



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 11

Newsletter

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From the Chair:



Happy New Year! Do you have any New Year's resolutions related to handbell ringing? Do you want to become a better ringer or director? Do you want practice sight reading? Or, maybe you just want to do more ringing?

The Read and Rings around the Area on February 1st are geared towards sight-reading. There will be a Director's Seminar in Arizona in April. Spring rings will be held in Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. And, the must-attend event is the Area 11 Festival/Conference, *Elevations!*, to be held in Loveland, CO in June. Scholarships for the Festival are still available.

Now is the time to sign up for any of the many events coming up around Area 11. Many of the deadlines are coming soon. Don't miss out! Please check out the information in this newsletter and on our website,

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/>.

Happy Ringing!

Sue Hahn

Area 11 Chair

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Area 11 Website

www.area11.handbellmusicians.org

National Office Website

www.handbellmusicians.org

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Check out our Calendar to see what's planned in Area 11.

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/about-us/calendar/>



ELEVATIONS! Area 11 Festival / Conference



ELEVATIONS!

2014 Area 11 Festival / Conference
June 19-22, 2014
Embassy Suites Hotel
Loveland, Colorado

Registration is OPEN!

Early registration deadline is March 1, 2014

A wonderful list of FAQ can also be found on the website, as well as the track descriptions by lead clinician, Debbie Rice, that were included in last month's issue of the newsletter.

*Scholarships are available for \$250 towards the registration fees!
The deadline for scholarship applications is February 1.*

Be sure to click the following link to visit the website for all the Festival information!

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/festival-conference-2014/>



This month's new FAQ for the Area 11 Festival/Conference ELEVATIONS!

Q: *I'd like to visit family before I sign-in at the Festival. When can I arrive? When will the Registration Desk open? When will the Festival conclude? Can my family and friends come to the closing concert on Sunday?*

A: *That's a LOT of questions! Let's answer them one by one. Plan to arrive at the Hotel on Thursday, June 19. At this time, we anticipate the Registration Desk will open at 11am - but, that is subject to change by an hour or two. The closing concert is scheduled for 3:00pm-ish on Sunday afternoon - and is also subject to change by a half-hour or so. Your friends and family are certainly invited and encouraged to attend this concert. A Festival Schedule will be available sometime after April 1, 2014.*

ELEVATIONS!

Feature Article by Amy Maakestad, director of the Twin Cities Bronze

Members of the Twin Cities Bronze will be participating as clinicians at ELEVATIONS! our Area 11 Festival in June 2014.

The following article is written by their wonderful director, Amy Maakestad.

More, More, More!

By Amy Maakestad

Retailers must be successful using stereotypical Christmas handbells to market products. You probably have seen the classic commercial with Hershey Kisses™ arranged like a tree ringing “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” This year’s Kmart™ commercial promoting a line of holiday boxers featuring attractive men ringing handbells is quite unforgettable. How does having our instrument used in this way affect what we do as handbell ringers?

Since church attendance is declining, the number of ringers from the historically solid church base is dwindling. Handbells are not very common in schools because of the initial start-up expense and the lack of emphasis on music instruction in favor of core subjects. Community groups are becoming the destination for all of the former church ringers who have moved away from their home churches or who are looking to develop their skills in a different setting. I don’t think handbells are a dying art form, but we need to rethink how we attract people to the instrument that we love.

There are some lessons to be learned from the marketing geniuses, I think. Handbells are inherently appealing and slightly mysterious to a large amount of people and we can use that to our advantage. Whether you ring in a church choir, school, or community group, if you can get people to pick up a bell and ring it, they will likely be captivated. Hand out bells to the congregation, to the school assembly, to your concert audience, and have them create a wash of sound to accompany a simple sung tune or a narration. Whether you are presenting one piece of music or an entire concert, there needs to be a hook. A piece played in church should have an explanation of why the piece was chosen for that particular day in the bulletin. Simply saying that the music was in the files and we got it ready to play is not good enough. A concert can have a theme tailored to the time of year or the venue or a certain style of music. A bunch of random pieces strung together that happen to add up to 60 minutes is not good enough. Challenge yourself to communicate to the ringers and your audience that the music you present is deliberate, worthwhile and engaging.

