



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Area 11

Newsletter

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Area 11 Website

area11.handbellmusicians.org

National Office Website

Handbellmusicians.org

***Our first Area 11
All Ages
Handbell Camp
was a ROARING
success!***



From the Chair:

Dear Handbell Friends,

We had a marvelous time at our Area 11 Ringers Camp last week. We were the first mass in person handbell event in HMA in our nation since February 2020! We had 48 ringers, from 9 states. Including all Area 11: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, & Wyoming.; plus Kansas, Arkansas, Ohio, and South Dakota!

We spent four glorious days and three nights at the YMCA of Estes Park, Colorado. Monica McGowan led our mass ringing, and then also the Advanced sessions in the afternoon. Marilyn Lake also brought her drums, and I made my bongo debut! I want to thank our whole board for all their

hard work and determination to make this event a success! You can watch the video of the livestream concert [here](#).

Next month, I will travel with three of my youth ringers to the National Handbell Seminar in Phoenix. There is still time to join this event, in person or virtually! You can register [here](#). You may bid on silent auction items [here](#).

You may also help support Handbell Musicians of America by keeping your membership up to date by renewing or joining [here](#).

Below you will find all our exciting plans for 2021-2022! We are planning a full schedule of all our regular events, including Ringers' Roundup, Super Bell Saturday X, and Spring Rings! We hope you can join us and keep the music RINGING!

Anne Kleve, Chair



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Area 11 always needs volunteers to arrange these events, work on location at events or serve on the board. Please let any of the board members know if you are interested in volunteering! It's fun and a great way to make friends!

AREA 11 UPCOMING EVENTS

RINGERS ROUNDUP

Sat., Sept. 25, 2021, various sites

Join us for a brush-up of ringing skills and some new ideas for how to use them!

SUPERBELL SATURDAY

Sat., Jan. 29, 2022, various sites

A fun morning of sight reading music with the opportunity to buy the music

UTAH SPRING RING

Sat., March 12, 2022

Dave Harris, Clinician

NORTHERN COLORADO SPRING RING

Sat., March 19, 2022

Brenda Austin, Clinician

WYOMING SPRING RING

Sat.-Sun., May 6-7, 2022

Michael Glasgow, Clinician

AREA 11 FESTIVAL

Thu.-Sun, June 23-26, 2022,

Tempe, Arizona

Ellie Hodder, Clinician

Use QR code for registration and details for all the events!



The BIG WOO-HOOS from our Area 11 Bell Camp 2021

Mary Moffett, Communications Chair



Opening Bell rung by
Lorrie Hart, Past Chair
and camp planner

The first big WOO-HOO? The people!



We had such a wonderful time just being together as a group of handbell ringers and friends – 46 of us in total counting a few spouses that came along for fun! Throughout our time at camp, we met new people and reunited with familiar friends! We stood next to each other and laughed and had fun ringing together again...brushing off our somewhat rusty skills (as described by a few of the ringers). We ate together in the YMCA Estes Park cafeteria sharing stories and getting to know as many new people as we could! Some spend the evening hours visiting under the stars and enjoying the beautiful weather and each other's company! Just seeing everyone's smiling faces and listening to the laughter during the 4 days and nights we were there was definitely part of this first **Big WOO-HOO!** For more pictures from rehearsals and camp, visit our facebook page and website.

The second Big WOO-HOO? Monica McGowan

She guided the group of 41 ringers through two days of ringing rehearsals playing music that no one had seen before camp! After those two full days of rehearsals, we had one more rehearsal the next morning before the concert on June 16. After 11 hours of rehearsal time, the concert was broadcast through a livestream on our Area 11 Facebook page. You can watch it [here](#). She not only helped and worked our way through six pieces in just two short days, but she also brought her bell repair kit to fix any bells that weren't working as well as they should! She worked tirelessly in every way for our success and it showed in the final concert!

Thank you Monica!

All throughout our rehearsals during our camp, she gave some golden nuggets of wisdom and humor! Here are just a few of those golden nuggets!

- ◆ Keep the bell moving, you don't want to get a parking ticket!
- ◆ Some of you look at me for forgiveness afterwards.
- ◆ If you think it's the wrong note it may be you.
- ◆ May the force be with you! But not in this song!
- ◆ You kiss the casting (to play gently)
- ◆ Control.Save....Every time
- ◆ Somebody had an accidental that they didn't accidentalize.
- ◆ Once a bell is rung, it cannot be unrung.
Once a note is played, it cannot be unplayed.
So leave it in the gutter.
- ◆ The bell is already dead. You don't have to kill it. (Quoted from Fred Gramann, American Church in Paris)
- ◆ The picture starts before we pick up the bell and ends after you put the bell down. It's a full picture.
- ◆ If you miss something, drop it, leave it, forget about it.
- ◆ If you make a mistake and you're bold enough, look at your neighbor.
- ◆ Monica: You can't get any slower than that.... Reva (ringer): You wanna bet?
- ◆ You have to divorce yourself from the ringing motion before you mart.
- ◆ We need to get to the Red River, but not on a steam boat.
- ◆ Regarding a very difficult piece to inspire the ringers to be ready to perform:
The director, Bill Alexander from Strikepoint, said before a concert:
"We've been known to crash and burn.
If we play it *well*, it will be spectacular! If we *play it*, it will be spectacular!"



