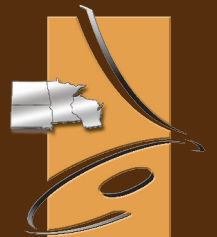


Clapper Chatter

Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota • Wisconsin • Manitoba

Volume 38 • Issue 1 • February 2024



Area 7

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA



Message from the Chair

by Jennifer Cadwell



New Year, New Opportunities

Exciting things are happening this year: Leap Day, the Summer Olympics, and our Festival in La Crosse! You are officially invited to join us this June in La Crosse for a weekend of music-making, meeting new friends, hearing great concerts, and learning more about bells and chimes. My calendar is marked with a star on June 20 to drive to La Crosse, Wisconsin. I hope you will join me.

What are you looking forward to most at Festival—seeing bell friends, new and old; learning new skills in class; being part of the Beer Choir at Bells and Beer; having dinner aboard a paddleboat on the Mississippi River; finding new repertoire for next season; enjoying concerts by Bells of the Bluff; Bronze Plus and the Conference Choir; attending the Festival for the first time; meeting composers in real life; or participating in the closing concert with hundreds of ringers? I am most looking forward to seeing YOU in La Crosse and to growing our handbell community.

Do you know who your sub-area chair (SAC) is for your region of Area 7? We have an amazing group of people who volunteer on the board representing the regions throughout the Area. Our SACs are your direct contact person with Area 7 and the Handbell Musicians of America. Do you have a concert coming up, need to borrow equipment, have a job opening for a bell director, want to connect with ringers or directors in your neck of the woods, or are looking to share the great accomplishments of your group? These are just a few of the things our SACs can help you with. SACs help us build community with our members. I encourage you to reach out to your specific representative and share what's going well in your music-making and ask any questions you may have. Sub-Area Chairs are here to help. Chat with yours today!

Our Sub-Area Chairs

North Dakota: Karisa Templeton
ndakota.area7@handbellmusicians.org

South Dakota: Cathy Moglebust
sdakota.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Wisconsin North: Denean Smith
wisconsinnorth.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Wisconsin South: Lisa Bourget
wisconsinsouth.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Minnesota North: Jordan Goodwater
minnesotanorth.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Minnesota South: Paul Kingsbury
minnesotasouth.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Minnesota Twin Cities: Akudo Omeoga
twincities.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Deadline for the Next Issue of *Clapper Chatter* May 10, 2024

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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7209 Morgan Ave S Richfield MN 55423

612-208-1741

877-426-3235

www.heitzhandbells.com

heitzhandbells@yahoo.com

From the Past Chair

by Anita Fraundorf



Opportunities for supporting Area 7 and the 2024 Festival Conference

The Area 7 Board of Directors is an all-volunteer entity, and the bi-annual Festival Conferences is its primary means of financial

support for running the business of the Area. The Board prioritizes keeping event costs affordable for participants. Additional financial support to assist in that effort is always welcome! Here is how you can help:

1. **Attend Area 7 events** and encourage others to attend.
2. **Donate items** for the Festival Conference Silent Auction.
3. **Consider a sponsorship** in memory of, in appreciation of, or in honor of someone in your life. Donations received by May 15 will be acknowledged in the Festival Conference booklet and in a future edition of Clapper Chatter.

Sponsorship levels:

- Supporter: \$25-99
- Contributor: \$100-249
- Patron: \$250-499
- Ringing Endorsement: \$500 and above
- Major Sponsorships (e.g. featured ensemble expense or "swag bag") are also available.

Contact Anita Fraundorf at:

pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org

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

Four Scholarships Available for 2024 Festival Conference!

The Clista Wood Scholarship Fund was established to provide encouragement and assistance to eligible individuals to attend an Area 7 ringing/learning event. Thanks to generous donations to this fund over the years, we are able to award four scholarships for the 2024 Festival Conference, June 21-23 in La Crosse, WI! Two of the scholarships are for the full three-day registration fees plus a \$100 stipend towards housing (if needed). Two additional scholarships cover the fees to attend classes for one day of the Festival Conference, either Friday or Saturday.



Applicants must be a full Handbell Musicians of America member, affiliated with a recognized member organization, or participate in a group directed by a full Handbell Musicians of America member. Recipients of the full event registration are expected to purchase and prepare the music, and register to participate in an attending ensemble or register as an individual ringer to be placed into an ensemble. Recipients of the one-day registration do not participate in rehearsals, just classes.

Information and an application form for the 2024 Festival Conference are posted on the Area 7 website: area7.handbellmusicians.org. The application deadline is March 1, 2024. Questions can be directed to Anita Fraundorf, pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org.

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Unique gifts for ringers and directors handmade in the USA

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

From the South Dakota Sub-Area Chair

by Cathy Moglebust



The handbell choir at First Lutheran Church in Brookings, SD is an enthusiastic and dedicated group of mixed-age ringers and is under the direction of Ms. Barbara Horten. They enjoy contributing to the Festival Worship Service at 8:30am on Sunday mornings once a month throughout the school year with a varied repertoire of music: traditional, contemporary, hymns, and gospel. The group rehearses from 5:45 to 6:45pm Wednesday evenings every week throughout the school year and always welcomes new ringers and those who are interested in learning to play the bells, even as an occasional sub.

The handbell choir uses a five-octave set of Whitechapel handbells; the original three octaves being a gift from the Towers family in 1956, and the 4th octave was purchased in the late 1970s. It is believed that First Lutheran Church may have been the first church in SD to have handbells, but this is unverified. The handbell program was initiated, developed, and directed by Mrs. Barbara Berntson until her retirement in the late 1980s. In 1975 Ms. Berntson took the high school group, The Towers Handbell Choir, to the National Festival in Logan, UT, where Donald Allured was one of the conductors. The young group performed two solo selections during that festival, one being written by high school sophomore Kevin Sippel. It was in this choir that Cathy Moglebust played, and the group remained together until the mid-1980s.

