



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

CLAPPER CHATTER

WISCONSIN, SOUTH DAKOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, MINNESOTA, MANITOBA

VOLUME 27 | ISSUE 1 | FEBRUARY 2013

From the desk of Area 7's Chair...

By Sandy Mullaney

Warm greetings from your Area 7 Board members, who are here to help connect you with the resources you need to ensure a very successful year with bells. We are now deep into our Midwestern winter and also well into our handbell program year – you might be looking for an extra bit of energy and inspiration at this mid-point in the ringing year. I certainly was, and I found some at the Handbell Musicians of America national website (handbellmusicians.org). Browsing through the online resources, I came across some helpful tidbits that I plan to put into practice right now. These “members-only” resources are very worthwhile; look them over. You can access them at the website through the tab “Music & Resources.” From the drop down menu, click on Handbell Musician Resources and choose from Faith-based, Community, or Educational. Look at all three categories, to find ideas you can use no matter which of these areas is your main focus. I look forward to incorporating suggestions found in “Making Handbells an Enhancement to Worship Through Surprise” and “Recruiting and Retaining Ringers.”

Other mid-winter suggestions for you:

Go to your Area 7 website (areaviagehr.org) and click on Area and Local Events to see what’s coming up near you – stretch yourself and your group by attending an event together, like the Anthornis Concert February 9

(see Events Calendar for details). Review the Current News section to stay on top of important details & deadlines. Go to the Music Theory tab to see what you can learn from Dr P.

This issue of the **Clapper Chatter** is packed with up-to-the-minute information on our amazing Area 7 Handbell Community. The people here are unmatched in both their passion for bells and their generosity in sharing what they know. Reach out for support and you will receive it ten-fold!

★ **Important Note: Your Area 7 Board members have new email addresses.** Our national organization has switched to a new email platform which we hope will be more user-friendly. All the new addresses are listed below. Please get in touch with us – we’re here to help! 📧

Please Share this Newsletter

Please forward/share this newsletter with your choir members so they, too, can enjoy it and stay informed of Area 7 and National events. 📧



Next
CLAPPER CHATTER Deadline:
March 2, 2013

From Northern Minnesota Sub-Area Chair

By Kevin Edstrom

As I am writing this, preparations for the Mid-Winter Reading Session at Salem Lutheran Church in Deerwood, MN on January 26th, are in their final stages. The music list is ready to go. Registrations are coming in with welcomed responses. It will be a fun day of meeting area directors and ringers that have not attended other events because of the distance to drive to the Twin Cities.

I was excited to organize this event. I'm hoping it will become an annual event in the area and establish a network of communication with handbell ringers in northern Minnesota. One of the best things I've enjoyed is learning about other bell choirs in the area.

By the time you read this, our event will have taken place and hopefully every attendee went home having had a good time playing together and meeting other ringers in our area. You can organize an event like this in your area as well! You are welcome to contact your sub-area chair for help and ideas on how to get started.

Hopefully future events such as mini festivals will grow out of the first Mid-Winter Reading Session in northern Minnesota. 🎵



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Area 7

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What do harbor seals and handbells have in common?

An original handbell piece created by Area 7 composers!

By Irene Harris

On June 20, 2012, a flash flood in Duluth, MN very seriously damaged the infrastructure of the Lake Superior Zoo, killing 14 animals, and damaging barnyard and the habitats for harbor seals and polar bears. Two-thirds of the zoo was consumed by flood waters, some areas remained under water for several days; so much restoration for the grounds is needed. Since then, a new barnyard has emerged along with several new sheep and goats, and dredging continues for the creek.

Handbell musicians from Minnesota have joined forces to find ways to help support the zoo in making repairs and keeping animals safe.

Twin Cities handbell composers J.C. & J. Irene Harris started by writing music as a memorial to the animals lost. The music is titled "**Lake Superior Prayer**," and the composers have committed to give all of the royalties from the sale of this music to the Lake Superior Zoo.

