



# Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA

## Area 11

# Newsletter

Volume - 9  
Issue -1  
January 2016

E-newsletter Editor—Mary Moffett

[Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org)

Mountain Sub-Area Chair

Diona Savoy-McDaniels

[mountain.area11@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:mountain.area11@handbellmusicians.org)

Desert Sub-Area Chair

Jan Powell

[desert.area11@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:desert.area11@handbellmusicians.org)



## From the Chair:



Happy New Year!

I sincerely hope you have had a wonderful holiday season, with lots of beautiful ringing, rest, relaxation, and time with families. As we move into 2016, we wish you the very best and most successful new year.

We encourage you to try something new this year: if you've never been to a read & ring, there are several around the area on **Super Bell Saturday** (February 6). How about a

spring ring? And don't forget Area 11's biannual festival, **Boots & Bells**, in Cheyenne, WY, with the incomparable Hart Morris as the lead clinician and Timbré from California performing and teaching in the classes! Information on these events are available elsewhere in this newsletter, as well as on our website. Now is the time to plan. Bring your whole group or come by yourself - either way, you will come away with new friends, new experiences, and new skills!

We look forward to seeing you soon at one of these amazing events - come up and talk to us if we haven't met. Ask questions. Offer suggestions. This is your area, and we want to hear from you.

Jeannine Holt

Chair, Area 11, Handbell Musicians of America

719-439-7954

[chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org)



## Area 11 Website

[www.area11.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.area11.handbellmusicians.org)

## National Office Website

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

### Inside this issue....

2016 Festival Registration is open!	Pg. 2
Additional Festival Items (Pre-conference solo/ensemble workshop, and conference choir)	Pg. 2-3
Article by Hart Morris	Pg. 4-5
Nominations for Ring of Fame	Pg. 5
Article by Timbré	Pg. 6
Area 11 Events	Pg. 7
Super Bell Saturday -- Area 11 Read and Ring	Pg. 8
Spring Ring Clinicians	Pg. 9
Nominations for new officers	Pg. 9
Message from Shannon Casey, Area 11 Chair-elect	Pg. 10
WyoRing 2015 article and pictures	Pg. 11
National Anthem at Nuggets Game	Pg. 12

Check out our Calendar [here](#) to see what's planned in Area 11.

Check the website regularly for upcoming Area 11 events!



## Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016 Registration Open

AREA 11  
HANDBELL MUSICIANS  
of AMERICA



**BOOTS & BELLS**  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 2016

**June 9-12, 2016**

*With*

**Hart Morris  
and  
Timbré**



### **Festival Registration is Open!**

***We are excited to announce that registration is open for our Area 11 Festival, Boots and Bells!***

***This year we will have two options for registration.***

***Option 1:*** Mail-in registration form and pay a deposit by check, with the balance due later (as we've done in the past)

***Option 2:*** Register online and pay with a credit card.

**Registration fee (deadline is March 1, 2016) - \$380.00**

***If registering online with credit card, add \$15 surcharge***

**Late Registration (between March 1, 2016-May 1, 2016) - \$480.00**

***If registering online with credit card, add \$15 surcharge***

**Lodging is *not* included in this registration fee.**

**You will need to contact the hotel to make reservations.**

**Little America is offering a special rate to those attending our Festival.**

**Registrants who live outside a 50 mile radius from the hotel and choose not to stay at the Little America Hotel must pay an Off-site lodging surcharge of \$100.00. This helps insure we meet our contracted room blocks, keeping all costs as low as possible**

***Click the following link for all the registration information and registration forms:***

**<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/festival-2016/>**

In addition to our regular Festival workshops and activities, the Festival Committee has planned some great additional, ***optional*** ringing opportunities.

***This first additional workshop is open to anyone, even if you cannot attend the entire Festival.***

Are you a solo/ensemble ringer? If so, you might want to plan to attend the

***Optional Pre-Conference Solo/Ensemble Workshop*** that will be held Thursday, June 9th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The clinician for this workshop will be Josh Fitzgerald.

You can read his bio on the following page of this newsletter.

