



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 11

Volume - 5
Issue - 1
Jan. 2012

www.area11.handbellmusicians.org



Newsletter



NATIONAL OFFICE

www.handbellmusicians.org

Mountain Sub-Area Chair - Mary Moffett
Mary_Moffett@comcast.net

Desert Sub-Area Chair - Libbie Randels
libbie70@aol.com

From the Chair.....

172 Days and Counting.....

2012 Area 11 Festival/Conference

June 21 - 24 in Salt Lake City, Utah

Beeeeeeeeeeeeeee..... Proud of who we are!

2012 Festival Logo



Handbells have been in the spotlight lately! In November, bells were featured on an episode of "New Girl" and just this last week on the new Anderson Cooper talk show. Imagine how many bells were heard just in December alone with all of the Christmas performances by the thousands of bell choirs around the country!! It is an amazing instrument that we play and I am PROUD to be a Handbell Musician and a member of Handbell Musicians of America!

I like the "new" name for our organization. One aspect of the New Initiatives Campaign included the rebranding of the *American Guild of English Handbell Ringers* to **Handbell Musicians of America**. I was privileged to participate in the Area Leadership Meeting when our "new" name was discussed and voted on. It was at that time the National Board and Area Leaders decided we would like to avoid the use of an acronym when referring to our organization and use **The Guild** when we needed a nickname. By using the word GUILD we retained some of our past heritage while giving us identity as a community of artisans, which we are!! So, I hope you will join me and NOT call our organization HMA or "Humma". For me, the name **Handbell Musicians of America** gives me pride in who I am - a Handbell Musician!!

I am also very PROUD to serve as your Chair of Area 11. This job has given me so many opportunities to meet fellow Handbell Musicians not only in Area 11, but all around the country. It has given me the opportunity to witness first-hand the amazing talent we have right here in our own backyard!! In this issue you will meet one of those very talented people - Mary Moffett, our new Area 11 Mountain Sub-Area Chair!

Area 11 will be electing new officers this coming spring and the Nominating

Deadline for next Newsletter January 25, 2012

In this issue:

Meet Mary Moffett

Results of Chime Loan

To Move or Not to Move

Area Festival/Conference

Spring Rings Scheduled

Sights to See in Salt Lake City

Utah Fun Fact

New Members



E-notes - Sign up for your monthly national GUILD news or ringEr-Notes at www.handbellmusicians.org. Click the Music and Resources tab. You do not have to be a member of Handbell Musicians of America to get E-notes or RingEr-Notes. Tell your friends!

PLEASE

Be sure to keep your e-mail address up-to-date to receive the latest news.

(cont. next page)

(from the chair, cont.)

Committee, Lois Cook, lcook1@comcast.net; Linda Larson, drlindalarson@gmail.com; or myself claudette.rothwell@gmail.com, is looking for nominations for Secretary/Treasurer and Chair-Elect. Please let us know who you would like to see as your future leaders!! Perhaps YOU would like to have the opportunity to serve? You can certainly nominate YOURSELF!! Anyone is welcome to give me a call or e-mail me to discuss the two positions and the responsibilities involved.

Until next month.....**be PROUD of who YOU are – a Handbell Musician!!**

Claudette

INTRODUCING - Mary Moffett, New Mountain Sub-Area Chair



I was born and raised in Puyallup, Washington, a small town near Seattle (although it's not so small anymore!) Music became a major part of my life when, as a child, my father brought home an old upright piano he had been given. I began taking piano lessons immediately and fell in love with it. I quickly discovered that music

was my thing! After spending several years as a piano student growing up, I decided to pursue piano pedagogy and general music in school, with a few art classes included along the way. I began my music teaching career in 1985 as a piano teacher in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, where my husband was stationed with the USAF. As I moved around the country with my husband during his military career, I continued to set up successful piano teaching studios in each location we lived and took every opportunity I could for independent music study as well as attending workshops and classes offered to area piano teachers to improve my teaching skills. When we moved to Utah in October 2005, I also began teaching elementary music in two Kaysville Elementary schools. This was a wonderful experience that broadened my teaching skills from the one-on-one teaching of piano, to teaching classes of children all the wonderful things introduced and taught in elementary music. This new teaching experience fueled my desire to add new ways to create music in my own life.