In the Twin Cities, "Lake Superior Prayer" was premiered by The Covenant Ringers on January 27, at 10:30 am as part of worship at St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Jay C. Harris, one of the composers, conducted the ensemble.

Strikepoint, a world-class handbell choir from Duluth will be performing this music on **Sunday, Feb. 10 at 10 am**, as part of worship at the First United Methodist Church of Duluth, MN. Strikepoint plays under the direction of Bill Alexander and tours nationally and internationally on a regular basis.



One of the composers will play Native American flute with Strikepoint for the premiere in Duluth.

"Lake Superior Prayer" is written for 3 to 5 octaves of handbells with an optional part for a treble C instrument. It will be published soon by Flagstaff Publishing, and available at your local handbell music retailer. "Lake Superior Prayer" is appropriate for Lent and the Ordinary of the church year (Kingdomtide), as well as for services for Earth Day or other stewardship of the earth concerns.

You can help support the Lake Superior Zoo by purchasing (and playing!) "Lake Superior Prayer" with your ensemble.

Additional Sources of Information:

Composers: J. C. & J. Irene Harris, **651-454-4239**, jirene@tcq.net

Bill Alexander, Director, Strikepoint: bill@strikepoint.com

Lake Superior Zoo: lszoo.org, **218-730-4500**, info@lszoo.org 🐾

MUSIC THEORY.aargh©

Where's the Melody? (Session 10)

By Dr. Ona Pinsonneault

At the Duluth Convention this past summer I attended a session given by Morna-June Morrow titled "Guide to Making Notations on your Handbell Music." She covered technical marking for the score such as Damping, Stopped Staccato, Martellato, Mallet, etc. (m-jmorrow@shaw.ca). This session advocated marking the score in pencil so that these could be erased when the music is filed. I also attended a session by Sharon Schmidt called "Stem Direction DOES Count!" She gave clues on how to separate the melody from the harmony (sksbrr@gmail.com). This session suggested that some markings be highlighted: "Play just your melody notes (highlight?)". I also have had a conversation with John Behnke about a standard marking for melody notes. He said that the only marking that is standard is the "line" that shows when the melody goes from one staff into another.

I would like to ask for a standard marking of scores by the handbell choir director or members that will show recognition of melody notes. There is no better time to begin this than in the Kids Ring repertoire. I will choose the score "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." This is a melody that I didn't know and my first reading of it was confusing until I found the melody. Here is the melody as it appears in all octaves:



Choral conductors use different colored pencils to mark interpretation of the score. Your handbell choir director could decide what color to use for the melody, but circling melody notes with red would seem to work.

The importance of this is manifold, but mostly is that melody notes need to be heard. "If you can't hear the melody, you are playing too loud," is the old adage. For young ringers, you will be able to instruct them as to different functions of the notes on the score, i.e., melody, harmony, rhythm. Once the score is marked, it can stay that way. Rehearsal of melody notes alone will help the whole choir know the tune.

Until next time,

Dr. P

ona.pinsonneault@normandale.edu

January 2013

Winter is the perfect time to ... Plan for Spring & Summer!

By Sandy Mullaney

Don't forget to make plans now to attend spring and summer events. Challenge your choir to go to at least one handbell event this year. There are many great things to choose from – check the calendar in this newsletter, the Area 7 website (areaviagehr.org) or the National Handbell Musicians of America website (handbellmusicians.org) to see what is available in your area.

Your kids choir would LOVE to attend a youth event – consider KidsRing on April 20th, or Young Ringers Camp June 21-23. Set aside some budget or hold a small fundraiser now to help cover the cost of music & registration and you are on your way! (These events are definitely open to partial groups too, so if you have just a couple of students who want to attend, they are welcome.)

Great adult events coming up include BellFest! in March, and in April, the Eau Claire Area Ring and the Milwaukee Handbell Festival. Some excellent college and community handbell ensembles will be touring in the spring – check our listings for their concert schedules.

Consider holding a small “retreat” with your choir – reading through a stack of fun music and playing musical games, followed by a potluck meal is a great low-budget way to build community and enhance ringing skills in your group.