Various directors of music at First Lutheran Church continued directing the bells until Ms. Horten took the

reins of the present choir in 2004. The group has grown musically and in numbers under her leadership, and it was during her tenure that the purchase of the 5th octave was completed. A particularly fun activity for the group was providing holiday music in the lobby of the local Hy-Vee supermarket, and several members of the choir recently attended the handbell festival in Watertown, SD. In January they also provided music for the local Sons of Norway chapter.



Photo was taken on the First Sunday of Advent, 2023.

The group is very proud of their history, their bells, and their director! This writer is very pleased to be ringing with them again since returning to Brookings in 2015.

Youth Chimes on the Cheyenne River Reservation

by Cheryl Ulmer

When you combine the statements below, they become an innovative and effective formula for "Teaching Elementary Music With Chimes in Uncharted Territory!" I experienced several exciting successes using chimes in my elementary music classroom while teaching for 13 years on the Cheyenne River Reservation in Eagle Butte, SD. More importantly, our Native American students achieved a great deal of uninhibited success.

1. Most youth chime choirs exist primarily in after-school church music programs.
2. Chimes can be an alternative way to teach note-

The Raleigh Ringers

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reading skills to elementary children.

3. Rhythmic and percussive skills are enhanced by playing handchimes.

4. There are fewer sanitary concerns for children when playing chimes vs. playing wind instruments, e.g. recorders—especially during COVID, etc.

5. By playing only one or two notes, or parts of a chordal accompaniment, youth chime choirs can achieve quicker success. The logistics speak for themselves.

6. Native American Reservations are usually in remote locations and have fewer music education opportunities at the elementary level.

7. Listen carefully—handchimes pleasantly resemble the beautiful tones of a Native flute.

Chimes were introduced in 3rd grade and used more frequently with the 4th and 5th graders. The music department owned three complete octaves of handchimes and one additional two-octave set, so every child in each classroom was able to play chimes during their weekly music classes. By borrowing an additional three octaves for concert performances, it was possible to have as many as 80 children simultaneously playing chimes. Now that is definitely a joyful trip into uncharted territory!

One cultural success story I have using chimes was to develop a chordal accompaniment on chimes using a familiar Native American song. We were assisted by a local Native American woman who "signed" the song while approximately sixty 4th graders played chimes and another 20 students did interpretive dance wearing their native powwow attire. Native children are often rather shy in discovering their singing voice, so using drums, chimes, and other percussion instruments really can accentuate their creativity and self-expression.



Cheryl Ulmer has directed the Exultation Bells at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, SD since 1996 and recently retired after 13 years as the Music Director at Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Schools in Eagle Butte, SD.

From the Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair

by Akudo Omeoga

Sunday, December 17 marked the retirement of Marilyn Pyle from the bell program at River Hills UMC in Burnsville, MN. She started in 1977 when her kids were in high school and junior high and built the program from the ground up to include kids' choirs, adult choirs, soloists, small ensembles, and everything in between! They went to Area 7 festivals and National festivals, honing their skills and getting new ideas for the next year of ringing.

Marilyn decided that after 46 amazing years, it was time for someone else to take the reins. The choir will be helmed by Sue Thompson and Warren Pyle, splitting the directing duties. River Hills church celebrated with acknowledgment of 46 years during that Sunday service, with and cake and coffee following. And as usually happens, she is not getting out of it completely—she has decided to switch sides of the table and ring with the adult ensemble! We wish her all the best in her retirement!



Strikepoint Announces Japan, International Symposium Tour

It's been a busy year of planning, budgeting, rehearsing, and communicating for Duluth-based Strikepoint. This August, the 11-member group will travel to Hamamatsu, Japan to participate in the 21st International Handbell Symposium.



It has been 38 years since Strikepoint last visited Japan. That was for the 2nd International Symposium, held in Gotemba. Many of the friendships formed at that 1986 event are still strong to this day. Three members of Strikepoint who participated at Gotemba are returning this year: Sue Marquardt, Nancy Eaton,

and Bill Alexander. This year's event will host 700 handbell musicians.

The International Symposium is held every two years and rotates among the world's seven (so far) countries with national handbell organizations. Strikepoint has previously participated in five symposia—Japan, USA (Albuquerque and Orlando), England (Birmingham), and Canada (Toronto).



Beginning in April Strikepoint will be playing a limited number of domestic concerts as they prepare to depart for Japan. If you have an interest in booking one of these dates, they will need to be within approximately 150 miles of Duluth and will be fundraising concerts to help with the tour. However, 20% of each concert's offering donation will be given to the concert host's handbell or music program.

It's going to be an exciting year!

STRIKEPOINT

Strikepoint Announces Japan Summer Tour

After celebrating their 40th birthday...



Strikepoint is returning to Japan after 38 years to attend the International Handbell Symposium in Hamamatsu!

Look for upcoming domestic concerts beginning in April.



Bill Alexander, artistic director, bill@strikepoint.com

www.strikepoint.com

From the C.H.I.M.E. Representative

*submitted by Michelle Finlon
report by Judy Ganz, Director, Mobile Hope Chimes*

Handchime Program at Mobile Hope

I again wish to thank the Handbell Musicians of America for the loan of a three-octave set of handchimes, along with pads, folders, and music that have allowed me to teach handchimes to some children at a local mobile home park in Corcoran, MN through the ministry there of Mobile Hope. Our one-year loan began in the fall of 2022, with two performances that December and another in April 2023. We were given an extension of the loan through this December and had our last performance on December 10.