The final step is the hardest but probably the most important. Once you have ringers in place and excellent music programmed, the quality of your performance needs to be continually improved. Ringing the correct notes at the right time is not enough. Ringing with dynamic contrast is not enough. Ringing together as a



New Year’s Surprise!

The first 10 people to send me an email indicating they saw this surprise notice will receive \$50 off their 2014 Area 11 Festival / Conference ELEVATIONS! registration fee!

Send your name and contact information to Mary_moffett@comcast.net or simply reply to the email that was sent to you with the newsletter attached!

cohesive unit with eyes out of the score, with a uniform and healthy ringing style, making music out of printed notes on the page and connecting with your audience needs to be the standard we strive for. In a world where glossy advertising, catchy jingles and clever marketing is everywhere, we can’t get stuck in a place where mediocre quality is the norm. Once people are interested in handbells, we need to help them grow as musicians and enrich their lives through the power of making beautiful, exciting, captivating music. More knowledge of our instrument, more attention to detail, more determination to improve and more music being made needs to be our goal.

Upcoming Events

Don't miss out on the fabulous opportunity to spend a fun morning reading and ringing some new releases, oldies but goodies, and little known gems at our Area-wide Read and Ring,

RINGING AROUND AREA 11!

Saturday, February 1, 2014

9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Choose from 11 locations around Area 11!

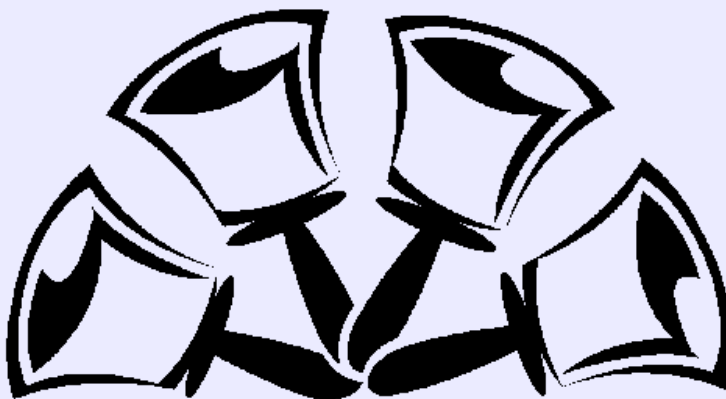


Hurry, the deadline to register is Saturday, January 18!

The registration fee is only \$7!

More information and the registration form can be found on our website at

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/events/>



Meet the Clinicians for our Spring Events

Register Now for a Spring Event near you! More details and the registration forms for each of these events can be found on the Area 11 website <http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/events/>

Our Utah Spring Ring will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at Jordan High School in Sandy, Utah under the direction of Michael Glasgow.

Michael J. Glasgow is originally from Michigan. He holds B.A. degrees in music theory/composition, and in journalism; as well as a Master of Church Music degree, in both choral and handbell music.

In addition to his full-time position at North Raleigh UMC (Raleigh, NC), Michael serves as the Bass Section Leader for the North Carolina Master Chorale and the Choral Conductor for the Tar River Orchestra & Chorus. An award-winning composer, he keeps busy with commissions and his own projects, which strive to creatively advance the art of handbell and choral music.

Michael is proud to have conducted four of the first six *Anthornis* events for advanced ringers in Minneapolis; and in July he will conduct his first international festival, in Sheffield, England. He also serves as the editor for the Handbell Musicians of American Area 3 newsletter, *The Bell-O-Gram*, and is a member of ASCAP, American Composers Forum, Mensa and several other professional organizations. Additional information and samples of Michael's work may be found at www.michaeljglasgow.com.



Our Northern Colorado Spring Ring 2014 will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Loveland, Colorado under the direction of Monica McGowan.

Monica S. McGowan took her music education background – Bachelor of Science, Music Education, Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska – and found her life's passion in handbells. More than a quarter century later, Monica has become the consummate handbell musician: accomplished ringer, seasoned director and internationally recognized clinician and conductor. She is in demand as a conductor and clinician for festivals and workshops across the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. She has served as Director of Handbells in various denominational churches from Minnesota to Louisiana and in various leadership capacities for the Handbells Musicians of America on both the Area and National levels.