Get out your calendars now and make some plans – we hope to see you soon! 🎵



Minnesota South

By Ann Flisrand

Hopefully everyone has recovered from the busy ringing for regular church services and special programs during the Christmas season!

Our community choir, Ecumenical Bells, played for five different groups during December and a smaller ensemble from the group played twice. It is easier for a community group to do this, but it also offers a wonderful opportunity for church groups that are looking for a way to reach out to their community. One of our favorite places to play is for the Hormel Institute family Christmas party. All the research at the Institute centers on cancer. The scientists and families are from all around the world. Last year one of the researchers came up after we played and said that she had to learn to play bells. She had never heard them before. She started with a church group the next month and has played regularly ever since.

To all bell choirs: please let me know what is happening where you are. It is our goal to share any events and special services that are happening throughout the area with our entire Area 7 community! 🎵

New Members

Please welcome the newest members to Area 7:

🎵 Ellen Fusco,
Hartland, WI

🎵 Maggie M Harp,
New London, MN



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Upcoming Events

Stay updated on all events at areaviagehr.org/index.php

DATE/TIME	EVENT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	CLINICIAN	CONTACT
	Sponsored Event (S) Endorsed Event (E)			
Feb. 8, 2013, 7 p.m.	Anthornis Reading Session S	St. Andrew Lutheran Church 13600 Technology Drive Eden Prairie, MN	Michael Glasgow	Trevor Lee registrar.area7@ handbellmusicians.org
Feb. 9, 2013, 8:30 a.m.	Anthornis Rehearsal			
Feb. 9, 2013, 4 p.m.	Anthornis Concert			
April 13, 2013, 7 p.m.	Eau Claire Area Ring E	Hope Lutheran Church 2226 Eddy Lane Eau Claire, WI	Roxanne Holey Ryan Poquette Norma Lionberger	Norma Lionberger norma28bls@gmail.com
April 14th, 2013	JuBELLant Celebration	First Lutheran Church 100 Church Street Marshall, Minnesota	Rennae Petersen Jean Schueller Steve Meyer	Steve Meyer 507-530-3256 or swmeyer@iw.net
April 20, 2013	KidsRing S	St. Andrew Lutheran Church 13600 Technology Drive Eden Prairie, MN	Bonnie Tranby	Carol Scheel nscarolida@yahoo.com
June 21-23, 2013	Young Ringers Camp S	Ironwood Springs Christian Camp Stewartville, Minnesota	Sandy Mullaney	Alanna Teragawa events.area7@ handbellmusicians.org
Sept. 20-21, 2013	Area Directors Seminar S	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1103 N. Broad Street Mankato, Minnesota	Tammy Waldrop	Alanna Teragawa events.area7@ handbellmusicians.org

Submit all your Local Events for inclusion on the website to editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org.

AREA CONCERTS & WORKSHOPS

Handbell Workshop

Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble

Saturday February 2, 9-noon

Concordia University Wisconsin

12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI 53012

Call **262-243-4240** to reserve a spot today!

Anthornis Reading Session & Concert

Friday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m. Reading session is open to anyone, \$15 per person, free to Anthornis registrants.

Saturday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m. free public concert.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

13600 Technology Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344

March Concert Tour

The St. Olaf Handbell Choir will be on tour in March.

Friday, March 1, 7:30 pm

St. Barnabas Lutheran

15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth, MN

Saturday, March 2, 7:00 pm

Salem Lutheran Evangelical Church

333 E. Aurora St., Ironwood, MI

Sunday, March 3, 2:30 pm

Presbyterian-Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Avenue, Ashland, WI

Monday, March 4, 8:15 pm

Urness Recital Hall, St. Olaf College

1520 St. Olaf Avenue, Northfield, MN

BellFest! 2013 Concert

Saturday, March 2, 2013, 3:00 pm

Free public concert at North Heights Lutheran Church,
1700 Hwy 96 W, Arden Hills, MN 55112

For more information, visit www.bellssofthelakes.org.

Eau Claire Area Ring Concert

Saturday, April 13, 2013, 7 p.m.