***The second additional workshop is only available to registered Festival attendees.***

If you are a Polished Bronze ringer and just can't get enough ringing, you may want to join in the ***Optional Conference Choir!*** Hart Morris will lead this choir and music will have to be prepared in advance. More details will be released in the coming months.

***You must be a registered Festival attendee to participate in the Conference Choir.***



**Watch for more information  
about our Festival  
in upcoming newsletters  
and on our website:**

**[www.area11.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.area11.handbellmusicians.org)**





## Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016

AREA 11  
HANDBELL MUSICIANS  
of AMERICA



**BOOTS & BELLS**  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 2016

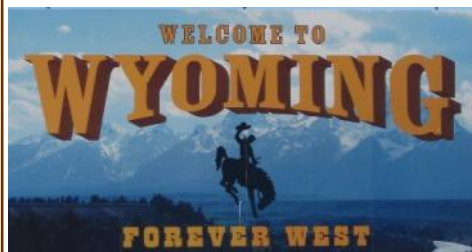
**June 9-12, 2016**

with

**Hart Morris**

and

**Timbré**



### **Josh Fitzgerald, clinician for our *Optional Pre-Conference Solo/Ensemble Workshop***

(held Thursday, June 9th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.), is originally from Colorado and has had the chance to teach and perform on tour with our beautiful instrument in many locations, both domestically and internationally. Some career highlights include starting a handbell ministry in Nicaragua, performing on an international tour with Kokopelli Bells through Germany, Czech Republic, and Austria, and spending 3 weeks in Japan ringing with Sonos Handbell Ensemble. Josh has been honored to conduct and teach at events in Area 5, Area 8, and Area 11 of the Handbell Musicians of America, and is a Distinctly Bronze Alumni of 12 years.



He has also been privileged to ring with 9 different auditioned community choirs in 4 states, including currently ringing with Bells In Motion, a jazz ensemble based in Springfield, IL and subbing in his spare time for Concert Bells of Ft. Worth, TX. In the past, he has also served as the Ohio State Chair to the Area 5 Board. He is excited to share his extensive background in performing and teaching in his "home" of Area 11.

After leaving a full time career in church music in which he led a large and active handbell ministry of 8 handbell ensembles, Josh returned to the skies to pursue his love of travel as a Flight Attendant for a major carrier. He now resides in the Dallas, TX area where he also owns and operates a small retail business around his flight schedule. Besides loving to travel, he enjoys playing other instruments including the harp and piano, having fun at amusement parks and fairs, attending live auctions, and sky diving.



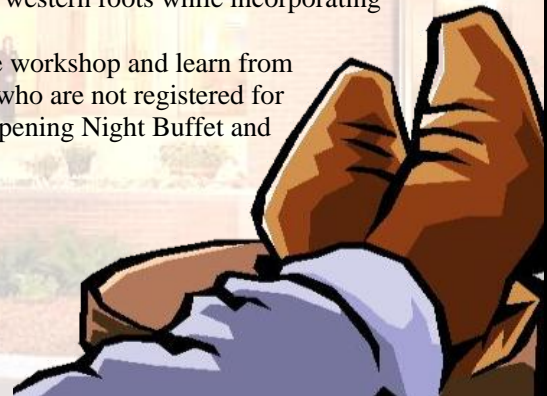
### **Special Invitation to attend the *Optional Pre-Conference Solo/Ensemble Workshop***

By Joan Swim

Is your solo music uninspired, lacking in confidence and showmanship? Do you have no idea how to grow your choir and encourage more ringers? Do you feel you are the weakest link in your ensemble? We have a solution for you. Area 11 is offering a pre-conference solo/ensemble workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Under the skilled tutelage of Josh Fitzgerald, bring your skills and have them honed into a mighty force! Josh started ringing in Area 11 and has since rung with Sonos on a tour of Japan. He has grown bell choirs from Colorado to Ohio. He is best remembered for his solo and ensemble work at previous Area 11 festivals. He retains his western roots while incorporating broader experiences.

