



Newsletter



Volume 11
Issue 2
March 2018

From the Chair:



I can't believe that it is already March! The Spring Events are here. Two are this weekend, Utah Spring Ring and NOCO. Both are going to be awesome events! The Wyoming Spring Ring is just around the corner on April 13-14. Time does truly fly by!

The other deadline that is rapidly approaching is the deadline to register for the lower price for the Area 11 Festival Conference in Albuquerque, NM, June 21-24. The deadline for the \$350 registration fee is March 15th and you will save \$100 by registering before that day. On March 16th, the registration fee goes up to \$450. Check out the info on what you will miss if you aren't there! The Festival Committee has been working hard behind the scenes and is putting together a really wonderful event. I hope to see you all there!

The last thing I would like to talk to you about today is getting involved with Handbell Musicians of America and Area 11. There are all kinds of ways that you can help whether it is to serve on the board, host an event, serve on any number of ad hoc committees or help out at an event. Even if you don't have a ton of time, there is something that you can help out with. Please email me at chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org if you would like to hear more about the opportunities available to help Area 11 reach more handbell musicians. We would love to have your help!

Have a wonderful Easter!

Thank you,

Shannon Casey, Chair
Area 11
Handbell Musicians of America

Area 11 Website
area11.handbellmusicians.org

National Office Website
Handbellmusicians.org

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*What will you miss.....
if YOU don't attend
ALBUQUERQUE 2018 Area 11 Festival?*



- * Ringing under the direction of **Alex Guebert**, one of the handbell world's up and coming artistic directors and composers!
- * **Forté, a Handbell Quartet Extraordinaire!** They will be featured in concert and teach many of the Festival classes and workshops!
- * A special concert by **Denver Bronze**, an outstanding community handbell ensemble from our own Area 11!
- * Performance by **Pikes Peak Youth Ringers**, a dynamic and exciting group of young ringers from Colorado Springs!
- * A special Showcase Concert featuring YOU???
- * Pre-Conference Bell Tree or Solo-Ensemble Workshop
- * **Classes to help you become a better handbell musician!** Topics will include bell techniques; forming small ensembles; presentation; sightreading; doing more with less; practice vs. performance and techniques to help you succeed; bell maintenance; organizing and directing a handbell choir; mallet techniques; basics of music theory; rhythm skills; working with youth and much more.....!
- * Fellowship with many handbell friends!



**Area 11 Festival / Conference
June 21-24, 2018
Embassy Suites Hotel & Spa
Albuquerque, New Mexico**



REGISTER TODAY! Don't miss the March 15 deadline for the lower rate!

Find all the registration information and forms on our Area 11 website at:

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/area-festival-2018/area-festival-2018/>

Don't wait! Ringing tracks will fill up fast!!

We hope to see YOU in Albuquerque!!

Festival Reminders:

We have two options for registration.

Option 1: Mail-in registration form and pay a deposit by check, with the balance due later

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

Registration fee (deadline is March 15, 2018) – \$350.00

If registering online with credit card, processing fees will apply.

Late Registration (between March 16, 2018-May 1, 2018) – \$450.00

If registering online with credit card, processing fees will apply.

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

You will need to contact the hotel to make reservations.

Embassy Suites Hotel is offering a special rate to those attending our Festival.

Registrants who live outside a 60 mile radius from the hotel and choose *not* to stay at the Embassy Suites 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.

If you are unable to attend the full festival, but would like to attend on Saturday, we do have a Saturday Only Option for registration on our website.

Find all the registration information and forms on our Area 11 website at:

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/area-festival-2018/area-festival-2018/>

If you are looking for a roommate for our 2018 Albuquerque Festival, you can post that on our Area 11 Facebook page and others can respond to your request!

<https://www.facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansofAmericaArea11/>



Handbell Musicians of America Membership

What's New in Membership?

We're entering the time of year when membership events are plentiful! We just had Read and Ring where, if you went, you were playing music with 200+ people, albeit at a distance. We got lots of feedback about how much fun just meeting new bell ringers is with this event. There are some spring rings in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming coming up and of course our festival in June! Plus we are planning a new event for next fall called Ringers Roundup. This will be a chance to get everybody in your group back on the same page for ringing and will be similar to Read and Ring in that the same event will be held around the area on or about the same time. We are currently looking at Sept. 22, 2018 so check the Area 11 website as we go to get more details. This will be a chance to learn some new skills, apply them to music and also to socialize and play some games that will be useful in your bell ringing!

