



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 11



From the Chair:

Newsletter

Volume 9
Issue 3
July 2016



Wow! Summer is almost over. Are you ready for Fall? I'm not, but I did order my music for the year today. It's been a busy summer! Festival 2016 in Cheyenne was phenomenal! Those of you who missed it missed a great concert with Timbré and an opportunity to work with the amazing Hart Morris. Timbré provided a

number of classes that are not available anywhere else, which elevated the skills of those who participated to a new level. The showcase concert, where members of our own demonstrated their skills and accomplishments, was a fun and affirming event. And the final concert on Sunday was a truly first-rate experience.

Then, many of our members participated in the international event in Vancouver in August for a new experience, ringing with hundreds of other ringers. You will hear more about this as the Fall progresses.

Area 11 is again hosting a number of sites for "Back to Bells." If you know of a church or school that is trying to resurrect their program, point them to these one-day workshops to get their program off the ground.

Finally, my term of office is coming to an end. It has been a privilege to serve you as your Chair of Area 11 for the past two years. It has been fun meeting each of you and working with you to enhance the art of handbell ringing. You will love working with Shannon Casey, who will take the helm in September. I encourage you all to become even more involved with our incredible organization and to take advantage of all the opportunities to learn and improve your skills in the next year or so.

Happy ringing . . .

Jeannine Holt



Area 11 Website

area11.handbellmusicians.org

National Office Website

Handbellmusicians.org

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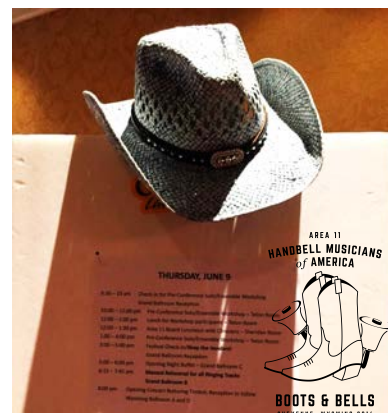
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Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016

Boots & Bells

Our Area 11 Festival was a huge success! We had a fabulous time with Hart Morris, our guest conductor/clinician, Timbré, our featured concert performers and class clinicians, and Josh Fitzgerald, our clinician for our pre-conference solo/ensemble workshop! Over the next few issues of our Area 11 newsletter, we will be including features and pictures from this wonderful event, so be sure to look for them! In this issue, we are sharing the thoughts of one of our first-time attenders, Brianna Dayley, on page 5. Look for some of the *Hartisms* we all came to love as you read her article! Our next issue will feature our wonderful classes, and more from Hart!

BOOTS & BELLS – How it all started! Pictures from our first day!

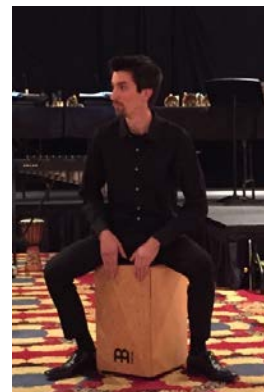


More Festival pictures on the following two pages

Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016

Boots & Bells

Opening Concert by Timbré



Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016 Boots & Bells

Opening Night Reception



Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016

Boots & Bells

Boots and Bells as a First-Timer

This was my first time at a bells conference and I had a great time. Timbré's energy was awesome and they taught excellent classes. Throughout the conference, I learned many things, but the biggest thing that I came away with was the 3 S's: Stance, Seat, and Stroke. There was a big focus on ergonomics.

I liked that we were shown the ergonomic way to ring, which uses the bigger muscles, and also the way that stresses the smaller muscles in our arms and back, which can lead to injury. Then we were able to try each technique ourselves. Different techniques changed aspects of the 3 S's, like finger damping, which changes the seat, and malleting, which changes the seat and the stroke. When done correctly, you not only prevent injury, but also bring out the beautiful sound of the bells.

Timbré gave us a great example of what can come out of the bells. The first night we were able to listen to them perform. Their ability was incredible. I could tell they enjoyed what they were doing. In the classes, they taught us a few things we could do ourselves. Bells are something you not only listen to, but also watch. Ringing out allows you to involve your audience more. And smile!

