

Meet the Ding Dong Dollies!



Clapper Chatter

Volume 33/Issue 3/August 2019

Want to see your ensemble featured in the next issue of the newsletter? Visit page 11 for more information!

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Greetings Area 7 Members

By the time you read this, I will be back home, energized by attending classes and concerts and sharing conversations with other ringers and directors at the Handbell Musicians of America's National Seminar in St. Louis. While national events are great experiences, trust me when I tell you, you don't have to go very far from home to become energized; there are multiple events happening in Area 7!

- A number of 2020 Festival Music Reading Sessions are happening in August and September. There is no cost to attend and you will have the opportunity to ring Festival repertoire that will help you generate enthusiasm for next summer's event in Duluth.
- The Director and Ringer Seminar will be Saturday, September 7 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Apple Valley) with Amy Maakestad. The theme is "Surviving and Thriving" with tips for a successful year and strategies to help you get there.

Two events previously scheduled in the winter/spring have moved to the fall, with the expectation of more favorable weather:

- KidsRing 2019 will be Saturday, November 2 with Sandy Mullaney at Church of the Epiphany (Plymouth). For kids in grades 4 & up. Concerned it's too early in the ringing year? You only have to prepare 1 piece prior to the event and you'll learn one that day.
- Anthornis Central with Nick Hanson will be November 15-16 at Westwood Lutheran Church (St. Louis Park) with the closing concert on Saturday, November 16 at 3:30. If you've been thinking of taking that leap to the next level, now is your chance to join an Orphan Choir rehearsal in Plymouth, Apple Valley or Duluth.
- 2020 Area Festival Conference, June 26-28 in Duluth. Clinicians are Cathy Moklebust, Bill Alexander, Karen Van Wert, and Kimberlee Strepka. I promise it will be an "up-Lift!-ing" experience!

You can find the details for all of these events in the pages of this newsletter. Whether you are a ringer or director, don't forget to add these opportunities to your upcoming year. Any (or all) will help you not just "survive" but "thrive!"

May you be energized this year by an event (or two or three) happening in the Area and may you find yourself uplifted and inspired by playing (or directing) music that fills your soul.

Anita Fraundorf, Area 7 Chair



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Minnesota - North Dakota - South Dakota
Wisconsin - Manitoba

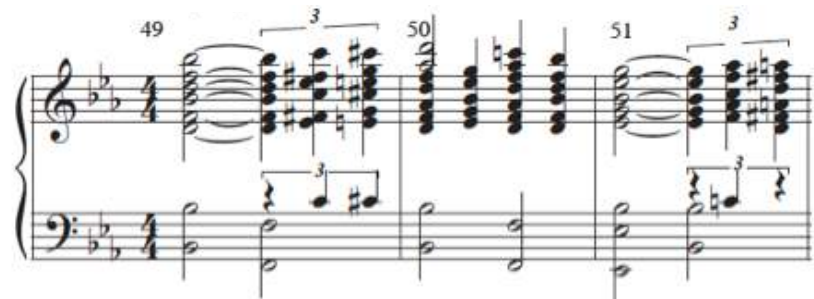
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Tricky Rhythm Patterns-1 (Session 36) Triplets in Simple Meters

By Dr. Ona Pinsonneault

Last spring, I was fortunate to be able to play my clarinet with the JuBELLate Ringers at Glenwood Lutheran Church in Glenwood, MN. The selection was Cathy Mokebust's arrangement "Dixieland Swing on What a Friend We Have In Jesus." Her setting is scored for 3 to 5 octaves of handbells, Bb Clarinet, Tuba and Drum Set. It was a blast for us to perform and the congregation loved it!

There was a tricky rhythm, however.



How do you perform a quartet triplet in 4/4 covering two beats? Subdivide beats three and four into eighth triplets counting "3 an da 4 an da." Place ties between successive eighth notes making them quarters. The new tied eighths in the first line below equal the quarters in the second line below.



Sometimes in 4/4 the triplet over two beats is subdivided like the second line below. Again, count beats 3 and 4 in eighth triplets. Then tie the first two eighths and the last two eighths.



If it helps also count the first two beats as triplets. Then by the time you get to beats 3 and 4 you are already thinking triplets.

(As Sue says: "Not Dif-fi-cult"). That's the sound of the rhythm in the above example. Say it out-loud.

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

PS: Feel free to send me your own favorite "tricky rhythm pattern". Include the meter signature and a description of the note values.