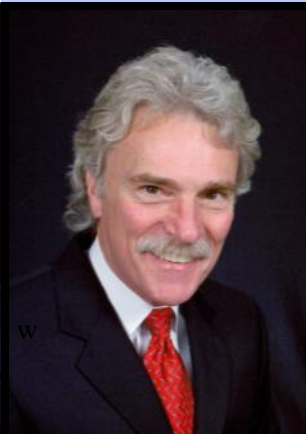
Come prepared with a piece you are working on, or just come to sit in on the workshop and learn from one of the best! All Pre-Conference Solo/Ensemble Workshop participants who are not registered for the entire Boots and Bells Festival are invited to register for our Thursday Opening Night Buffet and the Feature Showcase Concert with Timbré. You won't be disappointed!

**LITTLE  
AMERICA**  
— Hotel —  
C H E Y E N N E



## Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016

### Article from Hart Morris ~ Festival Clinician



#### Thoughts on the Directing of a Handbell Ensemble

One of my 'missions' in recent years, at handbell festivals and workshops, has been the encouraging of directors in the quest to be better leaders, and to produce more musical and better equipped handbell musicians. Most of what follows here will apply to any vocal or instrumental ensemble, but as our common ground is handbells, I will use bell-specific terms. Directors come from all backgrounds, and with many different degrees of experience.

We have advanced music degrees and no formal training at all; some of us are vocal artists and some very fine pianists, organists, cellists. Many of us became bell directors because we were simply in the right place at the right time - but not necessarily because we were experienced in the leading of a handbell ensemble. Nothing of what follows is purely original; most is just common sense, and perhaps self-evident; but as we still see many of these things left undone, I will risk redundancy and forge ahead. And much more can be said in regard to everything here; this is just a starting point. So, some considerations which may help us be more effective at what we do:

Know your instrument and what is necessary to play it well. (I know, see? Self-evident, right? But still . . .). Know and understand all of the techniques that accompany handbell ringing today. Many (most?) of us don't play in a bell ensemble regularly - we're always leading one! But one of the best things we can do for our ringers is to know what it's like on their side of the music stand: how to play a handbell correctly, musically; how to execute the various techniques called for in the ever-expanding world of handbell music. From there we will be better equipped teachers of what we ask of our players.

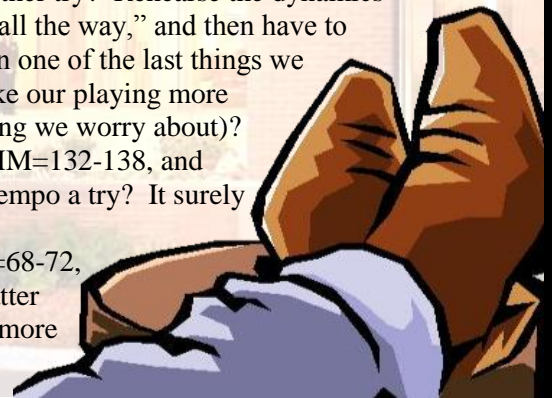
If/when you come to something with which you are not familiar, Ask For Help! Not knowing is not a terrible thing; being content with not knowing is indeed a terrible thing. You are not responsible for knowing All Things Handbell. You *are* responsible for learning what you do not yet know. Admit you don't know, find someone who can help you, and learn.

Know your music. Any new techniques in the new piece? How many key changes are in the piece. . .? And, by extension, bell changes? What's the tempo? Do you know where 72 is on the metronome. Do you *have* a metronome? Are there any difficult page turns? Difficult bell changes? Do you need to alter your usual method of assigning bells? What about the dynamics? Do you understand the piece's style, what the composer is trying to convey? Is there a good recording of it you might listen to?

Rehearsing your group is the most important thing you do with them aside from actually playing in public. Good rehearsal technique is crucial. And, as there is seldom ever enough rehearsal time, making the most of each minute of it is very important. As a matter of respect for your ringers' time and effort, start on time and finish on time. Do you have a designated rehearsal room? Many do not; so, when is your room set up for rehearsal? Do you use valuable rehearsal time readying the room for rehearsal, or do you have a plan, and personnel to get it done before, in order to be able to use all of your rehearsal time for rehearsing?

