



Handbell Musicians OF AMERICA | Area 11 *Newsletter*

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From the Chair:



I love summertime. I love taking walks in the evening, cooking on the grill, going for bike rides, and hiking in the mountains. Even though I love handbells, I like taking a break from rehearsals during the summer. That doesn't mean I take a break from bells.

Our Area 11 Festival, *Elevations!*, held in Loveland, CO on June 19-22nd was a successful event, and lots of fun. There were 38 "first-timers" in attendance, and 33 young ringers between the ages of 13 and 18 years old. There were representatives in attendance from 16 states. Clinician, Debbie Rice, did a wonderful job of working with the three levels of ringers to *elevate* everyone's ringing to a new level. Marilyn Lake provided fun (and noisy) classes on

World Drumming and led a Sunday worship service. The Twin Cities Bronze gave a wonderful concert and led classes on many topics. Details regarding the location for the 2016 Area 11 Festival/Conference will be coming this fall.

Your Area 11 board has been busy planning events for the upcoming year. There are fall events planned for Utah, Colorado, Arizona and Wyoming. Our annual *Ring Around Area 11* read and rings will be held on February 7th, 2015. If you would like to host one, or want more information, please contact me. Spring Rings are being planned for all 5 states in our Area (Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona). More information is posted on the Events page of the website: <http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/events/> Check it regularly for updates.

My term as Chair of Area 11 will be ending in September. I will be turning over the reins to incoming Chair, Jeannine Holt. I will be continuing on the board in a consultant role as past-chair. Jeannine and I would both love to hear from you!

Sue Hahn

chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org



Area 11 Website

www.area11.handbellmusicians.org

National Office Website

www.handbellmusicians.org

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



Area 11 Fall Events

Information about all our events can be found at:

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



Utah Fall Tune-Up

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2014

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Clinicians: Bells on Temple Square members

Location: Davis High School in Kaysville, Utah

For more information and the registration form, click [here](#).

Rhythm and Movement Workshop

Date: Friday-Saturday, October 3-4, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Friday

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. Saturday

Clinician: Michael Joy

Location: Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Denver, Colorado

For more information and the registration form, click [here](#).

Fall Event in Arizona

Date: Friday-Saturday, Oct. 10-11, 2014

Clinician: Doug Benton

More details to come

WyoRing

Date: Friday-Saturday, November 7-8, 2014

Clinician: Tammy Waldrop

More details to come

MENTORS for CHIME RECIPIENTS NEEDED

An experienced bell ringer to act as a mentor for the teacher or church musician who received one of the loaner sets of chimes for the coming school year will set the experience for the teacher and the students off to a great start. If you know or are located near one of the recipients please consider contacting that person to let them know you are available for perhaps a demonstration of best ringing technique, chime assignment for the students, possible ways to get started with kids who don't yet read music, and just a little "hand holding" if there is a bit of anxiety involved. This also would be an opportunity to offer an invitation to one of the Area11 events, or one of your local concerts.

Here are the locations and contacts for the 2014-2015 school year:

Casa Grande, AZ, Joan Bundy, United Methodist Church

Silverthorne, CO, Nancy Wiedel, Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church

Denver, CO, Gerado Collazo, Denver Language School

Salt Lake City, O'Lynn Elliott, Open Classroom Charter School

Syracuse, UT, Jodi Offret, Syracuse Arts Academy

If you will help the chime loan program by becoming a friend/mentor of one of these recipients, please contact Cathie Olds, CHIME Chair, for contact information and suggestions. Several welcoming contacts to each one would be great!