November
Clapper Chatter
Submission
Deadline:
October 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
Festival Music Reading Session	July 30, 2019	St. John Lutheran Church Fargo, ND	Conductor: Jessica Westgard Larson 7:00 pm RSVP: jlwestgard@hotmail.com
Festival Music Reading Session	August 28, 2019	Church of St. Boniface Cold Spring, MN	Conductor: Julie Ludwig 6:30 pm RSVP: litmusic@stboniface.com
Area Director/Ringer Seminar	September 7, 2019	Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church 12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd, Door #3 Apple Valley, MN 55124	Clinician: Amy Maakestad 9:00 am-4:00 pm Registration deadline: August 20, 2019
Festival Music Reading Session	September 14, 2019	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Cohasset, MN	Conductor: Darcy Reich 9:00 am RSVP: darreich@mchsi.com
Festival Music Reading Session	September 28, 2019	First United Methodist Church Duluth, MN	Conductors: Bill Alexander and Karen Sande 9:00 am RSVP: bill@strikepoint.com
KidsRing for 4th grade and older ringers	November 2, 2019	Church of the Epiphany 4900 Nathan Lane Plymouth, Minnesota	Clinician: Sandy Mullaney 9:00 am-3:00 pm Registration deadline: October 21, 2019
Anthornis Central	November 15-16, 2019	Westwood Lutheran Church 9001 Cedar Lake Rd. St. Louis Park, MN	Clinician: Nick Hanson Registration deadline: October 14, 2019
Festival Conference	June (25) 26-28, 2020	DECC- Duluth, Minnesota	Clinicians: Cathy Moglebust, Bill Alexander, Karen Van Wert, Kimberlee Strepka
Beer Choir	June 25, 2020	Hoops Brewery, Duluth	7:30 pm-9:00 pm Thursday as part of the Festival. You must pre-register and space is limited.
Strikepoint Concert	June 26, 2020	Symphony Hall, DECC, Duluth	7:30 pm Friday. Festival registrants have free tickets. Open to the public: Tickets on sale before and at the door.
North Scenic Railroad Excursion	June 27, 2020		6:30 pm-9:30 pm Saturday as part of the Festival. You must pre-register and space is limited.
Festival Closing Concert	June 28, 2020	DECC Arena, Duluth, MN	1:30 pm. Over 400 ringers. Free & Open to Public. Freewill offering or canned foods for local food shelf will be accepted.

Multi-Generational Learning

by Chad Koenen, publisher of the Henning Advocate

For some, handbells are a passion and are not simply for small groups gathering in church basements. It is about the music, bringing together of people from vastly different backgrounds, and for the select few, the opportunity to share their love with individuals spanning several generations.

Gloria Axelson, of Vining, has shared her love of music and handbells with people of all ages from across the central Otter Tail County region for decades. She has had several of her pieces published through the years, and even had the handbell arrangement she created for the Hong Kong-based group Bellprints Handbell Ensemble was performed at the London Christmas concert in 2017.

Like many musicians before her time, Axelson holds on to the belief that music needs to be shared with the masses, which includes showing the next generation of handbell musicians how to properly put on the white gloves and play a melody.

Last year, Axelson was approached by Nancy Quam of Battle Lake about creating a children's handbell choir. Axelson found a set of barely used Malmrk chimes on the Internet for just \$500 and began working with the 3-6 grade youth group students in November of 2018. The children picked up the art of playing chimes so quickly they performed three carols at the First Lutheran Church in Battle Lake Christmas program later in December.

The popularity of the new youth handbell choir spread so quickly through the church, Axelson soon began an adult group that needed just four lessons before they were ready to play for Easter.

"They played on Easter with piano organ and two trumpets," she said. "I arranged the music for them. I used 'Let's Ring Chimes and Bells' by Kristy Mitchell workbook. A great book with wonderful explanations, exercises and pieces to teach them chimes and be prepped for handbells."

The adult group at First Lutheran Church in Battle Lake currently has 10 members and practices each Thursday. The youth group has 15 members and practices each Wednesday.

Hoping to continue the spread of the ringing of the bells, Axelson was also approached about starting a handbell choir at the nursing home in Henning.

"They were having so much fun learning and eagerly awaited my return each Thursday morning," said Axelson. "They recently played for a Memorial Day service at the nursing home."

Unfortunately, shortly before the performance it was announced the Henning nursing home would be closing by mid July.

That news hasn't deterred Axelson as she continues to find ways to spread her love of chimes and bells with other events throughout the country.



Into the Forest – Exploring Among the Trees 2019

by Karen Van Wert, Past-Chair Area 7

Belltree (BT) ringing is a relatively new concept introduced by Louise Frier a little more than 30 years ago. Although it has started to become more mainstream, we are still learning from one another and adapting music to fulfill the shortage of published music for this technique. BT ringers who have met at National Seminar and other events decided it was time to get together as a group. The inaugural “Into the Forest – exploring among the trees” was held this past May. Sixteen interested ringers, directors and composers came together from WI, MI, OR, NV, NE and of course MN. In addition, two ringers brought Malmark Cymbells for us to experience.

