



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 11

Newsletter

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From the Chair:



September is here! Are you back in rehearsals or scheduled to start soon? Have you completed the all-important task of ordering your new music for this season.

I just finished looking at my choir's schedule for the fall, and it's pretty daunting. I always choose the music and set the schedule with a great sense of excitement, and then reality sets in and "What was I thinking?"

Activities are beginning to build around Area 11.

Please go to our webpage

(www.area11.handbellmusicians.org) and look under the "events" tab for fall and even some spring activities

that are beginning to show up. For example, in September, you might know some folks who would like to participate in the BACK TO BELLS workshops occurring in Arizona, Utah, and Colorado on September 12 and 19. These half-day workshops are designed to assist churches and schools in resurrecting or improving their handbell programs. Bells that are in the closet never sound too good, and we'd like to see those bells making their beautiful music. Perhaps you know of a church or school that has lost their bell choir and/or director and might like some assistance moving those bells out of the closet and back into public. Please take a look at BACK TO BELLS on the website and refer someone you know to one of these workshops.

Also note that Utah is having a Fall Tune-Up on September 19 (always a good way to get back into the swing of things), and WyoRing is coming up in November.

Finally, please remember that Area 11 is a recognized charity for the Amazon-Smile program. Everything you purchase on Amazon can be credited to our account (at no extra cost to you), and those funds go to our Youth Fund for Young Ringers Camp. It's an easy way to support the Area every time you order through Amazon.

Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome. Please feel free to drop me a note or contact any of our Board members if you have questions or comments. We really do want to hear from you.

Jeannine

Chair, Area 11

chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org



Area 11 Website

www.area11.handbellmusicians.org

National Office Website

www.handbellmusicians.org

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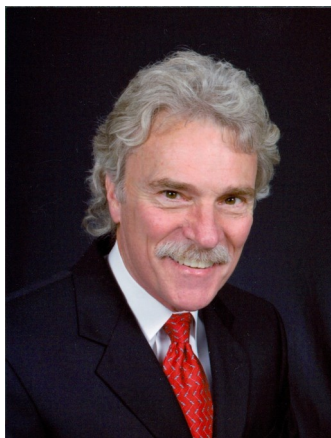


Check out our Calendar [here](#) to see what's planned in Area 11.

Check the website regularly for upcoming Area 11 events!



Area 11 Festival/Conference 2016 Clinicians



Hart Morris is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and the University of Houston. He has served as a minister of music in Florida, Texas, Tennessee and Oklahoma, and is a published composer/arranger of both handbell and choral music. He has directed AGEHR/HMA National Seminars and festivals, conferences and workshops, and twice represented the USA as a conductor for International Handbell Symposia.

Timbré is a professional ensemble which has performed for enthusiastic audiences across the United States. Our artists are some of the world's finest handbell performers! We are advancing the artistic growth of handbells by setting the highest standard

of music performance possible and changing the face of handbell repertoire by commissioning and performing new works from composers of all ages. Timbré's artists are also among the handbell world's most well-respected teachers! Our classes present a variety of topics from ergonomics-based techniques, to conducting, to assignment methods, as well as musical concepts for beginners and veterans alike.



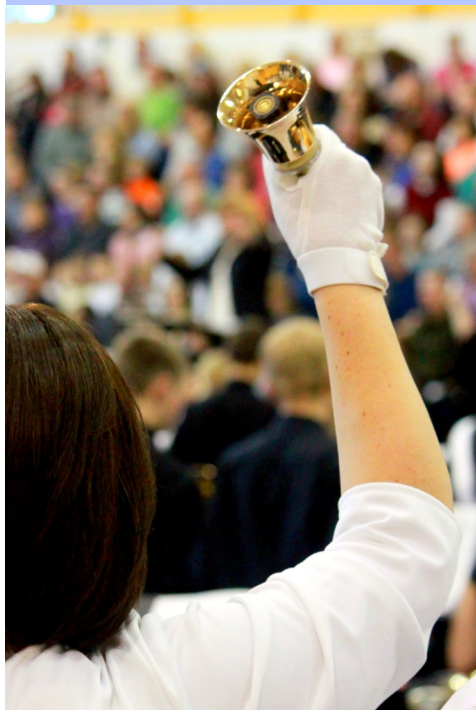
Area 11 Festival
BOOTS AND BELLS
in Cheyenne, Wyoming
June 9-12, 2016

