

Message From the Chair

by Anita Fraundorf



Members of Area 7, I want you to know that you have an excellent Board working on your behalf; people who are "dedicated to advancing the musical art of handbell/handchime ringing through education, community, and communication." Having had the experience of working with 17 Board members at the 2022 Festival Conference, I re-

affirmed my belief that these people are the embodiment of this mission statement of Handbell Musicians of America. Area 7 is in excellent hands!

Even the most excellent Board must experience change, and that will happen this fall. The terms of three current Board members will end on September 30: Denean Smith (Secretary), Lee Afdahl (Past Chair), and Monica McGowan (South Dakota Sub Area Chair). We are grateful for their dedication to Area 7 and the uniting of people through our musical art. While their service on the Board is ending, we know that we will meet again along the journey.

Endings also have beginnings. While this is the last time I will write a "Message From the Chair," you haven't seen the last of me. On October 1, I will transition into the position of Past Chair, Jennifer Cadwell will become Chair, and Paul MacKenzie will serve as Chair Elect. We will also welcome Diane LaFontaine as Secretary and renew our support for Sally Sterk, re-elected to the position of Treasurer.

Continuing the journey with you, ~Anita

If you are interested in advertising in Clapper Chatter, we have a variety of plans that could fit your needs. There is a 15% discount to those advertisers paying in advance for an entire year (four editions).

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If you would like to know more or have questions, please contact Bill Alexander at

editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org

2022 Festival in Review

After a four-year hiatus, the Area 7 Festival Conference returned, held in the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC), June 10-12, 2022. We were fortunate to retain the clinicians, Bill Alexander, Cathy Moklebust, and Karen Van Wert, as well as many of the instructors and classes that had been scheduled for 2020.

While there were not as many registrants as in previous Festivals, 173 people attended the event from all four of the Area 7 states plus Colorado (1), Iowa (9), Illinois (4), and Michigan (2). Seventeen Board members and the three clinicians rounded out the participant list. With the smaller numbers, the DECC became a more intimate setting with the ringing floor, classrooms, HIC, and registration/help desk in close proximity.

The inaugural pre-Festival offering, "Beer and Bells" at Hoops Brewing Co, was a sell-out event! Adam and Brian, representatives from the Twin Cities Beer Choir, led everyone in singing, ringing chimes, and some audience participation shenanigans. The highlight of the evening was the premier of Cathy Moklebust's original composition "Bells and Beer." written specifically for this event.

As a registration option, participants were able to select an additional ringing opportunity, either Conference Choir, under the direction of Karen Van Wert, or the select Bronze+ Choir, led by Cathy Moklebust. The Conference Choir premiered "Built on the Rock" (Kevin McChesney). This commissioned piece (with optional bell tree) was written in honor of Karen Van Wert's leadership of Area 7 as Chair from 2016-2018.

Area 7 began a service project component as part of



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www.heitzhandbells.com heitzhandbells@yahoo.com its sponsored events at the 2012 Festival Conference when Duluth (site of that year's festival) experienced a 500-year flood event just days prior to the opening bell of the conference. "A Helping Hand From Handbells" has continued to boost the programs of non-profits in our event cities ever since. This year the Duluth CHUM Food Shelf was the recipient of 76 pounds of food and \$757, which translates into \$3,028 worth of purchasing power.

The closing concert on Sunday had the DECC staff scrambling for more chairs to seat the concert crowd. The appreciative audience learned that the participants could ring AND sing ("Gaudete" and "Acclamation on Azmon"). We recognized former Chair Darcy Reich's leadership when ringing "Sojourner's Prayer," the piece commissioned in her honor.

The Festival's success would not be possible without the dedication and support of our clinicians, Area 7 Board and other volunteers, plus the ringers and directors who prepared the music in advance so that rehearsal time could be most effective. We gratefully appreciate the many donations for the Silent Auction, which raised \$1,350, as well as the numerous donors and sponsors who responded to our requests for financial support. Here's to La Crosse in 2024!

