

CLAPPER CHATTER

Minnesota - North Dakota - South Dakota - Wisconsin - Manitoba



Volume 33/Issue 1/February 2019

Hello Area 7 Ringers, Directors, Composers and HIC members. Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful Holiday season. I am always amazed how fast it goes but then I get excited about a new year ahead. 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 2019. Within a couple of weeks many accomplished ringers will be gathering for Anthornis Central under the baton of Greig Ashurst. This is always a great event so please come to the FREE public concert on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at Westwood Lutheran Church, 9001 Cedar Lake Rd, St. Louis Park, MN at 3:30pm. AdventuRing is coming up quickly for our 8th-12th graders. This year AdventuRing will be led by Paul McKenzie. There will be another FREE concert, open to the public at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN at 3:30pm. A reminder that Young Ringers Camp registration deposits and Scholarship applications are due on April 15th. YRC is for ringers 4th-8th grade with Jennifer Cadwell as the clinician. Register your kids now, any size group is welcome to participate! Our Sub Area Chairs (SAC) have been diligent at reaching out to existing members and prospective members. As we head into this new year, please remember to update any contact information you may have. 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 rest of our board members should not be overlooked as well as they are all taking good care of their duties and helping whenever needed.

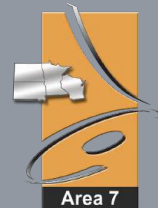
Exciting news for Area 7! First off, most of you (if not all) should have received the latest Overtones Article from National. You may have recognized some familiar faces and groups. This summer at the National Handbell Festival in St. Louis, MO, 3 Area 7 community ensembles will be featured performers. Congratulations to Twin Cities Bronze, Bells of the Lakes and Strikepoint! Twin Cities Bronze will open the festival as the opening concert while Bells of the Lakes and Strikepoint will collaborate together for the closing concert. We are so proud of these 3 ensembles and know they will do our Area proud. Another congrats goes out to River City Bronze community handbell ensemble in St. Cloud, MN. They just announced their ensemble so please give them a big congrats! We look forward to hearing and seeing them in the future. Area 7 is so incredibly blessed!

The entire board is always here to answer questions or to talk. Please let us know how we can better serve you and we hope to see you at all our upcoming events!

Krista Riedel Chair, Area 7, Handbell Musicians of America

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Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA



The **beat** refers to the basic unit of time. In a **Compound Meter** (upper numbers in the signature are 6, 9, or 12) the beat is divisible by 3. If the beat is a dotted quarter note the following example shows the beat division and the counting of the beat division.

Count: 1 & a 2 & a 1 & a 2 & a 1 & a 2 & a

(Alternate counting for slow tempo)

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6

Alt: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 &

The beat may be a dotted quarter note, dotted eighth note, dotted half note or a dotted whole note. **Why a dotted note?** A dot adds value to the note, it adds to the note half of the note's value. A dotted quarter note is a quarter note plus an eighth note or 3 eighth notes. Thereby these notes are divisible by 3.

Compound Meter signatures do not tell the whole story. If the upper number is a 6 it means two beats per measure, if it is a 9 it means three beats per measure, and if it is a 12 it means four beats per measure.

Compound meters can't use 2, 3, or 4 as their upper number because those are reserved for **Simple Meters**. If the tempo (speed of the beat, fast or slow) is fast we usually count indicating the division of the beat, or **1 & a**. If the tempo is slow we usually count whole numbers for division of the beat, or, **1 2 3**.

Compound Meters are further classified as duple, triple or quadruple. If the upper number in the meter signature is six, the meter is **Compound Duple**. If the upper number is nine, the meter is **Compound Triple**, and if it is 12 the meter is **Compound Quadruple**.

