



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 11

Newsletter

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Area 11 Website

area11.handbellmusicians.org

National Office Website

Handbellmusicians.org

ELECTION RESULTS



From the Chair:



As I sat down to write this letter to Area 11, I reread my letter from March 1. How times have changed! None of the events I was so looking forward to happened, as you know, and my bet is that most of the things all of us were looking forward to didn't happen. I'm sure we all miss our rehearsal time, our bell friendships and creating beautiful music—I know I really do! It makes me realize just how much of my life is centered around the music we all make and the friendships the world of bells provides. In terms of how Area 11 is coping, we are moving on as much as possible. Thanks so much to all of the chairs and committees for the various events who worked so hard to put together an event only to see it fall apart. Not only did they have work on the front end, we then had to work to get money returned. Financially, Area 11 will be fine. Some of our clinicians did not charge us anything for canceling even though there is a small fee built into the contract, and we had some donations from folks that helped cover expenses. All of this means we will have a small deficit for the year because we depend

on these events as a source of income, but we have money saved to cover that. Not bad for an organization that by necessity operates on a shoestring financially! Also it is clear that we made the right decision to cancel everything, even though I had bells in my car to transport to the Northern Colorado Ring at the moment we canceled! It would be so much worse if we'd had any of these events and then our members got sick!

Going forward, we are exploring several possibilities. One is that we are looking at how to have a virtual Festival that would be free. If anyone has any expertise on how to manage that please get in touch with me, the board could really use some technical help. We have Ringers Roundup still scheduled for fall and that will go forward assuming we figure out the social distancing. I suppose we could play bells with masks on..... We will probably just have to skip Festival until 2022 because we can't delay it a year, since the National Seminar will be in Phoenix in 2021. In lieu of that, one possibility we are considering would be an adult handbell camp in 2021 that would follow or precede the youth camp at Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado. This would be structured much like the youth camp, a few classes, playing a lot of music, and having some time to just enjoy the mountains and the activities of Snow Mountain Ranch. Please note, we are in a highly speculative time, so these are only possibilities. We will keep you posted. If you have other ideas, let me know, I'd love to develop some events for Area 11.

There is one virtual event, the Sierra Spring Ring Digital Edition, that will be online for free on May 9, 2-6pm Pacific Time. You can find more info at www.tintabulations.com. I plan to check that out. In addition to some classes they will be involving Michael Glasgow, Emily Li, Tammy Waldrop, and Tim Waugh. So if you need a little bells in your life, try that!

We also have managed to have an election in the midst of the pandemic, which I personally am thrilled about! Thanks to everyone who ran and thanks to all the people the board talked to who said they couldn't run but would be able to help in other ways. You are much appreciated.

Congratulations to our new Chair Elect, LeAnna Willmore, and to our new Secretary/Treasurer, Sara Nybo. Thank you for serving the Area! You can read more about them in the rest of the newsletter. For those of you of a certain age, I feel like I'm back in the era of Hill Street Blues where at the end of the briefing the Sergeant always said, "stay safe out there!" That's my sentiment for the foreseeable future, and I wish you all a good summer with ringing to look forward to in the future!



Lorrie Hart
Chair, Area 11
Chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org

Handbell Musicians of America



Ringin g Up!



Area 11 Festival 2020
Phoenix, Arizona



Thank you Ellie!



We are so sad that we had to cancel our Area 11 2020 Festival due to the Covid-19 pandemic! We hope you are all staying safe and healthy! We want to thank **Shannon Casey**, our Past Chair, for all the time and work she put into organizing the Festival!

We're so grateful to Ellie Hodder, who was scheduled to be our clinician, and will really miss the chance to ring with her in Phoenix! So for now, we'll look forward to seeing you all

Ringin Up! In 2022!

I ♥ HANDBELLS

Dear Bell Lovers of all ages,

During this lounging and largo time of solo work, I wanted to share my feelings for you in a poem!

I is for ISOLATION that is challenging us all

L is for LOVE that we miss each other so much

O is for OVERTURES that we will compose when we're back with our choirs

V is for VICTORY when we can all return to our churches and schools

E is for EXCELLENCE that we will try to musically maintain

H is for HAPPINESS that we feel when surrounded by healing power of music

A is for AMAZING people that care so much to check in

N is for NOTES that are dancing in our heads, left over from performances missed

D is for DINGALINGS, or whatever other silly bell names out there

B is for BELLS, because what other "b" word is more meaningful to us 😊

E is for ENTERTAIN that which we try to do with anything that will make noise or ring

L is for LONGING for our distant bell friends to laugh and be silly with

L is for LISTEN that which we do so much now and silence can be deafening

S is for SONGS that we will create together soon

I LOVE HANDBELLS

We are stronger together!

