



Area 7

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

Clapper Chatter

Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota • Wisconsin • Manitoba

Volume 37 • Issue 3 • August 2023



Message from the Chair

by Jennifer Cadwell



August is a busy month! We're enjoying the end of summer while also getting ready for school to start and weekly programming to ramp up again. The good news is there is time for relaxing by the lake and hanging out with family while still being able to get organized for a new season of ringing!

Goal setting is a big part of my August. I love planning out my calendar, and that includes handbells. Is there a particular piece of music you want to work up with your ensemble? (This is a great time to ask your director if you can learn your new favorite piece.) Do you want to attend a ringing event this year? Start planning and fundraising with your group now! Are you looking

to refresh your ringing technique or improve your conducting skills? September and October are great months to attend a handbell seminar. There are many one-day clinics being offered around Area 7.

What are the goals of your group? It's always a good idea to survey your ringers and see what rises to the top. Maybe it's working toward performing a full handbell concert, going on a tour, ringing outside your church or school, attending Festival next June, or supporting the ringing community by attending a bell concert in your neck of the woods. I love getting input from ringers about repertoire as well. It's fun to work on pieces that fellow ringers enjoy whether they've played it before or heard it in a concert or online.

When setting your goals for the upcoming season, try something new! Include new groups of people, from children and youth to multigenerational and seniors. Each of these groups can learn to ring handbells and/or handchimes and enjoy making music together! Connect with ringers in your part of the world. I encourage you to reach out to other churches and schools; perhaps you can plan a combined ringing event or ecumenical service together. Another option can be combining the interested ringers into a group to attend the Festival next summer in LaCrosse.

Whatever your goals for the upcoming season, I hope you plan to join us in growing the handbell community. Together we can bring joy to others through the art of handbells!

Deadline for the Next Issue of *Clapper Chatter* October 10

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, contact Bill Alexander at
editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org



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From the Past Chair

by Anita Fraundorf

We Have Scholarships! We Have Grants! The More You Know...



The Clista Wood Scholarship Fund was established to provide encouragement and assistance to eligible individuals to attend an Area 7 ringing event. Events include the Area 7 Festival Conference, Young Ringer's Camp, and the Area 7 Director's Seminar.

Applicants must be Guild members or affiliated with an organization

whose membership is in good standing. Complete details and applications can be found on the Handbell Musicians of America Area 7 website:

area7.handbellmusicians.org

Festival Conference:

- One scholarship for the registration fees for the full conference
- Two scholarships for the registration fees of a one-day registration

Area 7 Director's Seminar:

- One scholarship for the registration fees for the seminar

Young Ringer's Camp:

- One scholarship for the registration fees for the Young Ringer's Camp

Local Workshop Grants:

An Area 7 Local Workshop Grant is tailored to the needs of a specific choir or small group or choir in a community and is available to members of Handbell Musicians of America. The request is made to the appropriate sub-area chair and, with the assistance of the Area 7 Executive Team, a clinician will be chosen for the workshop. It can be a half-day or full-day workshop. More details and the application form are on the [Area 7 website](http://area7.handbellmusicians.org).

Regional Workshop Grants:

Local member handbell groups can apply for a Workshop Grant when they are considering hosting a workshop in their community. There is some funding to help with expenses associated with the workshops that may qualify as an Endorsed Event. Further details and the application form are on the [Area 7 website](http://area7.handbellmusicians.org).

"Fall Into Ringing"

September 23, 2023

New Handbell Workshop for Beginners, Level 1, and Level 2 Musicians

First United
Methodist Church
230 E. Skyline Parkway
Duluth, Minnesota

Clinicians: Bill Alexander and
Anita Fraundorf, along with
members of Strikepoint

*See registration form and additional
information within this newsletter.*

Fall Into Ringing

Do you have bells that are in a closet and not being used? Do you have a choir that is having difficulty getting started or have ringers that have very little experience? Are you a beginner and want to quickly learn necessary skills? Are you a slightly more advanced ringer or group that wants to play music with other handbell musicians, learn some skills, and have a lot of fun? *Fall Into Ringing* is probably for you.

Contact Anita at

pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org.



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This fall, we will be looking for candidates' names for the Spring 2024 election of officers. We will be voting for Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, with the terms to begin on October 1, 2024.

Reach out to Anita Fraundorf if you would be interested in learning more about the positions or if you know of someone

who would be interested in serving:

pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find the list of Board positions and the names of the people currently serving in those positions. There are both voting and non-voting members. Voting members serve two years with the option of serving an additional two years on the Board (with a slight variation for the Chair-Elect/Chair/Past-Chair track). As a voting member's term comes to a close, they may reach out to you to consider serving on the Board. Ask them about the expectations of the position, then please seriously consider saying, "Yes."