Transferring the energy that you feel to your audience is something that must be practiced. During meals and between classes we had the opportunity to meet other bell ringers. It was fun to hear about other people's experience and how they got into bell ringing. We were able to hear some of them ring in the showcase concert. These people prepared songs beforehand and it was fun to listen to them. In between their pieces we enjoyed listening to funny quotes from our clinicians.

We all learned so much, and we were able to start doing those things during our massed rehearsals. The clinician for the massed rings was Hart Morris. Hart was... well, it's hard to describe him.

"I thought of something profound, but it left me." In other words, he was great. Hart kept us on our toes and laughing with the things that he said. We all came to the conference never seeing the music, and he had to work with all of us sight reading. He pushed us to keep together but heavens, please don't count out loud. "That would be detrimental to the piece and quite stupid." He also wanted us to really make an impression with dynamics. He was open to suggestions. "I have one dramatic word of my own. I don't care about yours". Even though there were a lot of us, we were still able to ask him questions. "Recurring mistake, do you have a question?" He encouraged us to improve each time we played. "If you sense something is wrong, consider the possibility that it might be you." Hart believed in us and that we would ring well.

"Whatever happens next, we've had the fun already."

Brianna Dayley



Area 11 Spring Ring Events

Northern Colorado Handbell Festival



On Saturday, March 5, the Northern Colorado Handbell Festival was hosted by Kathy Schlecht at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Loveland, Colorado. Clinician and director, Michael Joy lead 133 ringers from 14 choirs and 3 states including Wyoming and Nebraska. Mass pieces included: *Glorious Celebration* by Cynthia Dobrinski, *Shall We Gather at the River* arr. Jason Krug, *Sanna, Sannanina* arr. Sandy Eithun, *Appassionata* by Michael Joy, and *Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds* arr. Cathy Moklebus. Individual performances were given by Hastings College Bell Choir, Bells of the Rockies, and The Denver Bronze. A drawing was held for two \$200 scholarships for the "Boots & Bells" Area 11 summer festival. NOCO Committee Members: Susan Harding, Kathy Prevost, Sue Hahn, and Anne Kleve.
Anne Kleve

Message from Chair-elect, Shannon Casey

Happy Summer everyone! Fall is rapidly approaching and I am excited for my ensembles to start rehearsing again. One of the items to remember as fall is coming is to make sure that your Handbell Musicians of America Membership is current. You wouldn't want to miss any of the events that are coming up! There is also Overtones, many members only online resources, discounted event costs for members, and so much more!! If you have any questions about the levels of membership or how to access any of the wonderful resources, please let me know!

I also wanted to take a moment to thank a few people as we get ready for the new terms to start in September. First, I would like to thank Diona Savoy for her service as Mountain Sub-Area Chair for the last 2 years. I know that she will continue to be a great resource in Wyoming and will help her successor, Anne Kleve, as much as possible. Second, Jeannine Holt is wrapping up her term as Chair and moving over to Past Chair. I know that she is very excited about serving in this advisory role! Thank you, Jeannine, for all that you have done over the last 4 years! Finally, thank you to Sue Hahn who is finishing up her term as Past Chair in just a couple of weeks. Sue has done a great job of service Area 11 over the last 6 years as Chair-Elect, Chair and Past Chair. We will miss having her on the board, but we know we will see her and her choir at events. Thanks, Sue!

Happy Ringing!