When I saw that the Bells on Temple Square was accepting applications in December of 2009 for their workshops, I decided to apply. Even though I had never played handbells before, I was intrigued by the idea of learning this new skill and creating beautiful music with such a talented group of musicians. When the work-

shops ended in February 2010, I was given the opportunity to join the Bells of Joyful Sound, a local community handbell choir, to gain more playing experience. I welcomed this opportunity to continue to learn and master this beautiful new instrument. Within a very short time period, I realized I had found a new passion in my life! Then, just a few months into my membership with Bells of Joyful Sound, the director announced that he would be looking for someone to replace him in the coming year. He mentioned that this new person might even be one of the members of our choir. That statement really excited me. I had joined the Bells of Joyful Sound with the hope of gaining playing experience, but this new possibility intrigued me. While I enjoy playing and performing, I truly love teaching and guiding others to further develop their musical talents. Just a few weeks later, he began speaking with me about the prospect of me becoming his assistant and beginning an internship with him. I welcomed the idea and began serving in that capacity in September of 2010. He retired as director in December

*It has been said that
music touches
feelings that words
cannot, and I truly
believe that.*

and I took over the podium in January of 2011. During my short time as his assistant, I focused my attention and studies on the intricacies of directing a handbell choir and I am excited to continue to grow and develop in this new role.

My passion for directing and teaching stems from my strong desire to help others convey the message or feeling of *each* piece to *every* audience in *every* performance. It has been said that music touches feelings that words cannot, and I truly believe that. Over the past 26 years, I have been very comfortable guiding my piano students and various vocal choirs I have directed in this pursuit. The opportunity to offer this same passion to a handbell choir has been a wonderful new challenge.

Meet Mary (continued on next page)

Meet Mary (cont.)

In addition to playing and teaching the piano, I love arranging music (which now even includes arranging pieces for the Bells of Joyful Sound to perform), drawing, writing short stories and poetry, and recently I began playing the harp. My husband Ed and I lived in several places around the country until he retired from the Air Force in 2005. At that time, we moved to Kaysville, Utah to start a new civilian career. We have five children and three grandchildren. Since being appointed to serve as the Area 11 Mountain Sub-Area chair, I have taken some time to read older issues of our Area 11 newsletter on the website. It has been so fun to see what has been going on in this area of the handbell world over the past few years and to read of the success of so many events under the direction of such wonderful Area leaders. As we move forward into 2012 and beyond, I would love to see the tradition of greatness continue as we plan our Mountain area events, with even greater success! Two of my mottos have always been "Excellence is in the details" and "Work hard, but have fun!" (I'm sure any of my students and/or bell ringers could verify that!) With that in mind, I would like to see each and every event we hold continue to be well planned to the smallest detail and be well attended by the members in our area. And, every once in a while, it is sure fun to throw in a little of the unexpected to keep things fresh and exciting for members of our Area. In addition to continuing our tradition of excellence with our wonderful events, I would love to see our membership in the Handbell Musicians of America increase to the highest numbers we've ever witnessed. Encouraging membership and active participation is certainly on my list of priorities.

Recently I found myself in need of a few extra bells to facilitate an extra ringer practicing with my choir. As I called around to local churches and schools, I was surprised to hear of so many that "thought they may have some bells" or "may have had a bell choir at one point..." but had no idea where they may be in their church or school at the moment. I would love to see these and other unused bells be brought out, dusted off, polished up, and put to use again creating beautiful music for churches and communities. I am inspired by the motivation our Desert neighbors have had to encourage the same use of the unused, closeted bells in their region of Area 11. The continuing use of the chime loan program is one area I plan to focus on as well. What a wonderful program this is that helps introduce chime playing to new participants and may create a spark within some of them to become involved with a handbell choir. Finally, I would like to encourage anyone that may have ideas they would like to see implemented or needs they may have, to contact me at Mary_moffett@comcast.net. I truly want the handbell ringers and directors in the Mountain Sub-Area to know that I am here to help them and welcome any comments or suggestions they may have. As I begin serving in this capacity, I am looking forward to working with the wonderful Area 11 board members and discovering how I can add to the excellence of Area 11 and help the Mountain Sub-Area surge to new heights!