We will have three openings coming up at the end of September. Each position is a two-year term, October 1, 2023–September 30, 2025 (with an option to serve an additional two years).

• **Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair and Southern WI Sub-Area Chair:** These people are voting members of the board. They submit electronic reports, attend (virtual) meetings of the Board four to five times per year, keep in contact with other Handbell Musicians of America members in the sub-area, encourage other handbell directors or ringers to join HMA, and assist with Area 7 events as needed. Contact current [Twin Cities SAC, Jennifer Jewel](#), [Southern WI SAC, Stacey Nordmeyer](#) or [Past Chair, Anita Fraundorf](#), if you have questions.

• **Membership Chair:** This person is a voting member of the board. They receive electronic membership information monthly and forward that information to the sub-area chairs and other Board members. The Membership Chair also encourages membership in HMA, submits electronic reports, attends (virtual) meetings of the Board four to five times per year, and assists with Area 7 events as needed. Contact the current [Membership Chair, Deb Madel](#), or [Past Chair, Anita Fraundorf](#), if you have questions.

CHIME Report

by Michelle Finlon



It's not too late!

There are still a few CHIME Grants available for the 2023-2024 school year. The Committee for Handbells in Music Education (CHIME) promotes the use of handbells and handchimes in music education programs in schools, churches, or other educational environments. If you are looking to introduce handbells or handchimes or expand an already existing program, the CHIME Grant provides a three-octave set of handbells or handchimes as well as foam and educational material to get you on your way.

More information can be found on the [Area 7 website](#).

Also, did you know there is a Bell Tree Grant available? The grant includes a bell tree stand, two arms, separators, processional poles, and mallets as well as access to a bell tree knowledge base. This grant has flexible scheduling, allowing you to borrow the equipment for short—or long-term goals.

More information can be found on the [Area 7 website](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Finlon, Area 7 CHIME Representative, at chime.area7@handbellmusicians.org.

Report from one of our recent recipients

Handbell Musicians of America Handchime Program at Mobile Hope May 2023

I again wish to thank Area 7, HMA for the loan of a three-octave set of handchimes, along with pads and music. Our program, with children at a local mobile home park in Corcoran, MN, was begun in the fall of 2022, under the Mobile Hope Ministry there. We lost a few of the initial ringers but for our spring program five new children joined us for a total of ten. With new ringers, we continued to work on basic technique using songs with quarter notes, half notes, dotted half notes, and whole notes, and were able to play four songs for worship at Christ's Community Church in Maple Grove on May 7, 2023. Songs included "Old

—continued on page 6

Into the Forest 2023 Was Wildly Successful



The second “Into the Forest—Exploring Among the Trees” event was highly successful, doubling the number of participants that attended the 2019 event. Participants representing 17 states and Canada, with skills ranging from new to bell trees (BT) to elite performers, gathered in Lakeville, MN. We also had publishers, composers, and vendors present for this two-and-a-half-day event.

Throughout the event we emphasized sharing, exploring, and growing. Everyone has a perspective to share that we can all learn from. We encouraged everyone to explore new concepts or ideas on BTs available in class, on breaks, or in the “playroom.” The overarching goal of the event is to grow BTs as an art form through active participation and idea sharing. Pop-up performances were a highlight of the event (sightreading music to demonstrate a concept or idea). Everyone found new music, ideas, and friendships to further their personal BT journey.

The two-and-a-half-day event culminated with a concert that was magical. Approximately 100 were in attendance to witness the first BT concert ever performed. The concert opened with a tribute to Louise Frier with 19 ringers playing “The Journey” as a processional. The concert’s 14 pieces demonstrated the creative uses of BTs: solo, duet, single string, processional, table to BT, adapted music, and BT with chimes and handbells. One of the concert participants was playing BTs for the first time. Excerpts of the [concert may be seen on this playlist](#).



Karen Van Wert, Area 7 Chair 2016-2018, is seen here being presented with the signed, framed copy of the piece commissioned in her honor by Anita Fraundorf. Also pictured (back to the camera) is Barbara Brocker. (Note: the joyful response by Karen Van Wert and Barbara Brocker is in response to the comment that the commissioned piece includes a bell tree part)

At the end of the concert, Area 7 Past Chair Anita Frandorf presented Karen Van Wert with a framed copy of “Built on the Rock,” by Kevin McChesney. This piece was commissioned by Area 7 in honor of Karen’s time as Chair and includes a BT part. Note: “Built on the Rock” will be performed by the mass choir at the Area 7 2024 Festival. BT ringers are encouraged to start learning the BT part now.