One of my least favorite parts of rehearsals is the chit-chat that inevitably occurs when we stop for corrections. Some of that chatting relates to the players' interactions, bell changes, etc., and is important. But when that's accomplished, it's vital to get back to the playing . . . *tempus fugit!* What happened today at lunch may have been enjoyable, and fun to relate, but the retelling is detrimental to the limited time you have for preparation. Have you ever gone through a piece and said, "OK, that was pretty good, let's do it again from the beginning"? Were there things to fix? Why not fix them? Some intricate bell changes to maneuver? Why not give them another try? Rehearse the dynamics from the first play-through of the piece. Why work on it for weeks, "*forte* all the way," and then have to unlearn "*forte* all the way" as you near the performance date? This is often one of the last things we are concerned with, but one of the most important things we can do to make our playing more musical. Are you at or near the correct tempo (often the second-to-last thing we worry about)? Consider the difference in William Payn's *Prisms* at the stated tempo of MM=132-138, and then at perhaps MM=92. Two different pieces, really. Why not give his tempo a try? It surely is more of a challenge, but also much more exciting to play and to hear!!

Another choice: *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* at a musically flowing MM=68-72, as against a more robust MM=92-98. Again, two different pieces. The latter tempo may show the gymnastic abilities of your ringers, but the former is more musically satisfying. (continued on page 5)

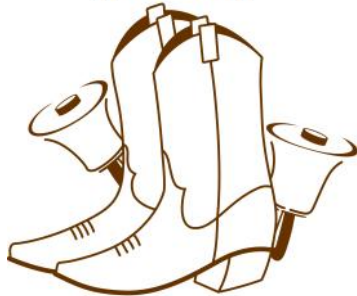




## Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016

### Article from Hart Morris ~ Festival Clinician

AREA 11  
HANDBELL MUSICIANS  
of AMERICA



BOOTS & BELLS  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 2016

(continued from page 4)

Never stop learning, refining your skills. Never. There is always something new to learn, from most anyone you meet. Attend other ensembles' concerts, ask to attend a rehearsal, attend a seminar or coaching session, watch other directors work, listen to what they achieve with their group and how musically (or unmusically) they play; is their conducting clear? Do the ringers respond well to their direction? And remember: sometimes, learning what *not* to do can be as critical to your learning process as what *to* do.

As a handbell director, your ensemble is your responsibility. It is yours to lead, nurture, teach, and encourage. Your ringers come with a myriad of experience levels, abilities and expectations. Yours is the task of forging them into a functioning musical ensemble. You may stand before a concert group of adults, a mixed group of youth and adults providing music for worship, a group of fifth graders in a public school, or senior adults who never play in public. Regardless of the personnel in your group, and the mission of the group, you are always teaching- or should be. You will always have

personalities to deal with; someone will most always bring to rehearsal some difficulty from the day's trials. And you must still make music, prepare for Sunday or the next concert, introduce a new piece of music or new technique. A ringer will protest that 'this is too hard,' or too fast, or too long, or boring (I *really* love that one!), and you, the Good and Effective Leader of People, must deal tactfully and efficiently with it all.

I believe we must always be leading our groups to be better musicians, to lead them to understand what they are doing in a new and better way. That is our job as directors. But that is why we are there. We must stay ahead of them every step of the way, challenging them with something new, urging them out of their comfort zone, showing them we believe they can do it, and helping them meet the challenge.

And finally, I believe that if my group is not more accomplished and capable at this time next year than they are today – if they are not playing better, playing more challenging music, have not mastered something new, are not better musicians – I have missed my goal, have not done my job, have not served my charges well. I did not set out to be a handbell director; I was just one of those who was in the right place at the right time. I had a wonderful mentor, and I enjoyed working with eager youth and adults who accepted the challenge. The ensuing years have provided me with many great musical experiences, and encounters with many wonderful people, all of it part of just being a handbell director. And it really is worth the effort!

I look forward to meeting you in Cheyenne this summer!