~ Anne Kleve. Chair-elect



From the Area 11 archives

(March 2014 issue of the Area 11 newsletter)

Articles from former Area 11 Chime Loan recipients for the school year 2013-2014

Kris Barber, a teacher at **Sunrise Ridge Intermediate School** in St. George, Utah has used her set of chimes with her choir class and even performed during two of their choir concerts this year. She has also used them with her enrichment class called Chime Time. "We have had lots of fun with the chimes. The Chime Time class had about 20 students who met 12 times over a four-week period. We are beginning a new class next week that will have about 30 students who will also meet for about 12 class times. I have managed to raise the necessary funds to purchase a 37-tone set of chimes and have ordered them from Malmark. I am very excited about the imminent arrival of my very own chimes and plan to use them as often as possible. Thank you so much for this opportunity! We have loved the chimes!"

Edie Phelps, a teacher at **Enterprise Elementary School** in Enterprise, Utah has been using the chimes with the 3rd grade classes. "The children have really enjoyed using them, and it has taken my rowdiest age and made them more focused. I have loved that we performed with them in the Christmas concert and the teachers, student body and parents were all enthralled with them. We are planning on using them again in our Spring concert. Thank you for this opportunity to expose my students to an aspect of music that they would otherwise not have had the chance to experience. Thank you again."



Gayle Workman, a teacher at **Tonaquint Intermediate School** in St. George, Utah has been using their set of chimes to embellish their choral music. "Christmas was a great time to use them. We will also be using them for our Southern Utah Performing Arts Festival song called "Homeward Bound" where the sound of bells are needed." She also uses them in conjunction with her lesson on pitch and notation. The students write their own 4 measure songs and then perform them in small groups with instruments. Each student has a part in choosing which notes, dynamics, title, and tempo are used. "Thank you for the opportunity of using them. They are so beautiful!"

**If you want to try to start a choir, or add chimes to an existing choir, do not hesitate.
Area 11 has 7 sets of 3 octave hand chimes to loan out,
and we'd LOVE to see one of the sets go to you.**

Information and an application can be found on the Area 11 website, [Area 11 Chime Loan Application](#)
And there are many of us here who have started choirs if you have questions.

**We will continue to accept applications until all the sets have been placed due
to the situation we are in with the pandemic.**

**Save
the
Date!**

Young Ringers Camp 2021

Sun, June 20 - Thursday, June 24, 2021

Clinicians: Matthew Compton and Marilyn Lake

Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado



June 20-24, 2021
Snow Mountain Ranch
Granby, Colorado

ELECTION RESULTS



Chair-elect LeAnna Willmore



Secretary/Treasurer Sara Nybo

Congratulations to our new Area II Board Members!
We look forward to serving with them beginning in September 2020!
Get to know them a little by reading their bios in this issue!



Newly elected Chair-elect, **LeAnna Willmore**, is the Director of the Bells on Temple Square. She taught music in Utah for thirty-nine years at Valley Jr. High School, Bonneville High School, Bingham High School, Riverton High School and Herriman High School. She started three bell choirs in different high schools and taught bell choir for twenty years. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Weber State University and a Master of Music Degree from the University of Utah. She has been a guest conductor for several honor choirs and the WyoRing. She is a frequent adjudicator in and out of state. Mrs. Willmore is a past-president of the Western Division for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and of the Utah Music Educators Association (UMEA). She has served on many committees and acted as the All-State Chair for UMEA for 25 years. She served as the NAfME Choral Education Chair for 5 years. She served as the Utah Chair for AGEHR before

Area 11 was reorganized. At the latter part of her teaching she served as the only teacher on the Board of Directors of WestEd, a National Education Research and Development agency. Mrs. Willmore was awarded the 2002 National Music Educator Citation by the National Federation of High Schools, the 2001 Section 7 Outstanding Music Teacher Award and the 2000 Outstanding Music Educator award by the Utah High School Activities Association. She has received the Superior Accomplishment Award, the Presidential Award and the Hall of Fame Award from UMEA. Mrs. Willmore was the Choral Director for the Utah Ambassadors of Music for six tours to Europe. She has received many awards including the 1998 Jordan District Teacher of the Year and finalist for the State Teacher of the Year plus a 2009 KUED/State PTA Golden Apple Award and the Huntsman Outstanding Teacher Award.