We spent two full days talking and ringing belltrees. Ideas were shared, dreams were articulated, and plans were hatched. Topics included: introducing BT to new ringers, creating a “leveling” system for BT music, various inexpensive stand options, stringing Schulmerichs vs Malmarks, 4-mallet ringing, damping techniques, adapting non-BT music, unpublished BT music, ringing with the praise band, BT & Choir music, advantages/disadvantages of Cymbells and anything else that came to mind.

Area 7 supported the event through a Regional Workshop Grant that was greatly appreciated. If you are not familiar with this grant, look at the Area 7 website for more details about how Area 7 can support an event in your area.

Bottom line on the feedback is that we are hoping to offer a similar event in 2020. In addition to learning a lot and meeting new faces, the participants loved the fact that we kept it cost effective and that there is plenty of BT equipment in Area 7. Once again, Area 7 has proven to be leaders and early adopters in the world of handbells.

If you would like to learn more about belltree ringing, please join Google Group = Belltree-L. (<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/belltree-l>) We have a shared resource site available, we can connect you with a mentor/instructor, there are links to videos and you will be the first to know when there is a BT event in your area.

Again, thank you Area 7 for supporting this event.

Welcome to Our Newest Members!

Lloyd Larson—Maple Grove, MN
Karen Huss—St. Cloud, MN
Beth Anderson—Fridley, MN
Kathy M Chojnacki—Coon Rapids, MN
Janet E Day—Brookfield, WI
Elijah Schuh—Spencer, WI



Area 7 offers a variety of Grants and Scholarships to promote handbell ringing and knowledge acquisition. The opportunities include:

- **Chime** (Committee for Handbells In Music Education) Grant – Chimes or handbells in the classroom
- **Clista Wood Scholarship** - Scholarship for one day or multi-day Area 7 events including the Area 7 Festival Conference, Young Ringers Camp and the Area 7 Director's Seminar.
- **Regional Workshop Grant** - Local member handbell groups can apply for a Workshop Grant when they are considering hosting a Workshop in their own community.

As the recipient of the Clista Wood Scholarship for Young Ringers Camp, we congratulate Brianna Kedrowski, Messiah Lutheran Church, Mounds View, MN. Congratulations Brianna! We hope you had a great time at camp and that you were able to take new ideas and ringing concepts home with you.

For more information and access to application forms, look at the Scholarships and Grants section of the Area 7 website. If you have any questions, please contact Past-Chair Karen Van Wert.

KidsRing

November 2, 2019

Church of the Epiphany, 4900 Nathan Lane, Plymouth, Minnesota

9:00AM—3:00PM 3:00 closing concert free & open to public

This event is for ringers in 4th grade and above, or other ages at the discretion of their director. It is a great opportunity for young ringers to experience massed ringing,



CLINICIAN—SANDY MULLANEY



Sandy Mullaney serves as handbell ministries director at Church of the Epiphany, Episcopal in Plymouth, MN where she leads an all-age handbell & chime program and also assists with the intergenerational contemporary music group. Sandy is an Artist Initiative Grant recipient from the Minnesota State Arts Board – she used this year of funding to focus on composing and arranging for handbells, and she has one published arrangement. Sandy has served as clinician for Young Ringers events and local festivals, and has taught classes at Area Festivals, Directors Seminars and National Seminars. She has especially enjoyed the opportunity to coordinate Service Projects for Area 7 events.

Title	Arranger	Publisher	Pub Code	Octaves	Level	Instr
Come, Christians Join To Sing	Linda Lamb	Choristers	CGB993 CGB994	2-3 3-5	1	
Away In a Manger Purchase this piece but do not work on it until arriving at the event.	John Behnke	AGEHR	AG25006	2-5	1	
A FUN SURPRISE PIECE that will be worked on at the event.	Nothing to purchase.					

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE EVENT:

1. Purchase enough copies for your choir of each of the first two MASSED pieces listed above.
There are no ringing divisions for this event. Note that all pieces are for a varying number of ringers.
2. Each participating choir is invited and encouraged to prepare one solo piece to play for the closing concert (optional).
This could be a piece you performed in October or last May.
You could also share a NON-BELL piece that one or more of your ringers would like to perform:
piano, instrumental, vocal, etc.
3. Rehearse ONLY the first piece in the list above, so your ringers are familiar with it before arriving. We will sight read the second piece together at KidsRing.
4. It is not necessary for your whole choir to attend. Even though this is a great group bonding experience, you are welcome to register with a less-than-full choir. Or, use this event as an opportunity to START a youth bell choir.
ASK US HOW! - we are available with support and mentoring!