Special Thank You To:

- Festival clinicians: Bill Alexander, Cathy Moklebust, and Karen Van Wert
- Area 7 Board members (and friends)
- Strikepoint
- Additional musicians
- Organizations who loaned bells and equipment
- Ringers, their directors, and their families
- Heitz Handbells and Music (Carol Scheel)
- Handbell Services
 (David and Susan Berry)
- Jeffers Handbell Supply
- Raleigh Ringers
- Beer Choir leaders
- Hoops Brewing Company
- NorthShore Railroad
- DECC facility, staff, and catering
- Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra
- Visit Duluth
- Holiday Inn-Downtown
- Inn on Lake Superior
- Suites at Waterfront
- Donors and sponsors
- Silent Auction contributors



Area 7 Donors and Sponsors

Contributor Level: \$100-\$249

- Lee Afdahl
- Marlys Herring: *In Appreciation of her bell choir*
- Joyce Laidlaw
- Trevor Lee: In Memory of Ardis Lee
- DeeDee Odell: *In Honor of the Homestead Chimers, Rochester, MN*
- Denean Smith: *In Memory of Pam Wall*
- Strikepoint: In Memory of Cindy Alexander

Patron Level: \$250-\$499

- Bill Alexander: *In Memory of Cindy Alexander*
- Sally Sterk
- · Alanna Teragawa
- Jessica Westgard Larson

Ringing Endorsement Level: \$500 and above

- Jennifer Cadwell: *In Honor of ringing together in person again!*
- Anita Fraundorf: *In Appreciation of the Area 7 Board and all the Area 7 members*
- Darcy Reich: *In Appreciation of my Area 7 friends from the past 35 years*
- Sally Rix: In Memory of Kim Fenske

Major Sponsorships:

• Anonymous \$1,500, 2022 Festival Conference Strikepoint Concert: *In Honor of Bill Alexander and in Memory of Cindy Alexander*

Deadline for the Next Issue is October 1

Look for the Manitoba Guild's newsletter

<u>Ringers' Roundtable</u>

on our website

From the Twin Cities **Sub-Area Chair**

by Jennifer Jewell

Transitioning From Ringer to Director and Back to Ringer

I have been involved in ringing in one form or the other for most of the last 45 years, the last 21 years as a director, and sometimes directing while ringing. This past January I resigned my director position and switched church membership.

My new church is South Shore Trinity Lutheran in White Bear Lake, MN. They have an active bell choir called Vesper Bells, under the direction of Sharon Calhoun. I was immediately welcomed into the choir and enjoy ringing with them. As I was thinking about what to write for this issue of the Clapper Chatter, I

thought about the process of moving from ringer to director or from director to ringer.

I am not a professional musician—I played piano and trumpet when a kid and started bells in the 7th grade. I loved playing bells from the beginning. When I started directing in Stillwater, the church had just purchased bells and needed a director. I said sure, I have been ringing long enough that I should be able to direct. I really didn't know or understand what I was getting into. I look back on those first few years and now understand how much I didn't know. But I spent time learning; I went to Area 7 director seminars and AGHER (now Handbell Musicians of America) director seminars and learned as much as I could. I am one of those people that learns best from doing and even more from failing. The first year, none of the ringers in the choir had ever rung bells, so I had to teach them how. A few years into directing I had a choir where half the ringers were more qualified to direct then I was at the time. However, they were willing to help and teach me what I didn't know.



The most important thing I learned as a director was to see and hear the whole piece of music, not just my part. Most beginner ringers only see their part, and maybe that of the person standing next to them. After I started to direct, I really started to hear and see the whole piece, which made me a better ringer. However, while directing at the same time as ringing I sometimes forget to ring my part because I am listening to the other parts (most of the time this happens during rehearsal, not while playing during a service).

In January I started to ring in Vesper Bells and I love just ringing. Yes, I hear the whole piece, which makes it possible for me to match the musicality of the other ringers in the choir. I try not to talk while Sharon is giving the choir instructions. What I have to keep reminding myself of as a ringer is that I am not the director. I try only to give input when asked or when the whole group is discussing a part of the music.

Thinking over these experiences, I would recommend that directors allow their ringers to direct a piece of music, even if it is just in rehearsal. Not all ringers will be willing to do this, but if you have ringers that you think could direct or show some interest in directing, let them try it out.

If you're a ringer or director, and you are presented with the opportunity to try something new, like directing, try it! If you always do the same thing, you will always get the same results. Saying yes to directing in 2000 forced me to grow as a person (leading a group was not a strong skill for me at the time) and as a musician. Remember that Handbell of Musicians of America offers seminars, workshops, and other opportunities to improve your skills, or to try new ones.



CHIME Grant Report

by recipient Dr. Katie Moss

On behalf of the students and congregants of St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Corcoran, MN, I sincerely thank Area 7 for the use of its Committee for Handbells/Handchimes In Music Education (CHIME) grant during the 2021-2022 school year. The handbells have truly enriched our school and church music programs, and we are very excited about the future use of handbells in our worship and educational life.

