kept enthusiastically commenting that they had never seen or heard anything like

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# NOTES FROM MASSACHUSETTS

## 2017 Acton Holiday Rep Reading and Workshops Highlights

On Saturday, September 30 approximately 30 people gathered at St. Matthew's in Acton for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual all-day handbell fall event. The morning included several new workshops led by talented instructors from Area 1.



The afternoon was a review of newly issued holiday pieces, including appropriate accompaniment for several of them led by Diane Burke. At the end of the day, participants could purchase the rep reading music at a discount, with no shipping costs. There was much networking and sharing during the breaks and PLENTY of good food in this very comfortable venue. This event is offered every year, in the fall, to provide ongoing handbell education and to assist ensembles with their holiday repertoire decisions.



Wishing you a wonderful new season of ringing handbells,  
-Sue



Sue Lee  
Massachusetts State Chair  
[ma.area1handbellmusicians.org](http://ma.area1handbellmusicians.org)

(cont. from p.4)

bell ringing! Our first concert was at Var Frue kirke in Trondheim (the day after the St. Olaf's Youth Choir sang there) and our final concert was at Johanneskirken in Bergen--an imposing structure seating 2500. We were amazed at the gorgeous fjords, waterfalls, and mountains; the unique stave churches, museums, Grieg's Troidhaugen, tunnels, ferries, and friendly people.

Now we are back in school having lost five ringers--4 graduated and one moved to Michigan! And so it goes--the current group consists of 5 first year ringers, 3 second year ringers, and 2 in their fourth year of ringing.

- Doris Krueger, Handbell Director

Please continue to let me know of your particular stories so that I may share with others the energy and outreach generated by Maine handbell ringers.



Susan I. Evans  
Maine State Chair  
508-472-6756  
[me.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:me.area1@handbellmusicians.org)



# NOTES FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE

## New Hampshire Spring Ring

Come join us for a wonderful day of massed ringing, workshops and public concert.

Our Massed Ringing Clinician is Area 1's own **Jane Nolan**. She will guide through the massed ringing repertoire and will lead a Copper level workshop.

**When: Saturday, April 21, 2018** 8:30 am-4:30 pm

**Where:** Rundlett Middle School, 144 South Street, Concord, NH 03301

### What do I need to know:

Massed Ringing Music to order for your group:

<b><u>Joyance</u></b>	Ron Mallory	AGEHR35361	L3-
<b><u>Alleluia</u></b>	arr. Linda Lamb	AGEHR35177	L3
<b><u>All is Well</u></b>	arr. Joel Raney	Hope Publishing 2772	L2

Online Registration will open on January 2

Cost: Early Bird is \$25.00/person; After 4/1 will be \$30.00/person

Planned workshops:

Weaving, Marking music, Coppers+ Sight reading event, What's new in techniques

Solo performances opportunities for soloists, small ensembles and participating choir

Who do I contact with questions? Joan Fossum at [jeafbell@gmail.com](mailto:jeafbell@gmail.com) or 603-731-0441

*The Raleigh Ringers*

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH US!



[www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org)



[/RaleighRingers](https://www.facebook.com/RaleighRingers)



[@RaleighRingers](https://twitter.com/RaleighRingers)



[@RaleighRingers](https://www.instagram.com/RaleighRingers)

# NOTES FROM RHODE ISLAND

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

RI hosted its second annual Holiday Handbell Spectacular on Saturday, November 18 at St. Luke's Church Auditorium. It was a HUGE success

Many thanks to all of the participants - and to our fantastic audience! It was a great experience and plans are in place for the 'Third Annual...' to be held on Saturday, November 17, 2018.

## COMING EVENTS

The RI Spring Handbell Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Swift Community Center, East Greenwich, RI. Online registration will be available in January.

Registration is \$ 15.00 per person.

Schedule as follows:

Registration and Set up	1:30 PM
Opening Bell	2:00 PM
Sharing Concert	7:00 PM

A **Master Class** with David Harris has been added as a morning event. Application for the Master Class can be found [here](#) and is separate from the afternoon activities.