This past fall we had eight ringers and played two songs for the Christmas program at Christ's Community Church in Maple Grove: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" (arr. John A. Behnke), and "A Simple Song of Joy" by Michael R. Keller. We worked on improving techniques we had learned, focusing a lot on the dynamics of the piece. We had hoped to attend the KidsRing event this past October so that the kids could practice their skills and see what handbells can do but were unable to do that. We did also have bells playing at this year's Christmas program. I was so glad to show them to the kids and hopefully planted some seeds for the future.

I tried to connect with the music teacher at their elementary school to find a way for ongoing opportunities at the end of our loan period but was unsuccessful. I will continue to pursue this, as the HMA program provides a good option for schools that want to expand their repertoire for teaching music.



One of the Mobile Hope staff members reminded me of the good lessons learned in a handchime choir, beyond playing the instrument. For one, they're realizing the importance of a team effort so that all the notes are covered. After our recent program, one of the kids gave me a card she had made, thanking me for doing the chimes. She ended with, "I love chimes so, so much." Perhaps indeed some seeds have been planted. Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Judy Ganz, Director
Mobile Hope Chimes

Agape Ringers Announce Tour Concerts

The Agape Ringers are a community group based in Chicago, IL. Even though they are technically in Area 8, they are often found touring through parts of Area 7. And when playing in the Chicago area, they are accessible to many Area 7 residents.

For additional information, go to agaperingers.org.

2/25/2024 - 4pm
First Congregational Church of Western Springs
1106 Chestnut St
Western Springs, IL 60558
Free-will donation

3/17/2024 - 4pm
Peace Memorial Church UCC
10300 W 131st St
Palos Park, IL 60464
Free-will donation

3/3/2024 - 4pm
Cornerstone United Methodist Church
41W 170 Russell Rd
Elgin, IL 60124
Free-will donation

4/14/2024 - 4pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church
501 8th Ave
Rock Falls, IL 61071
Free-will donation

It's Area 7 Election Time!



The Treasurer, Secretary, and Chair-Elect are voted upon by the membership, and the results are typically announced at the Area 7 festival. ***Information on the electronic ballot will be coming soon.***

The nominating committee has presented another excellent slate of nominees for these positions.

You will receive information on this election from the National Handbell Musicians of America shortly. There will be clear instructions and deadline dates along with the link to your ballot.

Please take the time to read about these six fabulous candidates and make an informed decision about the Area 7 leadership for the next several years.

If you are interested in running for one of the elected positions or any of the Area Board positions, please contact the Past Chair. All of the Board positions can be seen on the Area website and the last page of this newsletter.

For the Office of Chair-Elect

Marilee Anderson



Marilee Anderson is Director of Music Ministries at First Lutheran Church in Red Wing where she has served since 2010. Her responsibilities include Joyful Ringers, Praise Team, playing organ and piano, planning worship, and the myriad of other administrative duties as a

member of the staff team at the church. She has a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Marilee has a long history of being a handbell ringer and director. She was Handbell Director at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Hastings, MN from 1982-

2010 where she directed a graded adult handbell program as well as working with children's handbells. As director of music, she developed other music programs at the church.

From 1996-2009, Marilee was a charter member of the Twin Cities community handbell ensemble Bells of the Lakes. She has attended many handbell festivals as both a ringer and teacher. She has directed children's handbell festivals and community handbell festivals. Bells of the Bluffs was started in 2013 as the culmination of a dream to establish and invite ringers from around the area to come together to ring and to Ignite Passion for Handbells. This dream still continues 11 years later.

Marilee has been enthralled by handbells since the first time she heard them. She knew this was a calling and had learned all she could. Her passion is directing, and she loves it when a piece comes together to express the story it conveys.

She looks forward to the possibility of serving on the Area 7 Handbell Guild.

Monica S. McGowan



Monica S. McGowan took her music education background - Bachelor of Science, Music Education, Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska, NE and found her musical life's passion in handbells. Almost four decades later, she has become the consummate

handbell musician: accomplished ringer, seasoned director, internationally recognized clinician/conductor, adjudicator, and master technician at Ringing Restorations.

Her ringing career began in 1986 with the Ding Dong Dollies of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, St. Louis Park, MN. In 1999 she became the founding artistic and music director for Twin Cities Bronze, (Minneapolis-St. Paul), and now serves as the music and artistic director for Bells of the Hills in Rapid City, SD. She is an alumni ringer at Distinctly Bronze East,

Distinctly Bronze West, and more recently the Bay View Week of Handbells in Petoskey, MI.

Monica has served as director of handbells in Methodist, Episcopal, and Lutheran churches from Minnesota to Louisiana. She is an instructor at the International Music Camp Summer School of Fine Arts and in 2004 was named its handbell coordinator when she succeeded its founder, Fred A. Merrett.

Monica received Accreditation in Massed Conducting at the first AGEHR Master Classes on Conducting and has completed studies with Dr. Donald Allured, Dr. Paul Rosene, William Griffin, David Davidson, and Dr. William Payn. She has conducted festivals and workshops throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Puerto Rico, and Hong Kong. In 2017 Monica was selected to conduct the All-Star Choir at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar in Anaheim, CA, and conducted Reaching for Bronze in New Bern, NC in March 2020.

Monica has served in a variety of leadership roles for the Handbell Musicians of America (formerly the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers). She served on the Area 7 Board of Directors (1994–2002), the National AGEHR Committee for Handbells/Chimes In Music Education (CHIME), Area Representative to the AGEHR Executive Committee (1997–1998) and was Special Interest Department Chair for the National Board of Directors.

