

CLAPPER CHATTER

Minnesota - North Dakota - South Dakota - Wisconsin - Manitoba

Hello Area 7 Ringers, Directors, Composers and HIC members.
I'm happy to report that your Area 7 board is firing on all cylinders:

The events team, Alanna and Peteria, are gearing up for some great events in 2018. Within a couple of weeks many accomplished ringers will be gathering for Anthornis Central under the baton of Debbie Rice. This will no doubt be a great concert so plan to join us February 10, 3:30, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN. KidsRing is also coming up quickly (April 14) for kids 4th-8th grade. Register your kids now, any size group is welcome to participate. I'm also excited that the new format for the Area 7 Festival is taking shape and registration will be available online this year.

Our eight Sub Area Chairs (SAC) Jessica, Ruth, Babs, Karen, Sue, Sheila, Mary and Ron have been diligent at reaching out to existing members and prospective members. National office has requested that we work on updating contact information for our members so we are starting that process. You can help by logging into the national website and in the box that says "What would you like to do?" select "Update Profile". Check to see that everything is current. It is much easier for us to serve you if we have accurate contact information.

The Exec board (Deb, Deanna, Darcy, Krista and me) always seem to have plenty of balls in the air making sure we are staying on budget, brainstorming new ideas and supporting the rest of the team in any way that we can. Darcy has started the nominating committee duties. If you know of someone who would be a good addition to the Area 7 board, please contact Darcy. If you want to learn more about what is involved with each office, please contact me, I'm happy to share.

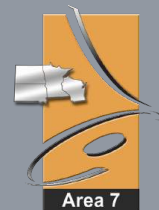
Karla, Sondra, Trevor, Dan, Jennifer, and Paul should not be overlooked. They are all taking good care of their duties and helping out whenever needed.

The entire board looks forward to seeing you in Rochester at Festival, June 22-24. We have fun things planned.
2018 is shaping up to be a great year!

Karen Van Wert
Chair, Area 7, Handbell Musicians of America

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Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA



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 in Session 28. The composer's score notation also tells us about the melody (Session 29), rhythm, **harmony**, texture, tone color and form.

Harmony is the vertical in music. Harmony in music developed slowly from the addition of one pitch above or below a given melody note to addition of several pitches. This began in about the 9th century. By the time of J.S. Bach (1685-1750) triads (three note chords) were established, as were some four-note chords. This column has addressed features of harmony (Sessions 19-27). Basically, any note of the scale can be the "root" of a chord. Notes used above that root are in intervals of thirds and fifths. Further extension can be made with addition of intervals of the seventh, ninth, eleventh, and thirteenth. (Chords can also be built using intervals of even numbers as we see in the 20th century.) The basis of the chord is still the "root". How this root relates to the scale differs by the relationship of its root to the Tonic of the scale, the first scale degree. (In the C Major scale tonic is C.)

Harmonic progression or **Harmonic motion** refers to the change in harmony within a composition. Harmony will support the main pitches of the melody. The change of harmony will have its own logic, it will be neither too static nor too overelaborate. Harmony will provide a steady foundation that will always be there no matter how decorated other elements of the composition are, elements such as rhythm, melody, texture, color of sound and overall form.

Harmonic motion is guided by consonance and dissonance. Consonance and dissonance can be categorized in successive sounds. Some sound seems to require "resolution" where others are "stable". Consonance and dissonance concepts are different from one person to another, from one era to another, from one composition to another, from one society to another. However, it is the relationship of consonance and dissonance that guides the harmony in a composition.

Can you find the most structurally important chords in the handbell composition you are preparing? Tonic, dominant and subdominant chords, chords built on the first, fifth and fourth scale degrees are these chords. Where do these chords appear? How can you stress their appearance? Do these chords create consonance and stability in the composition? How will you make this happen? Do tempo, dynamic and articulations influence their stress?

Can you find chords in the composition that are decorating and intensifying the harmonic motion? How will dynamics and tempo be affected by these chords? Is there resolution moving away from these chords? How do you build the performance of the composition to create the peaks of harmonic stability and instability required by the composer?

Remember that Aaron Copland stressed that "melodies cannot be submerged by the accompanying material." * As interesting as the harmonic consonance and dissonance is for both the ringer and the listener, melody must be foremost in the performance. But, the fun part begins when the melody is harmonized and dissonance leading to consonance is achieved. Tension and relaxation paired with tempo, texture and dynamics will let the composition speak as the composer intended.