### SAVE THE DATE – APRIL 28, 2018

## THE RI SPRING HANDBELL EXTRAVAGANZA

Venue: Swift Community Center  
121 Peirce Street – East Greenwich, RI

Event Host: Dan Moore and the Jubilate Ringers of East Greenwich

*Featuring master classes for experienced choirs with David Harris of the Raleigh Ringers, massed ringing for both experienced and less-experienced choirs, and an evening concert.*

*Less experienced choirs will be under the direction of Dan Moore and will include one selection plus one massed selection under Mr. Harris.*

### Special Guest Clinician

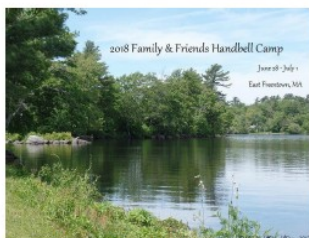
#### David M. Harris,

Music Director  
The Raleigh Ringers



More information about David can be found at: <http://ri.org/About/Music-Director>

MASTER CLASS requires a separate application - [Apply here](#) or contact  
Donna Horan – [ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org)



June 28 – July 1, 2018

Cathedral Camp and Retreat Center

167 Middleboro Road, East Freetown, MA

Something for everyone - Ages 8 - 108

- Never rung - Beginners - Tins
- Intermediate Ringers - Coppers
- Advanced Ringers - Bronze
- Registration \$295. to April 1 \$315. after April 1
- Online - January 2018



Rehearsal Space / Dining Hall



The 'Hotel'

The **Friends and Family Handbell Camp (FFHC)** team has been working on plans for our June 2018 adventure in East Freetown, MA. **Online registration** ( \$295.) will begin in January and continue until April 1 - registration after April 1 will be \$315.

Please remember there is scholarship assistance available for FFHC.

*Merry Christmas!*

~D



Donna M. Horan

Rhode Island State Chair

[ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org)



# 2018 FRIENDS & FAMILY HANDBELL CAMP



June 28 – July 1, 2018

Cathedral Camp and Retreat Center

167 Middleboro Road, East Freetown, MA

Something for everyone - Ages 8 - 108

- Never rung - Beginners - Tins
- Intermediate Ringers - Coppers
- Advanced Ringers - Bronze
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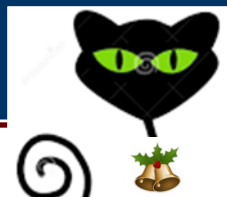


Rehearsal Space / Dining Hall



The 'Hotel'

Contact Donna Horan - [ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org) or  
Jane Nolan - [janesjazz@comcast.net](mailto:janesjazz@comcast.net)



## THE KLAPPER KAT



Seasonal Woes Several questions have been asked about the upcoming holiday handbell season.

The **Klapper Kat** has separated them into two categories:

1. Why are there so many concerts?
2. If I attend one, how do I choose?

First, there is a pervasive attitude that handbells are only for Christmas. It could have been the bagpipes or the kazoo, but it's not; handbells got the tag. It is easy to find commercial and seasonal reasons: bells are joyful and during this joyful season, why not?; if they are good enough for the Salvation Army...; bells are associated with winter, horses and sleighs; bells are a staple of seasonal holiday décor...and the list goes on. Every handbell ringer knows that this holiday season brings extra pressure, rehearsals, concerts and other performances. Don't think about the burden(s) this may impose. Rather, think of it as an opportunity to promote handbells as an opportunity to share the beauty of our instrument, the glorious sounds of handbells, and the long traditions behind our hard work! Remember that over eighty years ago, Margaret Homer Shurcliff started a band of ringers playing Christmas carols on Louisburg Square in Boston. That Beacon Hill tradition continues today with ringers including the founder's grandson. As we all are aware, Margaret Shurcliff's influence didn't stop at the foot of Beacon Hill. From the New England Guild of English Handbell Ringers, to the American Guild of Handbell Ringers, to the Handbell Musicians of America, her legacy has moved us to promote and develop our art in ways which she may have never imagined. We can all be very proud of that!

If you choose to attend a handbell performance (and the **Klapper Kat** certainly hopes you will do so), how should one choose from the long list of handbell events (seasonal or otherwise)?