Compound Duple Compound triple Compound quadruple

6/8 - 6/16 - 6/4 - 9/8 - 9/16 - 9/4 - 12/8 - 12/16 - 12/4 -

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	February 8-9, 2019	Westwood Lutheran Church 9001 Cedar Lk Rd St. Louis Park, MN	See the informational flyer and registration form elsewhere in this issue and online http://areavillagehr.org/areaevents.php?AreaEventID=100
AdventuRing	March 9, 2019	Gustavus Adolphus College St. Peter, Minnesota	8-12th grade ringers Closing concert: 3:30 pm. Clinician: Paul McKenzie
Young Ringers Camp	June 21-23, 2019	Camp Victory Zumbro Falls, Minnesota	A complete Informational packet can be found online http://areavillagehr.org/areaevents.php?AreaEventID=98 There is a scholarship available for this event. Clinician: Jennifer Cadwell
Festival Conference	June 21-23, 2020	Duluth, Minnesota	Repertoire will be announced in May 2019.

*“Taking the time to build
community, to get to know
your people will have
long-lasting benefits.”*

— CLIFTON TAULBERT —





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Community Events

Event	Date	Location	Description
How Can We Keep from Ringing? Bells of the Bluffs	February 23, 2019 2:00 pm	Roberts Congregational United Church of Christ, 1001 Birch Drive Roberts, Wisconsin	
How Can We Keep from Ringing? Bells of the Bluffs	February 24, 2019 3:00 pm	First Lutheran Church 615 W 5th Street Red Wing, Minnesota	
Bellfest 2019!	Saturday, March 2, 2019 3:00 pm	North Heights Lutheran Church 1700 Hwy 96 W, Arden Hills, MN 55112	Massed ringing event with guest conductor, Bill Alexander, sponsored by Bells of the Lakes. Concert at 3pm in the gymnasium. (free)
St. Olaf Handbell Choir Tour home concert	March 4, 2019 8:15 pm	Urness Recital Hall 1520 St. Olaf College Northfield, MN	
Forte Handbell Quartet (from Colorado)	March 8, 2019 8:15 pm	Urness Recital Hall 1520 St. Olaf College Northfield, MN	
Milwaukee Area Handbell Festival	March 24, 2019 1:30 pm start	St. Johns Lutheran Church Gymnasium Glendale, WI	\$50 per choir, or \$10 per individual ringer
A Festival of Music	April 28, 2019 4:00 pm	First Presbyterian Church 512 3rd Street SW Rochester, Minnesota 55902	Bells of the Lakes
Spring Celebration Bells of the Bluffs	May 5, 2019 3:00 pm	First Presbyterian Church 602 Vermillion Street Hastings, Minnesota	
Sneak peek Concert with Bells of the Lakes & Strikepoint	June 16, 2019 4:00 pm	Hennepin Ave United Methodist Church 511 Groveland Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403	Be the first to see Bells of the Lakes & Strikepoint perform together before they head to the HMA National Seminar.

Twin Cities Bronze Hosts Mid-Winter Workshop

– it was a ringing success!



It's Area 7. It's January. It's winter. While the winter of 2018-2019 has been a mild one, Area 7 ringers are always looking to stay out of the cold and enjoy the company of fellow ringers. That is exactly what happened Saturday, January 12th at the Twin Cities Bronze Mid-Winter Workshop.

Sixty plus ringers gathered at Path of Grace UMC to have a one-day workshop under the direction of Sandy Eithun. Sandy comes from New London, WI where she is the Director of Music Ministry at First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Silver Lake College handbell ensemble. Sandy is a prolific composer and arranger with over 300 titles to her name. At the event Twin Cities Bronze premiered a new work arranged just for them by Sandra, "La Vie en Rose." Look for this work, which has already been picked up for publishing by Choristers Guild in a future catalog.