Hart

### 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 2016 Festival in Cheyenne, Wyoming.**

**For more information on the Ring of Fame or to nominate someone to receive the award, visit the following page on our website.**

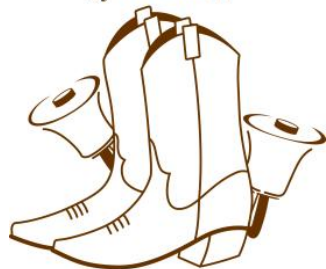
<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/about-us/ring-of-fameselection-process/>



# Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016

## Article from Timbré ~ Festival Clinicians

AREA 11  
HANDBELL MUSICIANS  
of AMERICA



BOOTS & BELLS  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 2016

Hi there, Area 11!

I can't tell you how excited I am that Timbré will be performing and teaching at the Boots and Bells conference in Cheyenne next June! It is an honor to be invited and we are looking forward to seeing some "old" friends -- as well as meeting new ones!

Your Board asked me to write to you and tell you a bit about Timbré -- who we are, what we do -- in short, what makes us "us".

I created Timbré after moving to Southern California in 2010. By that time, I had been performing in the US and abroad with Sonos and as a soloist for about 8 years. During those years, I had seen some of the best groups in the world perform: Campanile, Velocity, Kiriku, Arsis, and others. In fact, I counted the artists in these groups as some of my closest friends. And, while I got part of my "handbell fix" playing individually as a soloist, and playing in a large ensemble with Sonos, there was still one aspect of the triumvirate missing: playing in an advanced smaller ensemble.

As I began to integrate myself into the Southern California handbell community, I found other handbell musicians who either already had the skills necessary to form such a group, or who I believed could readily acquire them. I knew they were all very busy with other handbell activities (as was I!), but they had the skills my dream group needed \*because\* they were busy with those other handbell activities! And so, in September 2010, 8 of us agreed to gather for day-long rehearsals once a month, work on some music and see where this might lead.

Fast forward to today.... We have had some changes in personnel and have evolved a bit in our dreams and ambitions - for instance, we have gone from bells-only to integrating not only other instrumentalists into our music, but also a dancer, and we are currently working on a new show for 2018 that will also incorporate audio/visual and other electronic components - but, best of all, we still have that "burning in the bosom" that comes from playing great music with a group of skilled musicians! We are building on our heritage and experiences in groups such as Velocity, Sonos, and Campanile, looking ahead to the future of music performance and handbell technique, and syncretizing it all together into something new and exciting.



Now that I've shared a bit of our history, let me now tell you what you're in for when you get to Cheyenne. You see, the artists in Timbré are not just some of the world's best handbell musicians, they are also some of the world's best teachers! Many of us have taught not only in the US & Canada for regional and national events, but also in Europe and Asia for international events. We have taught all ages, from elementary kids through university students and beyond. We cover topics ranging from basic music literacy to in-depth score study and conducting, from basic safe technique to advanced skill-building, from mallets and rhythm to safely hefting those bass bells, from weaving to 4- or even 6-in-hand, from regular upkeep and maintenance to assigning for smaller groups of ringers (or groups with diverse skill sets), from integrating other instruments (whether they're in the score or not) to adding elements such as dance or audio/visual components into your performance. Wherever you are in your handbell journey, we can help you move ahead safely and confidently.

I hope to see many of you in Cheyenne next June. And if you happen to see me - or any "Timbrenaut" - before then, please be sure to come up and say hi.

Looking forward to June!

-Michèle Sharik

"Diva Goddess" (Artistic Director)

Timbré [www.Timbre-Ensemble.org](http://www.Timbre-Ensemble.org)



LITTLE  
AMERICA  
Hotel  
C H E Y E N N E

Watch for more information  
about our Festival  
in upcoming newsletters  
and on our website:

[www.area11.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.area11.handbellmusicians.org)





## Area 11 Events

*Details and Information for each event can be found at*

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



### Area-wide Read and Ring "Super Bell Saturday"

**Date:** Saturday, February 6, 2016

**Location:** Several locations around Area 11.

*We have 8 locations to choose from in 4 different states.*

See the registration form on our website.