In 2004 Monica opened her independent small business for handbell and handchimes repairs and refurbishments: Ringing Restorations. She has achieved the distinction of Master Technician through her exemplary and detailed service in the repair, maintenance, and refurbishment of handbells and handchimes.

Monica brings her extensive training, passion, knowledge, and enthusiasm for handbells and handchimes to every forum and venue, providing a challenging, successful, and fun experience for its participants. "It is an honor to be nominated for Area 7 Chair-Elect. It would be a privilege to serve the members of Area 7, 'paying it forward' for the opportunities I have received in this unique and treasured musical art form."

For the Office of Secretary

Diane LaFontaine



Diane is the incumbent running for her second term as Secretary.

I didn't grow up in a musical family but I fell in love with handbells the first time I heard them. It wasn't the right time for me to join a handbell choir then, but I knew my time would come. I've been playing bells for about 30 years, and it never gets old.

For a time my church had two choirs, and I played in both, and also played with another church for a few years after subbing with them and realizing I liked how they rotated positions.

I love learning new techniques and attending seminars and events when possible. I think the most fun I've ever had with bells was playing with over 700 ringers at the Mall of America for the "Big Ring" in November 2016, and playing "Love Runs Out" by OneRepublic at Anthornis Central in 2019. I look forward to playing bells for many years to come!

I work-full time for a local school district, and I'm the mother of two girls and grandma of five, with two young great-grandsons. They all live close by, so I'm fortunate to see everyone on a regular basis. Work, family, bells, and hobbies keep me busy.

Deb Madel



Deb Madel, an active handbell ringer for many years, currently rings with Encore! Handbell Ensemble of Fox Valley, WI. She was a founding member of Encore! in 2008 and served on its board most of those years. She is also active with A Little Encore! a small group ensemble that plays for

special occasions. Deb is a recently-retired high school special education teacher and when not ringing, can be found singing with the Oshkosh Chamber Singers and her church choir, or traveling somewhere. Deb is active in Area 7, attending Area 7 and National events and, in the recent past, serving on the Area 7 Board as Secretary and as Membership Chair.

For the Office of Treasurer

Theresa Jacobson



Theresa was first introduced to handbells in high school and was part of a small youth handbell group at her home church of Our Saviors in Duluth.

Theresa, is a lifelong Duluthian, received a BA in Speech Communications from UW-

Superior in 2010. With her love for all things music, Theresa was asked to join the Northern Bell Chimes and has been a proud member for over five years.

Theresa has worked in banking for over 12 years with experience in retail and lending, as well as accounts payable and reconciliation. Her current job title is Electronic Payments Manager, where she works closely with the ever-evolving changes to electronic payments. She is currently studying to receive two certifications this year (NCP and AAP).

Theresa currently serves on the NE MN Synod Council and has recently been appointed to serve on the MN Lutheran Social Services Board of Directors. In her free time, Theresa enjoys bowling and serves as the Duluth Area's United States Bowling Congress Association Manager. She also plays volleyball and pickleball during the summer.

Gwendolyn Woerpel



Gwen was first introduced to handbells while an undergraduate student at Bethany College in Lindsborg, KS, where she earned a BA in Psychology in 2015.

A Kansas native, Gwen moved to Duluth with her husband in 2021. One of the immediate priorities after settling in was finding a handbell group to join, and she was happy to find a place in Strikepoint, a well-established Duluth ensemble. Gwen has now played with Strikepoint for two touring seasons.

Gwen has worked in banking for almost eight years. Her current role is related to risk management, but prior responsibilities have included accounting and operational functions such as account reconciliation and accounts payable. She holds two professional accreditations (AAP, APRP) which demonstrate her expertise with payments and risk, as well as her commitment to gaining knowledge. She is currently a part-time student at the University of Minnesota Duluth working toward an MBA degree, and an active member of the Junior League of Duluth.

In her free time, Gwen also plays the piano and accordion. She enjoys reading, cross stitch, computer games, and staying in on snowy days.

The St. Olaf Handbell Choir Winter Tour



The St. Olaf Handbell Choir, from St. Olaf College and under the direction of Jill Mahr, will be presenting three concerts while on tour in Minnesota. Look for them at Salem Covenant Church in **New Brighton on March 1**; at First United Methodist Church in **Duluth on March 2**; and at Family of Christ Lutheran Church in **Ham Lake on March 3**. They will also be performing a home concert at **St. Olaf College on Monday, March 4**, Christiansen Hall of Music, 1520 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, 8:15pm. **Admission is free but a freewill offering will be taken.**

The St. Olaf Handbell Choir has an adventurous and engaging tour concert planned this year. The widely-varied program features original compositions, arrangements, and everything from tangos to J.S. Bach, and a little jazz. A highlight will be the premier performance of "Fantasy," a fascinating work by student member Henry Rye ('26). Another piece combines bells, vocal quartet, French horn, and piano. Ringer Katie Nail will solo on bell tree, and a handbell quartet will be performing as well.

From the Northern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair

submitted by SAC Denean Smith and Karen Lionberger

The Eau Claire Area Ring Is Back!

After the pandemic hiatus, we will pick up where we left off on Saturday, April 13, 2024, hosted by Pacibells of Grace Lutheran Church, 202 West Grand Ave., Eau Claire, WI. This is always a great time to renew past friendships and create new ones. All are welcome—full choirs or just a few ringers. This event is endorsed by the Handbell Musicians of America, which provides copyright coverage. As usual, to reimburse some of the costs incurred by the host choir and in lieu of a registration fee, we will accept donations of \$1 per person which will be collected at the event.

Interested choirs/participants should contact Karen Lionberger at bellhog76@gmail.com for more information and a registration form.