The third Big WOO-HOO? The beautiful mountains and area of YMCA Estes Park

Oh my goodness! What a beautiful and perfect location for our first Area 11 Bell Camp! The view was breathtaking! The weather was wonderful! Although it was a little warmer than usual, it was still comfortable! The lodging was great! The rehearsal lodge was perfect! The cafeteria had pretty decent food and a wonderful staff that worked very hard to be sure we were taken care of.

I'm sure there were so many pictures taken by many of us attending! If you'd like to post some on our Area 11 Facebook page, go ahead and upload them and we'll approve the post so others can see them!

In addition to our awesome rehearsals, we also had plenty of wonderful free time to explore and enjoy the beautiful mountains and the local area! It was so fun and relaxing! (see front page again for those two great pictures) Remember, you can post your pictures in our facebook event for our camp too!



First-time Ringer: Our Guest from the Midwest

Mark Munson attended our handbell camp at the YMCA of the Rockies. It was the first time that he had rung bells as part of a choir. Here is his story in his own words:



Within the next few years I plan to retire from my position at Bowling Green State University (Ohio) where I conduct choruses and teach a variety of choral-related courses. In my retirement, I would like to make meaningful contributions somewhere, and I have been thinking about those three octaves of handbells that are not currently in use at the church where I serve as organist and where Paula and I have raised Alex and Sarah during the past 21 years.

I was thinking about attending a church music workshop this summer where I could learn some basics about ringing. All of those workshops seemed to be scheduled for June. Then Sarah, who just finished her freshman year as a violin performance major, was invited to participate in the Rocky Mountain Chamber Music Festival for the entire month of June. After she had happily anticipated her notion that Mom and Dad would drive her to the airport and put her on a plane headed for Denver, I broke the news to her that, “no Sweetie, your mother and I will drive you to the Rockies and then we’re going to spend the month out west!”

There went my plans for attending one of the denominational workshops. I began looking online to see if anything handbell-related would be happening in the west that month, and *voila* -- Area 11! I contacted Lorrie, explained my situation, and asked if there might be a place for someone at camp who could read music well, but had no ringing experience. She assured me that that would be fine, so I was ready to jump in.

Now, I had actually held a few handbells before. During the pandemic, Paula, the kids, and I went over to the church a few times and got the bells out. We had some simple hymn arrangements with no techniques required other than basic ringing. My kids are both music majors, and Paula has had some ringing experience, so it was fun to play some simple hymns together.

I joined the Handbell Musicians of America, registered for camp, and reserved a cabin for Paula and me. Then that survey went out from Area 11 about the advanced group. Well, clearly, I’m not advanced, but I wanted to learn everything that I could while at camp, so I emailed Lorrie that I’d be happy to simply observe, or if there were a simple part, I’d be happy to participate. She assured me that it would all work out.



Right after doing my organist duty at the First United Methodist Church of Bowling Green on the last Sunday of May, we got on the road and headed west. After a couple of days of travel, Paula and I delivered Sarah to the music festival near Estes Park and then took a couple of weeks to visit Glacier, Yellowstone, and the Grand Tetons National Parks before traveling to the YMCA camp.

Participating in the handbell camp was both fun and challenging for me. Everyone that I talked with was welcoming – both friendly and helpful. I told people seated next to me that I had not rung in a choir before and asked them to tell me if they noticed me doing anything incorrectly, and they did. Some experienced directors offered me information about teaching materials and repertoire for starting a handbell choir. Of course there was a fine clinician in Monica, whose efficient and productive rehearsal technique I greatly appreciated.

Lorrie did a good job of assigning me parts that I could handle. Reading the music was absolutely no problem for me, so I was able to focus on learning technique. I missed a few notes here and there, but I got most of them, and I learned a lot. There were even fairly easy parts for me to play in the advanced group.

Our sojourn in the American West was not over with the end of handbell camp. After camp we headed to Utah to visit the Mighty Five national parks and then on to the greater Los Angeles area to visit my sister and her family for a few days. After a week of Suzuki violin certification training in Michigan, our son flew to Las Vegas where we picked him up on our way back to the Rockies to retrieve our daughter and make our way home to Bowling Green as a family. What a month it was, and what a pleasure it was for me to participate in a handbell choir for the first time during our journey!