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

www.area11.handbellmusicians.org

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

Area 11 Events
Details and Information can be found at
<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/events/>



Back to Bells

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2015

Location: Tucson, Arizona

Utah Fall Tune Up

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2015

Location: Sandy, Utah

Back to Bells

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2015

Location: Sandy, Utah

Back to Bells

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2015

Location: Denver, Colorado



WyoRing

Date: Friday - Saturday, November 6-7, 2015

Location: Torrington, Wyoming

Clinician: LeAnna Willmore

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

Area 11 Festival

Date: June 9-12, 2016

Location: Cheyenne, Wyoming

Clinicians: Hart Morris *and* Timbré



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

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



Young Ringers Camp 2015

JUST IMAGINE...

39 young people, ages 10 to 22 from six different cities from all around Area 11 coming together for 4 days to work with 2 of the most outstanding clinicians in the handbell world in a beautiful, picturesque setting located in the mountains of Colorado....

No, it wasn't a dream! It was a reality and it all happened at Area 11's Young Ringers Camp held last June at Snow Mountain Ranch! Marilyn Lake and Bonnie Tranby were our clinicians, and with just a few short rehearsals, our youth ringers each had the opportunity to learn and perform 4 pieces in a concert setting. When not in rehearsals, they attended workshops. Marilyn focused on rhythm with World Drumming sessions and Maori Stick Games from the ancient tribes of New Zealand, while Bonnie worked on executing different bell techniques properly, having fun with the Bronze Family Feud and playing processions. Bonnie challenged the ringers to reflect on their camp experience and write a story about one of their pieces. Camp wasn't all about ringing, but also adventure! They participated in the Summer Tubing Hill, a brand new attraction at Snow Mountain. The Challenge Course allowed them to work on skills of cooperation and teamwork, skills that we use as we ring bells together.

We appreciated having our nine chaperones that made sure we got to camp safely, and were always ready to assist whenever needed. We want to thank those who loaned us their bells, chimes and other equipment –

Joan Swim, Anne Kleve, Karen Meersman, and Jeannine Holt. THANK YOU!!

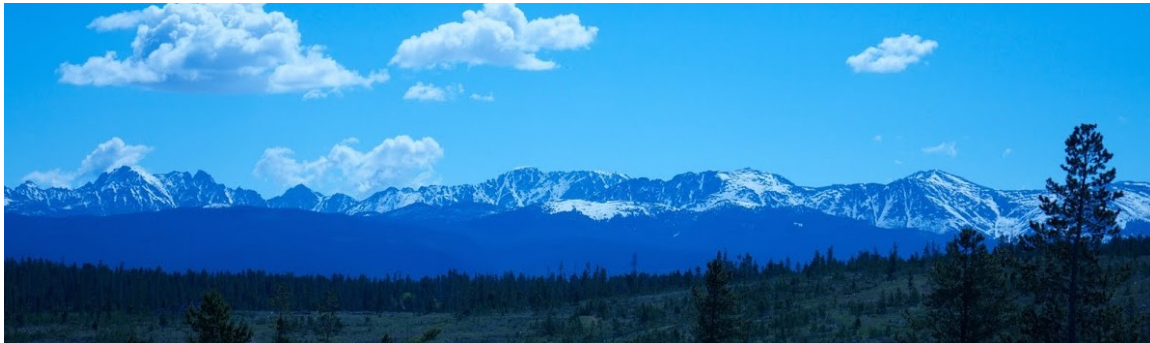
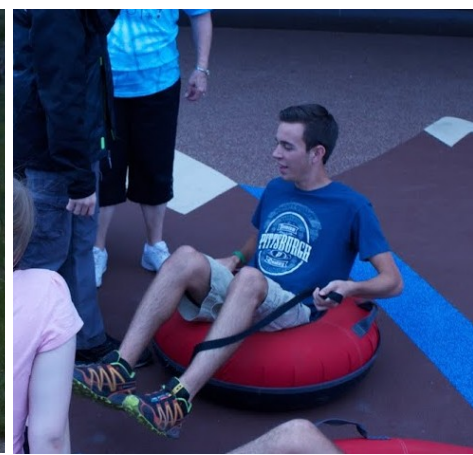
So, what did the young ringers have to say about camp?

