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# Ringers' Roundtable

*The Newsletter of  
the Manitoba Guild of  
English Handbell Ringers  
Volume 23 • Issue 1  
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## OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> WORKSHOP GIVEN BY MONICA S. MCGOWAN

Twenty members of the Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers attended the all-day workshop at Faith Lutheran Church in the St. Vital area of Winnipeg on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Our guest clinician was Monica S. McGowan of Custer, South Dakota.



**Monica S. McGowan** took her music education background – Bachelor of Science, Music Education, Chadron State College, Nebraska – and found her life's passion in handbells. She is the consummate handbell musician: accomplished ringer, seasoned director, internationally recognized clinician and Master Technician. During her tenure as the founding Artistic and Music Director of Twin Cities Bronze, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, she led the ensemble to recognition as an internationally acclaimed handbell ensemble known for its professional musical artistry. In 2017, Monica was named the Artistic and Music Director for Bells of the Hills in Rapid City, South Dakota.

As the Handbell Coordinator for the International Music Camp Summer School of Fine Arts held at the International Peace Gardens, she serves as faculty for Handbell Week and Handbells at Adult Camp. She opened her business, *Ringling Restorations*, in January 2004 and through her work in the repair, maintenance and refurbishment of handbells and handchimes, has achieved the title of distinction: Master Technician.

Monica brought her extensive training, passion, love, enthusiasm and knowledge for handbells and handchimes by providing a challenging, successful and fun experience for our participants.

## SESSION ONE: Situational Awareness

To be aware of all that is around you, mindful of elements as they relate to time and space, factors that allow the team to function effectively and how one's own actions impact results are descriptors in the definition of "situational awareness." As handbell musicians, whether director or ringer, mastering situational awareness can minimize "human error," allow one to take in more information, master complex tasks and help you and the team "function" more effectively. Discover the OODA Loop (**O**bserve, **O**rient, **D**ecide, **A**ct), Condition Yellow (Relaxed Alert), Focus Lock and Reticular Activating System were explored in great detail. By discovering the tools in "situational awareness" that will help you become a more successful handbell musician.



Patsy Andrews-Vert introducing Monica McGowan to the Manitoba handbell ringers



During the lunch break interesting discussions ensued among all participants

The Annual General Meeting commenced during the desert time where Minutes were read from the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 AGM. Business Arising from those Minutes brought up two areas of concern. For each choir membership it was requested that a second name with contact information be provided membership registrations. Most choirs have provided this information, although a few more are needed. Kindly send the name of a second contact person in your group to the Membership-Treasurer.

We were reminded to be mindful of registration dates i.e. September 1<sup>st</sup> for membership. Also it was recommended that for future workshop sessions, there be an Early Bird registration deadline at a reduced cost and that registering after that deadline date, an additional fee will be added.

**New Business:** Anyone being given an Honorary Life Membership in the MBGEHR means that an annual individual membership will be complimentary during the lifetime of the recipient.

Reports:

**President's Report by Patsy Andrews-Vert**

Another year has passed again. We are so fortunate in Manitoba to be able to receive monthly email updates and Newsletters. Thanks to Morna-June Morrow for her dedication to this project. This is our provincial connection to one another and our lifeline if we have questions or concerns about our bells and/or music to use with the bells.

We now have, the *Audrey Jones Memorial Library* in our collection for the membership to use and borrow from. Thank you to Morna-June for cataloguing and housing this collection. Please contact Morna-June to use this library collection.

April 28, 2018 was our annual Spring Ring held at Sturgeon Creek United Church. We had 4 choirs, 1 quartet and the massed ringing team. This is a wonderful event of sharing and socializing. We ended the day off with our usual massed ring conducted by Susan Stevenson and Klaus Froese. A great display of our Manitoba team work!!

This year we also commissioned Craig Cassils to arrange 10 Canadian Folk Songs for Handbells. Morna-June Morrow and I helped with the editing and some of our gracious ringers also were able to help in the initial ringing of these folk songs and also gave some suggestions. I then presented these Folk Songs in the Canadian Cultural workshop in Cairns, Australia. The arrangements were met with much enthusiasm and teams around the world are now awaiting their publication. We will start to work on the publication very soon so that everyone will be able to have access to these bright new arrangements.