This is a photo of the community choir ringing "Thaxted" (3 octaves) for the 2nd annual ELCA Fall Arts Celebration. "It was awesome!—ten ringers from five churches," stated Karen Lionberger, conductor of the group.

THE ST. OLAF HANDBELL CHOIR WINTER TOUR CONCERT

Jill Mahr, conductor

Friday, March 1st
7 p.m.

SALEM COVENANT
2655 Fifth Street NW
New Brighton, MN

Saturday, March 2nd
7 p.m.

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
230 E Skyline Pkwy
Duluth, MN

Sunday, March 3rd
3 p.m.

FAMILY OF CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCH
16345 Polk St. NE
Ham Lake, MN

*Featuring a handbell quartet,
bell tree soloist, vocal quartet,
and a handbell premiere!*

Freewill offering

From the Area 7 Events Coordinator

by Alanna Teragawa



Festival Conference Ringing Between the Bluffs

June (20) 21-23, 2024
La Crosse, Wisconsin



Every effort has been made to provide a variety of options to choose from to create a fun and meaningful Festival event. Be one of over 300 other ringers to experience 3 great clinicians, 31 classes, 11 topics, and 16 faculty.

The complete Festival schedule is further in this issue. If you can't fit all three days into your schedule, consider attending for one day—either Friday or Saturday.

Spread the word—Invite other ringers/directors.

GUARANTEED: You will learn at least one new handbell “thing” and meet hundreds of new handbell friends.

Festival 2024 FAQs:

- Registration link will open February 1:
area7handbellmusiciansofameric.regfox.com/area-7-festival-conference-2024
- General Festival information link:
area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference-2024/

Checklist to Prepare for the 2024 La Crosse Festival Conference

- **Feb 1 – Registration opens** (no money is due until March 15)
- **Feb 1 – Register for classes** (until May 15, but as soon as possible is preferred)
- **Feb 1 – Hotel Reservation** desks will accept reservations. Discounted rates range from \$135-\$169 plus 15% tax per night.

- **Mar 1 – Application for one of the Specialty Choirs is due**
- **Mar 1 – Scholarship application is due**
- **Mar 15 – \$80 Festival deposit due**
- **Apr 15 – Ringers for the two Specialty Choirs** will be selected by Area Board member
- **Apr 30 – Fees are due for ringers accepted into the Specialty Choirs**, for music, shirt, and clinician. **\$35** for Conference Choir ringers; or **\$50** for Bronze PLUS ringers.
- **Apr 30 – Specialty Choir ringing assignments** will be determined, and scores sent via USPS
- **Apr 30 – Notify registrar if you would like to perform a solo piece** during the Mini-Concert hour
- **May 15 – \$160 full Festival balance due**; or **\$40** one-day Festival balance due
- **May 15 – Optional fees due: \$30** Bells & Beer event
- **May 15 – Optional fees due: \$45** La Crosse Queen Pizza Dinner Cruise
- **May 15 – Registration closes.** Last day to register for classes by period
- **May 15 – Sponsorship donations are due**
- **May 19 – Last day to make hotel reservations at the discounted rate**

Can't Come to the Festival? Loan Us Your Equipment!

If you or your choir cannot attend the Festival Conference this year, you can still be a part of it by loaning us your handbell equipment (foam, handbells, and handchimes) for classes.

Did You Know?

- that over TWENTY sets of bells and chimes are needed
- that all borrowed equipment is fully insured by HMA from the time it leaves your building to its return
- that in all of the Area 7 Festivals there has NEVER been any loss or damage to borrowed equipment.

—continued on next page

—equipment, continued from previous page

Contact Michelle Finlon at chime.area7@handbellmusicians.org as soon as possible to discuss what equipment you are willing to loan. Michelle is the Area Board member serving as the Festival equipment coordinator. FYI: All equipment will be securely stored and transported by Bonnie Tranby and Alyssa Boock.

Creativity Needed!

Are you artsy? Do you love fun things? Want to share your creativity skills? We need a variety of props for the Festival photo booth. Contact Alanna Teragawa soon to discuss your ideas:

Events.area7@handbellmusicians.org

Click or scan for all things Area 7 Festival




Happy 70th Anniversary to the Handbell Musicians of America!

Watch for more details about this celebration and how you can participate!

Bells of the Bluffs to Present Showcase Concert

The Showcase concert at this year's Festival Conference will feature Bells of the Bluffs, Marilee Anderson, artistic director.

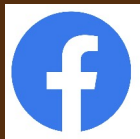
The group is composed of ringers from communities throughout southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

The 7:30pm concert at the La Crosse Center is free to Festival registrants and \$20 to non-registrants (tickets sold at the door).



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

The more you explore... the more you will know.



Save The Dates!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

The Incredible 2024 Area 7 Festival

"Ringin' 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



2024 FESTIVAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
FINAL as of 01/18/2024

THU JUN 20

7:00-9:00

OPTIONAL

BELLS & BEER Beer Choir and Food Truck Event at Pearl Street Brewery
Pre-registration required.

FRI JUN 21

8:00-3:30

REGISTRATION

9:00-10:00

PERIOD 1

REHEARSAL – Bronze Plus Specialty Choir

REHEARSAL – Conference Choir Specialty Choir

Classes: both **Coppers** and **Bronze** Divisions

Better Together – Karen Van Wert

Developing Spiritual Community – Mitchell Eithun

Mallet Like a Percussionist – Cathy Moklebust

Reading Session: Music That’s Both a Floor Wax and a Dessert Topping – Bill Alexander

Ring the Story – Sandy Mullaney

9:30-11:45

HIC Vendors & Silent Auction are open to shop and mingle

11:45-12:30

HIC is closed

12:30-3:30

(A fun fact: H-I-C stands for Handbell Industry Council, i.e. vendors of handbell items)

10:30-11:30

PERIOD 2

REHEARSAL – Bronze Plus Specialty Choir

REHEARSAL – Conference Choir Specialty Choir

Classes: both **Coppers** and **Bronze** Divisions

Better Together – Karen Van Wert

Mallet Like a Percussionist – Cathy Moklebust

Percussion 101 – Paul McKenzie

Reading Session: Mobile Ensemble, Quartets on the Go – Christina Herold

Ring the Story – Sandy Mullaney

This...Is...Jeopardy! – Mitchell Eithun

11:30-12:45

Lunch, on your own.