Rehearsal 12:30 to 4:30pm.

Hope Lutheran Church

2226 Eddy Lane, Eau Claire, WI

Embellish: A Handbell Ensemble

FESTIVAL OF MUSIC series will feature a concert on

Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 4 pm

The group from Grand Rapids, Michigan will perform at

First Presbyterian Church

512 Third Street SW, Rochester, MN

Open to the public, free will offering.

Spring Concert

Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble

7:30 pm Friday, May 10, 2013

Concordia University Wisconsin

12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI 53012

More information is on our website at

www.milwaukeehandbells.org

2013 AREA EVENTS

By Alanna Teragawa, Events Coordinator

Consider attending one of following events as a director and/or with a choir. More information will follow in the newsletter on the Area 7 website.

KIDSRING

April 20, 2013

This is an annual event for 4th-8th grade ringers, giving them the opportunity to meet and learn with other ringers in a massed-ring setting. Students from other grade levels are welcome, at the discretion of their directors.

This year's clinician is **Bonnie Tranby**, a music educator, a Youth Handbell Director, and a long-time member of Twin Cities Bronze. 🌟

KidsRing Repertoire

Massed:

Simple Gifts—Valerie Stephenson, 2-3 or 4-5 octaves, Choristers Guild #CGB347 or #CGB348, Level 1

Joy Bells—Kirtsy Miller, 3-5 octaves, Composers Music #CP7029, Level 2

Level 1:

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus—Linda Lamb, 3 octaves, Choristers Guild #CGB279

Percussive Praise—Kevin McChesney, 2-3 octaves, Choristers Guild #CGB311

Level 2:

Trampin'—Martha Lynn Thompson, 3-4 octaves, Alfred #AP21857

Gaudio Exultans—Valerie Stephenson, 3-5 octaves, AGEHR #AG35208

AREA DIRECTORS SEMINAR

September 20-21, 2013

Under the theme "The Three P's of a Successful Performance," **Tammy Waldrop** from Texas will focus on Personalize, Presence, and Perfect. These Seminars are hosted every odd-numbered year somewhere throughout Area 7. This year it will be held in Mankato, Minnesota, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Being held in September gives directors an opportunity to start their new year to determine what they need help with for the coming months. Tammy has the ability to answer all these questions, giving directors the confidence they'll need for a successful year. 🌟

YOUNG RINGERS CAMP

June 21-23, 2013

Put this on your calendar now and plan to join us for Young Ringer's Camp! The repertoire for camp is listed below. Some are probably already in your library, others are new, and all are wonderful choices and very usable in a general worship setting. Perhaps incorporate these pieces into your programming for the year, and then bring your group to this fun-filled weekend at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville, MN.

You will enjoy an amazing array of activities—zip line, climbing wall, challenge course, petting zoo, horseback riding, swimming, crafts, campfires—along with ringing together, making new friends, and a great final concert. Partial groups are very welcome to attend and the age range is flexible—although it's advertised as 4th-8th grade, last year's camp included many high schoolers.

Sandy Mullaney is the clinician this year. Sandy is the Area 7 Chairperson and is an experienced handbell director. She was the clinician at the last camp, and the kids really enjoyed her leadership style. 🌟

Young Ringers Camp Repertoire

Massed:

Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho—arr. ML Thompson, 3-5 octaves, Hope Publishing MHP1880, Level 2

Carillon Celebration—D. Wagner, 3-5 octaves, Lorenz Corp MLC201613L, Level 2

Processional and Joyful Dance—M. Tucker, Choristers Guild, 2-3 octaves w/opt. 2 octaves HC, MCGB672; or 3-5 octaves w/opt. 4 octaves HC, MCGB673; Level 1+

To Sight Read Together in Camp:

Blessed Assurance—arr. S. Eithun, Choristers Guild, 2-3 octaves, MCGB683; or 3-5 octaves, MCGB68, Level 1

Coppers:

Timbrel and Dance—K. McChesney, 3-5 octaves, Choristers Guild MCGB290, Level 2+

Morning Joy—K. Lakey Buckwalter, 3-5 octaves, Choristers Guild MCGB719, Level 2

Tins:

Lead On, O King Eternal—arr. Jason Krug, 2-3 octaves, AGEHR AG23039, Level 1+

Festive Praise—S. Geschke, Choristers Guild, 2-3 octaves, MCGB375; or 4-5 octaves, MCGB376; Level 1

EVENTS IN YOUR AREA?

