



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

www.area11.handbellmusicians.org

Area 11

Newsletter

NATIONAL OFFICE

www.handbellmusicians.org

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141 Days and Counting.....
2012 Area 11 Festival/Conference
June 21 - 24 in Salt Lake City, Utah

Don't Beeeeeeeeeee..... A PROCRASTINATOR !!!

Yes, that's right – don't be a PROCRASTINATOR!! The Area 11 Festival is only 141 days away!! Have YOU mailed in your registration form? Did you know that you can save \$100 by registering before March 1st? The Polished Bronze Ringing Track is limited to 30 ringers on a first come, first served basis!! Other classes may also be limited due to meeting space considerations. So, don't delay – mail in your registration today. You can make a \$200 deposit now and pay in full by May 15, 2012. A word to Directors – don't wait to share information about the Festival with your bell choirs. And don't keep it to yourself. Encourage your ringers to take this opportunity to become a better ringer!!

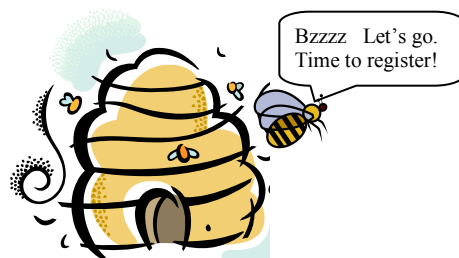
There are three other exciting Area 11 events in the next couple of months that you won't want to miss. The Northern Colorado Festival will be held in Loveland, Colorado on Saturday, March 10th. Paul Gentry will be their clinician. The Utah Spring Ring will also be held on March 10th in Riverton, Utah. Kevin McChesney will be their guest clinician. Casper, Wyoming will be the site of the Wyoming Spring Ring on April 20-21 and the clinician will be Monica McGowan. Check out the website at www.area11.org for details and repertoire for each event. Don't procrastinate – get your registrations in!! These events, like all Area 11 events are open to all Handbell Musicians of America.

Another deadline is here – the Nominating Committee needs to have all nominations for Secretary/Treasurer and Chair-Elect submitted now!! Area 11 spring elections will be coming soon! Don't put off that decision to serve Area 11 as an officer. I can tell you from personal experience that it is a rewarding job!!! Call or e-mail me and I will tell you all about the two positions and what they entail. You don't have to wait to be nominated by someone else; YOU can submit your own name for consideration!!

Last month you got your first glimpse of the 2012 Festival Logo Pin. I hope you like it!! A personal friend and Utah artist, Cara Koolmees designed it for us. You can check out her website at www.carakoolmees.com. Cara is familiar with my handbell choirs, has

Deadline for March Newsletter
February 25, 2012
Advertising deadline 2/20/12

Chair explains Festival Theme/Logo
Ensemble Track at Festival
Northern Colorado Festival
Utah Festival
Wyoming Festival
Rent a Car in Salt Lake City
Mazzatenta wins again!
Call for Exhibitors



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.)

heard us play and I explained what we would be doing in the Festival. I asked her to incorporate handbells with Utah themes. You will notice the handbell takes on the shape of a beehive. Utah is nicknamed the "Beehive State" which might seem strange for a state that is much better known for its beautiful sandstone arches than its ability to mass produce honey. When the early pioneers ventured out to Utah for the first time they had little to work with. As a result they had to produce their own supplies. This effort of mass producing what they needed became the inspiration for creating both the state motto of "industry" and the state symbol of "the beehive". It is also what the beehive inside the Utah state flag stands for. The beehive was officially adopted in 1848 to become the state symbol. It is so appropriate that we use the "BEE" to promote our 2012 Festival. Our primary focus this festival is to "work hard" so everyone returns home a better ringer, a better director, a better composer, a better HANDBELL MUSICIAN!! You can read all about the SWARM, the ringing tracks and classes offered, find registration forms and all of the latest festival information at www.area11.handbellmusicians.org/aconf2012/conf2012.html.



The flower on the logo pin is a sego lily, the state flower. Between 1840 and 1851 food became very scarce in Utah due to a crop-devouring plague of crickets. Families were put on rations, and during this time they learned to dig for and to eat the soft, bulbous root of the sego lily. The beautiful sego lily has white, lilac, or yellow flowers and grows six to eight inches high on open grass and sage rangelands in the Great Basin during the summer months.

The blue at the bottom of the pin is the Great Salt Lake. And the sandstone colored mountains surround it all. This is also the first time we have a logo pin inscribed with our new name, HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA!!

After Cara completed her artwork, we took it to Symbol Arts, the Utah Company that designed and produced all of the pins for the 2002 Winter Olympics!! This month Utah is celebrating the 10th anniversary of those Olympics.

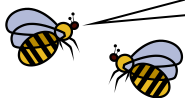
How do you get one of these beautiful one of a kind logo pins? You have to attend the 2012 Area 11 Festival Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah June 21 – 24!!! So, BEEeeee There!!!