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

Until next time,
Dr. P
pinsonoj@gmail.com

May
Clapper Chatter
Submission
Deadline:
April 10

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
Anthornis Central	February 9-10, 2018	Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church 5005 Northwest Blvd Plymouth, MN	A 2-day ringing event with more challenging repertoire. Clinician: Debbie Rice. Closing concert: 3:30 pm.
KidsRing 2018	April 14, 2018 9:00 am	St Mary of the Lake Church 105 N Forestview Ln Plymouth, MN	Clinician: Sandy Mullaney Closing concert: 2:00 pm
Raleigh Ringers in Concert	June 22, 2018 7:30 pm	Presentation Hall Mayo Civic Center Rochester, Minnesota	\$15 at the door
Area 7 Festival Conference	June 22-24, 2018	Mayo Civic Center Arena Rochester, Minnesota	Clinicians: Lee Afdahl and David Harris, The Raleigh Ringers, Paul Kingsbury.
Festival Conference Closing Concert	June 24, 2018 1:30 pm	Mayo Civic Center Arena Rochester, Minnesota	

**WATCH FOR THE ONLINE ANNOUNCEMENT OF
AVAILABLE FESTIVAL REGISTRATION MATERIAL**



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Community Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
Music from the Heart 2 by Bells of the Bluffs	February 11, 2018 2:00 pm	First Presbyterian Church 503 W. 6th St. Red Wing, MN	
Bells of the Bluffs Concert	February 25, 2018 2:00 pm	First Presbyterian Church 602 Vermillion St. Hastings, MN	
St. Olaf Handbell Choir Concert	February 25, 2018 1:00 pm	The Cathedral of our Merciful Saviour 515 NW 2nd Ave. Fairbault, MN	
St. Olaf Handbell Choir Tour Concert	March 2, 2018 7:30 pm	Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Blvd. S. Bloomington, MN	
Bellfest 2018	March 3, 2018 9:00 am-4:00 pm	Northern Heights Lutheran Church Arden Hills, MN	Guest conductor Carolynne Mathis Registration materials available at www.BelloftheLakes.org
St. Olaf Handbell Choir Tour Concert	March 3, 2018 7:00 pm	First Lutheran Church 327 S. Dakota Ave. Sioux Falls, SD	
St. Olaf Handbell Choir Tour Concert	March 4, 2018 2:00 pm	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1909 Saint Paul Road Owatonna, MN	
St. Olaf Handbell Choir Tour Concert	March 5, 2018 8:15 pm	Urness Recital Hall 1520 St. Olaf College Northfield, MN	
Bells of the Bluffs Concert	April 21, 2018 6:30 pm	St. Timothy's Lutheran Church 825 51st Ave. NE Columbia Heights, MN	
Bells of the Bluffs Wisconsin Tour Kick Off Event	April 26, 2018 6:30 pm	First Lutheran Church 615 W. 5th St. Red Wing, MN	
Bells of the Bluffs Concert	April 28, 2018 7:00 pm	Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 2330 E. Calumet St. Appleton, WI	
Bells of the Bluffs Concert	April 29, 2018 2:00 pm	Trinity Lutheran Church 206 E. Badger St. Waupaca, WI	

Membership Has Its Benefits!

by Ruth Molloy, Sub-Area Chair for the Minnesota North



I'm Ruth Molloy, Sub-Area Chair for the Minnesota North region of Area 7. My colleagues and I are happily here for you whenever you need us as valuable resources for your handbell group and for you as a musician. In addition, we are supported by a larger organization with solutions to your needs in mind. An individual membership to the Handbell Musicians of America organization opens doors to a wealth of benefits of which you may not be aware.

Here is a list of many of the amazing tools and benefits of membership:

- I. Overtones Magazine (received in the mail by the contact person registered for the group or by the individual member)
 - Tips and Tools like the Care and Cleaning of Gloves
 - People News - Uniting Our Members
 - Leader Words of Wisdom
 - Recruiting and Retention Ideas - where to find members, where to focus your efforts
 - Music - in the center of the magazine!
 - Connections to Training & Skill Improvement - Certification classes, Member Chat with experts bimonthly,
 - Membership Info
 - Ads for bell-related tools and gifts

- II. Clapper Chatter (I'm so glad that you are reading your copy now!)
 - Events and opportunities for networking, training, and fun! Events really motivate your players to learn how to improve their skills and try new positions in the choir. We need attendance at these in order to continue to offer them. Our talented clinicians are willing to share their knowledge with us on the weekends!!
 - People and Board Connections - pictures, human interest stories
 - Practical and Fun Ideas
 - Music Theory (articles are saved on the Area 7 website)
 - Scholarships to Area and National Events - apply on www.handbellmusicians.org and www.areaviagehr.org
 - Board members like me to connect you to what you need - for example, people in your area who might sub in your choir.
 - A wealth of online resources on www.handbellmusicians.org and www.areaviagehr.org Explore and be sure to scroll down to find treasures!