Explore the wonderful options in nearby downtown La Crosse

HIC Vendors and Silent Auction are open (Closed 11:45-12:30)

1:00-2:00

PERIOD 3

Classes: both **Coppers** and **Bronze** Divisions

All About That Bass – Jessica Westgard Larson

Handbell Conducting for Ringers (Directors welcome also) – Bill Alexander

Maintenance: Malmark Handbells and Choirchimes – Monica McGowan

Reading Session: If It’s June, It Must Be Christmas – Jennifer Cadwell

Reading Session: More With Less: Highlighting 8, 10 & 12 Bell Music – Sandra Eithun

Relax! Come to a Drum Circle – Cathy Moklebust

You Are Your Instrument - An Intro to the Alexander Technique – Lauren Hill

HIC Vendors and Silent Auction are open



2:10-3:10

PERIOD 4

REHEARSAL – Bronze Plus Specialty Choir

Leadership Tea – Area & National Updates: for Directors, Area Board Members, HMA Staff

Classes: both **Coppers** and **Bronze** Divisions

Developing Spiritual Community – Mitchell Eithun

HELP! I Need to Write a Processional/Descant/Accompaniment FAST! – Cathy Moglebust

POUND Exercise Class – Kristin Tranby

Reading Session: Mobile Ensemble: Quartets on the Go – Christina Herold

Score Study – Musicality – Monica McGowan

Subdivide – Taking on Challenging Rhythms – Karla Hulne

You Are Your Instrument - An Intro to the Alexander Technique – Lauren Hill

HIC Vendors and Silent Auction are open

3:30

HIC vendors and Silent Auction are closed for the day.

3:30-4:40

PERIOD 5

MASSED REHEARSAL – all ringers

5:00-5:40

PERIOD 6

Dinner, provided

5:50-7:15

PERIOD 7

MASSED REHEARSAL – all ringers

7:30

PERIOD 8

SHOWCASE CONCERT

with **BELLS OF THE BLUFFS** from Red Wing, Marilee Anderson, Artistic Director

The concert *is free for Festival registrants. Tickets on sale at door for all others: \$20*

9:00

Retreat to your hotel.

SAT JUN 22

8:30-10:45

HIC Vendors and Silent Auction are open to shop and mingle

8:30-9:30

PERIOD 9

Rehearsal - COPPERS DIVISION

Classes: **Bronze** Division

Bell Tree Beginning – Karen Van Wert

4-in-Hand for Beginners – Karla Hulne

HELP! I Need to Write a Processional/Descant/Accompaniment FAST! – Cathy Moglebust

POUND Exercise Class – Kristin Tranby

Reading Session: My Favorites by Lee – Lee Afdahl

Starting and Sustaining a Youth Handbell Program – Bonnie Tranby

You Are Your Instrument - An Intro to the Alexander Technique – Lauren Hill

Weaving – Battery – Mary Yerks

HIC Vendors and Silent Auction are open



- 9:40-10:40 **PERIOD 10**
REHEARSAL – Conference Choir Specialty Choir
Rehearsal - BRONZE DIVISION
Classes: Coppers Division
Bell Tree Beginnings – Karen Van Wert
4-in-Hand for Beginners – Karla Hulne
Reading Session: Music That’s Both a Floor Wax and a Dessert Topping – Bill Alexander
This...Is...Jeopardy!
Together on the Journey – Devotional Ideas for Church Handbell Choirs – Sandy Mullaney
Weaving – Battery – Mary Yerks
HIC Vendors and Silent Auction
- 10:50-12:30 HIC vendors and Silent Auction are closed
- 10:50-12:00 **PERIOD 11**
MASSED Rehearsal – all ringers
- 12:10-12:45 **PERIOD 12**
Lunch, provided
- 12:30 – 3:10 HIC Vendors and Silent Auction are open
- 1:00-2:00 **PERIOD 13**
REHEARSAL – Bronze Plus Specialty Choir
Classes: both Coppers & Bronze Divisions
Mini-Concerts – If you would like to perform something for the group – pre-register
Craft Class – All Glazed Up Crafts, La Crosse
Ear Training for Everyone – Sandy Mullaney
Handbell Science 101 – Karen Van Wert
Maintenance: Schulmerich Handbells and Melody Chimes – Monica McGowan
Reading Session – My Favorites by Lee – Lee Afdahl
Relax! Come to a Drum Circle – Cathy Moglebust
This...Is...Jeopardy! – Mitchell Eithun
You Are Your Instrument - An Intro to the Alexander Technique – Lauren Hill
HIC Vendors and Silent Auction are open
- 2:10-3:10 **PERIOD 14**
Rehearsal – COPPERS Division
Classes: Bronze Division
Bell Trees Beyond the First String – Karen Van Wert
Conductor’s Coaching Corner – Bill Alexander
Craft Class – All Glazed Up Crafts, La Crosse
Reading Session: If It’s June, It Must Be Christmas – Jennifer Cadwell
Relax! Come to a Drum Circle – Cathy Moglebust
Score Study – Musicality – Monica McGowan
Together on the Journey – Devotional Ideas for Church Handbell Choirs – Sandy Mullaney
You Are Your Instrument - An Intro to the Alexander Technique – Lauren Hill
HIC Vendors open. **Last Chance to bid on Silent Auction items.**
- 3:10 HIC Vendors and Silent Auction is closed for the Festival
THANK YOU FOR COMING, VENDORS. WE APPRECIATE YOU!