Cathie Olds, Area 11 CHIME Chair, 435-723-7031; 516colds@gmail.com



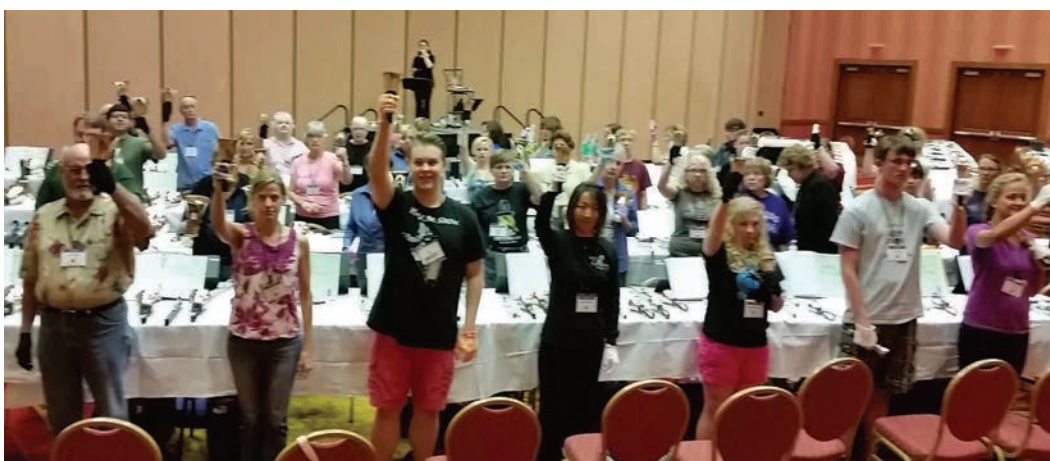
Area 11 Members Share Their Experiences at ELEVATIONS!

Taking Pride in Showmanship, by Becky Owen (Midvale, Utah)

I loved a lot of things about the recent Area 11 Bell Festival in Loveland, CO, but one of the things that stands out to me was Debbie Rice's attention to showmanship. In each piece she added things here and there to give new sounds or effects to highlight the pieces or ringers in different ways.

The first piece of our final concert was a mass ring piece, *Festival Bell Flourish*. Debbie added in echoes, but instead of a regular echo brushed lightly on the table, she had us "air pump" the echo in unison. She also added in overhead tower swings at the end of the piece. So she took two techniques that many of us were familiar with already and pretty much turned them upside down. Not only did that produce a unique sound, but added to the visual effect for our audience.

The Copper-lite to Copper choir played two pieces, *You Raise Me Up* and *Festivo*. To bring their bells up to a ready position for *You Raise Me Up*, they brought them up in succession along the choir, so it looked like a wave of bells appearing. *Festivo* included a percussion section, and I believe that Debbie extended that part and really got creative with different drumming techniques. Instead of just mallet clicks, they added drumming on the pads and different parts of the choir creating different rhythms. It was a really fun piece to watch and hear.



The Copper to Bronze choir played three pieces, *Light of Peace*, *Allegro con moto*, and *Easter*. At the beginning of *Light of Peace*, only one row of the choir was standing and ringing. Then each row added one by one until all four rows of the choir were participating. It created a really interesting effect to have the choir build and build like that. At the end of *Easter*, the entire choir turned around in unison as they held the last note, so they were no longer facing the

director, and then dampened all at once. That was really impressive to see such a large choir be in total unison for the cut off with no cue from Debbie.

The Polished Bronze choir also played three pieces, *La Paix*; *Savior of the Nation, Come*; and *Festival Sanctus*. *Savior of the Nation, Come* had a beautiful Gregorian chant at the beginning and end of the song that Debbie had us play on chimes to really bring it out. She also had the high trebles play the melody of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* that was imbedded into the piece on chimes to help it stand out as well. We ended the song by shimmering our bells down in unison. *Festival Sanctus* was a fast paced song that Debbie had us start ringing right off the table, which added to fast paced feeling of the song.



We ended the concert with one more mass ring piece, *Celebrate with Ringing*. There were a lot of accents in the song, and Debbie had us punch the accents rather than ringing through on them. This gave them a different sound, since the sound didn't carry through like a regular ring, and made the accent more pronounced. At both the beginning and the end of the piece, Debbie had us ring higher and higher to help increase the dynamic level. We started ringing at about chin level, then moved up to cheek level, and then moved up again to forehead level, which made the build up not only audible but visual for our audience.

I really enjoyed the attention that Debbie gave to these details. With the amount of time we had to practice, it would have been very easy to just focus on learning the notes and dynamics and call it a day. But she didn't, she moved us past that, and hopefully it helped us become better ringers, because we were now paying more close attention to how we were ringing physically, and what that meant for the audience. These details added not only to how I personally rang, but also deepened my understanding of the pieces and the feelings and emotions they were meant to convey. She highlighted us as ringers and the gorgeous pieces we played, all with a little showmanship.

Area 11 Members Share Their Experiences at ELEVATIONS!

Attending the Area 11 Festival as a Brand New Ringer! by Bob Davies (Phoenix, Arizona)

Here is a bit about my experience at Elevations. This was my first experience playing handbells. My interest in participating and attending the Area 11 Workshop started from an inquiry from my wife, Teri, when she asked me if I wanted to sign up and learn. I have been hinting to her for some time now that I wish I could enjoy music even a fraction as much as she does, as she is an accomplished handbell enthusiast. She suggested if I was interested I could prep a little in the upcoming weeks prior to the meeting. I decided this would be a great opportunity for me to experience handbells, hands on. Plus, any excuse to get out of Phoenix in this heat to a cooler climate for a few days is a good one. I had a naive appreciation for what I was signing up for.