Newly elected Secretary/Treasurer, **Sara Nybo**, was born in Kaysville, Utah but has also lived in Virginia and Seattle. She currently lives in Pleasant Grove. She loves to travel for both business and pleasure, visiting 6 continents, 21 countries, and all 50 states. Her primary loves are art, music, and ballroom and social dancing, most recently working on West Coast Swing and Argentine Tango. As an artist, she teaches henna designs on her YouTube channel, has completed a number of murals (including one featured in a movie), and has participated in a number of chalk art competitions.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Utah State University, and a Masters Degree in Accounting and Management from Walden University. She currently works as a Financial Systems Analyst for a global environmental consulting firm called ERM. She has been with this company 15 years, working in various finance positions nearly all of that time, and in a global support position for six years now. Her work has taught her how to quickly learn new software, how to troubleshoot and navigate through problems and issues, and how to work with others who struggle, and help give them tools to solve their problems. She also designs training material (guides and manuals) that instruct how to use their financial software. She started playing handbells with the Davis High School bell choir, in 1999, and played for a short time with a church bell choir in Logan, Utah. After many years off, she's back, and loving playing with the Bells of Joyful Sound since 2017.





2020 Bell Tree Composition Contest

\$2000 Contest Prize

Entries must be postmarked or submitted via email by August 15th, 2020

TO ENTER:

Submit a cover letter, manuscript PDF and MP3 together in a single mailed packet or via email by **August 15th, 2020**. The cover letter must contain the title, performance duration, composer's name, address, telephone number and email address. The manuscript must include the title, bell used chart (if applicable), optional instruments, and separate handbell tree part. **DO NOT INCLUDE THE COMPOSER'S NAME ON ANY PAGE OF THE MANUSCRIPT.**

MAIL SUBMISSIONS TO: Jane Vakoc at jane@vakoc.com or 18160 Cottonwood Rd. #259
Sunriver, OR 97707.

1. Composition requirements:
 - a. An original composition or public domain arrangement.
 - b. Bell tree part for a moderately skilled ringer and a handbell choir part Level 2+ to 3.
 - c. Bell tree part may include C5-C7 and/or bells down to G4 and up to G7, requiring 2 mallets (or minimum use of 4 mallets).
 - d. Must include 3-5 oct handbell choir or optional 3-5 oct handchime choir or parts of both; optional additional instruments acceptable.
 - e. Performance duration guideline: 3 - 4 minutes.
2. Please use most current HMA publication Handbell Notation and Grading System as a guide for all handbell notations.
3. Composers may enter as many manuscripts as they wish but each one must be sent under a separate cover letter.
4. Decision of the judges is final and will be announced in November 2020.
5. The winning entry will be published by Jeffers Handbell Supply and will be submitted for performance at the 2021 National Seminar.
6. *Into the Forest* will request a suitable dedication line.
7. Adherence to copyright laws is expected for all compositions.

QUESTIONS: Contact Karen Van Wert from *Into the Forest* at kvwcreations@yahoo.com

(A detailed narrative of the contest is included on the following page)

Bell Tree Composition Contest Narrative

This contest is focused on increasing compositions which will bring bell trees from the periphery into the mainstream of the handbell world.

The goal of the music is to have the bell tree and the handbell choir part interrelated, woven together musically. The bell tree part is not a descant, an ostinato, or a repeat of the handbell choir part. It is a significant part, equal with the handbell choir part. The handbell choir part is not an accompaniment to the bell tree nor a stand-alone part with the bell tree optional. Both are necessary for the whole.

The goal is to have a composition playable by the mainstream of handbell choirs, level 2+ through level 3. The challenge is to compose it with what many handbell choirs in this category have – that is, a 3-to-5 octave set of handbells and/or a 3-octave set of chimes. Other ideas will be considered, but top priority will be given to this arrangement of equipment.

The bell tree part is to be interesting and playable. It should require the skill of a moderately skilled handbell ringer but not require the skill of an advanced bell tree ringer. Compositions which limit the number of sharps and flats to 2 are encouraged. Key changes are acceptable as long as they use two sharps/flats or less. Standard setup is preferred but not required. (See A Bell Tree Keyboard Manual, Tree-O Publications 117.) While you are composing, be aware that many handbell choirs in this range do not have duplicate bells.



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The compositions will be evaluated without identification of the composer on the manuscript. Two handbell choirs will read through the compositions, Bells of the Lakes in Minnesota, and The Bells of Sunriver in Oregon. Both handbell choirs have experienced bell tree ringers who can evaluate the bell tree part. Evaluations will be made by the ringers, the directors, and the bell tree players.

The winning composition will be published by Jeffers Handbell Supply and will be submitted for performance at the 2021 National Seminar. "Honorable Mention" manuscripts will be promoted for publication to support the goal of having more compositions for bell tree and handbell choir available.



UPCOMING AREA 11 EVENTS

[Area 11 Events Page](#)

RINGERS ROUNDUP

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2020

Location: Several around Area 11

Check website for updates



**Save
the
Date!**

Young Ringers Camp
Ring Around the World

Date: June 20-24, 2021

Location: Snow Mountain Ranch in Colorado

Clinicians: Matthew Compton and Marilyn Lake

*Registration and more information
to come*

Presented by Area 11 Handbell Musicians of America