



Clapper Chatter

Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota • Wisconsin • Manitoba

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Handbell Musicians

O F A M E R I C A



Message from the Chair

by Jennifer Cadwell



I love crisp, cool days; watching the leaves change colors and float to the ground. Fall weather reminds me to stop and enjoy a beautiful day even though rehearsals are calling

my name. November is one of my favorite months because we get a sneak peek into Christmas as each rehearsal moves us into preparing for Advent and Christmas. This year I am thankful to have the return of full handbell rehearsals and ringers who are joining us after a few dormant years. It's exciting to get out all of our equipment when we've been ringing on two octaves or less for much of the past few years. I am thankful to all the composers and arrangers who helped provide us with new music to fit the ever-changing size of our ensemble. Regrowth is the theme for my music program this year. How do we as handbell ringers, directors, and enthusiasts continue to grow our art form and our programming? We all need to reach out and encourage ringers, new and returning. Invite friends to join our rehearsals; fellowship time and treats are important parts of music making too. Attend educational events to get new ideas and spark the joy of ringing handbells and handchimes together.

Area 7 is here to help you and your music program continue to grow and rebuild as we enter into this new season. It was wonderful to see many of you this past summer at the Festival in Duluth. I look forward to seeing some of you at the 15th Anniversary of *Anthornis* and *Kid's Ring* in November. Did you know that Area 7 leadership is happy to help you hold an event? Would groups in your neck of the woods

benefit from a "back to bells" seminar or a reading session? Contact me or your sub-area chair to learn more. My goal is to get as many children, youth, and adults ringing handbells and handchimes in Area 7 as we can. Together we can encourage, educate, and invite others to join us in ringing!

As the seasons change, so does our Area 7 Board. October 2022 marks the beginning of another season of leadership on the Board. We welcome several new friends and welcome back others moving to new positions (shown in bold).

October 2022-September 2023 Board

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We are also incredibly grateful to those who have completed their terms on the Board. We give our heartfelt thanks for all their leadership: Lee Afdahl (past chair), Denean Smith (secretary), Monica McGowan (SD), and Leigh Ann Lethco (WI North).

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).

\$30 for business-card size per edition

\$55 for 1/4 page per edition

\$65 for 1/2 page per edition

\$80 for full page per edition

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

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Because of Handbells...

by Past Chair Anita Fraundorf



At the closing banquet of the International Handbell Symposium, Greig Ashurst, Handbell Musicians of America President-Elect, challenged the assembly to fill in “what comes next” after the statement BECAUSE OF HANDBELLS... Have you heard of this or seen the challenge on Facebook? How would you finish the statement?

There are many answers to that phrase swirling in my head, but let me ask a different way: BECAUSE OF MY MEMBERSHIP IN HMA... Would your answer be the same or similar? As a director or member of a handbell choir, there are people “on my team.” If it’s anything like I’ve been able to experience in my years (Because of Handbells), I am with people who ring, laugh, play, work, support each other, and are a tight-knit community. But it wasn’t until I became a member of Handbell Musicians of America (Because of My Membership), that I realized there are WAY more people “on my team!” Suddenly I have access to people who can answer my questions, who support me (sometimes even LIKE me), and encourage me to try something new. AND! How many people have the opportunity to get up close and personal with the people who are composing and arranging the music we ring? Our very own Handbell Masters alive, well, and approachable.

Sometimes we wonder, “why keep my membership in HMA? What’s in it for me?” My answer to that is “Community.” Even when I don’t participate in Area 7 or national events, I know that I can reach out for help or in friendship. I like knowing that my membership may also be helping someone else find an answer to a question or to find encouragement.

I expect we all are aware of groups or individuals who (I believe) could benefit from a membership in HMA. In the coming year, I am challenging myself to reach out to others and encouraging them to become part of the HMA community. Maybe even pay half of a membership fee for a year or two if that’s what it takes to encourage them to try. I might add another phrase... WHAT AM I WILLING TO DO FOR HANDBELLS...

**Deadline
for the Next Issue of
Clapper Chatter
is January 3**

An Invitation From the Past Chair

During the next two years of my term as Past Chair, I invite each Sub Area (North Dakota, South Dakota, Northern Minnesota, Southern Minnesota, Twin Cities, Northern Wisconsin, and Southern Wisconsin) to host a local event. I am willing to be a sounding board or resource for your thoughts on an instructional workshop or one-day ringing event. Some funds are also available to assist with your local event. Contact me! I’ll help in any way that I can (and I might even show up at your event).