We are pleased to have our friend, Monica McGowan, with us today to lead our Fall Workshop. Thank you to Monica for agreeing to come and spend the weekend in chilly Manitoba.

The next big thing on everyone's list will be the Christmas season. Stop to enjoy the sights and sounds as we continue to bring Joy to others!

**Membership-Treasurer's Report by Morna-June Morrow****MEMBERSHIP-TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 4, 2018**

BALANCE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017 **\$5256.12**

**REVENUE**

Nov. 6, 2017	Market Sales for Trinity Lutheran Church Choir	161.50
Nov. 7, 2017	3 Choir Memberships: Good Neighbours, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Trinity Lutheran (Starbuck) and 1 Individual	140.00
Nov. 17, 2017	Karen Kuhl membership & CMU Market Sales	45.00
Nov. 30, 2017	Market Sales for Elvira Hamm, McGregor	26.50
Nov. 30, 2017	Interest	.04
Dec. 5, 2017	Choir Membership: Minnedosa United Church	40.00
Dec. 31, 2017	Interest	.05
Jan. 31, 2018	Interest	.05
Feb. 28, 2018	Interest	.04
Mar. 31, 2018	Interest	.03
Apr. 30, 2018	Interest	.03
May 7, 2018	Donations at Spring Ring	267.70
May 31, 2018	Interest	.04
June 8, 2018	Market Sales: Clifton School	221.00
June 8, 2018	Market Sales: First Presbyterian Church, Brandon	93.00
June 30, 2018	Interest	.05
July 31, 2018	Interest	.03
Aug. 23, 2018	Choir Membership A 'Cabella, Brandon	40.00
Aug. 31, 2018	Interest	.01
Sept. 14, 2018	Choir Membership and Market Sales: Trinity Lutheran, Starbuck	134.00
Sept. 30, 2018	Interest	.01
Oct. 1, 2018	Deposit memberships and workshop fees	509.00
Oct. 4, 2018	Deposit memberships, workshop fee & donation	240.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$1918.08</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Nov. 6, 2017	Cheque #60 Morna-June Morrow for postage, name labels and business membership cards	58.12
Nov. 6, 2017	Cheques #61 Morna-June Morrow for Xeroxing AGM reports and workshop handouts	23.81
Nov. 22, 2017	Cheque #62 Patsy Andrews-Vert for Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup> refreshments	9.44
Feb. 28, 2018	Cheque #63 M-J Morrow for supplies ordered from USA	119.50
Mar. 31, 2018	Cheque #64 Patsy Andrews-Vert for supplies picked up in USA	103.28
Apr. 23, 2018	Cheque #65 Alzheimer Society of Manitoba in memory of Audrey Jones	75.00
June 8, 2018	Cheque #66 Sturgeon Creek United Church for Spring Ring	200.00
July 12, 2018	Cheque #67 Craig Cassils for commissioned 10 Folksongs	500.00
Oct. 4, 2018	Cheque #68 Morna-June Morrow for supplies ordered from USA	124.80

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS** **\$1213.95**

**Balance Nov.2, 2017 was \$5256.12 + Revenue of \$1918.08 = \$7174.20**

**Disbursements of \$1213.95 leaves balance of \$5960.25 prior to Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> workshop expenses**

**MEMBERSHIP LIST FOR 2018-2019 AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2018**

**CHOIRS**      A' Cabella, First Presbyterian Handbell Choir, Brandon (Karen Wall)  
                 Bells of Praise, Trinity Lutheran, Thalberg (Gloria Zirk)  
                 Broadway-First Baptist Handbell Choir, Winnipeg (Susan Stevenson)  
                 Good Neighbours Handbell Choir, Winnipeg (Klaus Froese)  
                 Jubellation (Faith Lutheran), Winnipeg (Sandra Brown Day)  
                 Red River Valley Junior Academy Handbells (Rubylyn Tagarao)  
                 Rochester Ringers, Winnipeg (Stuart Sladden)  
                 St. Andrew's River Heights Handbell Choir, Winnipeg (Carolyn Lutes)  
                 United Church Chimers, Winnipeg (c/o Margaret Granger)  
                 Trinity Lutheran Handbell Choir, Starbuck (Patsy Andrews-Vert)