Service Project

We will be making sandwiches under the theme "Love One Another".

Minneapolis Recreation Development Inc. serves the homeless, poor, and disadvantaged families in the Twin Cities every night by providing food, clothing, personal care items, and on-the-street care and support. On any given night, there are an estimated 10,000 homeless people in the Twin Cities metro area, including 3,000 children under age 17.

The primary focus of LOA is to feed, and provide emergency assistance to as many of them as possible.

\$2.00 of your event registration fee is to partially offset the sandwich ingredient costs.



REGISTRATION:

[The online registration form is available at this link.](#)

Deadline for registration is **October 21, 2019.**

\$17 per person. Checks or Credit Cards accepted.

Upon registering, you will receive an email request to identify which ringing positions your group will be covering, and your solo information.

Mail checks (payable to Area 7- HMA) to:
Alanna Teragawa, 6600 Pleasant Ave #154, Richfield, MN 55423

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Jessica Haeder 612-396-5533

Area 7 Youth Events Planner

YouthEvents.area7@handbellmusicians.org

One **Clista Wood Memorial Scholarship** will be awarded for this event.
[The ONE-DAY scholarship application form is available online at this link.](#) Application deadline is October 21, 2019

Young Ringers Camp

by Anita Fraundorf

On Friday, June 21, 36 ringers and 10 adults arrived at Camp Victory (Zumbro Falls, MN) for the 8th bi-annual Area 7 Young Ringers Camp and a weekend of rehearsals, recreation, and rolling bandages (more on that later). Bluff Lodge, with its 6 sleeping & bathroom areas, still had plenty of room for all the bell ringing equipment and seating space for the Sunday morning concert audience.

Thanks to their directors, ringers from Aldersgate UMC (St. Louis Park, MN), Centennial UMC (Roseville, MN), Community Presbyterian (Grand Rapids, MN), First Presbyterian (Rochester, MN), Messiah Lutheran (Moundview, MN), and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran (Apple Valley, MN), came well prepared with the 3 assigned pieces of music. They rehearsed those 3 and learned a 4th selection during the 6 scheduled rehearsals Friday night and Saturday. Clinician Jennifer Cadwell was able to bring out the participants' best ringing effort with her clear instructions and expectations by using good humor and encouragement.

Life was not all work during the time at Camp Victory. Participants were able to try the Black Hole (a ride on a sled through a dark tube), the High Ropes course (a variety of challenges fairly high off the ground while harnessed, helmeted and on a belay line attached to camp staff), 9-square, 4-square, mini golf, and Gaga Ball. In addition to all that, they were able to participate in the Camp's Community Fest Saturday evening which ended with an amazing 30 minute fireworks display.

Now about those rolled bandages: Area 7 incorporates a Service Project with each sponsored event so on Saturday afternoon, ringers and adults tore clean sheets into strips then rolled them, using a specially engineered tool. In an hour's time, the group made 231 rolled bandages for the Global Health Ministries organization. This organization provides hospitals and clinics in desolate areas with these basic supplies.

The Clista Wood Scholarship Fund, established to provide encouragement and assistance to eligible individuals to attend an Area 7 ringing event, presented a check to Messiah Lutheran Church at Sunday's concert.

A special thank you goes to the parents, churches, directors, chaperones, Camp Victory staff, Jessica Haeder (Area 7 Youth Events Coordinator) and Alanna Teragawa (Area 7 Events Coordinator) for their support and hard work to make this week end a most memorial event.

Check out pictures of the event at: www.flickr.com/photos/area7handbells (Sara Novak, photographer).



EVENT NEWS

by Alanna Teragawa,
Area 7 Event Coordinator

Anthornis Central

Since 2008, Anthornis Central has been held each February. Starting this fall, this event will be moving to November, usually the first or 2nd weekend.

WHY?

1. The Polar Vortex of 2019 forced many rehearsal cancellations.
2. The lingering snow storms impacted the event itself, keeping many registrants safely at home rather than risking dangerous travels.
3. The area churches that are conducive to this type of event are scheduling more of their own events in their spaces in February. Hotel ballrooms were researched but the cost of catering and fees would make the registration fee unaffordable.
4. A poll was taken of many regular Anthornis goers and the majority agreed with the reasons for switching the date.

See the separate article for event details on this fall's Anthornis November 15-16, 2019. Reminder: this November event **replaces** the traditional February event.

KidsRing

The fun KidsRing event has been cancelled the last 3 times because of dangerous snow storms. We are taking that as a sign that we should move the event away from spring and into fall. See the flyer elsewhere in this issue for the new fall date of this event.

FESTIVAL CONFERENCE June (25)26-28, 2020

Planning continues for the great Area 7 handbell get-together – the Handbell Festival Conference at the DECC in Duluth, Minnesota.