So, who in Bowling Green might want to play handbells? Maybe some of the youth that have been missing in action for a while at our church will be interested. There are some adults there that have played a bit before. And of course, the church is right across from the university where I teach, where there are around 18,000 students, 400 of whom are music majors.

Perhaps the harvest is plentiful!

A biographical sketch of Mark may be found at <https://www.bgsu.edu/musical-arts/faculty-and-staff/mark-munson.html>.

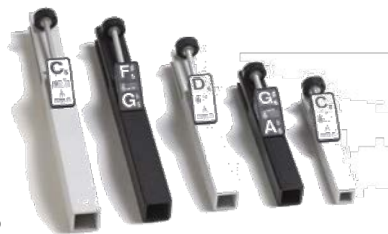


Handchime Loan Program



Did you know that ringing handbells or handchimes benefits musicians on every level, including:

- hand-eye coordination,
- rhythmic skills,
- music reading ability,
- Memory,
- Reaction Time,
- Knowledge of notation, and Math skills?



Handchimes provide a group and social activity teaching ensemble music-making. Being able to create music in a group setting requires patience, accuracy, and teamwork. The opportunity to be part of an ensemble of musicians is rare in your local schools.

The Area 11 Handchime loan is for everyone! If you are a teacher, or you know a teacher, or you are a handbell player and you've thought it might be fun to start up a group of your own, or want to start a chime choir at a school or church near you, why not apply? We have several sets of 3 octave chimes and teaching materials ready to loan. That's a \$2300 value, that we let you use for one year FOR FREE.

Fill out the application on our website [here](#) and get ready to start up your own hand chime choir!

A Time to Ring

LeAnna Willmore, Chair-elect

Some of you have been ringing in smaller settings, distancing and with masks. During this year of disruption and now you have the chance to come together again and have a more “normal” rehearsal and performance. My choir has not yet had approval from the higher ups to begin. But that will be coming in the fall. I am anxiously waiting. I have missed our community, the unity we feel working and playing together and the musical experiences.

I am once again looking for new ideas to bring to the rehearsal and for new music. It feels good. I check out all the performances at the National Seminar for new music ideas.

Your membership in Handbell Musicians of America has many perks. Check out the Member Chats for great ideas for adding bells to choir music or for adding other instruments to bell music. There is also a wonderful Resource Library of articles and videos to get you inspired with technique and new music. Per a suggestion of a former ringer, I have been reading Handbell Artistry from the Inside Out by Kimberlee F. Strepka. She has studied the Laban Movement Theory for the Handbell Musician and brings that research and knowledge to the conductor of a bell rehearsal to improve communication of movement in playing handbells.

Any ringer in a handbell organization that has a membership can add on as a sub-membership for \$10.00 by listing the membership number of their organization. That sub-membership then gives you an online membership and access to all of the sites videos, chats and articles.

All of your ringers may not return at once because of health concerns or not having vaccinations. Consider programming less challenging music until your ensemble gets back their ringing technique. Where you have been doing smaller ensemble music with less changes you may be able to do more. Give it time.

Ecclesiastes 3:4 says, “A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.” Now we’d like to say: **And It is a time to ring!**



Auditions: Smithtonians Community Handbell Ensemble is auditioning ringers for our Fall '21 season. We have 5 Xmas concerts lined up! To set up an audition, or for more info., send an email to David Burrows at burrows.david035@gmail.com. Visit Smithtonians.org to learn about our exciting group.

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

A community handbell choir

Upcoming Area 11 Board Meetings
Sat, July 10, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Sat, Aug 7, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Fri-Sun, Sep 10-12, 2021 all day, in person

If you would like to suggest a topic for us to discuss at our board meeting or have a question, you may submit those by [clicking here](#).

Title	Name	Email	Description
Past Chair (3 rd 2 yrs)	Lorrie Hart	pastchair.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Mentor
Chair (2 nd 2 yrs)	Anne Kleve	chair.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Leader In Charge ©
Chair-Elect (1 st 2 yrs)	LeAnna Willmore	chairelect.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Membership
Secretary-Treasurer	Sara Nybo	treasurer.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Finances & Minutes
Communications	Mary Moffett	communications.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Newsletter, Emails, Website
Desert Sub-Area	Katie Gant	desert.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Arizona & New Mexico
Mountain Sub-Area	Janet Lake	mountain.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Colorado, Utah, Wyoming
Chime Loan	Paige Erickson	chime.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Chime Loan Program
Youth Representative	Ashlynn Eskam	youth.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Youth Rep to board
Young Ringers Camp	Anne Kleve	camp.area11@handbellmusicians.org	YRC Director
Events	Interim-Past Chair	events.area11@handbellmusicians.org	Plans Area 11 Festival