**INDIVIDUALS**      Tracey Wright, Winnipeg  
                 Karen Kuhl, Winkler

**HONORARY LIFE**      *Audrey Jones, Winnipeg (deceased)*  
                 Fred Merrett, Edmonton  
                 Morna-June Morrow, Winnipeg

**Editor's Report:** Five *Ringers' Roundtable* newsletters and several Monthly Updates were sent out in 2017-2018.

**Archivist's Report:** Archival material is collected for a period of two years prior to being taken to the Manitoba Provincial Archives.

**Website Report:** Tracey Wright was unable to be present to give a report. Kathryn Giesbrecht of Brandon, offered to assist Tracey with the website design and information.

**Guild Store:** Gloves, polish, Sunshine polishing cloths and easel-backed binders are available for purchase. Contact [m-jmorrow@shaw.ca](mailto:m-jmorrow@shaw.ca)

**Other Business:** The MBGEHR is looking for a host for the annual Spring Ring Concert. The date is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please check out if you have a venue where this event could take place.

**Handbell Guilds of Canada Report was given by National Chair, Patsy Andrews-Vert**

The Handbell Guilds of Canada has been continuously working on the new Governance Documents. I can tell you that we have passed 2 government hurdles and are now working on the third one. This has been a 10+ year project, but we are feeling some satisfaction finally. There will be more information out once we complete the government requirements.

This past summer was the International Handbell Symposium in Cairns, Australia. There were about 450 registered in the 3 strands at the festival, with 301 being registered for the actual symposium. Australia held the inaugural International Handchime Festival and a Youth Symposium as well. The level of playing was again amazing and the symposium was very well organized and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in attendance. There were 14 ringers from Canada as well as 2 non-ringing delegates. My husband Ron Vert and I represented Manitoba in the Canadian delegation. You may watch the final concert on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDd-IHlcBHU>. The Canadian Team is second from the back on the left hand side of the ringing room.

While in Cairns, I had the privilege of being able to nominate and present, on behalf of the Handbell Guilds of Canada and then the International Handbell Committee, the International Handbell Laureate Award to Carmel Daveson from the Handbell Society of Australasia. This was an honour for Canada and very humbling for the very deserving Carmel Daveson.

Ringling in Australia and snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef and the Coral Sea was an exciting adventure. What an opportunity I have been afforded by this love of Handbell Ringing.

#### **Other Announcements:**

The Rochester Ringers under the direction of Stuart Sladden and Broadway-First Baptist Handbells under the direction of Susan Stevenson will present a joint Christmas Concert at Broadway-First Baptist Church on Saturday evening, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Watch for details in upcoming MBGEHR Monthly Updates.

Monica McGowan announced the dates of the 2019 Summer School of Fine Arts at the International Peace Gardens on the border between Manitoba and North Dakota. The fourth session will take place from July 7-13 while the Adult only handbell camp will take place at the seventh session July 27-30. For further information contact Brent at [brent@internationalmusiccamp.com](mailto:brent@internationalmusiccamp.com) or phone (204) 269-8468.

**Adjournment:** 1:27 p.m. Shortly afterwards, the afternoon session began.

#### **SESSION TWO: Annotations and Articulations**

Handbells, by their nature, are a percussive as well as a melodic instrument. To bridge these percussive and melodic components, a variety of techniques have been invented and modified over the years. As in all techniques with any musical instrument, there are correct and safe ways in which to execute them. Methods, when taught without regard to cause and effect or carelessly executed, can damage not only the “instrument” but the individual as well. The standardized symbols, created by the Handbell Musicians of America and adopted by the music publishers was given in the handout. The execution of stopped techniques and other articulations were demonstrated, with consideration given to the manufacturers’ recommendations. Class participants discovered the “secrets” to attain successful responses and consistent sounds for articulations found in today’s repertoire. Hand chimes were also discussed briefly.