Reading Sessions of the 2020 Festival are being scheduled throughout Area. Watch the Area 7 website for calendar updates.



**BILL
ALEXANDER**



**CATHY
MOKLEBUST**



**KIMBERLEE
STREPKA**



**KAREN VAN
WERT**

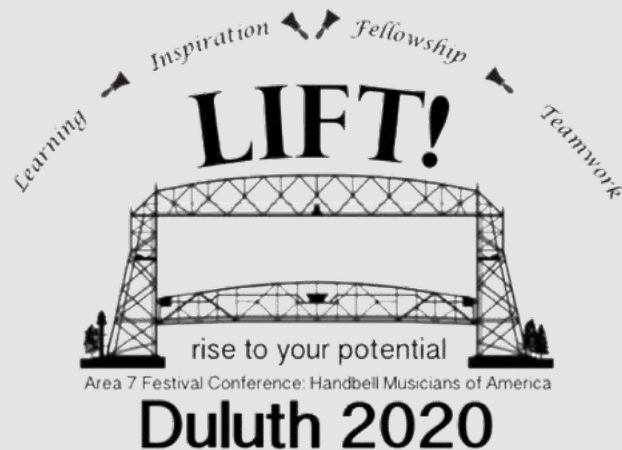
Here are a couple more developments we have been or will be working on for the Festival:

1. The CALL FOR FACULTY & CLASS TOPICS resulted in a variety of class recommendations. The Festival Class Committee is in the process of determining which classes to offer, based on a number of things: bells needed, available classrooms, etc.
2. The Registrar, Trevor Lee and the Events Coordinator will use the remainder of this summer to totally revamp the Festival registration process. The goal is to simplify things.

To that end, it is being considered that no one pre-registers for any classes. We are envisioning that each participant registers online individually, so they can select the “electives” they want, resulting in a personal “invoice” for the items they checked.

“Electives” would be the Festival events that require additional fees, like the Beer Choir, the Saturday night Train ride, applying for one of the two specialty choirs: Bronze Plus or the Conference Choirs.

If you would like to be a FESTIVAL BETA TESTER this summer to help us test the process, please let us know. Registrar.area7@handbellmusicians.org or Events.area7@handbellmusicians.org. Keep checking the Area 7 website for updates.



Anthornis Central — 2019 Details — St. Louis Park, MN

November 15-16, 2019

Friday: Reading Session. 7:00-9:00PM
Saturday: 8:30AM-3:30PM—Massed Rehearsals
3:30PM concert open free to the public.

Westwood Lutheran Church

9001 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park, MN

This event is for those who want to ring more challenging music. Start lining up your ringing buddies.



The event is named "Anthornis" after New Zealand bellbirds. The bellbirds sing loud, rich rambling songs, often in duet or with neighboring birds in

concert. They have three distinct songs; one most often sung at dawn, is a series of pure, bell-like tones from which the bird gets its name. Note that a bell shape is formed when the two birds are combined in the logo above.



Nick Hanson, Conductor

Nick Hanson received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia University, Irvine, California, as a major in music with a concentration in handbells. He is currently in his 14th year as the director of handbell ensembles at the Potomac School in McLean, Virginia, teaching private handbell lessons and instrumental music to 5th–12th grade students in five handbell ensembles. He also is in his 12th year as the handbell director at Bush Hill Presbyterian Church in Alexandria, Virginia.



Nick has served as faculty, clinician, and conductor at handbell events in 16 states (and Washington, DC) and internationally in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore. In 2015, Nick was chosen as the first-ever Associate Conductor for Distinctly Bronze under the mentorship of renowned conductor Dr. William A. Payn. Also in 2015, Nick conducted the Distinctly Teen ensemble at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in Dallas, Texas. Most recently, Nick was the 2018 guest foreign conductor for the "Showtime" concert performed by Ministry of Bellz, the premier handbell ensemble of Singapore, and he was the co-conductor for the All-Star Handbell Ensemble at the 2018 Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has written articles for the Overtones national handbell magazine, and has arranged and composed over 50 pieces of handbell music.

X→x	TBD	x, L4-, 3-5oct
x→x		x, L4, 3-6oct
x→x		x, L4, 5-7oct
x→x		x, L4+ 3-5oct
x→x		x, L4+, 3-5oct

- ⇒ **Register online as an individual by October 14, 2019**
- ⇒ Upon receipt of your registration, you will receive an email from the registrar requesting additional information: if you need to be placed in a foster choir, what your ringing position preferences are, the names of those coming with you (if applicable), your solo information, etc. No other form is needed for registration.
- ⇒ The registrar will place you in a choir and/or designate which row you will be ringing in.
- ⇒ Purchase the music and start rehearsing it prior to the event.
- ⇒ If desired, request a rehearsal CD from the registrar.
- ⇒ We invite you (or your choir) to perform a solo piece during the closing concert. This does not necessarily have to be on handbells.