And remember.....Don't *BEE* a Procrastinator!!

Claudette

Me too!

"Have you registered for the Area 11 Festival in Salt Lake City?"



Thinking about it.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS - End of January Membership reports show Area 11 gained 6 new members! LeAnn Gray is with First UMC in Laramie, WY; Amy Montgomery is at Lamar UMC in Lamar, CO and Lee Smoot at Central Presbyterian Church in Longmont, CO. Other new members are Ann Palmer of Mesa, AZ; Lorraine Tea of Highland, UT and Austin Thorpe from Herriman, UT. Hope to see you at the Festival in Salt Lake City.



SPRING RINGS PLANNED - See www.area11.handbellmusicians.com/mtarea/mtarea.html for details of these 3 events. Note registration deadlines.

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 for repertoire list and registration information. **Registration deadline is February 25, 2012.**

March 10, 2012 - Utah Spring Ring at Riverton High School. Clinician is Kevin McChesney. Contact Terry Waite - terwaite@aol.com. **Registration deadline is February 25, 2012.**

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

UTAH FUN FACT - The Wasatch Mountain Range stretches about 160 miles from north to south. Its highest peak, Mount Nebo, has an elevation of more than 11,800 feet.



“Register NOW for the Area 11 Festival in Salt Lake City”



Ensemble Ringing Track in SALT LAKE CITY!! by Michael Kastner

This note is to address the *inner bell-hog* within each and every advanced handbell musician. "Bell hog" is **not really** the term I would apply to most handbell players who wish to extend their abilities and experiences. Many of us have a sincere desire to extend our handbell experiences beyond the artificial walls of our own assignment in our own choir. Handbell ringing is a soulful and physical art. Ensemble ringing extends the soul and connects you to your fellow musicians in a way no other musical activity can and is even more physically engaging - not to mention just plain fun!!

Most bell festival events offer some kind of solo or ensemble ringing "class" which is simply a taste-spoon. You leave these events with much homework required to get the techniques down and be able to say you are competent, even in the fledgling sense. The Handbell Musicians of America Area 11 Festival in Salt Lake City, this coming June, offers **an entire track** in ensemble ringing. This means you will be training and practicing in lieu of massed ringing. This means you will hone your skill set (be it newly learned skills or long-time techniques with new emphasis on musicianship) real-time (no homework - you'll return from this event a better ensemble musician!!).

The hard part is done for you!! Bell sets, tables, pads, and music are not an issue. The logistics of setup and equipment often stymies fledgling ensemble ringers (and is even a pain for experienced ensembles). At the Salt Lake City event, you will be in a first-class environment with **all equipment and music included**. Clinician Michael Kastner will bring his expertise and experience of having run five international solo/ensemble events and empower you to learn as fast or as methodically as you like. A performance opportunity is available for ensembles wishing to strut their stuff (not required - but certainly encouraged if you are even thinking about it). If you attend as a complete (or partial) ensemble, you can shape your experience as a 3-day long coaching session. If you attend unattached to a particular ensemble, you can still get the experience of working together with other like-minded musicians in a supportive environment. (And before you ask, of COURSE you can bring your own bells or equipment - even music - if you prefer!!).

No massed ringing for ensemble track participants. This means you will be able to learn more extended techniques and have time to fine-tune them, with real-time coaching. This means you can focus on extended forms of ensemble ringing such as musical nuances, movement, presentation skills, and memory tricks which take a simply fun or novel presentation over the threshold to become a true art form. Dedicated rooms, bell sets, music, keyboard, and support musicians are available to you for a further, simply heavenly ensemble experience.

Why the hard-sell? Sometimes ringers who are "thinking about it" need the gentle nudge to try it out. This opportunity is so rare, I would venture to say no other Area event has offered such an experience. It is so easy for you to take your first step into the world of ensemble ringing at this event, I can't help but encourage you to look at this as a once-in-a-lifetime experience. If you are already a well-tuned ensemble and want to participate in what will amount to a 3-day coaching session for your group, again, there is no other place to get this experience - period. There is certainly a strength in numbers effect that cannot be ignored either. There can only be an offering such as this at an Area event if there is sufficient interest and participation to support the structure necessary for such an experience. If you show Area 11 that ensemble ringing is alive and well and you or your group is outstanding and looking to become even better, then the Area 11 leadership will surely address this by planning more similar events.

The easy part is left for you. All you have to do to is sign up. The hard parts will happen behind the scene. You will enjoy the entire event, including ANOTHER once-in-a-lifetime experience with the Bells on Temple Square concert - every bit worth the effort - and this is, after all, the easy part. Make the time investment in yourself. Make the commitment to come with high energy and expectations and return from Salt Lake City a better, more confident and stellar handbell artist. And while we're at it, return with a new label - instead of "bell hog" expect to wear the moniker "ensemble musician."