The answer is simple: attend every one you can possibly get to! If you are a dedicated handbell ringer and want to improve your skills, watching others ring and perform is eye-opening. It makes little difference whether you attend a worship service of a neighboring handbell choir, or a full concert by one of the many excellent community choirs in Area 1. You are always going to learn something. That 'something' may be observing that a technique isn't the way you were taught, or that there is a particular visual presentation that you never experienced before. Whatever the presentation, please attend it for more than just the entertainment value. Leave that for the carload of family and friends you have brought with you. Let them sit back and be excited by the sights and sounds. Your goal(s) should be more practical; and of course, the more concerts you attend, the more you can observe, the more you can learn. You can make the experience worthwhile and fun. If the performing ensemble has a website, look for a list of their seasonal repertoire; listen to it online (YouTube, handbell vendors, etc.) and get a sense of the music ahead of time. During the performance, watch and listen critically; greet the musicians after the program; let them know that you are a ringer; chat with the director; get involved as a ringer, not just as a casual observer. And be sure to take your friends and family out for coffee or ice cream on the way home! Thank them for supporting handbell ringing, and you! The **Klapper Kat** hopes that your holiday ringing and concert-going be filled with the joyous spirit of the season.

If you have further questions, or if your handbells are not made by Malmark or Schulmerich, feel free to write to me, the Klapper Kat, % the Editor of the Fundamental Tone at [editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org)

Happy Ringing!



# CHIME LOANER PROGRAM

## Free Educational Tool – Did I get your attention?

Thirteen sixth graders saunter into my classroom. On my science tables are handchimes, laid out in key board order. The students look at the chimes, then at me, and then back at the chimes. They come to me with different abilities, different experiences, unique needs, but all have the same question on their mind. Why is this science teacher offering to teach a musical instrument as an elective activity? Before I explain anything, I show them how to pick up the chime, how to move it to get the sound, and then let them take one for a test drive. After a few minutes, I ask them to put the chimes down and I begin the explanation of what chimes are, how to ring and damp them properly, how the letter, number and picture on the bumper indicate the note value of each chime, and how to relate this information to sheet music. In about fifteen minutes the students begin to play a simple piece of music. At the end of the activity period, the students have learned some valuable music lessons, felt the joy of creating music, and forgotten that they are in a science room. The important thing is to engage them right away in playing an instrument and creating music from the beginning.

This same "hook" is what makes handchimes such a wonderful instrument to include in a music education classroom. Students can be easily captivated with total immersion in music. Students of all ages, abilities, and learning styles can play handchimes quickly, while learning complex music theory in a concrete manner. If handchimes can incite excitement for music within a science classroom, imagine the impact chimes can have in a music classroom.

This year, all 5 sets of handchimes and materials are out to schools; 2 in Massachusetts, 2 in New Hampshire, and 1 in Vermont. That is very exciting, but the last set was not applied for until October. I would prefer that all the applications reach me by June 30, so that I can get them prepared over the summer and delivered in September. Although, schools take precedence, applications are accepted from churches and community organizations. In the past we have loaned chimes to an intergenerational camp in ME, several churches looking to enhance their bell program, and to several after school programs.

Please spread the word to any schools with which you have a connection, churches looking to start or enhance a chime/bell program, and any community groups looking to offer a fabulous music program.

You know, 95% of the chime loaner recipients procure the funds to purchase their own set of chimes. Once people hear the chimes and see the progress of the ringers, they want their organization to have their own chimes.

Print the advertisement on the following page and give it to anyone you can think of that might find handchimes engaging. Make sure to let them know the 3 octaves of chimes and 4 fabulous teaching books are loaned free for one year and that all recipients get a free one-year membership to Handbell Musicians of America. The membership gives them a lot of great resources. Also, please make sure the people you talk with understand that the loan is for handchimes, not bells.



**Best Ever Music Education Tool**



Holly Cerullo, Chime Loaner Chair

*Encouraging schools, churches, and other educational institutes to develop music education programs using handchimes*

**3-octave set of handchimes and wonderful, innovative teaching materials loaned for one school year.**

For information and application:

[www.area1.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.area1.handbellmusicians.org)

Click "Education", scroll down "Chime Loaner Program"

Questions contact Holly Cerullo at [chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chimeloaner.area1@handbellmusicians.org)



## Did you miss the 2017 Area 1 Festival Conference? We Want to Hear From You!

A few weeks ago, we sent out a survey to those who had not attended the 2017 Festival Conference, but had attended previous conferences.

First, I'd like to extend our sincere gratitude to those of you who responded right away.

We've gotten some great feedback.

Second, I'd like to apologize to those of you who accidentally received an invite to take the survey even though we know you were there. Your presence was appreciated, as was your feedback on the survey!