SERVICE PROJECT

Please bring non-perishable food item(s) to help support the local food shelf—
St. Louis Park STEP Program.

"Helping Hands from Handbells"



ORPHAN CHOIRS

If you would like to rehearse with a group and either of these locations listed below are nearby, contact the director below before October 1st.

PLYMOUTH, MN:

Sandy Mullaney msmullaney@q.com 763.229.5386

Oct 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, 12

Church of the Epiphany, 4900 Nathan Lane

APPLE VALLEY, MN:

Alanna Teragawa alanna.k9@gmail.com 612.819.5778

Oct 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9 Shepherd of the Valley

Lutheran Church, 12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd

Registration Deadline is October 14, 2019.

\$15 for Friday night Reading Session only 7-9PM.

\$65 for the entire event, incl. lunch, 8:30-3:30PM.

Follow this link to register. Credit Cards or Checks are accepted.

Contact: Trevor Lee registrar.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Bell Ringers Involved in MN Make Music Day Festivities

by Karen Van Wert, Past-Chair Area 7

Minnesota's Make Music day was a beautiful evening at Como Lake Pavilion. To celebrate the day over 250 people gathered at the Beer Choir Event. For the first time ever, handbells participated in Beer Choir with 50 ringers joining in the activities.

What is Beer Choir, you ask? Michael Engelhardt, choral composer and conductor with a passion for micro beer, introduced Beer Choir in 2014 and there are now chapters in many major cities across the U.S. The Beer Choir mission is to make our world a little bit better by singing and drinking together.



What does Beer Choir have to do with handbells? Handbells came from the desire of bell tower ringers to practice outside the church tower. It was not uncommon for ringers to practice outside the church and even today handbells can be found in the pubs of Scotland, I'm told.

So how does "Beer Choir +Bells" work? Beer Choir has its own Beer Choir Hymnal and Handbell Musicians of America, Area 7 has developed the Beer Choir Hymnal Handbell Supplement. Ringers ring chimes rather than handbells due to space constraints, etc. They use one primary bell and most get an accidental allowing them to ring with one hand so the other hand can mind the music or the beverage. The music is written in "letter chords" without worry of octave. When you see the letter of your chime, you ring. Easy-peasy!

What's Next for "Beer Choir +Bells"? Area 7 Festival 2020 will include an opportunity to participate in Beer Choir + Bells at Hoops Brewery on Thursday evening, June 25. We have reserved the space and are bringing the Twin Cities Beer Choir team to Duluth for this event. Hoops is crafting a special beer for Area 7 to add to the fun. There are some additional surprises being planned. Watch the 2020 festival information for more about this "Beer Choir +Bells" event.



Twin Cities Metro

by Jessica Haeder, Area 7

Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair

Can you believe it is time to plan for fall already?! There are several activities on the schedule with more to come. The first one coming up is the Seminar for Directors and Ringers. Amy Maaestad will be leading this seminar on September 7th at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. She plans on covering a variety of topics in the morning (planning for the year, recruiting, ringing techniques and more). The afternoon will include a reading session with strategies and tips for score study, how to use the pieces in the program year and more.

The next activity is for your kids! Kids Ring has been moved to November 2nd because spring has not been good to us! (The last 3 spring activities have been cancelled because of snow!) This event is geared towards kids in 4th grade and up – however directors are invited to use your discretion. There are some changes to the event due to the short time frame to prepare your ringers. You are being asked to prepare one piece, the kids will learn a new piece at the event and finally there will be a fun surprise piece! Directors, you do NOT need to bring your entire choir to this event. If only 4 kids want to come – bring them! If you want some help in starting a kids bell choir, please call me. I would love to see more kids ringing!

The 3rd activity planned for the fall (so far) is Fall Anthornis Central 2019. This event will be held November 15th and 16th at Westwood Lutheran Church. This event is for the ringer who is interested in a challenge!

Finally, there are several directors from around the Cities working on hosting Reading Sessions for the 2020 Festival. I will be emailing more information as we hammer out the details.

Membership Renewal Timeline

Beginning with FY2019 (October 1, 2019-September 30, 2020), members will choose from three membership renewal dates: November 1, January 1, or March 1. By streamlining membership renewals, national staff can better project annual revenue and more effectively manage expenses. Details about your specific options and the related transition process will be emailed or sent via U.S. Mail, if no email address is available. National staff will be available to answer any questions and assist you through the transition to your new renewal date.