In addition, all ringers were able to ring new works and cherished favorites. Repertoire included:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Ah, Holy Jesus | Helman/Lorenz |
| • Clarion Call | Joy/Choristers Guild |
| • Ritmico | Mallory/AGEHR Publishing |
| • Bell Jubilee | Prins/From the Top Publishing |
| • Sanna Sannanina | Eithun/Choristers Guild |
| • Scarborough Fair | Krug/Red River Music |
| • Do You Hear What I Hear? | McChesney/Jeffers |
| • Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers! | M. Eithun/Soundforth Publishing |
| • Comme Au Premier Jour | Takada/Hope Publishing |
| • Come, Christians, Join to Sing | Krug/Hope Publishing |
| • Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley | S. Eithun/Hope Publishing |
| • When Morning Gilds the Skies | Behnke/Augsburg Press |
| • | |

Ringers enjoyed the event and came away having learned how to find and shape the musical line, which is a specialty of Sandra's. Comments from ringers include:

- "I love that this is a one-day event and reasonably priced, it even included lunch!"
- "A bell event where I don't have to schlep equipment? Worth the price of admission"
- "Sandra was awesome, I learned so much about how to look at a piece of music, decipher melody and non-melody notes as well as phrasing. I can't wait to take this information back to my group"
- "My entire group attended, I think we are going to be able to step up our game after this workshop"
- "I learned so much today and was looking for more instruction. Twin Cities Bronze mentioned their Mobile Classroom offerings, can't wait to check it out so my group can continue their learning after today"
- "Twin Cities Bronze does a fantastic job with this event and I really appreciate that they bring in nationally known clinicians year after year. And at such a great price."
- "It was fun!"

Twin Cities Bronze will celebrate its 20th anniversary season in 2019-2020 and the 2020 Mid-Winter Workshop will feature locally known and nationally recognized Twin Cities Bronze Artistic and Music Director Amy Maakestad. You won't want to miss this.

Save the date and mark your calendar now for the 2020 Twin Cities Bronze Mid-Winter Workshop. January 11, 2020 at Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis Minnesota. Sending out a special invitation to our non-Minneapolis Area 7 members to join us!

WELCOME

to our newest members!

Patricia G. Anderson- Rochester, MN
Karen H. Sande- Duluth, MN
Deon Wentzel- Bemidji, MN
Thomas Johanson- Minneapolis, MN
From Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN:

Star Hanson
Theresa Jacobson
Amy Janzig
Dawn Janzig
Heather Lilliberg
Jill Loafald
Pam Merrier
Shari Mlodozyniec
Sandy Peterson
Terri Torkelson



New Year's Resolutions

by Karen Dressler, Minnesota South SAC

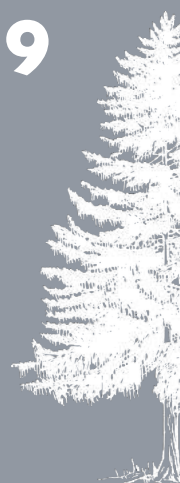
Happy February! We are well on our way into 2019 but I still wanted to talk about New Year's Resolutions. Do you make them? Do you stick with them? I know my answers for both of those...but I want to challenge you. Usually we make resolutions for ourselves, right? Well, let's talk about New Year's Resolutions for Handbells. Whether you are a ringer or a director, I have a couple of ideas for you!

For all the Directors, I challenge you to push your choirs. If you are used to playing music with a difficulty level of 2 to 3, grab a piece that's a 3+. Push your choir to practice it...AND perform it! Then applaud them when they do. It will be an accomplishment for everyone! Another resolution idea is to push your choir members by moving them around. Even for just one song, have them play different bells than where they typically ring. (probably don't try this on the 3+ song...) Maybe you do this already and if you do, I commend you. Every choir I've played in, the ringers are pretty much glued to their spot. Switching bells is worse than pulling teeth! We get so comfortable in our places that we get complacent. If we are moved around it forces us to pay a little bit more attention!

As for the Ringers, I have ideas for you too. I challenge you to look at your director and SMILE! Glance at them every once in a while. I promise, you won't get lost. Make sure you are still on the downbeat with them. Smile while you're playing and at the end of the song. Even if mistakes were made, you finished it. Look happy about it! I also challenge you to listen to your fellow ringers. Play chords together and match dynamics. Yes, that means you need to read and pay attention to dynamics! And my last idea, I challenge you to memorize a measure or two. Maybe it means you can be looking at your director for the last two measures of the song so you all play together! Maybe there's a tricky page turn. If you memorize a couple of measures, you can turn it early or late...*gasp! You can do it!