Finally, we'd like to remind you that there is still time to let us know what kept you away, and what we might be able to do to bring you back next time.

To provide your feedback, please look for an email titled "We Missed You at the Area 1 Festival/Conference".

What we've learned so far, is that the date of last year's festival was the primary reason we didn't see many of you.

There were many great comments, as well as other key reasons why you were unable to attend.

It is unfortunate that the festival fell so close to July 4th this year, and we're hopeful that the June 27 - June 30, 2019 dates are a better fit for the next Festival Conference.

The Festival Conference Committee will be reviewing your feedback, along with the feedback from our 2017 attendees, as we plan for the next Area 1 Festival.

Hope to see you there!

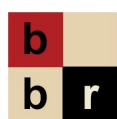
Lisa Arnold

[chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org)

## SNAG A SUB

Directors and ringers, maybe missed this SnagASub notice! There's always a first time for seeing something, and we feel so strongly that this on-line "bulletin board" system-for-finding-a-sub will help to make the handbell community an even more friendly and helpful entity, that we may just keep posting this until you come on board. We need you! At this time the pool of potential subs has grown to 50 ringers and directors, but in order to serve it's purpose, (since it covers a five-state area), it needs to be bigger! Once a ringer is in, it works exactly like an email: [snagasub@googlegroups.com](mailto:snagasub@googlegroups.com),

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 and to get to know other ringers*. Please contact me, Cindy, at [cmgconcord@gmail.com](mailto:cmgconcord@gmail.com), or Gail, at [glgranum1@msn.com](mailto:glgranum1@msn.com), to be invited. (see p.13)



## back bay ringers

*Boston's community handbell ensemble presents...*

Give the gift of Music  
this holiday season!



## Christmas with the Back Bay Ringers

Sunday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m.  
First Parish Church, Bedford, MA

Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 p.m.  
Amazing Things Arts Center, Framingham, MA

Sunday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.  
St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Hanover, MA

Friday, December 15 at 7:30 p.m.  
First Church in Boston, Boston, MA

Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m.  
Shalin Liu Performance Center, Rockport, MA



Please visit [www.backbayringers.org](http://www.backbayringers.org) to learn about additional performances,  
receive full concert details, and subscribe to our e-mail newsletter.

CDs are available for purchase online  
at <http://www.backbayringers.org/shop/>

*Back Bay Ringers musicians are preparing for a busy holiday season that will find the ensemble performing several concerts throughout the greater Boston area including our return the beautiful Shalin Liu performing arts center in Rockport, Mass.*

*This season's program, "Our Favorite Things" was inspired by a conversation our artistic director had with an audience member after last year's Christmas concert in Boston. The audience member recounted hearing the Italian carol Tu scendi dale stelle, while growing up in her Sicilian family. BBR commissioned Sue Nelson to create an arrangement for our ensemble and we are excited to present the premier of this beautiful Italian carol. In addition, BBR will present the New England premiere of James Webber's new arrangement of Stille Nacht, a piece that was written for the Westminster Concert Bell Choir.*

*In addition to our many solo concerts, we will once again collaborate with the New England Conservatory for their Evening of Readings and Carols at the stunning Church of the Covenant in Boston's Back Bay. This free concert features the choirs of NEC, brass, organ, and of course handbells!*

*For more information on our upcoming concerts, please visit our website at [www.backbayringers.org](http://www.backbayringers.org)*

*Griff Gall, Artistic Director, Back Bay Ringers*

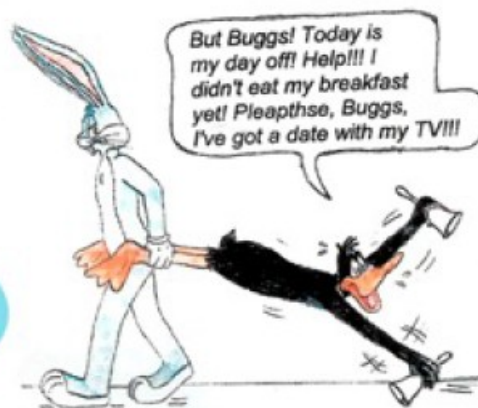
Ringers and Directors!