Shannon Casey

Chair Elect

chairelect.area11@handbellmusicians.org



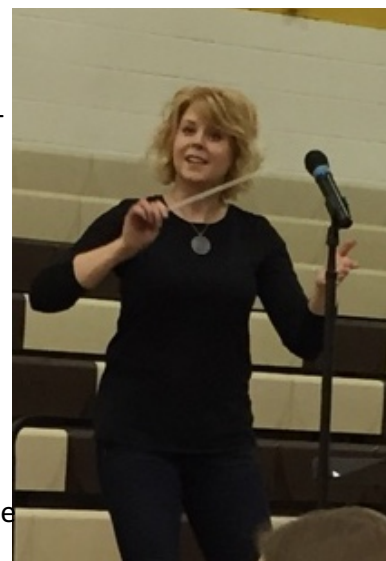
Area 11 Spring Ring Events

Utah Spring Ring



On Saturday, March 12, 276 ringers of all ages filled the gym floor of Davis High School in Utah's annual Spring Ring clinic and community concert. Amy Maakestad, from the Twin Cities, Minnesota, led the full-day workshop. Buses and trailers lined up in the parking lot bright and early as ringers from area schools, church groups, and community choirs hauled equipment in and jockeyed for positions on the floor. Rehearsal started at 9 as the "easy-going" and patient Amy worked with us on calisthenics. Her sense of humor and advice on musicality kept the ringers engaged throughout the day.

The bleachers were packed for the concert at 5pm. Highlights included the malleted Tetris theme "Korobeiniki" and the energetic opening number, "Rondo Passacaglia." Several choirs performed individual solos, including a first-ever performance by the apPRAISEation choir, the jazzy Bells on Temple Square, the Disney-themed Bells of Joyful Sound, and the Star Wars-costumed Utah Valley Handbell Ringers. That audience



especially enjoyed the quality performances by the youngest choirs, including Lehi Junior High and Ringers of the Light.

The concert concluded with the rousing Gospel "Down by the Riverside," complete with a Dixie combo band, percussion, and a full vocal choir made of the area handbell directors. What a terrific concert!

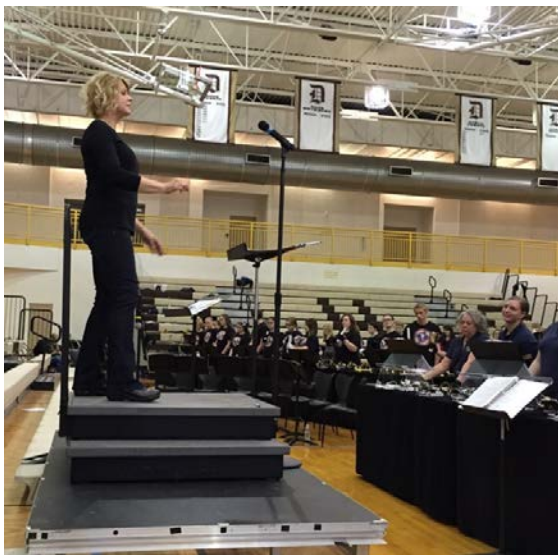
We hope to see everyone again at next year's event to be held at Herriman High on March 11. Tim Waugh will serve as clinician.

Jane Wolfarth

More pictures from the Utah Spring Ring on the following two pages.

Utah Spring Ring

March 12, 2016





Area 11 Spring Ring Events

Wyoming Spring Ring



The 2016 Wyoming Spring Ring took place April 1st and 2nd at the Ramkota Hotel in Casper, Wyoming with outstanding Clinician Debbie Rice. The ringers from Colorado, North Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming numbered 113, including Janet Lake, Area 11 Secretary-Treasurer, Mountain Sub-Area Chair Diona Savoy-McDaniels, and Area 11 Communications Guru Mary Moffett.

Nancy Wiedel, Co-Chair of Our Lady Of Peace Ringers of Silverthorne, Colorado, learned to play bells under the direction of Debbie Rice. This was the first Festival for most of the Silverthorne area ringers, numbering 15, so it was a very special time!

We rehearsed Friday night and part of Saturday morning, then broke for Debbie Rice's workshop, *Becoming Team Players*. She had different players demonstrate skills while playing sections of the mass pieces. Lunch followed, as well as another rehearsal. The concert began with mass choir numbers - Helman's *Prelude on "Thaxted"* and Childers' *The Triumph Song of Life*. The WyoRing players of the Torrington, Wyoming area performed Sherman's *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*. Eithun's *Reflection on "Holy Manna,"* with bells, autoharp, and flute, was performed by Shepherd's Bells of Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church. This was the farewell solo piece for longtime Director Connie Taylor. She and her husband, Fred, are retiring from their work as Organist/Handbell Director and Choir Director/Director of Music on May 22nd after many years of faithful service.