- *I have really enjoyed this bell camp. Getting to know people has been really fun. I really like the songs we are playing, a good mix of hard and easy, exciting and beautiful.*
- *I learned how to ring two notes I have not rung before! I learned how to work together and trust people I did not know in one of the team building games we played. I learned new ways to ring bells.*
- *My first bell camp was a blast. I met some great people and learned some pretty music. Who knew I'd be able to sight read so fast! The camp itself was super cool. There are so many things to do. It's been a great experience!*
- *One thing I have really loved and enjoyed at bell camp is all the friends you make. Another thing I really like are the directors. I also love the songs – they are so much fun. One thing I didn't like was how fast it went by. I wish there were more days!*
- *It was awesome! I learned so much and can't wait to come back.*



We will soon begin planning the 2017 Young Ringers Camp. Let us know if you would like to help out! And, if you have youth in your bell choirs, plan now to attend and help us spread the word!!

Young Ringers Camp 2015



Young Ringers Camp 2015



Area 11 Welcomes our New Youth Representative

My name is Casey Turner. I've lived in Brigham City, Utah for all of my 16 (almost 17) years. I play violin, piano, handbells, and am working on my singing. I am a varsity starting running back as a junior on the football team. I have a rather high gpa and plan to someday get my doctorate in music education. I've played violin for about 6 years now and have loved it since day 1. My favorite thing with my violin is playing with a full symphony. As someone once told me, "A band sounds good alone and the strings sound good alone, but put them today in a symphony, now that's true power." Piano is hands down my favorite instrument. As scary as piano solos are, they are still my favorite. I love to play for my small church congregation. They are always understanding and accepting of anything I ever sing or play for them. They are my family. Handbells came into my life about 4 years ago. I barely played in a small Easter performance with the Memorial Handbell Choir from Community Presbyterian Church from Brigham City. That summer I attended the Salt Lake City Area 11 Handbell Festival where I was inclined to learn at a very rapid rate. I started on A5/B5 at home but never even saw them after we arrived at Salt Lake. I played anything from D8/E8 to C3-B3. I used to love the treble but as Megan Trainor says, "I'm all about that bass". I play C3-B3 (or wherever my director (Cathie Olds) needs me). I am a part of 2 full choirs and a quartet and am finding interests to play in an Ogden handbell choir in my spare time.

I have huge dreams of becoming a music teacher after attending the University of Washington and serving 4 years in the U.S. Air Force. Music is a huge passion of mine. I plan to have my own handbell choir under my direction as an adult as well as a fully equipped symphony with a choir. As for my time as youth representative, I would love to see a growth in youth attendance to our Area 11 bi-yearly Festivals as well as to our bi-yearly youth camp. I have attended both festivals and camps in the four years that I have played handbells and I enjoy every minute of them.

Handbells to me is exciting. To me, it's another way to spread my faith through music. I plan to get into contact with choirs from all 5 states of Area 11 to ask what they think of area 11 and what changes their youth would like to see. I hope to see everyone reading this at our 2016 Area 11 Festival in Cheyenne, Wyoming!

If anyone would like to contact me you can email me 24/7 at kcturner1998@gmail.com or even send me a text, if email is too old school! 435-720-7167.