Taken from Overtones
(Spring 2019)

Meet the Ding Dong Dollies!

The Ding Dong Dollies are a community group sponsored by Aldersgate Methodist Church in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Ringers dress in a variety of national costumes. Concerts are built around music from different countries and the costumes are explained in between the music. This was started by Betty Fletcher Mast who was well traveled and brought costumes back from the countries she visited.

Over the course of their 47-year rich history, some highlights include:

- playing concerts in nursing homes and senior residences where some have slept through it and some sing along with the music
- played a Christmas concert at the governor's mansion
- marching in a parade
- playing the bell carillon in the bell tower
- been lost in one city or another in the Midwest states by following the directions (pre-GPS) given by people without any sense of direction
- pulling a trailer behind a van and the goal is always never to have to back up
- playing at weddings, funerals, schools, Christmas parties
- loading equipment in a blizzard and weathering a tornado warning sitting at the bottom of a stairwell in an almost empty mall
- regular appearances at Children's Hospital

"But mostly it's the friendships made, the teamwork involved in making beautiful music and last but not least ... the laughter!"



The Clapper Chatter is your newsletter and we'd love to see you in it! Contact your Sub-Area Chair to share some info about your ensemble!

Handbell Seminar for Directors & Ringers *Surviving & Thriving*

*Director Focused
& Ringer Friendly*



September 7, 2019 Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd, Door #3
Apple Valley, MN 55124



CLINICIAN— AMY MAAKESTAD

Amy has more than 35 years of experience ringing handbells in various groups and over 20 as a conductor. She utilizes both ringing and directing talents as the Artistic and Music Director of Twin Cities Bronze, an auditioned community handbell ensemble.

Amy received her Bachelor's Degree in Piano Performance from the University of Wisconsin, Superior. She later received her Master's in Sacred Music – Organ and Choral Conducting from Luther Seminary, St. Paul in cooperation with St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. Discovering new (and rediscovering old) handbell music and turning the printed notes on a page into a musical experience is one of Amy's favorite adventures.

Service Project

Bring non-perishable food item(s) to support the local Food Shelf hosted by Shepherd of the Valley.



WHAT TO BRING:

Easel type Binder to prop up your music.
A list of questions that you are struggling with.
Handbell gloves.
Conducting Baton.
Items for the Service Project.

\$35 for both Sessions, includes lunch

\$25 for the Morning Session only, excludes lunch

\$15 for the Afternoon Session only, excludes lunch

**The registration deadline
is August 20, 2019.**

events.area7@handbellmusicians.org
Event Coordinator, Area 7
6600 Pleasant Ave #154, Richfield, MN 55423

MORNING:

**8:30 – 9:00 Arrive and shop.
Coffee will be hot.**

9:00—12:00 Seminar—"SURVIVING"

How to plan for a successful year, how to choose repertoire, recruitment strategies, ringing techniques, directing techniques and rehearsal plans.

Bring a conducting baton (preferred but not required). A variety of batons will be on display for sale.

12:00—12:45 Lunch provided, Shop, Mingle

AFTERNOON:

12:45—4:00 SEMINAR—"THRIVING"

**A Reading Session with a focus on the
Festival 2020 music**

Strategies and tips for score study, how to use the pieces in the program year, teaching your choir (or yourself) how to successfully play them, and handbell techniques will be addressed.

4:00 Church Block Party (optional)
guaranteed to be fun! FREE Music, food, games.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS SEMINAR?

- * Current conductors—when is the last time you had a refresher course in handbell conducting?
- * Prospective Conductors—is your choir going through a transition? Losing ringers? Or Perhaps your conductor is stepping down?
- * Ringers who want more ringing and learning opportunities.
- * Is there a neighboring church that is just storing their bells? Encourage them to re-ignite their handbell ministry by attending this Seminar.

Heitz Handbells & Music vendor will be present
selling everything handbells and gift items.

[Follow this link to purchase tickets online.](#) You will also have the option to pay by check at this link.
There is no other registration form needed.



Handbell Opportunities with Bells of the Lakes

Seminar for Handbell Ringers & Directors -Saturday, August 24th

8:30am-3pm at Hennepin Ave UMC in Minneapolis

Join us this summer for our seminar full of classes to encourage and educate new and existing handbell ensemble directors and ringers. Come as an individual or bring your whole group. Registration materials available online.

Auditions Monday, August 26th

6pm at Hennepin Ave UMC in Minneapolis

Bells of the Lakes is seeking individuals with strong ringing experience and interest in promoting the art, skill, performance and educational aspects of handbell ringing. Rehearsals are Monday evenings from 6-8pm. More info can be found online.
www.BellsoftheLakes.org

Bellfest 2020! Saturday, March 7th

Mark your calendars to join us this winter for Bellfest! 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 **Bill Mathis** will be joining us at Bellfest as our guest conductor. Repertoire and registration materials will be available online September 1st.