Thank you to Area 7, Handbell Musicians of America, for endorsing this event, loaning equipment, hosting an evening meal, and your continued support of “Into the Forest” committee members. Special thanks to Anita Frandorf for manning the kitchen and helping behind the scenes, and to Alanna Terwagawa for opening her home and supporting us in so many ways.



events, join the [belltree-1 Google group](#) or explore the learning resources in the [Bell Tree Repository](#). Also, Area 7 has a BT starter kit available for loan. For more information about this program, visit the [Area 7 website](#).

For more information about BTs and future



McDonald" and "Mighty March," both arranged by Kirsty Mitchell; "Jacob's Ladder," arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson; and "Beethoven's Ode to Joy," arranged by Charles Maggs.

Thanks to Jill Starr and Sherilyn Burgdorf, directors of the wRight Ringers based at Zion Lutheran Church, for their support of the program and the loan of additional music options.

~Judith Ganz



From the South Dakota Sub-Area Chair

submitted by Cathy Moklebust



Here are a couple of reports of what's happening in South Dakota.

~Cathy

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer Handbell Choir

loves to ring! We are located in Watertown, SD, and ring both bells and chimes. We ring at our church services usually one-to-two times a month from September to May. We also play some smaller group music when needed and when our full choir is not available. We like to try different pieces and incorporating them into our church services, such as ringing the psalm or ringing during a video of departed members on All Saints Day. We also like combining our ringing with other talented people in our church and have played with our vocal choir, soloists, praise band, organ, piano, flute, and violin. We are also excited to be hosting our first handbell workshop this fall (see page 7). It'll be a great day of learning and fellowship which will culminate with a worship service using all the techniques and songs we will learn that day.



~Beverly Splinter

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer Handbell Choir

Wesleyan Bells

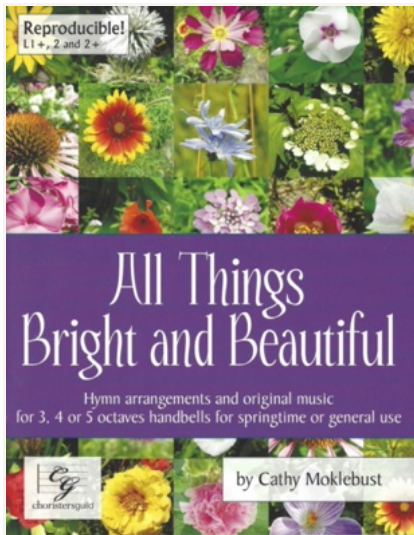


Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD, is the home of the Wesleyan Bells. Directed by Erin Desmond, Wesleyan Bells is the only collegiate handbell choir in the Dakotas. We ring five octaves of handbells and three octaves of handchimes, and we rehearse two hours each week. Most members of Wesleyan Bells have never

rung a handbell before, and the students come from all different majors—including music! The Bells tour each spring along with the Highlanders Chamber Choir and have toured all over the Midwest and Southwestern United States.



Handbell Workshop – Watertown, SD



The workshop will be based on the reproducible book “All Things Bright and Beautiful” by Cathy Moglebust. This collection contains several well-known hymn tune arrangements and original compositions for use during various seasons of the church year. The songs played at the workshop and service will be from this book. The book is published in compatible editions.

**2-3 octaves - Choristers Guild
CGB941 - \$49.95**

**3-5 octaves - Choristers Guild
CGB942 - \$49.95**

Costs:

- Each choir attending will have to purchase 1 reproducible book of your choice of octaves.
- Copies of the book will need to be made ahead of time for their members to bring to the event.
- \$20 per person to cover lunch and other expenses
- Whole choirs and individual ringers welcome!

1 Day Handbell Workshop

September 30, 2023

9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Lutheran Church
of Our Redeemer
Watertown, SD

Why should I attend:

- Perfect time to get back to ringing!
- Learn new ideas for healthier ringing form
- Review and/or learn different handbell techniques & notation
- Learn about small group, solo, and duet resources available
- Meet new ringers!

What you will need to bring:

- Handbells - no chimes
- Mallets
- Music and stands
- Foam pads and covers for your bells - We will have long banquet tables available. If you want to bring your own tables that is also fine.
- Gloves, pencils, etc.
- Comfortable shoes

Optional things to bring:

- Foam mats or carpet squares to stand on during the day
- Water bottle

If you are interested in attending this 1 day Handbell Workshop, please let Bev know so we can send out the registration information when it is available!