3:20-4:20

PERIOD 15

REHEARSAL – Conference Choir Specialty Choir

Rehearsal – BRONZE Division

Classes: Coppers Division

Bell Trees Beyond the First String – Karen Van Wert

POUND Exercise Class – Kristin Tranby

Reading Session: Mobile Ensemble: Quartets on the Go – Christina Herold

Reading Session: More With Less: Highlighting 8, 10 & 12 Bell Music – Sandra Eithun

Starting and Sustaining a Youth Handbell Program – Bonnie Tranby

Subdivide – Taking on Challenging Rhythms – Karla Hulne

4:30-5:15

PERIOD 16

Concert of the Specialty Choirs: Bronze Plus and Conference Choir

5:30 -

Free evening

6:30–8:30

OPTIONAL

La Crosse Queen Paddleboat Pizza Cruise departs at 6:30 from North Veterans Memorial Park.

Pre-registration is required.

SUN JUN 23

8:00-8:45

WORSHIP SERVICE

led by **Great River Ringers**, La Crosse, WI – Sue Retzlaff, Director

Before 11:00

Check out of your hotel

9:00-9:45

Coppers Division - final run-thru

9:50-10:35

Bronze Division - final run-thru

10:40-11:55

Massed – all ringers - final run-thru

12:00-1:00

Lunch, provided

1:30-2:30

CLOSING CONCERT – wear your Festival T-shirt

Free and open to the public. Food and cash donations collected for local Food Shelf.

After 2:30

SAFE TRAVELS HOME



2024 FESTIVAL CLASS OFFERINGS

4-in-Hand for Beginners

4-in-hand ringing has so many applications! From solo/small ensemble performance to increasing your skills in the full choir, 4-in-hand ringing will become your new favorite go-to technique. We will learn the basics of bell set up and hand technique.

Karla Hulne

Class Period 9 Meeting Room A
Class Period 10 Meeting Room E

All About That Bass

Step 1: Raise some money so you can buy more toys. The bigger the better.

Step 2: Learn how to play them so you don't break your new toys or your body!

That's about all you need to know! We'll learn about set-ups, warm-ups, lifting, techniques that work and those that don't, recruiting, assignments, doubling down, and when you shouldn't... for both bells and chimes. When we say bass... we mean C2-B3... the big stuff! Bring your muscles and low bass mallets if you have them.

Jessica Westgard Larson

Class Period 3 South Ball Room A

Bell Tree Beginnings

This class offers you a great way to get started with bell trees. You will learn how to string a bell tree, discover ways to create an inexpensive processional pole, practice loading your bell tree onto the pole and learn a wide range of practical uses for this instrument. Please bring mallets to class.

Karen Van Wert

Class Period 9 Meeting Room G
Class Period 10 Meeting Room G





Bell Trees Beyond First String

Got a taste of BT ringing and want more? Expand from one tree to four, from one octave to two, from single pole to BT stand. Explore various equipment options including stands, separators, and mallets. Ring melodies that transition from one string to another and back again. Incorporate flats/sharps giving you a full range of two octaves. Investigate published music and learn practical applications for skills learned. Bring mallets to class.

Karen Van Wert

Class Period 14 Meeting Room G

Class Period 15 Meeting Room G

Better Together

From Level 1 to Level 6, handbell music is most successful when ringers ring chords together. In other words, we are "Better Together." Ringing together sounds simple enough, but choirs still struggle with the "use your peripheral vision" concept. Explore various tips and tricks to perfect this skill and find what works best for your choir.

Karen Van Wert

Class Period 1 Meeting Room G

Class Period 2 Meeting Room G

Conductor's Coaching Corner

This class will be a place where conductors can bring questions, music scores, rhythm problems, horror stories, and a desire to conduct more effectively. There may be discussions and demonstrations as well as the opportunity to conduct a group of willing "volunteers." If you are willing to have our demonstration choir play, bring enough music parts. Bring a baton (if you wish), gloves, and binders so you can be one of the "volunteers."

Bill Alexander

Class Period 14 Meeting Room A

Craft Class

Take a break from handbells and unleash your creative energy by painting an 8" x 10" canvas based on your Festival experience in La Crosse. A pre-defined design has been chosen as an example, but personal deviations are allowed and encouraged. The experts from All Glazed Up will be on hand to assist where needed or offer encouragement. An additional fee of \$15 for supplies is required at registration time.

Jillian Woelfle-Olson - All Glazed Up, a local craft shop

Class Period 13 Meeting Room B

Class Period 14 Meeting Room B



Developing Spiritual Community

Come into God's presence with ringing! Together we will share ideas to encourage ringers to grow in their relationships with God and each other through community building and reflection. Along with meditating on scripture (including references to bells), we will perform spiritual practices designed for handbell ringers. This class is aimed at ringers and directors in faith-based handbell ensembles.

Mitchell Eithun

Class Period 1 Meeting Room B
Class Period 4 Meeting Room B

Ear Training for Everyone

Are you ready to develop more in-depth skills in hearing and identifying the wide range of musical errors that occur during handbell rehearsals? If a challenge like this sounds stressful, let's dial it back and approach this important task as a team in a supportive and entertaining way. Join your classmates in the game show: "Ear Training for Everyone." Be a part of the fun as we train our musical ears and become more skilled at picking out musical errors: wrong notes, omitted notes, improper techniques, run-away tempos, and more. Using "An Ear Training Course for Handbell Directors & Ringers" by Fred A. Merrett (AGEHR, 2000), class members will develop skills to make more efficient use of rehearsal time, which in turn will help our choirs progress more quickly from sight reading to a polished piece of music.