To provide you a snapshot of my musical background, I didn't have any. I had taken a couple guitar and organ lessons, 50 plus years ago. That is it. My experience with handbells was in attending handbell choir concerts occasionally and being a roadie helping to set up for a concerts occasionally. I knew the music could be mesmerizing. It was hinted to me that in preparation for the Area 11 Workshop, I needed to know fundamentals of reading music. I quickly was challenged in learning this new language, music. I was placed in the Copper Lite section and placed in the front row playing the C and D bells. Here I stood for the remainder of the weekend, staring at the Conductor, trying to appear more than a deer in headlights. As it turned out, Ms. Rice was much more than a hunter looking to fell weak prey, she was an inspirational team builder.

As the weekend went on I found myself practicing my pieces in my room, and in the hallway on breaks and before and after practices. I fortunately, was placed next to a Director, Joyce, who was very helpful and kept reminding me to count to stay on track. In between practices I attended a couple hours of music theory, battling bass bells, and the anxiety of playing bells and stretching classes. My wife and I even did the speed dating event, she finished 2nd place.

Long story short, I made it through the live performance without passing out. A friend of ours videoed 1 piece and I actually looked like I was really into it. I believe I have really grown through this experience and it has been positive for me. There were moments early on when I felt like I didn't belong there. Through some hard work, a lot of practice, an immense amount of encouragement from many participants, I have survived my first handbell workshop. Only a few new grey hairs! I made many new acquaintances. I would like to thank all for encouragement and especially my lovely wife, Teri, who knows my discomfort and shined me on at every corner. As a result of this experience I am considering joining a beginners church choir in the fall. I have been told the music they play in the church choir will be straight forward compared what we accomplished at Elevations.



Area 11 Members Share Their Experiences at ELEVATIONS!

"First Time, Long Time" by Anne Kleve (Broomfield, Colorado)



Many people will call into a radio station and say "first time, long time" which means: first time caller, long time listener. So for me... Elevations! was the first area festival I have attended, but I was a long time ringer and director. What else have I been missing out on?

I was the only person from my four choirs that attended. Of course as a "single", I knew I would immediately meet many new fast friends. I was matched up with a lovely roommate from another church. So many names that I recognized, and so many faces to try to match up to Facebook! I think I bought about six tie-dye shirts from "Third Bell on the Right" too!

I rang with the Polished Bronze, because I wanted to be challenged personally as a ringer. And challenged I was! After the first afternoon, I was questioning if I was in over my head on the music. But by day three, I had picked it up! And with a little practice, I was starting to get it down! I really gleaned some new "tricks", writing down all the saying and cues that I can use to better direct my own choirs.

I am very grateful to Area 11 for the scholarships I received to attend Elevations! Definitely worth the extra money to budget and plan for the next one. Now that I know what to expect, I will be sure to bring more of my ringers and make even more friends!



If you did not get to submit your Festival evaluation, you can still do so by clicking on the following link:
<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/files/2012/09/Festival-Evaluation-Form-1.pdf>, **filling it out and sending it to:**

Claudette Rothwell
2172 East 2050 North
Layton, UT 84040

or scan in and e-mail to claudette.rothwell@gmail.com

More Festival Photos



More Festival Photos



Our opening night concert, was performed by the Twin Cities Bronze. They performed several fabulous pieces and concluded their “Peak Season” concert with Wizards in Winter, arranged by Rima Greer and Tim Waugh. One of their ringers orchestrated a fantastic light show that flashed along with the music as they played this final wonderful piece.