WOW! HURRY!



"REGISTER BY MARCH 1st and SAVE \$100 on Area 11 Festival Registration!"



Dr. Michael Mazzatenta wins again!

Former Area 11 chair, Dr. Michael Mazzatenta, continues to win handbell composition contests. While all of his former wins have been for AGEHR (now Handbell Musicians of America) Area composition contests, his most recent win is for a contest sponsored by Bells of the Sound, a Community Choir in the Seattle, WA. area. When asked what inspires him to enter these contests, he says it is the themes as well as the guidelines provided in the contest descriptions.

Dr. Mazzatenta is employed as an organist, accompanist, and handbell director at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church in Scottsdale AZ but this latest contest theme, "All That Jazz", was a perfect fit for him because of the other "world" of music he lives in - Jazz! (He is also adjunct instructor of Class Piano and Jazz Combo at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Chandler, AZ)

His winning composition is "*The Glad Sound Blues*" and it will be performed at the Spring Concerts of Bells of the Sound. Bells of the Sound say this about the piece, "Right from the pickup, "*The Glad Sound Blues*" swings! This extremely well-crafted jazz blues has great contrasts and a laid-back style, and everyone gets a chance to play a variety of techniques. We expect this one to be a crowd favorite." For Mazz this was his third try at winning one of the Bells of the Sound composition contests.

"THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM!" CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Mazzatenta's other composition contest winners are:

2003: Area 3, celebrating the 50th anniversary of AGEHR - *Fanfare Celebration* (a Guild best seller)

2004: Area 11, celebrating the 50th anniversary of AGEHR - *Ceremonial Fanfare* (Young Ringers Contest)

2005: historic double-win in Area 2, celebrating their 45th anniversary - *Ringin' Victoriously* (Youth) and *Proclamation of Praise* (Adult)

2009: Area 1, in honor of Elizabeth Bradford - *With a Bold Voice*

2010: Area 12 - *Renewed Spirit*

OTHER AREA 11 COMPOSERS/ARRANGERS -

We know there are many talented composers/arrangers in Area 11 and would like to introduce them to the Area 11 Guild membership in future newsletters. But right now we don't have a complete list, so if you are an Area 11 published composer/arranger or know of someone who is, please send a name and e-mail to [Marcy Hontz](mailto:Marcy.Hontz@area11guild.org) so we don't miss anyone.

~~~~~FUN THINGS TO DO IN UTAH~~~~~

Alpine Slide

Address: 1310 Lowell Avenue, Park City, UT
Website: <http://www.parkcitymountain.com/summer/activ...>

Come race your buddies down the snow-less slopes of Park City Mountain Resort. Riders take a ski lift to the top and then mount wheeled toboggans at the starting point. Two side-by-side concrete tracks guide speedsters along a winding, bumpy path to the bottom of the mountain. Not for the weak of heart, this ride will keep thrill seekers coming back for more. Multi-ride tickets and day passes are also available.

Tracy Aviary

Address: 589 East 1300 South,
Salt Lake City, UT
Website: <http://www.tracyaviary.org/>

Have you ever seen a human imprinted bird? Interested? Then this downtown aviary is the place to go. Housing more than 500 birds from 150 species, this is a great place to encounter birds up close and personal. Enjoy an amazing bird show during the warmer months, and gawk at the beautiful peacocks that roam the grounds.

F. Y. I. - Thrifty Car Rental Discount for SLC Conference Attendees!

Rent any vehicle and receive 8% off the lowest rate available at time of booking.
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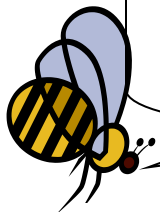
CALL FOR EXHIBITORS - A limited number of 10' x 10' spaces are available for exhibits/sales at the Area 11 Festival in Salt Lake City. \$65.00 includes one 6' skirted/covered table, pipe and drape divider, ID, 2 chairs and a wastebasket. If you are interested, contact Linda Maloney (Linda.Maloney@Live.Com) for more information. Space will be available until **March 15, 2012**. Act Now!

"LAST WARNING!!!!" Register NOW!

~~~~~AND DON'T FORGET~~~~~

Bell Choirs attending Festival are **invited** and **encouraged** to perform a solo at the **Saturday evening Festival Showcase Concert**. Let us hear from you!!! Get your registrations in **TODAY!!**

Registration is easy. All materials are available at: <http://www.area11handbellmusicians.org/aconf2012/aconf12.html> Registrations must be received by March 1 to save \$100. Go to your computer and print out the forms! Bees are buzzing and the "swarm" is ready.



NORM HEITZ & CAROL SCHEEL

PRESENT:

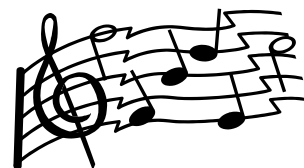


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