~Anita

Milwaukee Handbell Festival

Sunday, March 26, 2023

Presented by: The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble

Endorsed by HMA
Clinician: Sandra Eithun

Brookfield Conference Center
325 South Moorland Road
Brookfield, WI

Registration is \$69 per ringer (includes dinner). Rehearsals begin at 1:30pm.

7pm Concert is open to the public.

milwaukeehandbells.org/festivals.html



Look for the Manitoba Guild's
newsletter
[*Ringers' Roundtable*](#)
on our website

From the Northern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair

by Denean Smith

Area 7 Represented at 2022 Bay View Event



Bay View Week of Handbells Concert featured two composers and four ringers from Area 7.

Sandra Eithun was selected by the Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award Fund to compose the original handbell work, **"Tales of the Great Water."** (Notes by Sandra Eithun)

"The word 'Michigan' originally referred to the lake itself and is believed to come from the Ojibwe word *michi-gami* meaning 'great water.' The shores of Lake Michigan host the annual Bay View Week of Handbells in Bay View, Michigan. Growing up and spending my entire life on the Wisconsin shores of the Great Water, I decided to make my composition an homage to this beautiful lake and its rich history. This work is composed of three short stories:

"I. Kinship – The Gathering is a tale of friendship conjuring up images of a place where cultures merged and people from all over gathered. Pioneer and Native American families, immigrants, farmers, tradesmen, miners, sailors, trappers, merchants, and thrill seekers hear the call of the flute and drum and come together for a day of celebration on the shore, to share in the common vision of joy and togetherness.

"II. Shoreline Poem is a tale of longing. So many who settled near the shores of the Great Water once had a life in another place, perhaps in a distant land. Standing on these remote shores, they can only imagine that place, or a lost love, a far-away family, another time, or an unfulfilled dream. The ending is bittersweet as the longing is never fulfilled, only replaced by a new chapter that has yet to unfold.

Bring some

STRIKEPOINT

home for the holidays!

Artistic Director Bill Alexander • bill@strikepoint.com • Duluth, Minnesota

"III. Boundless is a tale of sailing. An adventurous romp on the water awaits our hearty sailors in this tale with stories to tell upon their return. It is a happy day on the spirited lake that embarks at dawn and ends with the setting sun."

Music available at choristersguild.org

Sandra directs the Holy Family Conservatory of Music Handbell Ensemble in Manitowoc, Wisconsin; is an active member of the Handbell Musicians of America; and has served on the Area 7 Board of Directors. She has been commissioned to write music for many events and for numerous individual handbell ensembles. She has over 600 pieces for handbells in publication as well as several sacred keyboard books and teaching collections for the incorporation of handbells in the music classroom. She continues to work as a handbell clinician and conductor at numerous festivals and workshops throughout the United States.

Paul Kingsbury arranged the Scott Joplin classic **"The Entertainer"** exclusively for bass bells in the range G1-G5. As a 23-year veteran of Bayview, and with 21 years leading the "Pit Bells" from B3 down, Paul has long wanted the concert to include a feature for the Week of Handbells' lowest bells. The choice of "The Entertainer" was an agreement between Paul and Fred Gramann and is Paul's first piece published for money (available from choraegus.com). The piece is subtitled **"Six Feet Under"** in recognition of the low range (one and a half octaves below Joplin's original) and in recognition that Joplin is probably spinning in his grave. Paul is director of handbells at Christ United Methodist Church in Rochester, MN, and also director and founder of Rochester Area Handbells, where he especially enjoys exploring the tonal colors available to the handbell instrument.

Area 7 ringers participating in this event included

Chris Boswell, Rochester, MN; Paul Kingsbury, Rochester, MN; Monica McGowan, Custer, SD; and Denean Smith, De Pere, WI.

About Bay View: Founded in 1978 by Donald E. Allured, The Bay View Week of Handbells has become



The Musicians for the 2022 Bay View Week of Handbells

a destination for over 100 advanced handbell ringers from throughout the world. Fred Gramann conducts this inspiring event. The intensive five-day event in mid-August takes place in northern Michigan on the picturesque shores of Lake Michigan. Ringers are assigned positions in ten choirs, using sets of handbells and chime instruments ranging from five to eight octaves.