Contact:

Beverly Splinter
LCOOR Handbell Director
bevsplinter@gmail.com
605-237-5400

CLINICIAN:

Cathy Moglebust will be joining us for the day! Cathy has written over 450 compositions and arrangements. She is in national demand as a handbell clinician and festival conductor. She is also the South Dakota Sub Area Chair for Handbell Musicians of America, Area 7. You will learn and get a lot of information from her at the workshop. She will be leading us through her book in different sessions during the day and we will then transform the songs into a wonderful worship service!

Workshop Schedule:

- Set up, Welcome, Introductions, etc.
- Morning sessions- different techniques taught along with corresponding songs
- Lunch provided
- Afternoon sessions- techniques, songs, different ways to incorporate bells into worship, Small group resources
- 5:30 p.m. - Church service/concert
- Church service is casual dress (nice shirt/pants/jeans). We will be doing a processional at the beginning of the service by walking down the aisles to the bell tables. You will have time to change before service if desired.
- After service - Pack up and go home to your church with a wealth of new handbell information!

From the Twin Cities Metro Sub-Area Chair

by Jennifer Jewell

Recruiting Ringers and Volunteers



Currently I serve in volunteer positions for several organizations, and one common issue they all have is getting volunteers to help with the organization's missions.

I was recently talking to one of the other board members of my church about getting members to volunteer at the church and we both came to the conclusion that guilt, which has been a common method for recruiting, doesn't work like it used to, and we need to do something different.

One idea is to describe not only the benefits to the organization or community but how the volunteer will benefit from volunteering as well. If we apply this method to handbell ringing, we may increase the number of ringers we have in our choirs.

Benefits of ringing in church choir

Fellowship – Choirs have between eight and 15 ringers and a director. During rehearsal ringers interact and become close over time. When I was a director, the ringers and I agreed that we looked forward to our Thursday rehearsals because they were therapeutic, and that is due to the fellowship we shared. I can remember stopping a rehearsal once just to support a member that was having a personal crisis that week.

Connection to the worship service – Many feel like they connect during worship by participating in services, but ringing with a group during a worship service makes me feel more connected to the ACT of worship.

Brain exercising – We have been told that exercising your brain may help reduce the effects of aging. Playing an instrument is a great way to keep your brain active. I have played several different instruments, and I think that nothing does this better than handbells.

Youth-only choirs – I started ringing as a 7th grader and have a strong belief that ringing for youth can benefit both the worship service and the youth. If a church has enough youth to have a full choir, the youth will not only experience the fellowship mentioned above, but they will have something to be actively involved in to keep them engaged with the church.

Intergenerational choirs – As youth develop strong ringing skills, they can be added to the “adult” choir. If a church doesn't have a youth choir adding interested youth to “adult” choir, can be a great way to increase the number of ringers. I directed an Intergenerational choir for 20 years and developed a rule that if a youth (under 16) wanted to ring with us, they had to have an adult family member ring as well. So I ended up with parents and grandparents in my choir with the kids. The parents enjoyed the connection with their kids from ringing together.

For the last four years I have served as the Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair, and I will be stepping down from this position in the fall of 2023 as there are term limits in place. As I look back on the last four years, I realize that the benefits of this position were more than I expected when I took this position, including:

Fellowship with Board – I created friendships with the great people that are on the board and the ones that were on the board at some point in my tenure.

Communications skills – The sub-area chair position requires me to communicate with all the members in the Twin Cities. I am not a strong communicator or writer, but this forced me to improve my skills in the area.

Forcing an introvert out of her comfort zone. Yes, I am an introvert, but I know that it is good to do things that make me uncomfortable, as they will allow me to grow as a person. Being in this position made me realize that I can do this type of thing and enjoy it. In

The Raleigh Ringers

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the last year, I have taken on the secretary job of my church's Planning Board (Church Council) and recently became the Chaplain of the American Legion Post 491 in Bayport, MN. I don't know if I would have taken on either of these roles had I not had experience as the Sub-Area Chair.

There will be three positions opening up on the Area 7 Board of Directors of the Handbell Musicians of America in October. Please consider volunteering for one of the positions this year. The following will be open in the fall:

- Twin-Cities Metro Sub-Area Chair
- Southern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair
- Membership Coordinator

Also, the board is always looking for help with things like social media and website events. If you have skills and want to help, please let me or any of the other board members know.

I hope explaining the benefits of a volunteer position helps in recruiting for your choir and for the HMA.

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!