As the founding Artistic and Music Director of Twin Cities Bronze of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, Monica led the ensemble to recognition as an internationally acclaimed handbell ensemble known for its professional musical

artistry. Since her "retirement" from Twin Cities Bronze, she continues to support and pursue opportunities for the ensemble in addition to her own work in the world of handbells. Monica is the Handbell Coordinator for the International Music Camp, succeeding the program's founder, Fred Merrett. "Handbell Week" and "Adult Handbell Camp" are held each summer as part of the IMC's Summer School of Fine Arts at the International Peace Gardens on the border of North Dakota and Manitoba. In 2013, her business, Ringing Restorations, was recognized as an Independent Schulmerich Authorized Refurbishment Center.

Monica and husband, Joe, slip away to the "ranch" in the Black Hills of South Dakota as often as they can with hopes of retiring there someday. Monica brings her extensive training, passion, knowledge and enthusiasm for handbells and handchimes to every forum and venue, providing a challenging, successful and fun experience for its participants.

Meet the Clinicians for our Spring Events

Register Now for a Spring Event near you! More details and the registration forms for each of these events can be found on the Area 11 website <http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/events/>



Our Wyoming Spring Ring will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 4-5, 2014 at the Parkway Plaza Ballrooms in Casper, Wyoming under the direction of J.D. Frizzell.

J.D. Frizzell, a composer, conductor, and baritone, is the Director of Fine Arts and Director of Vocal Music at Briarcrest Christian School in Memphis, TN. He earned the double Master's in Music Theory/Composition and Conducting from The University of Southern Mississippi, where he also earned the bachelor's degree in Music History and Literature.

Frizzell, winner of the 2007 Intégrales Composition Contest, writes music for choir, orchestra, symphonic band, voice, handbells, chamber ensembles, and solo instruments. With music published by Choristers Guild, Colla Voce, AGEHR, Lorenz, Ring-Press, and Red River, he has had best sellers throughout the world. He was chosen by the board of the Tennessee Music Educators Association as the 2011 Outstanding Young Music Educator. Additionally, he was awarded the Dr. Clair E. Cox Award for Teaching Excellence.

As the Director of the Fine Arts department at Briarcrest, Frizzell is responsible for coordinating all Fine Arts programs (K2-12th grade). In addition to teaching the Concert Choir, Honors Chamber Singers and OneVoice, he teaches private voice and piano lessons through the Conservatory of Fine Arts.

For 4 years, Frizzell played, recorded, and toured throughout North America and Europe with the internationally renowned handbell ensemble, Carillon, at the University of Southern Miss. under the direction of Dr. Larry Smith. Fueled with a vision for the future of the sheet music industry, Frizzell founded CadenzaOne, a digital reseller of sheet music, in 2011. The website already carries music from over 30 of the world's top publishing companies.

Frizzell is active as a presenter, adjudicator, clinician, and guest conductor. As an active member of TNMEA, NATS, ACDA, and WTVMEA, he has served in multiple volunteer capacities, including two-time Chairperson of All-West Honor Choir Auditions and Performances and Choral Festival. He lives in Memphis, TN with his wife, Emily, and his dogs, Sally and Ari.

For commission, conducting, workshop, or other booking information, please visit www.jdfrizzell.com.

Please note this important correction to the repertoire list for the Wyoming Spring Ring. The correct arrangement for the Kevin McChesney piece, Holy, Holy, Holy is from Jeffers, MJHS9424 handbell part, MJHS9424B Brass/Timpani part, MJHS924FS Full Score/Organ. 3-5 Octaves, Level 3.



Our Arizona's Director Seminar will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 4-5, 2014 at Christ Presbyterian Church in Goodyear, Arizona under the direction of Tammy Waldrop.

Tammy Waldrop is a graduate of Baylor University with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Theory with an emphasis in Composition. Tammy has been writing and arranging for handbells and vocal choirs since 1980, placing over 350 publications with 18 publishers. She has held music editor positions at Word Mucis, Ring Out! Press, and Alfred Music Publishing and has served numerous churches in four denominations. She is a frequent clinician/director for workshops, music weeks and festivals across the country. Tammy has had the opportunity to serve as clinician/conductor for over 40 events since the 1990's and enjoys working with ringers and encouraging them to take ownership of the music through what she calls the Three "P's" of Performance: Personalization, Posturing, and Perfecting.