### Northern Colorado Spring Ring

**Date:** Saturday, March 5, 2016

**Location:** Loveland, Colorado

**Clinician:** Michael Joy

### Utah Spring Ring

**Date:** Saturday, March 12, 2016

**Location:** Kaysville, Utah

**Clinician:** Amy Maakestad

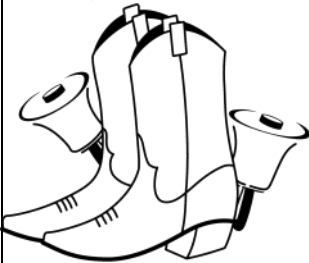
### Wyoming Spring Ring

**Date:** Friday - Saturday, April 1-2, 2016

**Location:** Casper, Wyoming

**Clinician:** Debbie Rice

AREA 11  
HANDBELL MUSICIANS  
of AMERICA



**BOOTS & BELLS**  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 2016

### Area 11 Festival "Boots and Bells"

**Date:** June 9-12, 2016

**Location:** The Little America Hotel in Cheyenne, Wyoming

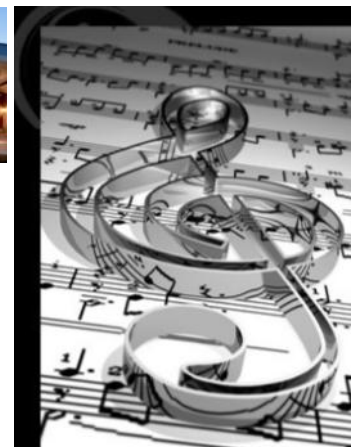
**Clinicians:** Hart Morris *and* Timbré

***Registration is open!***

*Register by March 1, 2016 to get the best rate and save \$100 on your registration fees!*

*Visit our Festival Tab on our website for all information and registration forms:*

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/festival-2016/festival-2016/>



*Be sure to check the website often  
to see additional events as they  
are added!*

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

## Super Bell Saturday - 4th Annual Read and Ring Around Area 11



### **SUPER BELL SATURDAY** **READ & RING in AREA 11**

Since Football has **SUPER BOWL SUNDAY** in February,  
we're having a **SUPER BELL SATURDAY!**

Join us all across Area 11 as we *read and ring*  
a dozen or more new releases, oldies but goodies, and  
a few little-known gems from the handbell repertoire!

**Event Date: Saturday, February 6, 2016**

**Event Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

**Registration Deadline: January 31, 2016**

Plan to join us for a morning of  
fun reading and ringing with  
other members of Area 11!

Visit our Events page on our  
website for the registration form  
at:

[http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/  
events-4/events/](http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/events/)

**There are 8 locations in 4 states to choose from!**  
**See the registration form on our website  
for location addresses.**

**Arizona:** Chandler and Tucson

**Colorado:** Colorado Springs and Windsor

**Utah:** Ogden

**Wyoming:** Caspar, Cheyenne, Sundance

### **New Year's Festival Surprise!**

The first 20 people to respond and let  
me know they have seen  
this announcement will get  
**\$50 off of their 2016 Area 11  
Festival registration fees!**

Just respond to Mary by replying to the  
email that sent you this newsletter link.  
Include your full name, city and state.  
You will receive a reply email letting you  
know if you are one of the  
winners...or not. Good luck!



*Just for fun, here's a picture of a red cowboy  
boot I found in the gift shop at the Little  
America Hotel in Cheyenne, Wyoming  
this past fall.*



**NORM HEITZ & CAROL SCHEEL  
PRESENT:**

**Heitz Handbells  
and Music**

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

**Visit us at  
[www.heizthandbells.com](http://www.heizthandbells.com)**

612-208-1741  
1 (877 or 866) 426-3235  
[heizthandbells@yahoo.com](mailto:heizthandbells@yahoo.com)

6603 Queen Ave S, Suite S  
Richfield, MN 55423



## Meet our Spring Ring Clinicians

**Utah Spring Ring: Amy Maakestad** has more than 30 years of experience ringing handbells in various groups and over 15 as a conductor. She utilizes both ringing and directing talents as the Artistic and Music Director of Twin Cities Bronze, an auditioned community handbell ensemble. Working as a church musician has been a calling for Amy for the past 20 years. She enjoys pulling out all the stops while playing organ, piano, accompanying, directing and worship planning. Her biggest thrill is learning from all of the wonderful volunteer musicians of all ages she feels privileged to know.