Visit this web page for more information, registration, and renewals -

<http://handbellmusicians.org/membership/join-the-guild/>. You can reap the most benefits with a Handbell Musician membership for \$95 per year. All ringers associated with a member choir can join for \$10 in a sub-membership. It includes an online version of Overtones, E-Notes and Event-Notes E-Newsletter, Clapper Chatter E-Newsletter, and access to all Online Resources.

Please spread the word about the benefits of membership and thank you for being a part of Area 7!!

Welcome to our newest members!

Ruth Molloy- Alexandria, MN
Faith Lutheran Church- Janesville, WI
Susan Schwartz- Maple Grove, MN
Jean Anderson- Maplewood, MN
Rebecca Nygren- Brooklyn Park, MN

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



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Hand Health in 2018

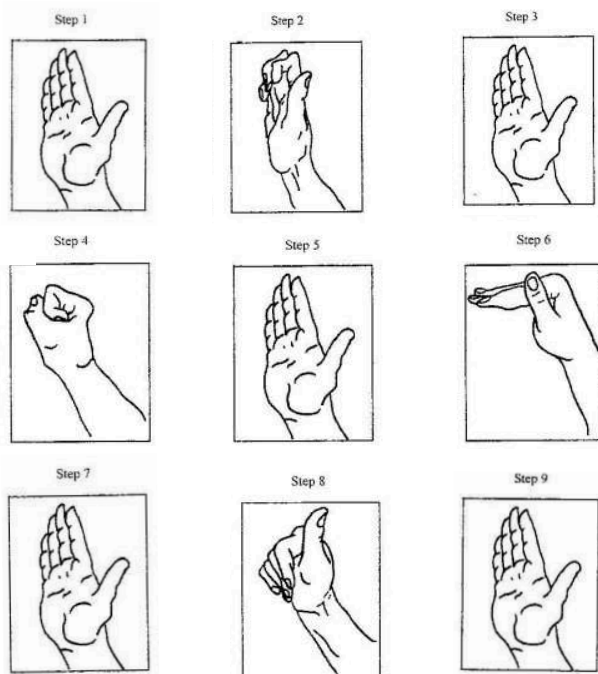
by Karla Hulne, Area 7 Publications Manager

When I was high school and considering becoming a music major, the first thing my band director told me was “take care of your hands.”

Now with 25 years of being a percussionist under my belt, I can finally understand what he was talking about. Years of training to make my left hand as strong as my right have resulted in carpal tunnel. As my students spend hours each week in handbell rehearsal, and athletic practices after school, hand health has become a forefront issue for all of us.

Included are some stretches we do as warm-up, the help increase circulation and create fluid motion in our muscles and tendons. Hold each position for a three count and fluidly move to the next.

Please keep in mind, I practice music, not medicine. If any of these stretches cause you pain, stop doing it and seek the advice of a medical professional.



Media Library

by Dan Ahlman, Area 7 Media library coordinator and Historian

Ever wonder what the media library is or what's in it? Well the library is a collection of dvd's that cover everything from ringing techniques to directing techniques. There are also a quite a number of concert and performance videos from soloists and ensembles. I am always looking for suggestions for the library and adding to the collection! Look for a display of some of the items at Festival in Rochester this spring as well as a display featuring and showing the wonderful history of Area 7 festivals!

I have assembled a collection of festival books that date back to 2004 that will be on display. I would love to get my hands on books from any of the earlier festivals. If anyone has any of these and would like to donate them to the Area 7 archives please let me know. It would be a wonderful addition to our archives.

As I sit here typing this and look at the outdoor temperature (-9F) I cannot wait until spring and festival in Rochester!! I look forward to seeing everyone there!! Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the media library and anything that might be a great addition to our archives.

Knowledge is a treasure,
but practice is the key to it.

Lao Tzu

CHIME Grant Program in Action

by Jennifer Cadwell, CHIME representative



We are excited to see the various ways the handbells and handchimes are being used as part of the CHIME grant program. It is always exciting to share the joy of ringing with new audiences. Area 7 has 2 sets of handbells and 2 sets of handchimes that are available each year through the grant program. If you know of a church, school, or facility that would benefit from receiving the grant, please consider applying for the CHIME grant. The application and more information is available on the Area 7 website.