If you would like help organizing an event in your local area, contact the Events Coordinator for more information on how your Area Board can help, at events.area7@handbellmusicians.org 🌟

Around the Area

JuBELLant Celebration

Make plans now to attend JuBELLant Celebration at First Lutheran Church in Marshall, MN on **Saturday, April 14th, 2013**. Coordinated by: Rennae Petersen director of Ecumenibells, Jean Schueller director of Holy Redeemer RING, and Steve Meyer director of First Lutheran Church Spirit Bells.

The afternoon starts with individual groups rehearsing 2 solo selections, then working on the massed selections in preparation for a 4:30 pm concert open to the public.

Registration deadline is April 1, 2013.

Go to www.facebook.com/JuBELLantCelebration please "like" and share the page with all of your Ringing friends!

Bell choirs in attendance have been from Tyler, Cottonwood, Canby, Redwood Falls, Willmar, and Balaton, Minnesota. We have invited groups from Granite Falls, New Ulm, Chandler, Slayton, Worthington, & Luverne, Minnesota.

It is an afternoon of camaraderie, listening & learning new techniques from area directors. 🛎

JuBELLant Celebration Repertoire

Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)—Cathy Moklebust, 3, 4, or 5 octaves handbell and 2 or 3 octaves handchimes, CGB254, Level 2

King of Kings—Robert J. Ward, 3-6 octaves, AG36046, Level 3

Jubilant Celebration—J. Wayne Kerr, 3-5 octaves, MSM-30-811, Level 4

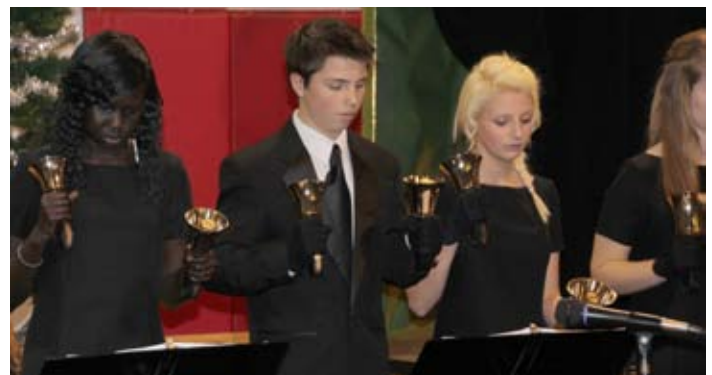


Bells of the Lakes

Bells of the Lakes is proud to announce an upcoming 2013 concert series, "A Time to Ring" made possible by the Metropolitan Regional Arts council.

We will be announcing our next 4 series stops in the weeks to come. Stay up to date with all the concerts by following us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/bellsofthelakes!> 🛎



Loren Paulson, director at Woodcrest Baptist Academy in Fridley, MN, was granted a set of Area 7's bells for this school year through the CHIME program. He submitted pictures from their Christmas Concert. "The handbells went very well. We are now working on four songs for competition in April. Thank you for allowing us to use your Handbells. The kids really love them," said Loren.



Bell Trees and More

Visit BelltreesAndMore.com
on a regular basis to see and hear our entire list of published pieces. The latest releases and other website information will be featured on the HOME page.

Please register on the website.