Look for the Manitoba Guild's newsletter [*Ringers' Roundtable*](#) on the Area 7 website

STRIKEPOINT

2023 Summer Tour Our 40th Year!



July 29 - Mt. Iron, MN, 7 pm
Messiah Lutheran Church

July 30 - Ashland, WI, 7 pm
Saron Lutheran Church

July 31 - Rochester, MN, 6 pm
Peace United Church of Christ

August 1 - Lanesboro, MN, 7 pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

August 2 - Maplewood, MN, 7 pm
Path of Grace United Methodist Church

August 3 - Minneapolis, MN, 7 pm
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

August 4 - Northfield, MN, 7 pm
Bethel Lutheran Church

August 6 - Rice Lake, WI, 7 pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

August 7 - Duluth, MN, 7 pm
First United Methodist Church



Free Admission • Suggested Donation: \$18

KidsRing Is Back – October 28, 2023!

This KidsRing event is a great opportunity to give your youth handbell program a quick-start. Designed for 4th grade and up, any aged youth is certainly welcome.



Less-than-full-choirs are encouraged to attend.

Don't have a youth handbell program yet?—Come and see how to teach a new piece to your youth, and meet other directors who can give you some pointers.

- Purchase enough scores of the repertoire listed below—one-to-two ringers per score.
- Mark them as you normally do, for example: circle/color red for notes to be played using the right hand, circle/color blue for notes to be played using the left hand, etc.
- Bring the marked scores to the event, without rehearsing them before arriving.
- Bring your handbells, music stands, gloves (if desired), foam cushions, and table coverings. Tables will be provided.

Registration: \$15 per person

Registration Deadline: October 15, 2023

Each person should bring a mid-morning snack and their own bag lunch and beverage.

October 28, 2023 Saturday

**Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
3930 Rahn Road, Eagan, Minnesota
Clinician: Bonnie Tranby**

9:00am – 2:00pm

FREE concert for family and friends at 2:00pm



KidsRing Repertoire

1. **"Many and Great"** – Cathy Moglebust two versions:
2-3 octaves, Choristers Guild, CGB971, or
3-5 octave version, Choristers Guild, CGB972
Level 1
2. **"First Praise"** – Bill Ingram
2, 3, or 5 octaves, Choristers Guild, CGB940
Level 1

Each participating choir is invited and encouraged to prepare one solo piece to play for the closing concert (optional). This could be a piece you performed in October or last May. You could also share a NON-BELL piece that one or more of your ringers would like to perform: piano, instrumental, vocal, etc.

Extra Fun!

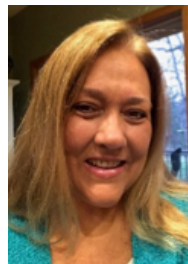
Kids (and adults) should bring their Halloween costumes for a special Trunk-or-Treat time.



Service Project

Time will be allotted for the kids to do a service project as a way of giving back to the community. See details online.

Many more details, including the online registration form and updates, can be found on the [Area 7 website, KidsRing page.](#)



Clinician Bonnie Tranby

After teaching in the public school setting for 24 years, Bonnie has hung up her lesson plans and is ready for a new chapter to begin. She is looking forward to having more handbell time! She has taught handbell classes at the local, state, area, and national levels and hopes to continue to spread her love of handbells through education. She has rung with her church choir in Eagan, MN, since 1987, with Twin Cities Bronze since 2004, and has served on the Area 7 Board as Youth Events Planner. She directs one adult ensemble and three youth ensembles in the South Twin Cities Metro.



AUDITIONS

August 28, 2023, 6pm
Hennepin Avenue UMC
511 Groveland Ave, Mpls

Would you like to ring with Bells of the Lakes?
Please contact bellsofthelakesmanager@gmail.com



COME RING WITH US!

Auditions

Auditions for Bells of the Lakes will take place on August 28, 2023 at 6pm at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church in Minneapolis. We would love to see you there!

Please contact bellsofthelakesmanager@gmail.com if you are interested in attending or if you have any questions!

SEMINAR

For Ringers and Directors
October 7th, 2023
8am to 4pm
Hennepin Avenue UMC
511 Groveland Ave, Mpls

Registration opens
later this summer



For more information:
www.bellsofthelakes.org

Seminar 2023

Seminar for Ringers and Directors is an annual one-day workshop event hosted by the Bells of the Lakes. Ringers and directors alike are invited to attend classes, network with peers, and observe a Bells of the Lakes rehearsal. This event is a wonderful way to kick off a new season of ringing with your home choirs, as well as an opportunity to learn new skills and brush up on old ones. We hope you can join us!

Seminar 2023 will be held on Saturday, October 7th, at Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. More information about registration and class offerings will be available soon!

[Like us on Facebook](#) so you don't miss out on any future events or announcements.