I hope you've gotten a couple of ideas, or it has at least made you think about pushing yourself or your choir this season. Imagine the things we can do with a little push outside of our comfort zones. My biggest challenge for everyone is to have fun!

Twin Cities Bronze announces 2019 Summer Tour culminating with opening concert at Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in St. Louis



Twin Cities Bronze, under Artistic and Music Director Amy Maakestad, announces their 2019 Summer Tour culminating with a performance at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar July 16 – 20, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. Twin Cities Bronze will kick off the seminar performing the 1:00 pm Welcome Concert on July 17, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch, St. Louis. Prior to playing at National Seminar, Twin Cities Bronze will be on their 2019 Summer Tour in America's heartland, performing, innovating and educating. The tour program is titled "Perfect Pairings" and is a musical feast of contrasting pieces that share a common element. Showcasing Twin Cities Bronze's versatility, acumen and love for handbell ringing, the perfect pairs are a visual and auditory treat.

Selected tour locations include: (to see all dates and locations on the Twin Cities Bronze 2019 Summer Tour, go to TwinCitiesBronze.org)

- Red Oak, IA – a community where it's 6,000 residents boast that Red Oak is "truly a shade better."
- Kansas City, MO – home of Hallmark cards, the Royals and Kansas BBQ, and a Twin Cities Bronze concert. All yummy things!
- Little Rock, AR, also known as the city of Roses, perfect for Twin Cities Bronze to showcase their newest commission "La Vie en Rose" arr. by Sandra Eithun.
- Wednesday, July 17, 2019 –St Louis. Handbell Musicians of America Welcome Concert. 1pm Hyatt Regency at the Arch.



Always up for a challenge, Twin Cities Bronze is ready to head out on tour and share their music with handbell musicians from around the country and world at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar. Be sure to meet us at a tour stop or in St Louis for the Welcome Concert. This is not a program you want to miss.

Twin Cities Bronze is a performing ensemble specializing in the music and art of English handbells. Selected by annual audition, this ensemble of advanced ringers hails from the metropolitan area of Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Twin Cities Bronze utilizes six octaves of Schulmerich Handbells, seven octaves of Malmark chimes, 40 feet of Peery tables, the full range of Greig Ashurst mallets, various percussion and other sundry items in concert. To learn more about Twin Cities Bronze, all tour dates, current and prior commissions, upcoming events and Mobile Classroom and to meet the ringers go to TwinCitiesBronze.org.



Live Your Best “Bell” Life!

by Ruth Molloy, Minnesota North SAC



I've been involved with handbell ringing for just over 10 years now. I started out highlighting my way through the bass clef because I'm a flute player and I couldn't read those notes! Since that time, I've expanded my experience up and down the scale and am even trying my hand at directing this spring. I believe that there are so many opportunities that we all have here in Area 7 to enjoy ourselves while practicing this amazing craft. I suggest that we all would benefit from constantly looking for ways to grow and learn.

