

CLAPPER CHATTER

Volume 31/Issue 4/November 2017

Minnesota - North Dakota - South Dakota - Wisconsin - Manitoba



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

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February
Clapper Chatter
Submission
Deadline:
January 10

Rediscover Area 7

By Karen Van Wert, Area 7 Chair
Greetings Area 7!

I am happy to introduce to you the Area 7 board for 2017-2018. I especially want to welcome those in bold who are new members effective October 1. You will find our email addresses on the website Officer page <http://areaviagehr.org/officers.php>.

Chair	Karen Van Wert	Sub Area Chairs:	
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Secretary	Deb Madel	MN – South	Karen Dressler
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Youth Events	Peteria Cochran Rountt	WI – North	Sue Retzlloff
Membership	Sondra Joten	WI – South	Mary Vassalotti
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C.H.I.M.E.	Jennifer Cadwell		
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Registrar	Trevor Lee		
Web Site	Paul McKlveen		

The Area 7 board met in September to close another year and focus on the year to come. We spent time dreaming about how we may embody the 2018 Festival theme “Rediscover”. The best way to summarize our conversation is “the Area 7 board strives to continually rediscover our membership so that we may serve them to the best of our ability.” We will accomplish this by building relationships with our membership, seeking out ringing organizations who are not currently members, engaging handbell musicians in events offered and more. The goals we defined to support our rediscovery include:

- 1. Each Sub Area Chair will connect with at least 1/12 of their membership each month.**
You can help by returning their phone calls and sharing with them your ideas, needs, etc. You may also reach out to any board member at any time; don't wait for us to contact you.
- 2. Net one new member in each sub-area. The stronger our membership is, the more opportunities we can offer to you.**
You can help by renewing your membership before it expires. Also, if you know of a handbell organization in your area that is not currently a member, please contact your sub-area chair or Sondra Joten (membership).
- 3. Net one more choir at each Area 7 event.**
You can help by planning to attend 2018 Area 7 Festival. Explore the events page on the website or in the Clapper Chatter and start planning now.

Together we can rediscover how Area 7 can serve you, our members.

MUSIC THEORY.aargh©

Performance – 2 (Session 29) Every Rehearsal is a Performance: Melody

By Dr. Ona Pinsonneault



How do I ensure that the performance of a piece written for handbell choir creates the sound that the composer intended?

The composer's most straightforward indicators are those of tempo, dynamic and articulation as we discussed last time. (See Session 28) The composer's score notation also tells us about the **melody**, rhythm, harmony, texture, tone color and form.

Melody: The **Melody** is one of the fixed foundations of a musical composition. Technically a melody is based on some type of scale. Some of the more common scales in handbell music are major, minor, pentatonic and modal. The tones of a scale have definite relationships among themselves. The first tone, or tonic, is the focal center followed by the fifth tone, or dominant. These two tones (also supported by harmony) become the main force of the horizontal flow of music. Composers will strategically place these tones, and their main supporting tones, in critical locations in the flow of the melody. They become the framework for the melodic pulse of the composition.

In the mid twentieth century one of our more famous American composers, Aaron Copland, talked about the importance of melody. He said that it should never be lost to the listener. "It should be followed like a continuous thread which leads the listener through a piece from the very beginning to the very end. Always remember that in listening to a piece of music you must hang on to the melodic line. It may disappear momentarily, withdrawn by the composer, in order to make its presence more powerfully felt when it reappears. But reappear it surely will."*

Can you sing the melody in the handbell composition you are preparing? Can your handbell choir sing the melody? Can you notice that when singing the notes are smoothly connected and are uniform in color and intensity? Can you isolate the melody from the rest of the notation in order that the handbell choir, the director, and the listeners will be able to recognize it when it is present? Can you ring only the melody?

Copland goes on to suggest, "Most melodies are accompanied by more or less elaborate material of secondary interest. Don't allow the melody to become submerged by that accompanying material. Separate it in your mind from everything that surrounds it. You must be able to hear it. It is up to composer and interpreter to help you hear it that way."*

In rehearsal when your choir rings only the melody, does the melody connect one note to the next with the same tone color and intensity? Does the melody follow the dynamic and changing dynamic indicators? Don Allured says "blending and matching consecutive notes in a melodic line, especially when *crescendi and/or decrescendi* are involved"*** is one of the components of musicianship (skill as a musician) at its highest level.

*Copland, Aaron, **What to Listen For in Music**, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1957.

Allured, Don, **Mastering Musicianship in Handbells, Broadman Press, 1992, p. 81.