Casey Turner
Area 11 Youth Representative



Casey Turner and Izzie Herzog together in their 2015 Young Ringers Camp shirts

For the past two years, Izzie Herzog has served as our Area 11 Youth Representative. We'd like to thank her for all the time, effort, and work she has done as she served the youth in Area 11!

Being on the board these past two years has been a wonderful experience. I've served on committees before, but never for something I care about as much as music, specifically handbell music. Teenagers often miss out on amazing opportunities like the one I had because we are deemed "too immature" or "too irresponsible." Otherwise, people are often scared to tell us we are wrong, and treat us like we're delicate and about to break. The contributions I made on this board, however, were accepted and critiqued by the other members of the board. Basically, I was treated like an adult. Things that I said *mattered*.

Being on the board allowed me to see just how much work goes into planning the amazing events we get to attend, like Festival and Bell Camp. The decisions that we made affected things I have enjoyed and experienced for years, and I'm proud to say that I was on the board that makes these things happen. I'm happy to say that Casey Turner, who I have been to festival and bell camp with for years, will now be taking my position, and have the opportunity to do what I was able to do these past two years. I'm excited to see how the decisions he makes will impact Area 11 in ways that we, the youth, can appreciate.

-Izzie Herzog

2015 Pinnacle in Dallas, Texas

This past July, some of our Area 11 members attended Pinnacle, a National event held in Dallas, Texas.

It was a wonderful experience for each of them!

A few of those attending were attending as first-timers at their first National event.

Marcia and Katie were two of those first-time attendees and have shared their thoughts and experiences with us this month.

How exciting! I was going to my first national handbell conference – Pinnacle 2015! For several years, the announcements of various national HMA events had made me think about attending. Due to my life situations, I had not been able to go to any of them. Now, however, I am living by myself in a new location and am free to do whatever I want to do!

The announcements for Pinnacle were enticing to me because I am ringing in two community handbell groups and a church handbell choir in the Denver metro area. It seemed that the various classes offered would be a great learning experience for me as well as give me valuable information to bring back to the church handbell choir which had recently restarted. This church had a 4-1/2 octave set of handbells that had sat unused for 26 years. Two years ago the music director and I worked to restart the handbell choir and we now have 12 enthusiastic people who want to ring.

Of course going to Pinnacle on my own was a little scary – I didn't know anyone else from Denver who might be going. It was lucky for me that I had met Sue Hahn at an earlier Area 11 workshop and contacted her prior to the event. We exchanged telephone numbers and agreed to meet for lunch. This, of course, made me feel a lot better as knowing Sue helped me meet other ringers in Colorado and the other states in Area 11.

But, I shouldn't have been concerned. After registering at the hotel, I sat and watched as hundreds of happy handbell people of all ages came into the lobby. I could see that these enthusiastic people would make me feel "at home" and we would be sharing our love of handbell ringing for the next 4 days.

Meeting Ellie Hodder at the event registration desk the next morning was a highlight for me. She was very helpful, answering my many questions about the conference, classes, and concerts in her most cheerful and friendly manner. I could see that the schedule of daily events would keep me busy from 8:00 in the morning until late in the evening! The many classes that I chose during my registration were interspersed with performances by many talented handbell ringers - groups and solo performers.

I had hoped to get into the All Star Choir but when not selected I realized that it was better for me to attend the classes. The All Star Choir required many hours of rehearsal time. I was able to learn a lot more about handbell ringing, to meet more people from other states, to reconnect with people I rang with in Atlanta, GA, and to talk to the many instructors who shared their knowledge with us.

If I were asked what I liked best about going to Pinnacle, I would have to say, "All of it"! The classes gave me information and hands-on opportunities I would not have had elsewhere. Some of the things I learned were not available to me in any printed material I had previously read. The concerts and showcases were wonderful! There was such diversity in the ensembles, trio, solo ringers, and large handbell groups that performed for us – more than I would have seen if I attended a dozen separate concerts! Lastly, the hotel accommodations were outstanding. It was great fun to have dinner with different groups of people each evening in the hotel restaurants. One evening, a special bus was provided to take a group of us to town for dinner in a Grapevine, TX, Mexican restaurant. Such fun to laugh and eat with other handbell enthusiasts!