The Raleigh Ringers

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MARCH 4, 2023
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CHURCH
ARDEN HILLS, MN

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ARNOLD SHERMAN

REPERTOIRE

Clarion Call	Joy	Choristers Guild CGB864	2+
Coventry Carol	Burt	Beckenhorst HB445	3
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	Eithun	Choristers Guild 2-3 octaves: CGB1259 3-5 octaves: CGB1260	2
Grazioso	Sherman	Red River RRHB0042	2+
Mfurahini Haleluya	Moklebust	Choristers Guild 2-3 octaves: CGB1210 3-5 octaves: CGB1211	2+

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20th International Handbell Symposium: Out of Many, One

by Past Chair Anita Fraundorf

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, TN,
August 1-6, 2022.

People gathered from around the globe to participate in this biennial event. As one of the members of the eight guilds comprising the International Handbell Committee (IHC), the United States served as host for this Symposium. Other members of the IHC are Japan, Australasia, Korea, Canada, Great Britain, Singapore, and Hong Kong, all of which had participants attending. In addition there were people from Iceland, Puerto Rico, Hungary, and Brazil.



While a variety of workshops were offered over the course of the Symposium, the focus of each day were the rehearsals and preparing nine pieces of music for the closing concert. Each guild selected a conductor, with an additional conductor from the U.S. to round out

the nine: Robin Benton (U.K.), Lisa Kyriakides (Canada), Emily Li (Hong Kong), Damien Lim (Singapore), Ali O'Connell (Australasia), Toshikazu Yoshida (Japan), Jeong Soon Park (Korea), William Payn (U.S.), and Stephanie Rhoades (U.S.). Three of the nine pieces of music were by composers/arrangers from the U.S. (and from Area 7, Lee Afdahl, Sandra Eithun, and Cathy Moglebust!) with the other six selections representing other guilds.



During the banquet and closing ceremony, the participants' interest was piqued for the next International Symposium scheduled for August 12-17, 2024 in Hamamatsu, Japan.



Composer Michael Mazzatenta directed the piece with Karen Van Wert on bell tree. (photos by Jessica Westgard Larson)

Sixteen Area 7 members were in attendance at the Symposium, and as an added highlight, a winner of the 2021 Into the Forest Bell Tree Composition Contest, "*Gladness and Grace*," was performed by a select choir for the Symposium attendees at one of the mini concerts.

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...



Upcoming Area 7 Events

Anthornis

The 15th Anniversary of this event



November 4-5, 2022

Shepherd of the Valley
Lutheran Church - Apple
Valley, Minnesota

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.



Friday November 4: Reading session of a variety of fun pieces.

Saturday November 5: Rehearsals and more rehearsals of the
Event repertoire, in preparation for the **3:30 closing concert,**
which is FREE and open to the public.

Please bring one or more non-perishable food items for the local
food shelf if you're attending either the event or the closing
concert. Thank you!

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 are provided. The registrar
will place you in a row based on your ringing position
preferences.

More information can be found at [area7.handbellmusicians.org/
anthornis-2022](https://area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2022)

KidsRing



November 12, 2022

Messiah Lutheran Church -
Mounds View, Minnesota

Clinician: Amy Maakestad

For kids 4th-8th grade, 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 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 has chosen 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
pieces that are performance-ready for your
congregation.

What to Bring to the Event

Repertoire:

"**Starry Night**" – Austin (2-3 oct -
CGB1069) or (3-5 oct - CGB1235)

"**I'm Gonna Let It Shine**" – Angerman
AP16461 2-3 oct

Equipment:

- Handbells, music notebooks, music
stands (if you use them), foam
- Tables are provided by the host church.

Music to Share

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?

Service Project

The KidsRing attendees will help Messiah
Lutheran (the event host) in supporting
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Fargo, North
Dakota.

The Ranch has about 55 residents 10 to 18
year olds that they house on a regular basis.
**Please bring one or more items from the
list below, to be included in gift bags for
these residents.**

*Socks, mittens, healthy snacks, Find-A-Word
book, crosswords book, art or craft supplies,
puzzles, coloring books, colored pencils,
markers, crayons*

Time permitting, we will also write notes of
encouragement to the students, because
many don't have a supportive family
system to encourage them. Area 7 will
provide supplies for these cards.

Registration: (Deadline is Nov. 5)

More details and the registration link can
be found online at
area7.handbellmusicians.org/kidsring-2022.