Upcoming Area 7 Events

by Alanna Teragawa



Plans are well underway for the upcoming 2024 ***Festival Conference in La Crosse, WI***. Right now is the best time to make your plans. Let's make a goal to fill the hall!

The repertoire has been selected by the three clinicians, and the final list is posted on page 18 and online.

Registration for ***Anthornis*** begins August 1 and has a cutoff deadline of October 22. This is a wonderful event for more advanced handbell musicians with an insatiable desire to play even more... and it's a ton of fun!

KidsRing is coming up FAST! What an event we have planned for everyone.

Although geared for 4th graders and older, any aged youth is certainly welcome. See page 10 and the [KidsRing page](#) of the Area 7 website for more information.

In addition to the Area 7 events, you can find information in this issue of *Clapper Chatter* on events being presented by other groups and organizations. There's something for everyone! Make a goal to invite your handbell friends and family to at least one of these Area offerings. You won't regret it.



**Save
The Dates!**

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

**The Incredible
2024 Area 7 Festival**

"Ringing Between the Bluffs"

JUNE (20) 21-23, 2024

LA CROSSE CENTER – LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN

Clinicians: Sandra Eithun • Alex Guebert • Lee Afdahl



Scan the QR Code for:

- Repertoire
- Schedule
- Conductors
- Options and Events

Anthornis

November 3-4, 2023
Shepherd of the Valley
Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, Minnesota

Registration Opens on August 1
Registration Deadline is October 22



Clinician: Brian Childers

Brian Childers is an accomplished composer, conductor, and clinician. His choral, instrumental, and handbell works are performed frequently throughout the world. He is in demand as a featured clinician and conductor at music conferences, festivals, and workshops across the nation. Brian serves as Music Advisor for Handbell Musicians of America, helping to promote the wealth of handbell music in the AGEHR Catalog.

Brian has earned degrees from Appalachian State University and the M. Christopher White School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University. In 2022 he conducted Distinctly Bronze East, an auditioned group of ringers from throughout the nation, in New Bern, NC. In 2023 he conducted the inaugural *Ringin' Nativity*, a staged production of the nativity story, at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. He has served churches throughout the Southeast, building vibrant programs for choirs, handbells, and instrumentalists at each. He is currently on the music staff at Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC.

Brian's compositions are published through a variety of publishers, including Bellissimo Publications (available through Jeffers Handbells) and Cantate Press (available through JW Pepper). Brian enjoys creating and shaping commissioned music that is meaningful, distinctive, expressive, and timely. His devotional book *Ringin' Deeply* for directors and ringers has been received with strong reviews and is in its third printing.

Brian is married to Keely Childers, a professional counselor, and has two adult children, Hannah and Spencer, both of whom served as drum majors in their respective high school and college marching bands. Brian is an avid runner and a rabid fan of the San Antonio Spurs. You can learn more about Brian, Bellissimo and Cantate Publications, *Ringin' Deeply*, and his conducting schedule at BrianChilders.org.

Anthornis Schedule

Friday November 3: Reading session of a variety of fun pieces.

Saturday November 4: Rehearsals and more rehearsals of the event repertoire in preparation for the 3:30pm closing concert, which is

FREE and open to the public.

The event repertoire has been selected to stretch your ringing skills beyond perhaps your typical church choir. Everyone registers as an individual ringer, and groups are welcome. Bells and chimes and provided. Groups are encouraged to bring your own equipment.

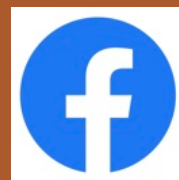
Repertoire

- **"El Condor Pasa"** – Francisco Abad, AGEHR AG45052, 4-5 octaves, Level 3
- **"His Eye is On the Sparrow"** – Brian Childers, Beckenhorst HB709, 3-7 octaves, Level 3+
- **"Spirit Song"** – Brian Childers, From the Top 20609, 3-7 octaves, Level 4
- **"The Stars Await"** – Ron Mallory, AGEHR AG47003, 4-7 octaves, Level 3+
- **"Staccato"** – Fred Gramann, Choristers Guild CGB812, 5-7 octaves, Level 4-
- **"Toccata Allegro"** – Hall, Jeffers JHS9450, 4-6 octaves, Level 4

More information can be found [at this link](#):

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

The more you explore... the more you will know.
[Click for more.](#)



Area 7 Festival 2024 Logo Winner Announced

We are pleased to announce the winner of the 2024 La Crosse, WI, Area 7 Handbell Festival Logo Contest. The theme our contestants had to work with was, "Ringing Between the Bluffs."