Until next time,

Dr. P

pinsonoj@gmail.com (please note a new email address)

November 2017



AREA 7 EVENTS

All Area Event updates will be posted on the Area 7 website. Check there often.

Also check the website under LOCAL EVENTS to read about upcoming non-Area-sponsored handbell events.

Attend these events. Invite others to join you.

Area 7 Sponsored Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
Copper Ring	November 4, 2017	Gethsemane Lutheran Church Baldwin, Wisconsin	Copper Ring for ringing levels 2+ to 3. Techniques classes in the morning. A Directors Seminar or a sight-reading session. Clinician: Lee Afdahl.
Anthornis North	November 11, 2017	Olivet Lutheran Church Fargo, North Dakota	A one day massed ringing event of more challenging repertoire. Clinician: Lee Afdahl. Closing concert: 3:30 pm.
Anthornis Central	February 9-10, 2018	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN	A 2-day ringing event with more challenging repertoire. Clinician: Debbie Rice. Closing concert: 3:30 pm.
Raleigh Ringers in Concert	June 22, 2018	Presentation Hall Mayo Civic Center Rochester, Minnesota	7:30 pm \$15 at the door
Area 7 Festival Conference	June 22-24, 2018	Mayo Civic Center Rochester, Minnesota	Clinicians: Lee Afdahl and David Harris, The Raleigh Ringers, Paul Kingsbury.
Festival Conference Closing Concert	June 24, 2018	Mayo Civic Center Arena Rochester, Minnesota	1:30 pm

Community Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
American Portrait Concert	November 3, 2017 8:00 p.m.	St. Olaf- Chapel	Bells of the Lakes with St. Olaf Handbell and String Ensemble present Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait."
American Portrait Concert	November 4, 2017 7:30 p.m.	Concordia St. Paul- Buetow Auditorium	Bells of the Lakes with St. Olaf Handbell and String Ensemble present Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait."
Books and Bells	December 18, 2017 6:30 p.m.	Pleasant Hill Library 1490 S Frontage Rd Hastings, MN 55033	Bells of the Bluffs concert and audience participation event
Encore! Handbell Ensemble Holiday Fantasia	December 9, 2017 7:00 pm	Memorial Presbyterian Church 803 E. College Ave Appleton, WI 54911	Free will offering
Bellfest 2018	March 3, 2018 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Northern Heights Lutheran Church Arden Hills, MN	Guest conductor Carolynne Mathis Registration materials available at www.BellsoftheLakes.org

AREA 7 NEWS

North Dakota Activities and Events

By Shelia Leier



The ringing season has begun once again in North Dakota and the following events will be great opportunities for these ringers.

Jill Post reported the following:

The Westminster Ringers from First Presbyterian Church in Fargo have three ringers attending Anthornis North, and we are really looking forward to ringing that day!

My community handbell choir, BELLissimo, will be participating in the combined Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club and Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists' annual Christmas Carol Ring and Sing Along. This is an evening program on December 4 at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. We feature carol singing, handbell special music, and women's choral pieces by the Noteables. Extra accompanists include flute, percussion and brass. It's a lovely way to kick off the Advent/Christmas season. Offerings are collected for the Food Pantry and Music Scholarships. The community is invited!

Barb Roberts reported the following:

Strikepoint from Bismarck and the handbell ensemble from First Lutheran in Mandan will be performing at a big Reformation service at the Bismarck Civic Center on October 29. We are celebrating 500 years since Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses.

Sheila Leier reported the following:

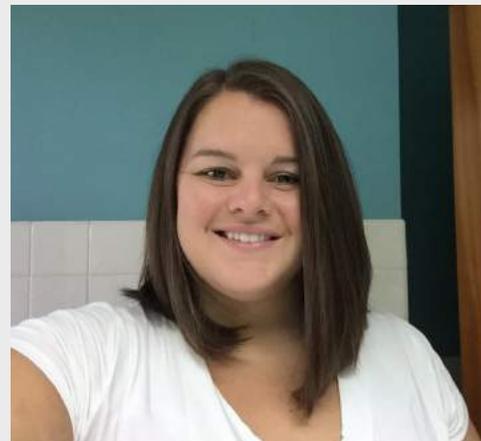
Sts. Anne and Jochim, Fargo Bell Choir had the opportunity to sing with the choir 2 pieces that were conducted by Joe Martin (he actually composes under 10 different names), Craig Courtney and Joel Raney. It was part of a Voices in Praise music reading event that JW Pepper sponsors.

Anthornis is coming up Saturday, November 11 in Fargo. Hope to see familiar faces and meet some new ringers also.