Also be sure and check out the new Member Notes by Sondra Tucker on Copyright and what it means to you.

Finally, if you can attend a National event, I urge you to do so. There are so many classes you will find several things you didn't know and it is another place where you get to play and hear wonderful handbell music and meet cool bell people. Because as we all know, bell ringers are the best!

Happy Ringing!

Lorrie Hart

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. 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! You may also write an article on a topic of interest to the members of our area.

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.



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Bells of the Cascades

Meet Our New Handchime Loan Coordinator

Welcome Paige Erickson as our Handchime loan coordinator. Paige lives in Highland, Utah with her husband and family; 5 kids and several exchange students through the years have kept her busy. Paige loves musicals and singing, and participates in community theater whenever she can fit it in. She also enjoys raising chickens, baking, traveling, and serving others.

Paige rings with the Bells on Temple Square and absolutely loves ringing and the wonderful friendships she has found with that group. It's been an amazing experience to learn, grow, and perform with such dedicated musicians. Paige was a chime loan recipient herself, when she decided to start an elementary chime choir at her kids' elementary school. Her kids have moved on, but she still teaches, and this semester she has over 30 kids in 2 elementary groups. She's excited to help future groups get their start with the chime loan program.



CHIME Loan Applications

Handbell Musicians of America Area 11 owns several 3 Octave sets of handchimes which are available for loan for a full school year to use in school or church music programs in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah or Wyoming. Sets are loaned with accompanying curricula and Handbell Musicians of America Area 11 will supply a mentor upon request.

Teachers around our area have had some wonderful experiences during the time they had use of our loaner handchimes! You could be next and have your own wonderful experience introducing handchimes to children! OR one of your friends who is a teacher or church musician could be a recipient next school year.

Please pass the information along to your friends and neighbors! They do not need to know how to play or teach handchimes to be chosen as a recipient! Area 11 will provide a mentor to help them get started and keep going all throughout the year!

You can find the application form by clicking [here](#).



Area 11 2017-2018 CHIME Loan Recipients' Experiences

The students at **Old Mill Elementary School**, in Stansbury Park, Utah, have had many firsts this year—it's their first year in a new school, with new teachers, new peers, new experiences. However, the most unique experience was the opportunity to join the new handchime choir.

Initially, the school had one handchime choir and rehearsals were held twice weekly. Students ranged from 3rd grade to 6th grade. The first day, students quickly entered the music room with excitement and an eagerness easily seen in their eyes.

"What were these new and never-seen-before instruments?", their faces seemed to say. My goal was to teach in a way that the children would come with that same excitement and eagerness each time. We used popular tunes to learn and remember the notes on the grand staff, bounced balls to learn about staying in sync, and even used (and ate!) Oreos to learn the value of notes.



It has been quite noteworthy to see the progress of the children. Initially, progress was slow and I thought improvement would continue on that same gradual plane the entire year. But somewhere in the 2nd month, the students began to progress at a much faster rate—and their confidence boomed as well. They no longer had to concentrate so much on their ringing technique, their notes or their notes' values. We were able to move on to things like dynamics and stopped techniques such as echoes and finger damping, which the children love.

In December, the choir had their first concerts. The first two concerts were held at the school—One was an assembly for all the students and faculty, the other was held in the evening for family and friends to attend. The concert comprised of all the school's choirs, both vocal and the new chime choir. The noise level at these concerts were typical. A constant buzz of chatter could be heard, that is, until it was chime choir's turn. When the ringers began ringing, the crowd hushed and the children watched their fellow peers with wonder and curiosity. The cheering afterwards was genuine, the students and faculty was amazed by the students and this instrument! The chime choir also was able to perform at a local nursing home. The residents lit up when the children performed, and the children enjoyed bringing delight to the residents. It was fun to see the children lose inhibition and gain the love of performing.

Since then, other students and parents have asked that a 2nd choir be made available. And so due to popular demand, an additional chime choir has since begun.

I asked the students what was their favorite thing about ringing chimes and they said things like,

"I like that when we play all together, we make songs."