Congratulations go to Karla Hulne from Blair, WI! Karla describes her entry stating, "I am representing our local folks! The line rendering and flag is actually Grandad Bluff in La Crosse."

Karla's talents earned her free registration to the Area 7 Festival.

Area 7 Festival, La Crosse

Next Summer's Area 7 Handbell Festival, Ringing Between the Bluffs, will be held in La Crosse, WI, on June (20) 21-23 at the beautiful La Crosse Center. Our clinicians will be Sandra Eithun, Alex Guebert, and Lee Afdahl. What a lineup!

Just a sampling of what you can expect:

- A pre-Festival (June 20) favorite, the big hit that started in Duluth 2022—a social gathering time at Pearl Street Brewery with song leaders from the Twin Cities Beer Choir. YOU get to sing and play along with handchimes. We'll once again sing Cathy Moglebust's delightful composition "Bells and Beer."
- Massed ringing
- Coppers Division
- Bronze Division
- Conference Choir (optional)
- Bronze Plus (optional)
- Dining together
- Showcase Concert with Bells of the Bluffs
- A wide variety of classes to choose from
- Dinner cruise on the La Crosse Queen paddleboat (optional)
- Sunday morning worship service
- Closing Concert to a crowd of thousands



Sandra Eithun



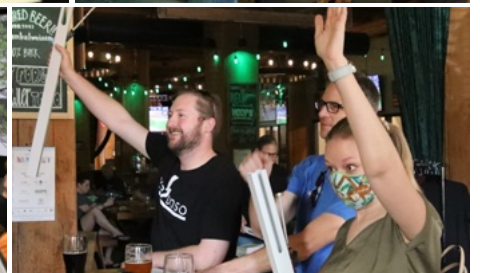
Alex Guebert



Lee Afdahl

Past Festival Photos, Now You're Sure to Attend!





Youth Events Coordinator

by Jessica Haeder



Young Ringers Camp came back with a **Zip, Zing, Ring!** (Brenda Austin) There were 20 ringers and 8 adults who made the trip to Camp Omega this year. The youth (and adults) spent a lot of time ringing bells and learning under the direction of clinician Jennifer Cadwell. A huge THANK YOU goes out to Jennifer for her expertise in teaching our young ringers how to ring en masse, for filling in time during thunderstorms, for getting kids of all ages to sing during the campfire, and managing her own choir at the same time! Thank you Jennifer!

But ringing bells was not the only thing that happened at camp. Friday night ended with a campfire where each group took turns entertaining everyone with skits and songs. Before s'mores, all the campers took a moment of silence to enjoy the **Grandeur** (Karen Thompson) of Horseshoe Lake. Did I forget to mention that Friday started with teaching everyone how to throw tomahawks? There was a lot of laughter and cheering! Saturday was packed full of activities ranging from 9 Square and Gaga Ball to swimming and playing in a mud pit! We also took time on Saturday to do a service project for the Ronald McDonald House of Minneapolis. The young ringers made 60 meal-to-go bags for

parents to take with them on their way to appointments. An art project, a movie, and games rounded out the day. Our last day of camp started with trying to get **All Creatures of Our God and King** (Kevin McChesney)—a.k.a. young ringers—out of bed and ready for their concert! After 1½ days of nonstop activities, they were tired! Each choir came to camp having rehearsed the three songs listed in this article. At camp they received a fourth one, **"The Lions and Their Den-er Guests"** (Tammy Waldrop). They learned the ringing and speaking parts to this song and performed it at the last concert. If you are sorry you missed this wonderful weekend, know that we are on the books to do this again in 2025! I'll see you all there!

Missed the camp fun this year? It's never too early to start thinking about the next handbell camp at Camp Omega from June 20–22, 2025. What a great recruiting incentive!





2024 Area 7 Festival Repertoire

*Choose either the Coppers or Bronze division based on the repertoire and your ability level.
All groups will play the Massed Ensemble pieces.*

[Click here to listen to the sound files.](#)

COPPERS DIVISION

– conducted by Sandra Eithun

Fantasy on All Creatures of Our God and King – Sandra Eithun 3-5oct L2+ GIA Publ. G10915

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah – Ron Mallory 3-5oct L3 Jubilate Publ. AP47198

- Or -

BRONZE DIVISION

– conducted by Alex Guebert

My Strength is From Heaven – Christian Humcke 5-7oct L4 Choristers Guild CGB1227

Siorai Athas (Eternal Joy) – Matthew Compton 4-7oct L3+ Evergreen Music Publ. EGM106 opt. violin, oboe

PLUS

MASSED – all ringers in both divisions

Built on the Rock – Kevin McChesney 3-5oct L2+ AGEHR Publ. AG35388 w/optional Bell Tree
conducted by Sandra Eithun