# 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."*)

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Email your information to Cindy McLean-Greeley, [cmgconcord@gmail.com](mailto:cmgconcord@gmail.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Choir: \_\_\_\_\_

Choir Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_ Choir Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**SnagASub**



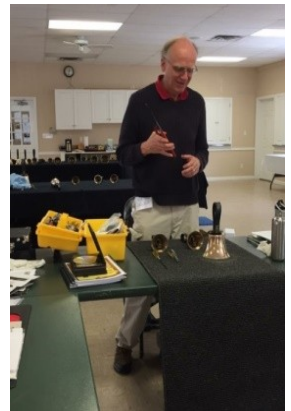
## Inspire vs. Expire

By Steve Mazeau

The first bell choir I joined expired after about three years when the director moved away. My search for alternatives began in the yellow pages of the phone book under “churches.” This set in motion a series of transitions as I went, for one reason or another, from bell choir to bell choir. While this might seem to be a problem, I found that at each of these different places I was inspired by the different people I met, the styles and techniques they were using and the different music they employed.

The Handbell Musicians of America “Back to Bells” program is really all about this Inspire / Expire dynamic. When the bells disappear into a closet or attic, that’s the expire part of it. This is a bad thing. But don’t panic; they’re not dead, just sleeping. Nor is the inspirational part of the program just limited to our “beautiful dreamers.” I feel that each of us, regardless of our skills and experience, and regardless of where our program may currently be at, can take away a little bit of inspiration from a program like Back to Bells, even when we least expect it.

I recently had the pleasure to be part of a Back to Bells program, led by Rick Wood at the First Church of Bethlehem in Bethlehem, Connecticut. The program comes with a 43 page, spiral bound, workshop curriculum booklet. The booklet covers a little bit of everything and obviously a great deal of time was spent putting it together. It explains everything from basic ringing techniques and note values to how to set up your rehearsal room and techniques for recruiting new ringers. Have you ever taken a handbell apart to try to resolve a mechanical problem? It’s really not as bad as dissecting a frog in Biology class, but it immediately crosses over into the do-able column when you see someone actually doing it. The booklet includes a section on “Troubleshooting Common Problems” along with information on where you can go if you want to learn more. There are also suggestions in the booklet for repertoire for newer ringers as well as fewer ringers.



But Back to Bells isn’t just about the booklet and the curriculum, it’s also about the people. Rick Wood obviously has a wealth of knowledge and experience to call upon when it comes to handbell related topics. Rick also took the time to contact each of the Back to Bells participants before the program to see what they wanted to focus on. When we were all done, he also emphasized the fact that he’s only a phone call or e-mail away if anyone needs help in the future.

Back to Bells is really just part of the larger story. There are so many ways to participate and be inspired. Area 1 is also lucky to have programs like the Family and Friends Handbell Camp, all the different Spring Ring events, the High School Ring Out, the Festival Conference, Snag-a-Sub, Skill Building Workshops, and so on. Behind each of these programs are dedicated people who want to see your program succeed. When you take part in these programs you meet people, much like yourself, each looking for something, and each carrying with them a little bit of inspiration that they can pass on to you. I had the pleasure to meet Joanne Archibald and several of her group from St. James Episcopal Church in Danbury at the Back to Bells event. Equally important, believe it or not, you also carry with you a bit of inspiration that will be passed on to them, and it will happen when you aren’t even expecting it!



## CHANGES TO THE *FUNDAMENTAL TONE*

If you are reading this - 'Thank you'!

We have been making changes to the *FT* and we would like your input.

Scheduling changes are contained in the box below - the format has changed and the method of distribution will be through *Constant Contact* as well as a posting on the Area 1 website. If you are not receiving this through your email and would like to, please notify your State Chair or the editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org

It is planned to incorporate more educational information - technique, theory, etc.

**We NEED your input!**

What do you like about the FT? What don't you like? What would you like to see in **your** newsletter? What challenges do you encounter as a musician that you would like to see addressed? Do we need an Area 1 calendar?

Directors and Ringers - Do you have thoughts you would like to share? Please submit articles for publication.

If you have suggestions or questions regarding this or any other aspect of the *Fundamental Tone*, please contact the editor,  
Donna Horan email: editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org

### *Fundamental Tone*

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editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org  
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Quarter page: (3.5" w. x 4.625" h.) \$30.00;  
Eighth page: (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.) \$20.00.  
Discounts are available for prepayment of two issues (– 5%)  
and four issues (– 10%).