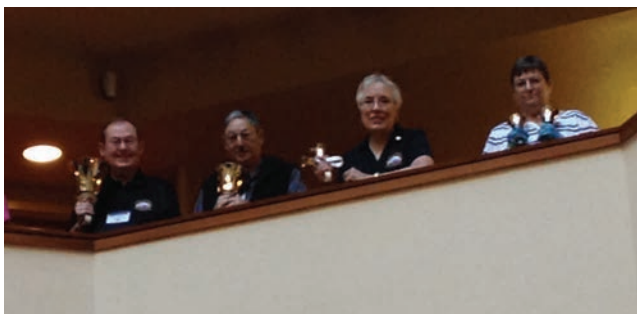
More Festival Photos



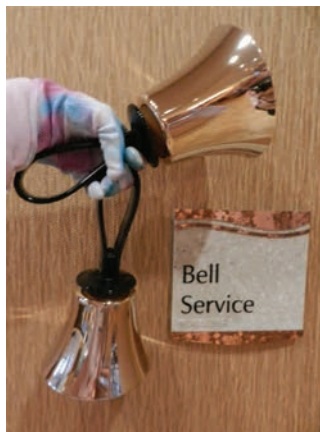
Izzy, Area 11
Youth
Representative
meeting Izzy,
the service dog.



More Festival Photos



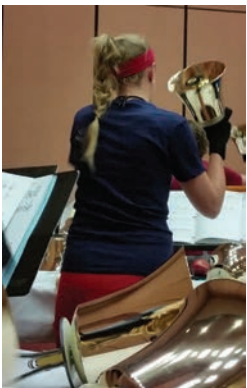
*Ring in
the Atrium*



We waited very patiently for 8:00 a.m. to arrive before we began random ringing to accompany the Twin Cities Bronze playing Westminster Chimes. At the conclusion, everyone did 8 tower swings to ring in the 8:00 hour for the hotel guests on Friday morning.



More Festival Photos



More Festival Photos

The Festival Showcase Concert featured two youth choirs, a duet, and two soloists.

The Rapture Ringers opened the concert with a wonderful piece. Following the opening piece, Katie McVicker and Joan Swim each entertained us with delightful solos, Diona McDaniels and Akemi Glass performed a lovely duet, and the Pikes Peak Youth Ringers concluded the concert with two fabulous pieces!



More Festival Photos



We had a lovely Ring of Fame Banquet on Saturday evening. Marcy Hontz and the late Roxanne Hammond were both honored for their years of service and dedication to the art of handbell ringing. Roxanne's husband accepted the award on her behalf. Following their acceptance speeches, we sang happy birthday to Handbell Musicians of America with Stephanie Wiltse from the National Board and our own lovely Area 11 Chair, Sue Hahn.



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More Festival Photos

Final Concert



We'd like to thank Debbie Rice for being such a fabulous clinician for our Area 11 Festival and leading each of the ringing tracks to a successful final concert!

We would also like to thank the Twin Cities Bronze for their wonderful opening concert and teaching so many great classes!

We also want to thank Marilyn Lake for such enthusiastic energy in all of our drumming classes — and not just on the drums, but on everything but the kitchen sink!

We are also so grateful to all the choirs that loaned us their bells and equipment for the festival and for Glen, our main bell wrangler, and all others who helped in any way — setting up, taking down, moving drums, conducting ringing sessions, and more! We appreciate everyone's willingness to help make the Festival great!

Photos for the newsletter were submitted by Colleen Green, Anne Kleve, Karen Meersman, and Doug Benton ~ Thank you!



Additional Area 11 Happenings



Shopping and Donating to Area 11 in one Easy Step -- And it doesn't add any money to your purchase!

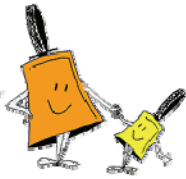
If you shop through Amazon.com, you can help the Area 11 Youth Fund by simply logging on through their AmazonSmile program and doing your shopping as usual. It doesn't take any extra time since the link below will take you right to the AmazonSmile page that shows Area 11 as the designated charity. It doesn't cost any extra money either, but a small percentage of your purchase total will be donated to the Area 11 Youth Fund! What a great way to donate to our Area! Your friends and family can do it as well! Simply log on to AmazonSmile to begin your shopping at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0347083>.



We have added a sub list to our Area 11 Facebook page. If you would like to be included on this sub list, send Jane Wolfarth your contact info and preferred bells played to mountain.area11@handbellmusicians.org.



Join our Facebook group!
Handbell Musicians of
America - Area 11



The Area 11 Board would like to know where all the bells are within our Area — including those closeted bells! Do you know of any church or school that may have bells stored in a closet that they are not currently using? Or a church that has a handbell choir that we haven't heard about yet? Would you be willing to help by making some phone calls to churches within the area?

Contact Jeannine Holt at

chairelect.area11@handbellmusicians.org

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 September
Area 11 Newsletter is
August 25, 2014**

**Advertising deadline is
August 20, 2014**

**Email submissions to
Mary Moffett at**

Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org