[Click here for a free download of the 3-5oct Bell Tree score](#)

Contact Karen Van Wert if you are interested in ringing the bell tree part at the Festival
kvwcreations@yahoo.com

Common Thread – Sandra Eithun 3-7oct L3+ GIA Publ. G10781
conducted by Sandra Eithun

Bound for South Australia – Alex Guebert 3-5oct L2+ Golden Dance Publ. (No Pub. Code) w/opt. perc.
conducted by Alex Guebert
[Click here to purchase and download scores.](#)

Spiritus Sanctus – Matthew Compton 3-7oct L3+ Choristers Guild Publ. CGB1167
conducted by Alex Guebert



2024 Area 7 Festival SPECIALTY CHOIR Repertoire

In addition to ringing the massed pieces, are you looking for MORE performance opportunities at Festival? Then join us for one of our specialty choirs! Parts are assigned and music is learned in advance of arriving in La Crosse. We have two great conductors for these specialty choirs: Lee Afdahl and Alex Guebert.

[Click here to listen to the sound files.](#)

CONFERENCE CHOIR – conducted by Lee Afdahl

You must be able to ring Level 3+ to 4 proficiently. Up to 39 ringers will be selected for this Ensemble. These rehearsals will not interfere with any **COPPERS Division** rehearsals.

Along the Water – Sandra Eithun 3-5oct L2+ AGEHR Publ. (not published yet)

Note: The sound file for this commissioned work is not available online.

Hope for Reconciliation – Lee Afdahl 3-5oct L3 Beckenhorst Press HB674

United – Jason Krug - for **TWO choirs** Beckenhorst Press (Full Score: HB566)

Choir #1: 3-6oct HB566A

Choir #2: 3-5oct HB566B

BRONZE PLUS ENSEMBLE – conducted by Alex Guebert

You must be able to ring Level 5 proficiently. Up to 14 ringers will be selected for this Ensemble. These rehearsals will not interfere with any **BRONZE Division** rehearsals.

Catalyst – Matthew Compton 5-8oct L5 Evergreen Music Publ. EGM100

Drive – Alex Guebert 4-7oct L5+ From the Top Music FM20572HB

Fly Me to the Moon – Joel Raney 4-6oct L4+ HP2822 (with percussion HP2822P)

We are looking for experienced ringers that want to play challenging music. The application process for our specialty choirs begins in February 2024. There is an additional fee for participation in one of these choirs, to cover the cost of the music and shirt, etc.

Applicants will be selected by March 1, 2024 based on qualifications and the order in which their application was received. Music and ringing assignment will be mailed to you during March 2024.

Specialty Choirs provide the opportunity to ring more closely with the clinician in a smaller setting. These two ensembles perform in a concert Saturday afternoon during the Festival.

Information and updates about either of the Festival Specialty Choirs can be found [online](#).

Fall Into Ringing

SEPTEMBER 23 WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

First United Methodist Church, Duluth, MN

Return this form with the \$15 fee (\$10.00 per person with co-registrant) by August 1, 2023: Anita Fraundorf, Our Savior's Lutheran, 4831 Grand Ave, Duluth, MN 55807, *pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians*
Make checks payable to Our Savior's Bell Fund.

PARTICIPANT NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ IF CELL: TEXT? YES NO

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

CO-PARTICIPANT NAME _____

(Each participant must fill out a registration form)

Handbell Musicians of America Membership number _____
(if applicable)

Registering for (choose one): LEVEL 1 _____ LEVEL 2 _____

Breakout Session (circle one): 4 IN HAND SMALL ENSEMBLE

Reading Music Knowledge (circle one):

No Experience

Some Experience

Experienced

Would you like to receive instructional emails prior to the workshop? YES NO

The event is September 23, 2023. Registration will be at 12:30pm with the workshop running from 1–5pm. There will be refreshments provided.

Enjoy a hands-on learning experience with an emphasis on low stress and fun.

See additional information on page 3

Area Events Calendar

October 28, 2023 – KidsRing

Clinician: Bonnie Tranby – Eagan, Minnesota

area7.handbellmusicians.org/kids-ring

November 3-4, 2023 – Anthornis Ringing Event

Clinician: Brian Childers – Apple Valley, Minnesota

area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2023-2

June 21-23, 2024 – Festival Conference

Clinicians: Sandra Eithun, Alex Guebert, and Lee Afdahl – La Crosse, Wisconsin, area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference-2024

For additional information, go to the Area 7 Events Page
area7.handbellmusicians.org/events

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