Judging from comments made by the participants, everyone agreed that they learned so much from the many aspects of Monica's workshop offerings. Thank you, Monica, for your gainful insight into the fascinating world of handbell ringing from your Friendly Manitoba neighbours north of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel!

## **19TH INTERNATIONAL HANDBELL SYMPOSIUM COMPOSITION CONTEST**



**NATIONAL CHAIR, HGC**  
**Patsy Andrews-Vert**  
 Box 29  
 Starbuck MB  
 R0G 2P0

patavert@mynetset.ca

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**National Executive**

Chair: Patsy Andrews-Vert, Manitoba  
 Past Chair: Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, Alberta  
 Chair-Elect: TBA  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Tracey Wright, Manitoba

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Provincial Guild Representatives**

*Guild Presidents*  
 Gail Haeussler, British Columbia  
 Anne Hergott, Alberta  
 Susan Stevenson, Manitoba  
 Ontario Representative Ontario – on hiatus  
*Members at Large*  
 Chena LeGresley, British Columbia  
 Fiona Miller, Alberta  
 Ontario Representative, Ontario – on hiatus  
*IHS 2016 Liaison*  
 Anne Hill, British Columbia

**PURPOSE:** To promote the composition and arrangement of music for handbells by Canadians, and in the process select the Canadian piece of handbell music which will be used as the Canadian Massed Ringing item at the 19<sup>th</sup> International Handbell Symposium (IHS) in Hong Kong in 2020.

**PRIZE: A \$1000.00 prize will be awarded to the composer of the successful manuscript.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:** International Handbell Symposia are held every two years, and attract some of the top handbell choirs in the United States, Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, Australasia, Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore. Pieces are chosen from each country, and are rung “en masse” by all participants. The average ringer attendance ranges between 900 and 1200 ringers. Some teams or choirs ring three chromatic octaves of bells which range upwards from the C4, the C below middle C. Most attending choirs ring 5 octaves of bells, which range up from C3, the C two octaves below middle C. Several choirs have the sixth (or even seventh) octave from the G below to the G above that.

## **RULES AND COMPETITION CONDITIONS**

1. Entries must be an **arrangement of Canadian Folk Song(s)** in any style, to be written in the handbell idiom. *It is the sole responsibility of arrangers to obtain written permission from copyright holders or to determine that the Folk Song is in the public domain before proceeding with the writing of the handbell arrangement*
2. Entries must be suitable for massed ringing and useable by 3, 4, 5, and perhaps 6 octave choirs in a single choir setting.
3. Entries must be unpublished and not submitted to another contest or to a publisher for publication during the term of this competition.
4. The composition should be three (3) to five (5) minutes in length.
5. Range of difficulty should be medium to medium-difficult, or level 3 to 4+, according to the HMA rating system. Recognized handbell notation must be used. (The latest issue of Handbell Notation and Grading is available from the Handbell Musicians of America, 1-800-878-5459. Provincial Guilds can also be of service.)
6. Adjudication will be based on the following criteria: 1. Appeal to ringers and audience, 2. Effectiveness as a handbell composition, 3. Suitability for massed ringing, 4. Probability of acceptance for publication and 5. Overall emotional, intellectual and musical impression.
7. Eight copies **without the name of the composer/arranger**, and one copy **with** the name of the composer/arranger must be sent to the Chairman along with the completed and signed entry form. Each copy must be submitted in its own separate envelope. **DO NOT SEND THE ORIGINAL COPY.** All copies will be destroyed at the end of the contest unless the composer wishes them returned at his or her own cost.
8. An electronic file recording may also be sent to [patavert@gmail.com](mailto:patavert@gmail.com) in order to facilitate a listening of the composition.
9. The composer/arranger may enter as many manuscripts as he or she wishes. A separate entry form is required with each manuscript.
10. The composer/arranger's permission is required with their entry for individual judges to duplicate a manuscript solely for the purpose of sight reading with a handbell choir for adjudication purposes. After such single reading, the copies will be immediately destroyed. Without such permission, adjudication will be based purely on the manuscript.
11. The Handbell Guilds of Canada reserve the right to guide the successful winners towards timely publication of the manuscript.
12. Entrants must be Canadian citizens.