Amy received her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Wisconsin, Superior. She later received her Master's in Sacred Music – Organ and Choral Conducting from Luther Seminary, St. Paul in cooperation with St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota.

Discovering new (and rediscovering old) handbell music and turning the printed notes on a page into a musical experience is one of Amy's favorite joys. In her spare time, she bakes, gardens, reads, enjoys her family and drinks coffee.



**Colorado Spring Ring:** Born and raised in Canton, OH, **Michael Joy** has lived in Philadelphia, PA since 1974. He has been directing handbell choirs in churches since 1978 and in schools since 1983. He studied handbells with Donald Allured and handbell composition with Arnold Sherman. Michael is currently the handbell director at The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA where he conducts middle school and high school groups. For the last 38 years he has also been the Music Director at First Presbyterian Church in Ambler, PA. Michael is the Executive Editor for the new GIA *Foundations Series*, designed specifically for developing handbell ensembles in schools. He is a published composer and has taught at Handbell Musicians of America Area festivals and National Seminars, PMEA district and state conferences, and the 2008 International Handbell Symposium. Jeffers Publishing Company named him Composer of the Year for 2004 for his composition *Dorian Dance*. Michael received the Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award for 2011.

The piece, *Pavane and Galliard*, received its premiere at Bay View Week of Handbells in August of 2011. Michael also served two terms as the Secretary for Area 2 of Handbell Musicians of America.

**Wyoming Spring Ring: Debbie Rice** draws on her vast experience as a professional singer, choral conductor and passion for teaching to encourage standards for the handbell and handchime instrument to be musical and worshipful. She maintains a demanding travel schedule of national, international and denominational events as clinician, adjudicator and conductor.

Her international schedule has included assignments in Australia, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea, Japan, Singapore, and Taiwan. In June 2017 she conducts an international handbell festival tour to Germany and Switzerland.



### ***Nominations are now being accepted for Secretary/Treasurer and Chair Elect***

*on the Area 11 Board. The deadline for nominations is January 15, 2016.*

The nomination form can be found at <http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/files/2012/02/AREA-11-OFFICER-NOMINATION-FORM.pdf>.

*Please consider nominating someone you know for either of these positions — or, if you'd like, you can even nominate yourself! The election will be held next spring and the new board members will begin serving in September 2016.*

### **Area 11 Handchime Loan Program**

Is it too early to think about May 15, 2016?

I don't think so! It never can be too early to mention the chime loan program at musical events you may attend.

Applications are accepted until May 15 and forms are available on our Area 11 website.

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/files/2012/02/HANDCHIME-LOAN-PROGRAM-APLN-9-15.pdf>



## Message from Shannon Casey, Area 11 Chair-elect

Happy New Year!! Now with all of the holidays done and resolutions being made (and broken :-)), it is a really good time to check on the status of your Handbell Musicians of America membership. Take a moment to log in to your account on [handbellmusicians.org](http://handbellmusicians.org) and see if it is time to renew. We would hate for you to miss all of the wonderful events and benefits coming up in the next few months. We have Spring Ring events in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming in the next few months. The Area 11 Festival Conference in Cheyenne, WY is coming up in June. There are national and international events this summer that you won't want to miss!! Plus, your Overtones magazine every other month, Member Chats and Member Notes from national, all of the wonderful online resources and much more!! If you have any questions about membership or would like some help navigating all of the resources available, please don't hesitate to contact me at [chair.elect@area11.handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.elect@area11.handbellmusicians.org).