Louise Frier Composer/Arranger
813 293-5855 belltreesandmore@aol.com

MANITOBA EVENTS

2013 SPRING RING

This free event for all members of the Manitoba Guild takes place at Sturgeon Creek United Church in the St. James area of Winnipeg on **Saturday, April 6, 2013**. Registration deadline is March 15. Choirs will be invited to play selections of their own as well as 2 massed ringing pieces. Rehearsal begins at 12:30 pm, a public concert is at 3 pm. For more info email: m-jmorrow@shaw.ca. ▲

Int'l Peace Garden Handbell Camp

Session 4 Handbell Camp will be **July 7-13, 2013**, for students who have finished grades 5-12 AND adults, and is designed for handbell ringers who are at the early to intermediate level.

New! Session 7 Adult Handbell Camp July 27-30, 2013.

This short and intense session is for ringers of intermediate through advanced level.

Check out the website internationalmusiccamp.com and click on *Music*, then click on *Handbells* under the list of Programs. When that appears, click on *What to Bring* for further information. ▲

Consider a Scholarship Donation

Looking for ways to give back? Your tax-deductible donation to Area 7's Clista Wood Scholarship Fund helps people to be able to attend Area 7 events such as director seminars, handbell festivals, youth events, etc. Go to **area7.handbellmusicians.org** for more info.

The Area 7 Board would like to thank you in advance for your generosity! ▲



Handbell Musicians to Create Music...Virtually!

Virtual Handbell Ensemble is an exciting new project of the Handbell Musicians of America, in which you will have the opportunity to perform a new work of music via video uploads.

Misterium, by James Meredith, consists of 135 musical segments to be recorded separately by individuals and small groups of players from around the world over a seven month period and uploaded to the web. All of the segments will be assembled by the editing videographer and the composer into the final work to be premiered online in July, 2013.

The players may opt to record any or all of the individual segments to the set tempo of the click tracks, which can be downloaded along with the segments from the website.

Except for the segments needing more than one person, most are meant to be performed standing away from tables. We encourage you to be creative in your filming. Find a place as quiet as possible indoors or out. Choose

a background which does not detract from you. You may film very close up, at a distance, from the side, front, or overhead but make your performance interesting. The more interesting, the more likely your clips will be prominent in the final video collage. In other words, don't look like robotic automatons! Let's show the world how exciting handbells can be to watch and listen.

After the online premiere, the score will be published so that any groups interested can perform the work designed for double ensemble.

So, grab your cameras, round up your handbell buddies, and start recording. **Deadline for submissions is MARCH 1, 2013.**

For more information about the composer and the piece, instructions and music can be found at the project website, **virtual.HandbellMusicians.org**. If you are unfamiliar with the concept of a virtual choir, visit **Youtube.com** and perform a search for "virtual choir." ▲

Something New to Try: Chime Choir Charts

By Sandy Mullaney

Can you have a high quality music experience when you are working with young children who have:

- 👉 Limited attention spans
- 👉 Limited reading skills
- 👉 Unlimited energy

And, throw in the added challenges of limited budget and very limited rehearsal time?

The answer, of course, is: **Yes!** There are many approaches to this opportunity to work with young children – one that has worked for my church is creating Chime Choir Charts. These Charts are available for purchase, but we chose to save the money and make them ourselves.

Here's all you need to do:

- 1) Choose a song that has a small number of chords. One example: "Jesus Loves Me" in the key of C – three chords, including C, G, and F.
- 2) Determine the notes in these chords:
C = C-E-G G = G-B-D F = F-A-C
- 3) Assign a color to each note:
A = White E = Yellow
B = Blue F = Green
C = Red G = Purple
D = Orange
- 4) Cut out squares of these colors; write the note letter on the square.
- 5) Write the words of the song on a flip chart, leaving enough space above each line of text for the colored squares.
- 6) Tape the colored squares representing the chord above the line of text, at the point of each chord change. Stack the three colored squares together, to resemble a small flag.
- 7) Children receive one or two chimes, based on their ability. Identify their chime colors on the chart.
- 8) Practice the song, pointing to each colorful chord cluster on the chart and encourage the children to sing along.

Chime Choir Charts are very portable – you can easily bring them to classrooms, the entrance to the church Sanctuary, up into the choir loft, or anywhere in your worship space. This flexible method for teaching chime songs to young children is easy, inexpensive, and fun – give it a try! 📌



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