13. Entries must be received no later than midnight **February 15, 2019**. Please send to:  
Patsy Andrews-Vert, Chair  
Handbell Guilds of Canada  
Handbell Composition Competition  
Box 29, Starbuck, Manitoba, R0G 2P0  
Entrants to the contest may expect to be informed of the outcome by April 22, 2019.

***THE HANDBELL GUILDS OF CANADA RESERVE THE RIGHT NOT TO DECLARE A WINNER.***

***THE DECISION OF THE ADJUDICATION PANEL IS FINAL.***

### **CANADIAN MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION BUILDERS AWARD**

During the Manitoba Music Educators Association TEMPO provincial music workshops on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Mennonite Brethren Collegiate in Elmwood, MMEA President Karen Tole-Henderson presented the Canadian Music Educators Association Builders Award for 2018 to Morna-June Morrow in honour of her 55 year career as a music educator. Following is the speech Karen gave during the presentation.

**MORNA - JUNE MORROW**  
ARCT, AMM, B.Mus., B.Ed., M.Ed, Orff Cert.

A retired music specialist/supervisor in the public school system, Morna-June Morrow has directed vocal and handbell choirs, recorder and Orff groups, accompanied many choirs, and adjudicated music festivals across western Canada. She served on MMEA Executives in several positions from 1963-1976 including Editor of the *Manitoba Music Educator* and a contributing editor to CMEA; has written historical documents on the Wednesday Morning Musicales, the Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers, and co-authored two books for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carl Orff Canada's Music for Children, *Musique pour enfants* in 2014.

She was Music Supervisor in Fort Garry School Division in the 1970's and was Founding President of the Manitoba Orff Chapter in 1975, and served as National Carl Orff Canada President. In 1985 she presented a paper on the history of "*Orff-Schulwerk in Canada*" at the International Orff Symposium in Salzburg, Austria. Morna-June was the first music educator in western Canada to receive an Honorary Life Membership in Carl Orff Canada in 1994. She was nominated for the *Canadian College of Teachers Encyclopedia Britannica Award* in 1982, the *Manitoba Lieutenant-Governor's Elementary Classroom Teacher Award* in 1996 and the *YWCA Women of Distinction Award* in 2006. Upon her retirement 20 years ago, the Manitoba Orff Chapter established the "*Morna-June Morrow Award for Excellence in Music Education in Manitoba*".

M-J served as President of several music organizations including that as President of the Winnipeg Music Festival Board of Directors and National Chair of the Handbell Guilds of Canada. In 2000 she was the Canadian conductor at the International Handbell Symposium in Birmingham, England, where she conducted 800 bell ringers from ten countries on four continents. Morna-June was the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals 2013 National Volunteer of the Year in Manitoba.

Heavily involved with handbell ringing for the past 49 years, M-J served as an international conductor at massed ringing conferences and as a workshop clinician in England, Minnesota, North Dakota and all across Canada. She is an Honorary Life Member of the Handbell Musicians of America Area VII and the Manitoba Guild of English

Handbell Ringers. Morna-June currently serves as Archivist, Editor and Membership-Treasurer of the Manitoba Handbell Guild and rings in five handbell ensembles. But retirement is not a word she has yet found meaning for, as tomorrow she will become Vice President at the AGM of the *Associated Manitoba Arts Festivals*.

It gives me great pleasure as President of MMEA to announce that the Manitoba Music Educators Association nominated Morna-June Morrow for the Canadian Music Educators National Builders Award for 2018 in honour of her 55 years as a dedicated music educator in our province, across Canada and internationally. Congratulations!



Karen Tole-Henderson, MMEA President presents Morna-June Morrow with the Canadian Music Educators Association Builders Award for 2018



# HAPPY HALLOWEEN!