Would I do this again? Absolutely! I can't wait for the opportunity to go to the next regional or national event!

Marcia Rainey - Denver, Colorado

2015 Pinnacle in Dallas, Texas

In July, I discovered the best cure for summer handbell withdrawals. Pinnacle 2015! As a new member of the Handbell Musicians of America, I had no idea what to expect at my first handbell conference. When registering, I was pleasantly surprised by how many classes and performances were offered. Over 30 classes to choose from, sight-reading sessions, and professional intensives that gave a behind the scenes look of three extraordinary ensembles, there was something for everyone.

I was also blown away by how many people attended. Handbells is my passion and at Pinnacle I quickly discovered I was not alone. I had the pleasure of meeting so many wonderful people from near and far that love handbells like I do. I have always admired the camaraderie between handbell musicians and was glad to see it again on a much larger scale. I have already started making plans to attend the next national conference in 2016 in New York. I hope to see you there!

Katie Gant - Phoenix, Arizona



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*Departs the day after Int'l Symposium in Vancouver, BC
www.ihs2016vancouver.ca

Message from Shannon Casey, Area 11 Chair-elect

Happy September!

I can't believe it is already September. My ensemble rehearsals have started up already. Fall is coming soon. It still feels like summer here in Arizona, but that is to be expected!! We are busy getting ready for the Back to Bells events this month. September is a big membership month. Many of us have been away from our bell choirs and may have forgotten to renew our memberships. Please take a few minutes to log in to your membership account and renew. While you are there, check out the Member Center and click on Handbell Musician Resources. There are a ton of resources there that you can use as part of your membership. There is a new one on using Bell Trees in various worship settings that looks really good! Also, check out the Member Notes and Member Chats section. You can see the past notes from February, April and August as well as watch recordings of the Member Chats. There are so many resources that are included in your membership!! Remember to check them out and that the website is not just for membership renewal!!

If you have any questions about membership renewal or new memberships, please contact me at chairelect.area11@handbellmusicians.org
Shannon

Area 11 welcomes our new Handbell Musicians of America members:



Donna Hartley in Scottsdale, Arizona
Terry Williams in Phoenix, Arizona
Karen Fowler in Tucson, Arizona
Kyle Wheeler in Peoria, Arizona
Katie Gant in Scottsdale, Arizona
Vickie Wessel in Scottsdale, Arizona
Bryce Biefel in Lakewood, Colorado
Susan Wise Carl in Arvada, Colorado
Lisa Bush in Grand Junction, Colorado
Lori Schneider in Lakewood, Colorado
Corey Bissell in Arvada, Colorado
Matthew Schukis in Mount Pleasant, Utah



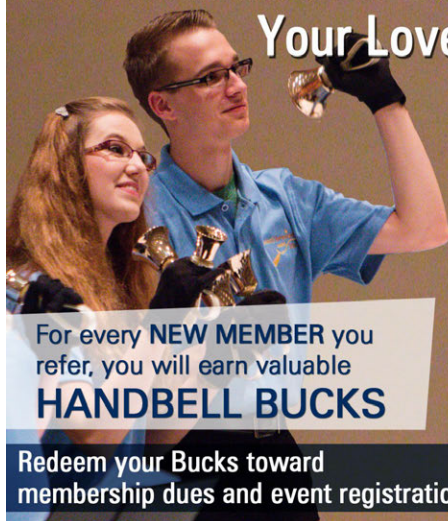
The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613
phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

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Details at HandbellMusicians.org/bucks
Restrictions Apply

**Deadline for the
November Area 11
Newsletter is
October 25, 2015
Advertising deadline is
October 20, 2015
Email submissions to
Mary Moffett at**

Communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org