Casper's Phoenix Ringers followed with Mazzatenta's *Celebrate With Ringing*, and Joan Swim of Cheyenne performed an elegant solo on Jarre's *Somewhere, My Love*. Three mass numbers finished the concert – Tucker's *Celtic Noel* with piccolo, Sherman's *Festivo*, and Mokebust's Meditation on "Beautiful Savior."

The Wyoming Spring Ring for 2017 will welcome Clinician Cathy Mokebust on April 21-22. We would love to have you join us!

Carolyn Deuel

More pictures from the Wyoming Spring Ring on the following two pages.

Wyoming Spring Ring

April 1-2, 2016





Accepting Submissions for Special Feature Articles

If you and/or your choir would like to share an event you have participated in or organized, we would love to feature you in our Area 11 Newsletters. On pages 13-15 in this issue, our feature article highlights Bell Sunday at Utah's Hilltop United Methodist Church. It's a wonderful article! If you would like to submit an article, send your submissions, including any pictures you have, to Mary Moffett at Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org. We're looking forward to hearing about the wonderful things happening with the handbell ringers in Area 11!

Special Feature Articles may be sent at any time and will be included in any future issue of our Area 11 Newsletter. You will receive an email telling you in which issue your article will be featured.

Special Feature ~ Bell Sunday in Sandy, Utah

Annual Bell Sunday at Hilltop United Methodist Church in Sandy, Utah

Since Spring 2008, Hilltop United Methodist Church has celebrated God's gift of music through an annual Bell Sunday. It is a way the bell ensembles say thanks to the congregation for their support of the bell program throughout the year. It is not a bell concert, but a worship service during which as much of the worship music as possible is provided by the church's handbell choirs.



Every year a member of the adult bell ensemble, The Hallelujah Bells, and its director Andrew Smith work with the pastor and director of music to develop a theme for the worship time and to pick handbell music that supports it. All the church's bell ensembles, the Hallelujah Bells, the Carillon Belles Quartet, and the younger ensembles offer their talents. Over the years, duo and soloists have played.

This year's theme was "what we love about Jesus." Six pieces were selected that echoed the qualities of Jesus: "Ah, Holy Jesus" arranged by Terry Osman; "Holy, Holy, Holy," a quartet piece arranged by Kevin McChesney; "Compassion" by Jason Krug; "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen with the Christian lyrics by Kelley Mooney scrolling overhead; "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arranged by Cathy Moglebust; and "the Prayer" by Carole Beyer Sager and David Foster, again with the lyric scrolling overhead as the piece was played. Four of the pieces were preceded by a biblical reading to highlight what quality the music would ascribe.

This year The Bells of Joyful Sound, a community group from West Jordan directed by Mary Moffett, joined us. We concluded this year's service with The Hallelujah Bells and Bells of Joyful Sound combining to play Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee by Charles E. Peery while the congregation sang. The two choirs again joined to close the service with an energetic bell peal.

Andrew Smith and Marilyn White



More pictures from Bell Sunday on the following two pages.

Bell Sunday at Hilltop United Methodist Church in Sandy, Utah
May 1, 2016





Area 11 Upcoming Events



The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringers@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir

For additional information about each event, [click here](#) to visit our Area 11 website.

Back to Bells in Denver, Colorado

Date: Saturday, Oct. 1

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Wellshire Presbyterian Church in Denver, Colorado



Ringin', Singin', and Organ-izing

Date: Saturday, Oct. 8

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: First United Methodist Church in Phoenix, Arizona

Back to Bells in Sun Lakes, Arizona

Date: Saturday, Oct. 22

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 General class

11:00 – 11:30 Director's class

Location: Sun Lakes United Methodist Church in Phoenix, Arizona

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