Looking for Someone Special

by Karen Van Wert, Past-Chair Area 7

Soon I will be starting my final year on the Area 7 board and what a privilege it has been. I've been blessed with many opportunities to meet the ringers, directors, composers and HIC members of Area 7, as well as, national and international members of the guild. One of the things left on my "to do" list is to chair the nominating committee for the 2020 elections. I have told the board members, "It is never too early to start finding your replacement", so I'm trying to take my own advice.

There will be two positions on the 2020 ballot: **Chair-Elect** and **Treasurer**.

Chair-Elect serves a 6-year period on the Area 7 board; 2 years in each of the following positions: Chair-Elect, Chair, Past-Chair. These positions each serve on the Exec Board and are primarily responsible for the business of Area 7. In addition to acting as the liaison to Handbell Musicians of America National, over the course of the 6 years these positions manage the budget, appoint the non-Exec Board members of the Area 7 board, chair the nominating committee, update by-laws and rules of procedure, set goals, serve on the scholarship committee, work to fulfill our mission and other duties as need defines. This may sound overwhelming but keep in mind this is three roles over 6 years. It is a very rewarding experience when we share the load.

Treasurer is elected to a 2-year term with the potential to be re-elected to a second term. The treasurer keeps all financial records for Area 7 which includes: participating in creating the bi-annual budget, managing the budget, reconciling credit cards and bank statements, issue checks and interfacing with the bank and the Area 7 board. The Treasurer also serves on the Executive Board.

Further description of these roles is available in the Area 7 By-laws available on the Area 7 website.

Please consider thoughtfully the job descriptions for these two positions. If believe you know someone who can make a difference for Area 7. Please contact past-chair.area7@handbellmusicians.org to tell me about that special someone.

Join the Team!

Area 7 is also looking for individuals to serve in the following positions: **Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair** and **Membership Chair**.

Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair serve two years and may be eligible for reappointment for one additional term. Each Area 7 Sub-Area Chair shall be a voting member of the Area 7 Board of Directors. He/she is expected to attend meetings of the Area 7 Board of Directors. They encourage the handbell and handchime community-at-large to participate in events, activities and volunteer opportunities of Area 7 and Handbell Musicians of America. They will foster a personal relationship and/or mentorship opportunity with other members, the Sub-Area Chairs, Area 7 and Handbell Musicians of America.

Membership Chair serves a two-year term and will be eligible for reappointment. The Membership Chair's duties shall include:

- Recruit new members for Handbell Musicians of America.
- Process all accumulated data according to Membership Chair manual.
- Distribute membership information to Sub-Area Chairs, Executive Committee, and Events Coordinator on a monthly basis including detailed information on new and dropped members.
- Ensure that Handbell Musicians of America National requirements are met for use of membership data to maintain our non-profit status.

Further description of these roles is available in the Area 7 By-laws available on the Area 7 website.

Please consider thoughtfully the job descriptions for these two positions. If you believe you know someone who can make a difference for Area 7. Please contact chair.area7@handbellmusicians.org if you are interested in either position.

Area 7

Board Members

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Chair

Anita Fraundorf
chair.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Chair-Elect

chairelect.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Past Chair

Karen Van Wert
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Secretary

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Events Coordinator

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North Dakota Sub-Area Chair

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South Dakota Sub-Area Chair

Monica McGowan
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Northern Minnesota Sub-Area Chair

Ruth Molloy
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Southern Minnesota Sub-Area Chair

Karen Dressler
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Twin Cities Metro Sub-Area Chair

Jessica Haeder
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Northern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair

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Southern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair

Mary Vassalotti
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Manitoba Representative

Ron Vert
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Website Administrator

Paul McKlveen
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Registrar

Trevor Lee
registrar.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Advertising

Are you interested in advertising in the Clapper Chatter? You can! There are options to suit every budget. Do you know you want to advertise but don't know where to begin? We can help!

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

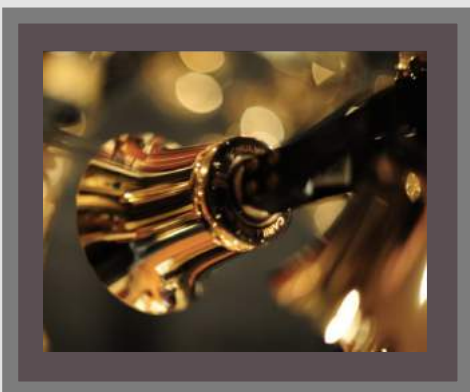
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Find photos of Area 7 events:

www.flickr.com/photos/area7handbells/