New Southern Minnesota SAC

Hello! My name is Karen Dressler. I live in Blue Earth, Minnesota. I have been married to my wonderful husband for 11 years and we have two great kids. Our daughter is 4 and our son is 10 months. I am a stay-at-home mom and an Independent Consultant with Thirty-One Gifts for my me time. I love chasing my kids, gardening, and crafting. I have been playing bells pretty consistently for various choirs for almost 20 years. I absolutely love it! I am looking forward to being the Southern Minnesota Sub-Area Chair!





WELCOME
THANKS FOR JOINING US

Welcome to our newest members!

Clare Boyer- Burnsville, MN
 Lisa Bourget- Hudson, WI
 Spearfish United Methodist Church- Spearfish, SD
 Belinda L Flanagan- Bloomington, MN
 Lisa J Gedker- Maple Grove, MN
 Paul Kingsbury- Rochester, MN

The above list is obtained from the Guild office and reflects new members as well as late membership renewals.

New Northern Minnesota SAC



Hello, Everyone! My name is Ruth Molloy and I am your new Sub-Area Chair for the Minnesota North region of Area 7. I live in Alexandria, MN and play in 2 choirs - St. Mary's Church in Alexandria and Glenwood Lutheran Church.

I've been active with handbells since 2007 when a friend from church invited my daughter and I to play in her place. We played bass bells, the notes for which were foreign to me, a flute player since 5th grade! With the help of those dreaded highlighters, I learned to do it and loved ringing so very much! Since then, I've attended 4 festival conferences, 2 Anthornis events, a couple of Director's Seminars, and can cover pretty much any position presented to me. Four-in-hand was my nemesis for years but, with a little consistent practice, I'm holding my own with the top two positions in both choirs right now!

We moved from Storm Lake, Iowa to Alexandria, MN in 1995 and are truly transplanted Minnesotans. My husband, Joe, and I have 3 adult children, two of whom are married, and our oldest and his wife have 2 daughters, ages 9 and 5. We also have 3 cats and 1 Boxer named Snickers. We love pets and camping and I love crafts and handbells!!

I knew that I might end up on the board back when Judi Morton introduced Area 7 to me in 2010. I just didn't know when or how I would do it. I am honored to have been recommended by my directors and am ready to help out in any way I can. I spent 8 years on the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of MN & WI Lakes & Pines, finishing up last January. It must be time for a new chapter in my life!!

Best Wishes and I'll See You at Festival!!

New Southern Wisconsin SAC

Hello. My name is Mary Vassalotti, and I am your new Area 7 WI South Sub Area Chair. I reside in Cross Plains, WI with my husband Paul. We have two adult children; a daughter Anne Marie and a son Stephen. I began ringing 8 years ago with a small 2 octave church choir. I was looking for more challenge and joined the Ringing Badgers Handbell group in Madison, WI 4 years ago.

I have been involved in church music for over 45 years serving as an organist, pianist, choir director and handbell director for a variety of churches. Having recently retired from my job of 34 years as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at a local Madison hospital I am looking forward to dedicating more time and energy to the music groups I am involved with. My other passions include quilting and cooking.

I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the board and learn more about the organization. My email is wisconsinsouth.area7@handbellmusicians.org.



AREA 7 FESTIVAL CONFERENCE – “Rediscover”

June 22-24, 2018 Friday through Sunday

Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, Minnesota

By Alanna Teragawa, Events Coordinator

Plans continue to be made for this great event. A site visit was done in August, where the Area planning committee and local liaisons saw all the enhancements and expansions of the Mayo Civic Center. If you've been there before, it will be hard for you to remember how it used to look. This new 'look' requires different procedures, mainly in security, which will be noted in the Festival General Information document that will be released online in November.

Classes and faculty have been chosen. Two CERTIFICATION classes have been added:

Handbells in Worship, taught by Bill Mathis;

Ringling Techniques Level One, taught by Karen Van Wert.

These two classes can be taken by anyone, but if you want them to count toward your Certification degree from Handbell Musicians of America, there are additional steps to be taken, which will be explained in the Festival General Information packet.

If you know of someone who lives within 100 miles of the Mayo Civic Center, please send them a special invitation to attend the Friday night, June 22nd 7:30PM concert with the Raleigh Ringers. It would be great to show them a great midwestern welcome by filling the house.