Tammy enjoys vegetable and herb gardening and writing children's fiction. She resides in New Caney, Texas with her husband, Emanuel Hollander, son, Marc and three Eskie canines—Gracie, Gretel and Johann Sebastian Bark (aka Hanzie).



Feature From the Area 11 Board

This month features an article written by our Chair-Elect, Jeannine Holt



Resolutions for 2014

How many of us make New Year's Resolutions every year? I want to lose weight, sleep more, spend more time with my grandchildren, read more, and . . . and . . . and . . . But if you are (and I am) like most people, these resolutions fall by the wayside by the end of January, sometimes sooner. I have really good intentions and say that this year will be different, but is it? Not at my house!

Let's look at our bell choirs, church and/or community. What are you going to do that will be more beneficial to your ringers? And ringers, what are you going to do to make your ensemble better musicians?

To paraphrase a colleague's recent communication:

With gratitude for God's amazing blessing on the year just past, we look forward with hope and anticipation to a future full of promise. You constantly encourage me with your devotion to our Lord and your loyalty to this choir and its ministry of worship. I know every one of us wants to see Jesus glorified and his praise spread throughout the earth. As we begin the new year, let me implore us all to translate that heart commit-

ment into practical habits—habits that enable us to bring to reality our heart's desire. Let's review five essential habits for Christ-honoring choir members:

1) Fervent Prayer--Make your choir a regular object of prayer. Pray for your fellow ringers. Pray for your leaders. Pray for your church as she gathers to meet with God in worship.

2) Fanatical Attendance--There are two kinds of choir members: There are those who happily attend—after they see if “everything works out,” “nothing comes up,” and “it's not a problem.” This is particularly detrimental to a handbell choir.

Then there are the God-honoring fanatics (that's many of you!). They see rehearsals and services as appointments with God. They firmly establish every activity of the choir schedule on their calendars. It's their calling. They don't pick and choose and create their individual customized plan. If something else comes up, they already have a prior commitment. Others may call them fanatics, but these ringers know the joy of seeing God work through them for His praise and the blessing of His people.

3) Consistent Punctuality--This can seem like a minor point, but it's huge. Tardiness distracts and wastes others' time. It disrupts our efforts. Our instrument is broken! Arrive for every event 15 minutes early, every time. Simply make it a habit.

4) Laser-Focus--Be there, in body and in spirit. Arrive focused on the work at hand. This is no frivolous activity. We have a mission with eternal consequences. Engage your whole mind, heart, body and spirit. Avoid wandering thoughts and distracting talk. Offer every moment of rehearsal and worship as a love gift to Him who has given you life.

5) Passionate Praise--We ring from heart-felt gratitude for His amazing grace. We offer praise to Him who died to redeem us from sin and who rose from the grave to give us life. Anything less than whole-hearted service would be unworthy of Him. We are living sacrifices. We engage our heart, soul, mind and strength to make His praise glorious. I couldn't have said it any better. Bring your “A” game to every rehearsal and every performance.



Additional Happenings

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Handbell Musicians of
America - Area 11



This is the beginning of something new for the Area 11 Newsletter. Beginning this year, the newsletter will be published on a bi-monthly basis, with issues in January, March, May, July, September, and November.



Deadline for March Area 11
Newsletter is
February 25, 2014
Advertising deadline is
February 20, 2014

Email submissions to Mary Moffett at
Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org

RING OF FAME

Nominations Now Being Accepted

In 2002, the Area 11 Board of Directors established the RING OF FAME to recognize and honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the art of handbell/handchime ringing. We will be recognizing some of these exceptional members from Area 11 during the 2014 Festival in Loveland, Colorado. Please take some time and think about those you have come in contact with through ringing handbells and consider nominating someone you feel is deserving of this wonderful award.

Please send your nominations in by January 24, 2014.

For more information on the Ring of Fame or to nominate someone to receive the award, visit the following page on our website. <http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/about-us/ring-of-fameselection-process/>

For additional questions, please contact Jeannine Holt at 719-439-7954.

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