Shannon Casey  
Chair Elect  
Area 11 Handbell Musicians of America

### Area 11 welcomes our new and renewing members:

Rebecca Cauthen - Flagstaff, Arizona  
Greg Cowan - Colorado Springs, Colorado  
Becky Owen - Midvale, Utah

## HASTINGS COLLEGE *rings.....*

- 18+ member bell choir
- 5+ octaves of Schulmerich Bells
- 5 octaves of Schulmerich Chimes
- 3 octaves of Petit-Fritsen Bells

*Up to \$5000 scholarship award for qualified ringers*

For more information contact:

Dr. Byron Jensen:

402.461.7361 [bjensen@hastings.edu](mailto:bjensen@hastings.edu)



**HastingsCollege**  
Music

Hastings College-710 N. Turner-Hastings, Nebraska 68901  
[www.hastings.edu](http://www.hastings.edu)



## Musical Belles

Anton Walz  
Compositions

### NON-PROFITS PLAY FREE !!

Non-profit groups can:  
Download for free  
Practice for free  
Perform for free

**Check it out !**

**MusicalBelles.com**

## The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: [rringer@rr.org](mailto:rringer@rr.org) • web: [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org)

*A community handbell choir*

Deadline for the March Area 11  
Newsletter is February 25, 2016

Advertising deadline is  
February 20, 2016

Email submissions to Mary at

[Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org)





## WyoRing 2015



WyoRing 2015 was a fun experience for ringers attending the two-day event at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, Wyoming on Nov. 6-7. There was something for everyone ranging from contemplative and playful pieces. Host Director Joyce Willeke welcomed everyone at the opening of WyoRing and introduced Clinician LeAnna Willmore.

LeAnna is the conductor of the Bells on Temple Square in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her warm and casual style was endearing to the ringers. In filling out the event evaluations, registrants consistently had positive things to say about LeAnna's directing style. She did a wonderful job getting everyone relaxed and was quick to praise ringers for advancements they made during rehearsals.

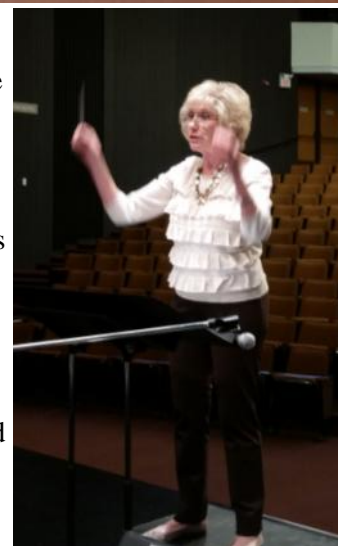
Sharing stories about her personal history with handbells, LeAnna described how she works with her ringers in Salt Lake City. It was interesting to hear how she runs her rehearsals, and it's safe to say others may incorporate her ideas into their own programs. The motto of the day was SMILE SMILE SMILE. LeAnna modeled that concept by always smiling at the ringers. She stressed the importance of showing the love for bells through facial expression and body language while ringing, and she emphasized it must start in rehearsal or it will not happen during the performance.

Attendance this year was close to previous years with 43 total registrants. Most ringers were comfortable playing intermediate level pieces. Advanced ringers appreciated the opportunity to better refine their musicality, while ringers with less experience embraced the chance to work on challenging music. It was a win-win...and ring-ring...situation all the way around.

There was a free handbells concert at the end of the two-day workshop. Many audience members graciously filled out evaluations after the concert. Everyone noted they had enjoyed WyoRing and looked forward to the next handbells concert.

WyoRing 2015 was supported in part by funding from the Wyoming Arts Council through the National Endowment for the Arts, and endorsed by the Handbell Musicians of America, Area 11. Area businesses helped support the event by displaying WyoRing 2015 posters in their windows, according to event coordinator Diona Savoy-McDaniels. She said local media also promoted WyoRing 2015 through press releases and a radio interview.

~Diona Savoy McDaniels







Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

## *Additional Handbell Happenings*

### **Handbell Ringers Played the National Anthem at the Denver Nuggets Game**

Over 100 ringers from Area 11 had the honor of ringing the national anthem before the Denver Nugget's basketball game on Sunday, November 22nd, at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

Michael Kastner was our director, and did a fabulous job of keeping us all together. Ringers came from as far as Grand Junction, Colorado. Music was memorized ahead of time. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our musical art with thousands of people. Fans even sang along with us.