CONCERTS and EVENTS

"Annual Christmas Concert – The Meltdown"

December 3, 2017 4:00pm

Peace United Methodist Church/Community of Faith
Shoreview MN

Concert, Raffle, Decadent Dessert Reception

Tickets available now at www.TwinCitiesBronze.org

"Christmas Concert"

December 8, 2017 7:30pm

Pathway of Grace United Methodist Church
Maplewood MN

Concert and an audience sing-a-long featuring the sights and sounds of this dynamic handbell ensemble as they play your favorite carols.



www.TwinCitiesBronze.org

Mid-Winter Workshop with Dean Wagner



January 20, 2018

8:30am-4:00pm

Peace UMC/Peace Community of
Faith,
Shoreview MN

\$55/person \$30/student

(After 12/11/17 \$70/person \$40/student)

Hot lunch and snacks included

All music and equipment provided

Online Registration www.TwinCitiesBronze.org

Dean will conduct ringers on a journey of discovery - exploring wonderful pieces by various lesser-known composers. Focusing on musicality, participants will be challenged and instructed on utilizing the techniques unique to handbells to make beautiful and engaging music. PLUS! A sneak preview of our new commission written by Dean.

Carol Scheel (Heitz Handbells and Music) will be on site.

Everyone leaves this Mid-Winter Workshop a better handbell musician. Come by yourself, bring a few friends, or attend as a complete choir. Don't forget your gloves, a stand-up binder, and to dress comfortably.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO...?

By Alanna Teragawa, Events Coordinator



Imagine that you wanted to plan a really cool and informative get-together.

You set a date.

You find a place that will host your gathering, for a fee.

You excitedly plan what you're going to do during the get-together.

You contract with someone who will be a great teacher of the topic.

Oh, and of course, every gathering has to have some food.

But, how many should you plan for, and how many helpers do you need?

So you send out invitations and ask people to RSVP by a certain date, usually 30 days prior.

That date approaches and you receive only a few responses.

Five days later... Ten days later... a few more responses come in.

This is now crunch time... Decision time.

Should you cancel the gathering?

Or continue to host it at a loss?

You certainly can't host too many events where the expenses exceed the registration income or you're not fiscally prudent.

There are so many things at stake if you prolong a decision any later, but mainly the consideration of the 'teacher', the volunteer staff, and the host venue.

This is not a 'scenario'. This is really happening, and not just in Area 7. Several events have been cancelled as late as 2 weeks before the event because there were not enough registrants to make up even one full choir. We cannot expect a clinician to pull a closing concert out of a magical hat without the ringers needed for the repertoire. There have been cases where an event was cancelled, only to find out the week OF the event that people would have wanted to participate.

MORAL OF THE STORY:

1. Keep informed. Read your Area 7 newsletters and check the Area website at least once a month.
The Area events are published online every August so you can make plans for your ensemble for the upcoming ringing year. More notices and reminders will come from Area 7's Facebook. Find us and LIKE US, so you receive these reminders.
2. Decide early, or at least by the registration deadline.
3. Submit your registration and fees on time, or earlier.
4. Purchase and rehearse the event repertoire. If you have not attended a mass ringing event lately, or ever, you are truly missing a great experience.

Make a commitment to attend one this year, but please: REGISTER ON TIME.

Something to Consider

By Karen Van Wert, Area 7 Chair



I was made aware of handbells being stolen from a church in the metro area this summer. The good news is the bells were recovered at a pawn shop, undamaged and have made their way back to the choir.

This is a reminder to make sure to keep your equipment in a safe place and know what your insurance coverage is for the equipment.

Things to consider:

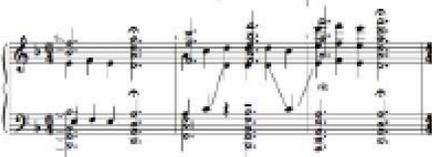
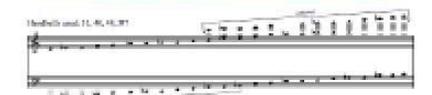
- A separate rider for the handbell equipment (bell insurance added to our church policy is less than \$10/year with \$250 deductible).
- Coverage of theft, loss and damage
- Is there additional coverage required for the bells to leave the facility? Traveling to festivals and workshops may cost more.
- Deductible – If one bell is dropped during rehearsal, what deductible are you willing to pay?
- Is the value of the equipment reflective of current replacement costs?
- What equipment do you have covered?

What to do if your bells are damaged or stolen?

1. Contact police if warranted
2. Contact insurance agent if filing a claim
3. Contact your bell manufacturer as they have records that can be used to identify your handbells and chimes.
4. Contact the handbell community (Facebook, etc) – We can all keep an eye out for stolen bells. We are most likely to purchase or be asked questions about the value of bells.
5. Contact the Area 7 board to help you locate loaner equipment if needed.