In August we offered a handbell class as an elective to the seventh and eighth grade students at our parochial school. Prior to this year, all students were required to be in a choir class. Eleven students chose the handbell elective, and this class met twice weekly for 45 minutes.

This elective was a wonderful addition to our music program. I noticed a vast improvement in student behavior and investment compared to when these same students were in a non-elective choir class. The students were always working and pushing to get pieces ready to play in front of



others. They held each other accountable when a student was unfocused or was repeating a mistake. Some of them are now advocating to re-start the handbell choir at the Lutheran high school they will attend in the fall. I even found out two of them started a handbell podcast!

I am incredibly proud of the musical results our handbell class achieved. Despite the situation with COVID-19 early in the school year, we were able to play for our school community during Friday morning chapel four times. We also performed two pieces in our Christmas Concert in December. The culmination



Servincer FOR RINGERS AND DIRECTORS

Get back into the RING of things!

August 27th, 2022 8am to 4pm Hennepin Avenue UMC 511 Groveland Ave, Mpls

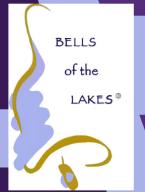
Handbell ringers and directors are invited to take classes to learn new skills, brush up on technique, and socialize with friends and peers.
Classes are taught by Bells of the Lakes members, as well as a few guest teachers.

Use these coupon
codes to save!
\$50 registration with code:
EARLYBIRD22

STUDENT**

\$20 student registration with code: EARLYSTUDENT

*Codes expire Aug 7th **Students must show a valid student ID



REGISTER NOW! bellsofthelakes.org

*\$50 if registered by Aug 7th, \$75 after **\$20 before Aug 7th, \$25 after of our work was performing two Level II pieces at our Spring Variety Show at the beginning of May: "Larghetto in D Minor" by Michael Mazzatenta and "Challenge March" by Kirsty Mitchell.



In addition to the use of handbells in our school, we were also able to invite congregation members to ring during the month of May. Ten individuals, including three students from the school, gathered on Wednesday evenings to prepare to ring for Pentecost Sunday (June 5). We rang a prelude and an anthem and accompanied the choir on three verses of the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* (Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest). Many congregation members commented on how refreshing it was to see a variety of people working together to create music—men, women, young, and old!

We are thrilled to share that this summer we will be purchasing our own set of Schulmerich handbells for use at St. John's Lutheran Church and School. We are looking forward to the regular use of

these instruments in our school and church music programs. The enthusiasm of our congregation and musicians for handbells would not have been possible without the C.H.I.M.E. grant—our sincere thanks for this opportunity!

In Christ, *Dr. Katie Moss*Kantor, St. John's Lutheran Church and School

2022 Election Results Congratulations to

Chair Elect: Paul MacKenzie Secretary: Diane LaFontaine Treasurer: Sally Sterk

These Board members begin their two-year term on October 1, 2022.



Paul

Diane



ie Sally

For Sale

MALMARK HANDBELLS, CHIMES, and ACCESSORIES

\$20,000

USED ONLY BY OWNER FOR SOLO RINGING

Compare to Malmark Concert 5-Octave Package

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Bell Tree Stand

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Charlotte Connelly, iltorrazzo@gmail.com

Upcoming Area 7 Events

ANTHORNIS

The 15th anniversary of this event November 4-5, 2022

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church-Apple Valley, MN

Clinician: Michael Glasgow





Michael is back for the 15th Anniversary. Remember, he's the one who composed the original "Anthornis" composition and created this fun logo.

Repertoire for the event will appear online soon. Mark your calendars now. A typical schedule would look like this:

Friday Nov 4th: *Reading Session* of a variety of fun pieces. **Saturday Nov 5th:** *Rehearsals,* and more rehearsals, of the event repertoire in preparation for the closing concert, which is free and open to the public.

The event repertoire is selected to stretch your ringing skills beyond perhaps your typical church choir. Everyone registers as an individual ringer. Bells and chimes and provided. The registrar will place you in a row based on your ringing position preferences.

More information will be posted online as it becomes available.

KidsRing

November 12, 2022

Messiah Lutheran Church - Mounds View, MN

Clinician: Amy Maakestad





For kids 4th-8th graders—well actually, for any age youth you have in your program

We're still not sure how many churches have or will have started up their youth handbell program, so we want to make this an event to help them also re-start their program. Your

entire youth choir does not have to attend KidsRing, but for those who do, the transformation to "teamwork" is amazing.