"My brain has to concentrate real hard, but I like what I can do when I'm ringing."

"I like ringing songs that are familiar to me."

"I get to do music with my friends!"

All the kids agreed, they love this new experience of ringing handchimes.

As the director, I can see that the handchime choir has added to the children's overall confidence. They love the aspect of making music collectively, and the physicality/movement of making music through handchimes.

Thanks so much to HMA Area 11 for the opportunity to increase awareness of handchimes and musical appreciation through this valuable grant!

Diana Hatch

Old Mill Elementary School, Stansbury Park, Utah



Area 11 2017-2018 CHIME Loan Recipients' Experiences

The **Jubilate Performing Arts** program at Christ Anglican Church in Carefree, Arizona has been using chimes that were loaned by the Area 11 Chime Loan program for this last school year, beginning in September of 2017.

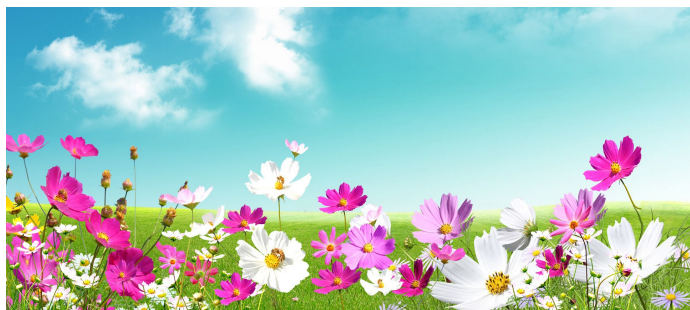
Our children range in ages five through sixteen at Jubilate Performing Arts. We teach violin, viola, cello, and music theory on Saturdays throughout the school year, with 26 students in our string orchestra. We thought that a chime choir would be an interesting class to add to our curriculum, and that there would be tons of interest among our current students and children in the community. Sadly, only one student signed up for the class, and he was unable to attend consistently. At that point we changed tactics, adding the chimes to the Loft Choir which is a choir for teens and pre-teens at Christ Anglican Church.



The addition of chimes turned out to be quite helpful for this choir. Where a choir member was still learning to match pitch, the addition of a chime that sounded their predominant tone helped them to stay in tune. Choir members who have been too shy to sing were able to sound chimes instead of singing. All of our choir members have now become very comfortable, and sing with confidence. I do believe the work with chimes helped them overcome considerable anxiety.

We are now looking to purchase a set of chimes for both Christ Anglican Church, and the Jubilate Performing Arts program. I can't imagine our choir without them. Chimes create an ethereal, beautiful quality that is simple to achieve, yet sounds sophisticated and enhances the music considerably. With the constant challenge to find music that is interesting yet simple enough for a children's choir, adding chimes becomes a very agreeable solution. I am certain that interest for a chime choir will surface in the very near future at Jubilate Performing Arts. As in music education in general, getting the word out as to what is available is key to keeping our music programs thriving.

Laya Field, Director of Jubilate Performing Arts



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Area 11 Upcoming Events

For additional information about each event on this page, visit our Area 11 website at <http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/events-4/events/>



Area 11 Festival 2018
Albuquerque, New Mexico
June 21-24, 2018
Embassy Suites Hotel
in
Albuquerque
Registration is OPEN!

<http://area11.handbellmusicians.org/area-festival-2018/area-festival-2018/>

Ringers' Roundup!

Our new, fall 2018 event to help get your whole choir ready to ring for the new season! Look for more information in our newsletters and on our Area 11 website soon!



Find us on:
facebook®

Our Area 11 Facebook page can be found here:
<https://www.facebook.com/HandbellMusiciansofAmericaArea11/>

2018 Spring Ring Events Around Area 11

Northern Colorado Handbell Festival

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Clinician: Sondra Tucker

Location: Loveland, Colorado

Registration form and repertoire are available on the Area 11 website.

Utah Spring Ring

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Clinician: Deborah Carr

Location: Riverton HS, Utah

Registration form and repertoire are available on the Area 11 website.

Wyoming Spring Ring

Date: Friday-Saturday, April 13-14, 2018

Clinician: Monica McGowan

Location: Ramkota Hotel, Casper, Wyoming

Registration form and repertoire are available on the Area 11 website.

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