About Amy Maakestad:

Amy Maakestad has 40 years of experience ringing handbells and over 25 as conductor. She is recently retired after 10 years of being the Artistic and Music Director of Twin Cities Bronze, an auditioned community handbell ensemble.

Working as a church musician has been a calling for Amy for her entire adult life. She enjoys pulling out all the stops while playing organ, piano, accompanying, directing, and worship planning. She currently serves as Director of Traditional Worship at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview, Minnesota.

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.

In her spare time, she bakes, gardens, reads, enjoys her family, and drinks coffee.

Young Ringers Camp*Preliminary Information*



Date: June 23-25, 2023

**Location: Camp Omega
Waterville, Minnesota**

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.



Repertoire:

Please work on the first three in this list before arriving:

"Zip, Zing, Ring!" – Austin, (2-3oct - HP2921) (3-5oct version – HP2923)

"Grandeur" – Thompson (AG23048 2-3oct)

"All Creatures of Our God and King" – McChesney (2-3oct - CGB1109) (3-5 oct – CGB1110)

Plus a 4th one that will be announced in Spring, 2023, and TAUGHT at camp.

Schedule:

A typical schedule is:

Friday:

Arrive around 1:00pm; fun get-to-know-you activities, then rehearsals and games; dinner provided by the Camp; more games and more rehearsals; campfires, etc. Dinner is provided.

Saturday:

A full day of activities

(swimming pool, mud pit, paddle boat, climbing wall, gorilla ball, gaga ball, and many more ball games), also crafts, service project, and rehearsals.

Three meals are provided by the camp this day.

Sunday:

After the provided breakfast and final rehearsal, we clean the lodge and get ready for the 11am concert.

Parents of campers are encouraged to attend the closing concert. Everyone's on their way home by noon.



Watch for more information online as it becomes available.

area7.handbellmusicians.org/events/young-ringers-camp-2023.

Morna-June Morrow Receives Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award From the Handbell Musicians of Canada



Handbell quartet Ring Out (from left): Patsy Andrews-Vert, Jewel Casselman, Morna-June Morrow, Susan Stevenson. Morrow was recently presented an honorary Lifetime Achievement Award by the Handbell Musicians of Canada. (Photo: John Woods)

Whether teaching others or playing in choirs, Morna-June Morrow has had a handle on handbells since 1969

Ringling Endorsement

by **AV KITCHING**

Reprinted with permission from the Winnipeg Free Press

TWENTY-FIVE handbells, nestled in a box, arrived one cold spring morning in March 1969 at Oakenwald Elementary School, where Morna-June Morrow was teaching.

They had been ordered by the principal, Miss Elsie Dewar, who had seen them in an article and wondered if Morrow would be willing to teach them to the students.

"Sure, I'm game to try anything that is new," Morrow, 79, recalls responding.

Morrow put in a call to Fred Merrett, who was teaching music at Tec-Voc High School. Merrett, assisted by Audrey Jones, had formed the first handbell group in Manitoba in 1966, and Morrow was seeking direction.

"I phoned Mr. Merrett and said, 'I have these bells, what do I do with them?' and then I went over at my lunch hour, and he gave me a 40-minute crash course in these bells," she says.

"There was hardly any music written for handbells at that time. I remember asking Mr. Merrett, 'What do I teach?' and he suggested I take a simple folk song and write my own handbell arrangement.

"That's what I did the first year. Eventually more and more arrangements for full handbell choirs were written, especially by Americans. Mr. Merrett also wrote over 150 handbell arrangements."

Today Morrow is an expert handbell ringer with a long list of awards and accomplishments to her name. Her most recent, an honorary Lifetime Achievement Award, was given to her by the Handbell Musicians of Canada on Sept. 17 for her 53 years serving the handbell community across the country, in the northern U.S., and as the international handbell director at the International Handbell Symposium in Birmingham, England, in 2000. "This is only the second time this award has been presented to a Canadian," Morrow says.

Playing the instrument is a complicated endeavour that requires co-ordination and co-operation. A handbell choir has a conductor who directs individual ringers, with each musician sometimes handling multiples bells during a performance, depending on the piece they are playing.

"They are known as choirs because they imitate the singing of hymns," Morrow explains. "Sometimes they are referred to as teams because it is a team sport, and everyone brings their particular contribution to the overall group.