1. Try out different playing positions. If you want to feel an amazing sense of accomplishment that flows over to other areas of your life, try switching positions with someone in your choir and prove to yourself that you can play both positions equally well. You might need to mark your music (WITH PENCIL!) a little more, or a LOT more, but that's perfectly fine.
2. Take the music home and make note of dynamics, complicated rhythms, bell changes, and key changes – anything that disrupts the flow of your playing. Marking will smooth those disruptions out for you during rehearsal and help you be prepared for successful practice sessions and performances.
3. Speak up when you need to run a phrase, section, or page again – maybe a little slower this time. Effective communication is key for both your director and for you. This lets him or her know where your trouble spots are and gives you a chance to develop the muscle memory needed for excellence in front of the congregation or audience.
4. If it's not part of your choir's routine, help initiate a body warm-up session while choir members are gathering each time you rehearse and play. This helps everyone feel better and play better and prevents injury. Your director isn't the only one who can take the lead on certain things for the good of the entire group. For a list of recommended stretches, see Susan Berry's book, *Healthy Ringing*, and/or the notebook reference guide, “Stretching and Warm-ups”, that is easily kept in your ringing binders. You can find videos on YouTube as well.
5. If you haven't already done so, attend an Area 7 enrichment event at least once to see what it is like. You will learn SO MUCH and have fun while learning! Festival Conference is held every two years in June. This event includes classes to help you explore new bell positions and techniques, reading sessions, performances for your enjoyment, plenty of practice time, meals and access to concessions, enrichment opportunities like Conference Choir, organized recreational activities, a service project, and the opportunity to work with renowned conductors and arrangers from all over the United States, to name a few.
6. Finally, let the music move you emotionally. You get out of the experience what you put into it, and a well-played arrangement can mean so much to so many. For example, one of my choirs spent a lot of time preparing to play “The Passion Prophecy”, an original composition by Cathy Moglebust. Played during Lent or Holy Week, it can move one to tears when you really listen to the story that the music is telling.

I hope that you find yourself living your “Best Bell Life” by practicing one or more of the suggested actions listed here.

2019 AdventuRing

2019 AdventuRing with Paul McKenzie
Gustavus Adolphus College - St. Peter, Minnesota
Clinician: Paul McKenzie

Saturday, March 9, 2019

Start Time: 9:00 am

End Time: 3:30 pm

Cost: \$15 per person

Registrar: Peteria Cochran Routt
youthevents.area7@handbellmusicians.org



This wonderful event gives 8th-12th grade ringers the opportunity to experience a college campus and ring handbells next to college students. Students will get to eat in the Campus cafeteria and take a tour of the Campus. Less than full choirs are most welcome. The day closes with a public concert 3:30PM.

“It is never too late to be
who you might have been.”

- George Eliot

College Ring-In Follow Up

by Krista Riedel, Area 7 Chair



On January 6th-8th, almost 30 ringers from around the U.S., joined at Redemption Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN for College Ring-In. This event is sponsored and run by Handbell Musicians of America. This is the fourth year and we were excited when it was announced that Minnesota would be the host this year. We were also very excited to find out that our very own Area 7 director, Carolynne Mathis, was asked to direct College Ring-In. The concert was held at Redemption Lutheran Church on Tuesday, January 8th at 7pm. We had 4 college ringers from Area 7 attend.

Pictured below (L-R) Nathan Ausk, Carolynne Mathis (director), Libby Sternhagen, Jeremy Mattson, Mike Gravley

I asked Carolynne Mathis, and Jeremy Mattson from Concordia Moorhead to answer a few questions about the event. Carolynne's responses are first, followed by Jeremy.

College Ring-In Questions from Carolynne Mathis:

Q: What led you to the repertoire list you chose for the program this year?

Carolynne: I was looking for a balance between recent compositions and older ones, a balance between men and women composers, and a variety of styles of music. I also wanted pieces that would help the students grow musically and technically. When I heard *Spires* by Matthew Compton for the first time at last summer's National Seminar, I knew I wanted to use it for the College Ring-in. I felt the same about *Novus* (Jason Krug) the first time I heard it. Neither were yet in print, so I contacted the publishers and they both agreed to get the pieces out in time for the college students to purchase them in the fall. Older compositions I chose were *Valse les Adieux* (Karen Buckwalter), *Resonances* and *Alleluias* (Cathy Moklebust) and *Fantasy No. 3 in G minor* (Arnold Sherman), all musically and technically challenging. I also wanted to make sure to include a Christmas piece and a pop piece, so I added *Fly Me to the Moon* (Ron Mallory) and *Riu Riu Chiu* (Sondra Tucker). This past summer I was privileged to go to the International Handbell Symposium in Cairns, Australia and ring with people from around the world under the direction of conductors from the nine countries in the international organization. The newest member is Singapore, and the piece they chose was by the composer Damien Lim (*Bunga Sayang*, subtitled *My Lovely Flower*). I chose that piece to add to the repertoire because I loved that it used two choirs, one ringing bells and the other handchimes, and it had several percussion instruments and flute. I wanted the ringers to have an understanding that handbells are known and appreciated by more people than those here in the United States, that music can unite us regardless of our country or language, and that they could have the opportunity sometime in the future to attend such an event.