- Students at Cannon Falls Middle School learned how to ring and care for the handbells as part of a general music class. In addition to ringing bells with choral arrangements, the bells were also used to add a new color to the band and steel drum ensemble.
-
- Residents at Walker Plaza in Anoka used the handchimes as part of their weekly gathering time. The ability to have a musical outlet in their week was uplifting and provided great joy. Music is a very positive force in the lives of elderly people.
-
- This fall, residents at The Homestead of Rochester started a handchime ensemble. They learned how to ring the chimes and presented a Christmas Concert. Additional ringers are excited to join the group this month and learn all about ringing. Learn more about the new ensemble below.

The Homestead Ringers

Last fall, a friend of mine from The Homestead of Rochester, a senior living facility through the Volunteers of America, contacted me wondering if they could start a handbell group. After retiring from handbells in 2010, I thought, wow, do I want to direct again? I knew of Area 7's handbell/handchime grant program so I thought this may be a perfect fit. I applied for the grant, filled out the paperwork, picked up the chimes and other equipment and planned our first rehearsal. To my utter delight, 14 prospective ringers arrived. Some had played handbells and the others had all heard them in their churches. We began with Ardis Freeman's Ring Along Christmas. Singing and ringing was a huge hit and they were successful immediately.



We then continued with written music. Some needed notes marked, some needed it enlarged. The ringers loved it. After three weeks, they wanted to do a Christmas Concert. Some of the ringers were also in the vocal choir. We combined our groups and had a standing room only (over 200 people) concert in December. We played Joy to the World & He Is Born arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson, and the three versions of Away in the Manger arranged by Frances L. Callahan. We closed the concert playing Silent Night while the choir sang Peace.

We had people from the audience ask if they could join the ensemble. Yes, new members are welcome! We will begin in January with as many people as want to learn a new musical instrument. Many of the ringers commented they had not "looked" for notes or had to count music since high school or before. They were excited to know they could still be musicians.

As we all know, music is for everyone, some performing, some listening. Thank you for continuing Area 7's CHIME grant program. After the success of the Christmas concert, the senior living facility is beginning the fundraising process to purchase their own chimes. We are all looking forward to more wonderful concerts.

Submitted by
Deedee Odell

Get Started Commissioning

by Karen Van Wert, Area 7 Chair



Is there someone in your handbell circle that you would like to honor?
Is your group or church getting ready to reach a special milestone?
Have you ever wished there was an arrangement of your favorite tune?

The answer to each of these questions has been “yes” for me at some time in the past year. Those “yeses” led me down the path of commissioning arrangements for handbells. I am currently working with three different composer/arrangers on handbell projects. I thought it was going to be really difficult and expensive but I’ve learned that it is fun and rewarding and well worth the talent.

I’d like to share some thoughts regarding commissioning works in hopes that it might spark some interest for you to pursue an opportunity. My first piece of advice is to start as soon as possible; the more time you allow the more options you have for success.

Things to consider:

1. What is the purpose of this commission? Who or what is the reason why?
2. What is the mood of the piece? Joyful, celebratory, somber, reflective...?
3. Is there a specific tune or style that you have in mind? If you are honoring someone, maybe they have a favorite tune or text that is meaningful.
4. When thinking of a tune, consider copyright requirements and getting appropriate permissions. Generally this has been easier than I thought it would be. Sometimes the hardest part is figuring out who owns the copyright. Get permission to arrange, perform and publish in writing.
5. Who will be performing the piece? Is it a solo, ensemble or full choir? Are there any techniques you would like included? How many octaves and what level of arrangement? Handbells, chimes or both? Any other instruments?
6. When will the piece be debuted? Is there a specific event? This will impact the timing.
7. What is your budget? Each arranger sets their own pricing so this varies greatly.
8. Who would you like to arrange the piece? Think of existing arrangements you like. You may want to check with 2-3 composers to see their availability and pricing structure.
9. Request a draft PDF and audio file so that you can make suggestions before final approval.
10. How will the dedication be phrased?
11. If you are seeking publishing, which publisher would you like to use? Some arrangers self-publish which can be helpful.

Answering these questions will give you a good start on your commissioning journey. Share your thoughts with your arranger to help them see your vision. Together you will be successful in creating meaningful music that will exceed all expectations.

My first commissioned piece was arranged by Kathleen Wissinger and recently published by ringTrue. “Rainbows” is the first in a series based on the music ministry of Lois Brokering and Herbert F. Brokering.

Creativity is more than just being different.
Anybody can plan weird; that’s easy. What’s
hard is to be as simple as Bach. Making the
simple, awesomely simple, that’s creativity –

Charles Mingus

Area 7

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Find photos of Area 7 events:

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