"Co-ordination, concentration, and commitment are essential, as each bellringer is virtually ringing a solo within an ensemble setting. Rather like a jigsaw sound puzzle, if parts are missing, the picture is incomplete."

Handbells trace their roots to England, in church steeples where large bells, sometimes weighing up to 900 kilograms, would be hanging up high in the belfry. Bellringers often had to endure inclement weather in the open bell towers when they practised. "In around 1660, people came up with the idea for bells that could be held in hands, so that they could practise their bell ringing on smaller bells. When the practising was completed they could pull the heavy steeple bells."

Morrow says in Manitoba there are about three dozen handbell sets in two, three, and four octaves. "They are used in school, church, and community settings in Winnipeg, Brandon, Carmen, Gimli, Lac du Bonnet, MacGregor, Minnedosa, Starbuck, Stead, Steinbach, and Winkler, although in some cases the bells are silent as there is no one to direct the group," Morrow explains.

Morrow is still very active on the scene, playing with three other bellringers as part of a quartet she formed in 2014. Ring Out, composed of Susan Stevenson, Patsy Andrews-Vert, and Jewel Casselman, play at churches, music festivals, and community events.

The group has 49 bells, often using up to 45 of them. They also have a set of 61 handchimes. Each member of the group is highly accomplished, Morrow says.

Andrews-Vert, herself a retired music teacher with a 32-year career, directs the bells at Trinity Lutheran Church in Starbuck.

Casselman, a teacher at Lakewood School, was one of five teachers in Canada to be nominated for a Juno in May, when she was up for Music-Counts Teacher of the Year, an annual award given to an exceptional music educator.

And Stevenson, a retired chemist, is the handbell choir director at Broadway First Baptist Church at the corner of Honeyman Avenue and Walnut Street.

"I am the only member of the quartet that does not have formal music training," Stevenson says with a laugh. She worked at the grain research lab of the Canadian Grain Commission and first started playing handbells in the mid-'70s.

"I always say, 'One of these things is not like the others,'" Stevenson continues. "Whenever I say something during our practice they all look at me and go 'pfttt'."

"We have an absolute blast when we play together," Morrow says. "We laugh a great deal working out particular problems we encounter. Talk about teamwork! Normally in large groups you are responsible for three or four bells, whereas in a quartet you might have a dozen bells you share with your partner next to you. Sometimes have to pass a bell in mid-air for them to play."

"In a quartet you are moving up and down," Stevenson adds. "One piece I may only have four bells to play, but in other pieces I might range over two octaves, so I am

moving. I may range up to get into their space, and sometimes I may range down to get into someone else's space."

"The most I have ever rung as a soloist is 28 bells on 12 feet of table," Morrow says. "And I am panting by the end of the piece as I am constantly moving."

Made from bronze bell-metal casting, each bell sounds a chord of five notes. Strike or fundamental tone (at the lip of the bell) is accompanied by a hum tone sounding an octave lower, with three overtones or harmonics, although the only prominent overtone is that of the 12th (at the waist of the bell), explains Morrow.

"Feeling the vibration of each bell absolutely reverberates my soul," she shares. "I love the bells for the discipline required and the many techniques that have evolved over the decades. When I started, there were four ways of creating a sound on a handbell. Now there are close to 30 ways. Fascinating."

"For me it's about being part of a group," Stevenson says. "When you play handbells, you have a limited number of notes, but you are part of a larger choir and you are putting together a cohesive piece. "It's a challenge—it's what makes me keep coming back to this."

av.kitching@winnipegfreepress.com



Handbell Musicians of Canada Lifetime Achievement Award presented September 17, 2022, along with a Malmark bell from friends and colleagues of the Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers

Area Events Calendar

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

Bring non-perishable food item(s).

November 5, 2022 3:30PM – Anthornis Closing Concert

Open and free to the public. Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 12650
Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, MN, Door #3.

Bring non-perishable food item(s).

November 12, 2022 – KidsRing

Clinician: Amy Maakestad – Messiah Lutheran Church, 2848 County Rd H2,
Mounds View, MN

Event: 9am–3pm. Closing Concert: 3pm

June, 23–25, 2023 – Young Ringers Camp

Clinician: Jennifer Cadwell – Camp Omega, Waterville, MN

June 21-23, 2024 – Festival Conference

Clinicians: Sandra Eithun and Alex Guebert – La Crosse, WI

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