Q: Did anything surprise you at this event?

Carolynne: When I was choosing music, I was told to choose difficult music, which I did. In the past the experience had been that advanced ringers came to this event. This year half of the ringers came from a community college, where the longest any ringer had rung was 2 years and most a year or less, so my repertoire choices were pretty challenging. I also (naively) thought the ringers would come more prepared than they did. I had sent out rehearsal notes, that few had looked at, and links to recording of all the music, which they hadn't listened to. So, the first day (Sunday afternoon/evening) was rougher than I had anticipated. But they were college kids, who I know from experience with my own group, don't always read rehearsal notes or listen to recordings of the repertoire they're doing. But by Monday morning they were on board and making significant improvement with all the pieces at each rehearsal session. Technique improved, ability to execute tricky rhythms improved, dynamic range grew, and musicality grew.

3. What was the experience like directing college ring in?

It was an amazing experience. I love working with college age students. I love that they can accept a challenge and run with it. I love that these students, even when tired, hung in there with the long rehearsals and long days. I loved watching new friendships developing and, as they got to know each other better, seeing the ensemble gel. It became a real group effort for all of us.

4. What was a major highlight from college ring in?

I would say watching the rapid development of the players and the pieces from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday night. It was miraculous. The final concert was so fun to conduct, sharing with these 30 young people the result of a lot of our hard work and celebrating together the gift of making music.

5. What would you tell our Area 7 college ringers about this event to encourage them to attend future ring-in's?

The experience is so amazing for all who participate that it is worth losing a few days of Christmas break to be a part of it. Next year it's in Houston, Texas and it's warm there in January! I can assure them that they will have no regrets about attending. It's a mountain top experience for ringers and directors alike.

College Ring-In Questions from Jeremy:

1) What college do you attend and what are you studying?

Jeremy: Concordia College - Moorhead, Instrumental Music Education

2) What led you to attend College Ring-In?

Jeremy: I attended the College Ring-in to give myself a new challenge and improve my ringing ability.

3) What was a highlight for you from this 3 day event?

Jeremy: One of my favorite highlights was when the treble ringers would all look at each other during the shakes at the end of "Resonances and Alleluias."

4) Did anything surprise you at all?

Jeremy: I was surprised by how much time we spent rehearsing over just 3 days. My feet were hurting by the end!

5) What was your favorite piece you performed?

Jeremy: My favorite piece was "Fantasy in G Minor" by Arnold Sherman.

6) What was the most challenging thing about this event? i.e. preparation, music level etc.

Jeremy: The most challenging thing for me was figuring out how to work with musicians I had just met. I had been so used to the way members of my own bell choir played, and figuring out the norms of new people took some time.

7) What would you tell other Area 7 college ringers about this event and why they should attend?

Jeremy: I would tell them that this was a great time with lots of ringing, plenty of social time, and opportunities to add new connections in the handbell community.



Area 7

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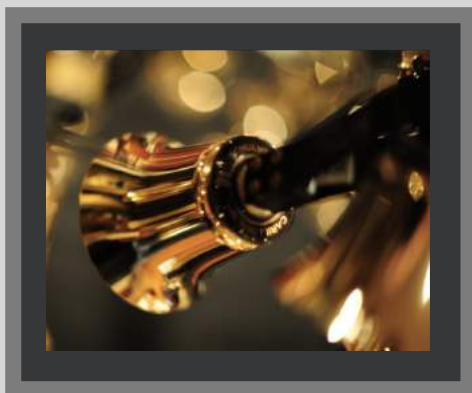
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