THE EMMANUEL PROJECT

*Benefitting Houston's
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
and its recovery from Hurricane Harvey*



3-6 octave Handbells, Level 2.
See and hear the music at
sondratucker.com
and sonologymusic.com
\$50 for digital master.
100% of proceeds go to
Emmanuel's flood recovery.

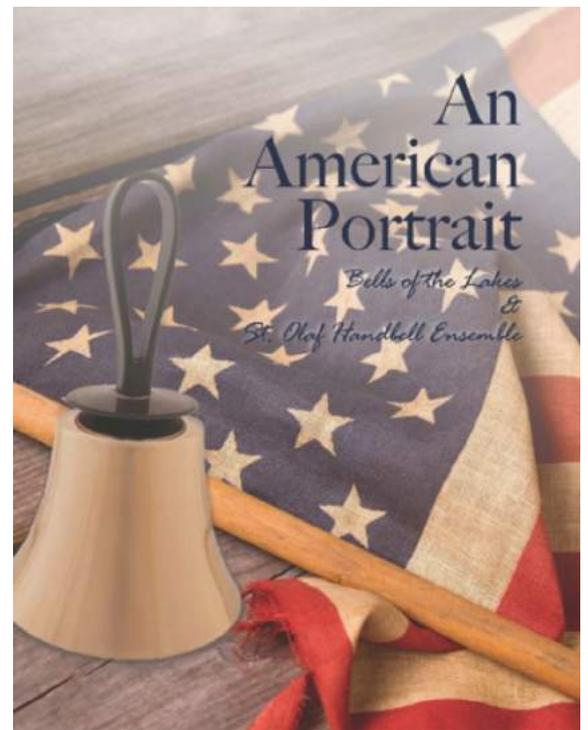


*WE RISE
BY LIFTING
OTHERS*

An American Portrait

November 3rd & 4th

Join us for an evening to celebrate American music. Bells of the Lakes will be joined in concert by the St. Olaf Handbell Ensemble along with string ensemble and percussion. There are two opportunities to see this concert. **Friday, Nov. 3rd** at 7:30pm in Boe Chapel at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN and **Saturday, Nov. 4th** at 7:30pm in Buetow Auditorium at Concordia University- St. Paul. Music from The Sound of Music, Hair, Porgy & Bess, Chicago, West Side Story and more! The evening will also include a new arrangement of Aaron Copland's *Lincoln Portrait* with guest narrator, Dr. Tom Ries. Tickets are on sale now through the website, at the door and at Heitz Handbell. For more information visit www.BellsOfTheLakes.org



Belfest 2018!

Saturday March 3, 2018 in Arden Hills, MN



Bells of the Lakes presents Belfest2018! This annual massed ringing event brings together handbell ensembles from across the upper Midwest to work with a guest conductor and perform a concert together. This year we are pleased to announce that **Carolynne Mathis** will be joining us at Belfest as our guest conductor. Registration materials are available online at www.BellsOfTheLakes.org.

Meet guest conductor Carolynne Mathis. Carolynne directs the handbell program at Concordia University- St. Paul and is an active clinician at national and area handbell events. Contact Bells of the Lakes if your ensemble is interested in having Carolynne or Bill Mathis come to a rehearsal and help guide you through the Belfest music.

Belfest 2018 Repertoire

Title	Composer/Arr	Publisher	#	Level
For the Beauty of the Earth	Arr. Brian Childers	From the Top Music	20414-HB	3
City of Stars	Arr. Ron Mallory	Alfred	AP46261	2
Now the Green Blade	Arr. Kevin McChesney	Hope	1892	3
Joyance	Ron Mallory	AGEHR	AG35361	3-
Prayer for the Innocents	Michael Helman	Lorenz	20/1964L	2+

www.BellsOfTheLakes.org

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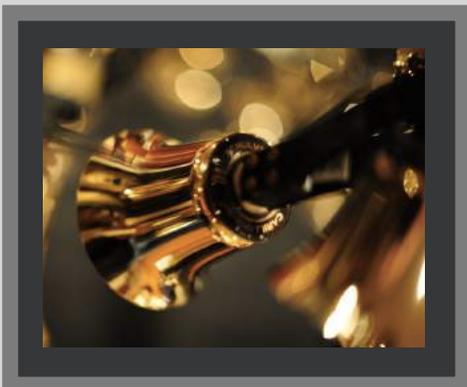
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E-mail editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org with your advertisement or any questions you may have.

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- \$80 for full page per edition

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The Raleigh Ringers

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Find photos of Area 7 events:

www.flickr.com/photos/area7handbells/