The clinician will choose two easy songs that will help teach a variety of techniques. As their director, you would purchase the music for your group, and mark it however you normally do. You will not work on the music beforehand. Instead you will just BRING the music to the event and the clinician will work with them starting from scratch to performance-ready by the end of the day. BONUS: This will give you two songs that are

performance-ready for your congregation.

We would also like to encourage the ringers to share any other type of music they know with the rest of the group. Maybe your group will perform a handbell piece, or maybe a ringer will play a song on the piano or some other instrument. Any bell tree solos or duets?

More details can be found online as they become available.

Young Ringers Camp (Preliminary Information)

June 2023, Date TBD Location TBD in MN or WI Clinician: Jennifer Cadwell



Plans are underway for bringing back the Young Ringers Camp in the summer of 2023. It

is a super fun weekend for 4th-12th graders. You can attend with a partial choir.

An entire air-conditioned and very clean lodge house is ours for the weekend. A typical schedule is:

FRIDAY:

arrive around 1:00PM. Fun get-to-knowyou activities, then rehearsals and games; dinner-provided by the Camp; more games and more rehearsals, campfires, etc.

SATURDAY:

A full day of activities (high ropes, black hole ride, mini golf, gorilla ball, gaga ball, and many more ball games, crafts, service projects, and rehearsals.

Three meals are provided by the camp.

SUNDAY:

After the provided breakfast and final rehearsal, we clean the lodge and get ready for the 11am concert. Parents of campers are welcome to attend the closing concert. Everyone's on their way home by noon.

Watch for more information online as it becomes available.

Fall Start-Up Questions

Are you feeling anxious or apprehensive or unsure about starting up your handbell program this fall?

Area 7 Board members would be happy to help. Don't hesitate to contact one of them. They can answer a quick question for you or talk to you more about other support options. All of this is offered by our volunteer Board Members to members of Handbell Musicians of America. Their names are listed on the ABOUT US page of the website and on the last page of this newsletter.

Area Events Calendar

August 27, 2022 – Seminar for Ringers and
Directors – Clincians: Bells of the Lakes members and
guest teachers – presented by Bells of the Lakes –
Minneapolis, MN

September 24, 2022 – Ready. Set. Ring! – Clinician: Cathy Moklebust – presented by Twin Cities Bronze – Maplewood, MN

November 4-5, 2022 – Anthornis – Clinician: Michael Glasgow – Apple Valley, MN

November 12, 2022 – KidsRing – Clinician: Amy Maakestad - Mounds View, MN

June, 2023 - Young Ringers Camp - Clinician: Jennifer Cadwell - Minnesota or Wisconsin

June 21-23, 2024 – Festival Conference – Clinicians: Sandra Eithun and Alex Guebert – La Crosse, WI

National Events Calendar

July 30 - August 1, 2022 - <u>College Ring-In</u>

July 31 - August 1, 2022 - *National Seminar*

August 1–6, 2022 – *International Handbell Symposium*

August 2–5, 2022 – *International Youth Symposium*

Twin Cities Bronze



Presents

Cathy Moklebust and

Ready. Set. Ring!

Enjoy a day of ringing and fellowship as we explore a wide variety of repertoire from many composers. Review or learn the techniques required for successful performance, strategies for teaching tricky passages, and how to turn the notes on the page into beautiful music.

Saturday, September 24, 2022 8:30am - 3:30pm Path of Grace UMC

759 County Road B East, Maplewood MN 55117 **\$50/person**

Registration is open NOW! www.TwinCitiesBronze.org

Bring your own snacks, beverages, and lunch.
All music and equipment provided.
Heitz Handbells and Music will be there!

Everyone leaves this Workshop a better handbell musician. Come by yourself, bring a few friends, or attend as a complete choir. Don't forget to bring gloves and a standup binder.

Twin Cities Bronze

AUDITIONS

August 28, 2022

auditions@TwinCitiesBronze.org for info

Thank you to all the members who renewed their membership! Please invite others to join and consider adding your ringers for only \$10/year per person. Let's keep our handbell organization strong and vital both now and into the future!

There are many ways to keep up with what Area 7 is doing.

The more you explore, the more you will know.

<u>Click for more</u>.







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2022 Area 7 Festival Duluth, MN Photo Album















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