CHIME LOAN PROGRAM IN ACTION - from Cathie Olds, C.H.I.M.E. Chair

On the last day before Christmas vacation more than 600 students and parents filled the multi-purpose room at Mountain View Elementary School in Brigham City, Utah, with joyful expectation. They were not disappointed when students sang Christmas carols and songs accompanied in turn by 25 chimers from each of the three fifth grades. Each class played four songs with chimes and piano while the audience sang.



Marilyn Julander, fifth grade teacher, received one of the Area 11 loaner chime sets in August. During September, Cathie Olds, Area 11 Chime Chair, and Marilyn worked hard to give the students beginning music and chime skills. Much practice followed and the Christmas program was their reward. When asked, Marilyn said, "This was really fun." Students echoed her feeling with thumbs up, smiles, and repeatedly saying, "This was **a lot of fun!**"

“To Move or Not to Move” By Susan Hedgpeth

“To move or not to move. Why not?”, is the question. Compared to many directors in the handbell world, I’m new to this party. I’ve only been playing and directing handbells for 13 years, but I’ve been a musician all my life. I started playing piano at age 5, have been learning other instruments since 4th grade, and began singing lessons in 6th grade while joining choirs and show choirs. Performing is in my blood.

I was taught from a very early age that the “life” of the music comes from within the performer. It’s the job of the musician to express that “life”, or emotion, through our faces and our body language -- in other words, to tell the story behind the music. Think about it this way. If parents were to read a story to a child, which would the child prefer more: The one who reads the words in different character voices with inflections and facial expressions, perhaps even some body language -- or the one who does not? I have four children, and I know from experience which way they prefer. So, why does it seem ingrained in handbell ringers to stand still while they ring? Where did that come from?

I have read all the stories about where handbells originated and how they came to be used as they are today. However, I haven’t read where it says that they cannot move as they play. We, as ringers, have the incredible honor of playing one of the most visual instruments available and yet, we just stand there. Kevin McChesney, the Pikes Peak Ringers, and Jason Wells (to name a few) have been using movement in their teaching for several years now with amazing response. “Moving with the music is a tremendous asset for phrasing, dynamics, feeling the rhythm, and MUCH more”, says Kevin. Jason Wells says that the greatest benefit to movement while ringing, “is the significantly improved musical lines.” Without it, “the performance amounts to a group of ringers isolated in their own dimension across time and space.” Kimberlee Strepka, author of Handbell Artistry from the Inside Out: Laban Movement Theory for the Handbell Musician, is quoted as saying, “A ringer’s ability to move musically directly affects his/her ability to ring expressively.”

Clearly, there is a unified thinking about using movement in music. We see it everywhere. David Garrett, an amazing violinist, plays everything from classical music to rock, all while walking around the stage. If you were to approach Yo-Yo Ma sometime and ask him to sit still while playing his cello, I truly believe he would laugh at you. Another example is the ever popular MozART GROUP. You can watch these amazing musicians on Youtube sometime adding comedy to their performance. Mannheim Steamroller and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra have even added lights and staging to their out-standing, sold-out performances. I could go on, but all of these artists have one thing in common – they are not afraid to push the boundaries of their instruments.

I think the biggest opposition to moving while ringing is that it can distract from the music. I’ve been playing in the Pikes Peak Ringers for 7 years, and we have NEVER had one audience member come up to us and say that our movement distracted them from enjoying our music. In fact, most of the time they say that they have never enjoyed listening to handbells more. Notice...they said “listened”. We use movement to enhance the musical experience.

Audiences around the world don’t pay good money just to go “listen” to their favorite performer. That’s what radios are for. They pay to “see” them play. Otherwise, what’s the point of having concerts? If their favorite performers just stood there – even if they played absolutely flawlessly -- their audience would come away wanting. Mr. Jason Wells says, “...We have been held back by our inability to feel the music with our entire bodies.” So, the next time you step up to the table, ask yourself, “To move or not to move?” Expression of the music in its totality is the answer.

Susan is the Assistant Director of the Pikes Peak Ringers. She has formed and directs the Youth Organization of the Pike’s Peak Ringers - Pinnacle Ringers (9th - 12th grade) and Ascent Ringers (5th - 8th grade) .

FESTIVAL/CONFERENCE 2012 - June 21-24, 2012 - Salt Lake City - Little America Hotel

Register by March 1 and save \$100! All registrations are individual. All individuals in a choir may choose to register for the same track. You will pre-register for all tracks and classes. Music will be provided. Space is limited in some classes, so register early for best choice. **Registration is now open for all!** Find all information and forms at www.area11.handbellmusicians.org/aconf2012/aconf12.html

“Sting and Ring” is a special track for Youth - age 10 to 18 as of June 1, 2012. Various members of “the Swarm”, including Susan Hedgpeth (see article above) will be working with the youth with Area 11 Chair, Claudette Rothwell as coordinator.

SPRING EVENTS PLANNED

March 10, 2012 - **Northern Colorado Spring Festival** at Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Loveland, CO. Clinician is Paul Gentry. Contact Anne Kleve - alkleve@msn.com. See www.area11.handbellmusicians.com/mtarea/mtarea.html for repertoire list and registration information.

March 10, 2012 - **2012 Utah Spring Ring** at Riverton High School. Clinician is Kevin McChesney. Contact Terry Waite - terwaite@aol.com.

April 20-21, 2012 - **2012 Wyoming Spring Ring**. Clinician is Monica McGowan. Contact Carolyn Deuel - artcorewy@aol.com.

SIGHTS TO SEE IN AND AROUND SALT LAKE CITY*

Although the 2012 Area 11 Festival will keep you plenty busy, there are many sights to see in the Salt Lake City area that would be great places to visit. Bring your family, come a few days early or stay on for a few days after the Festival and enjoy the many sights that Salt Lake City and the surrounding area have to offer.

Clark Planetarium

Address: 110 South 400 West, Salt Lake City, UT

Website: <http://www.clarkplanetarium.org/>

Occupying an impressive limestone structure built in 1905; this interactive museum offers the young and young-at-heart an entertaining look at the universe. An ideal place for kids, the museum encourages participation with simulated space flights, star shows and dancing laser lights. Astronomy courses are available for all ages in the summer and special programs are scheduled throughout the year. Call ahead to find out show timings.

George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park

Address: 1544 East Park Boulevard, Ogden, UT

Website: <http://www.dinosaurpark.org>

Paved trails wind through naturalistic environments corralling one-half size to full-size replicas of flying reptiles, dinosaurs, crawlers and marine creatures. The replicas represent creatures from the Permian through the Cretaceous periods and all are painted in accordance with the latest theories on coloration. Some actual bones are on display and a small gift shop provides souvenirs. The park lies 35 minutes north of downtown Salt Lake.

**Look for a "Sights to See" column in the monthly Area 11 newsletter from now until Festival/Conference time, June 21-24, 2012.*

Include some sight-seeing in your visit to Salt Lake City before or after the Festival/Conference.



UTAH FUN FACT

THE GREATEST SNOW ON EARTH

It is more than just a catch phrase – it's science. A fortunate combination of geology and climate makes Utah snow the driest, fluffiest, and most skiable in the world. The average snowfall in the mountains near Salt Lake City is 500 inches. Fourteen Alpine ski resorts operate in Utah.

NORM HEITZ & CAROL SCHEEL
PRESENT:



A full service handbell store with music and accessories: gloves, gifts, maintenance items, binders, mallets, bell tree items, Malmark products

Visit us at
www.heitzhandbells.com

612-208-1741
1 (877 or 866) 426-3235
heitzhandbells@yahoo.com

6603 Queen Ave S, Suite S
Richfield, MN 55423



NEWEST MEMBERS - December 2012

Welcome to Anne Whitbeck Huysman of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Los Alamos, NM and Jennifer Nudd of Lehi High School in Lehi, UT.