Sandy Mullaney

Class Period 13 Meeting Room C

Handbell Conducting for Ringers (Directors are also welcome)

Quite often musicians go through their musical lives having little understanding of what a conductor does, what all that flailing around means, or occasionally, what they might look like in the wild. There is also a growing need to have more handbell musicians (**Yes ringers!**) comfortable enough with conducting to stand in when needed. This is not a director recruitment class, simply a conductor understanding class. Bring your baton if you wish.

Bill Alexander

Class Period 3 Meeting Room C

Handbell Science 101

Harnessing the knowledge of handbell science opens the door to experimenting with sound production. The simple movement of a sustained note or perfect execution of a technique can add drama and interest to a performance. Ringing the final chord with a deliberate style will close the piece in keeping with the overall mood. Abrupt or slowly fading into the distance, contemplative or exciting, joyous or sorrow-filled will help the music tell the story you wish to convey. Come into my laboratory and experiment with purpose. Mallets are optional.

Karen Van Wert

Class Period 13 Meeting Room G



Help! I Need to Write a Processional/Descant/Accompaniment – FAST!

AAAACK!!! All of a sudden you need to come up with a processional, descant, or other accompaniment for next Sunday's service or concert, and there's nothing available to buy! Learn how to quickly write these yourself, computer or not!

Bring manuscript paper and pencils, or even your music program if you like.

If you've already written or are working on something, bring legal copies for the class (up to 40) and we'll ring through them!

Cathy Moglebust

Class Period 4 Meeting Room C

Class Period 9 Meeting Room E

Leadership Tea

This informative meeting at 2:10pm on Friday, June 21 is for HMA members and or the director or leader of your group. Important Area and National HMA information will be shared while you enjoy an afternoon snack. This meeting is a requirement of the Area Bylaws to keep the membership informed and to ask for your input.

If you are planning to attend the Leadership Tea, make sure you choose Leadership Tea as your class selection in Period 4, Friday at 2:10pm.

Jennifer Cadwell

Class Period 4 Riverside Ballroom B

Maintenance: Malmark Handbells and Choirchimes

Are your heads loose? Adjustments unbalanced? Out of sorts? Out of pitch? What are external mechanisms or height adjustment bumpers? Do handchimes have set screws? Should I change the handchime head settings? Attend these hands-on interactive classes in the care and maintenance of **Malmark** handbells and handchimes. Class offerings are specific to the respective manufacturers, so choose what suits your needs. Be prepared—some assembly required.

ALL participants should bring their tools.

Monica McGowan

Class Period 3 Meeting Room E

Maintenance: Schulmerich Handbells and MelodyChimes

Are your heads loose? Adjustments unbalanced? Out of sorts? Out of pitch? What are external mechanisms or height adjustment bumpers? Do handchimes have set screws? Should I change the handchime head settings? Attend these hands-on interactive classes in the care and maintenance of **Schulmerich** handbells and handchimes. Class offerings are specific to the respective manufacturers, so choose what suits your needs. Be prepared—some assembly required.

ALL participants should bring their tools.

Monica McGowan

Class Period 13 Meeting Room E



Mallet Like a Percussionist

How do percussionists make it look so easy? Find out some tricks of the trade that will help make your malleting smoother and more musical. Please bring your own mallets.

Cathy Moglebust

Class Period 1 Meeting Room C
Class Period 2 Meeting Room C

Mini-Concert

The intent of Festival Mini-Concerts is to provide to handbell choirs and ensembles the opportunity to perform a solo piece for the Festival registrants. These performances are meant to inspire and/or humor your colleagues. All ringing skill levels are encouraged to participate. Performances will be done at your ringing location in the massed ringing Hall.

You will be contacted by the Mini-Concert coordinator with more details upon registration.

Class Period 13 North Hall C-D (massed ringing area)

Percussion 101

So many instruments—triangle, finger cymbals, wood block, shakers, djembe, claves, and more. Exactly how DO you play them? How do we make a piece sound "Latin" or "New Age" or authentic? In this class we'll learn proper techniques for playing percussion instruments and how to interpret notation. Bring mallets. Let's groove!

Paul McKenzie

Class Period 2 Meeting Room F

POUND Exercise Class

POUND is a cardio workout inspired by drumming and designed to be modified for all ages and abilities. Participants will get to try a shortened POUND class and learn some of the ways this workout is changing minds, hearts, and bodies all around the world! Come, have fun, and challenge yourself as you move your body and release your inner rockstar! No drumming or fitness experience necessary!

Wear comfortable clothing and bring a water bottle.

Kristin Tranby

Class Period 4 Meeting Room F
Class Period 9 Meeting Room F
Class Period 15 Meeting Room F

READING SESSION: If It's June, It Must Be Christmas!

This reading session will include a variety of Christmas season favorites in a variety of levels and styles. This session is designed for standard-sized ensembles but will also make an effort to have pieces that are 3-5 or 2-5 octaves. You'll feel refreshed and ready for a season that's only six months away.

Bring gloves, mallets, and binders.

Jennifer Cadwell

Class Period 3 Meeting Room G
Class Period 14 Meeting Room C



READING SESSION: Mobile Ensemble: Quartets on the Go!

Play bells anywhere! Come and learn how to play as a small, mobile ensemble to ring in church, a retirement community, a Salvation Army red kettle, or just about anywhere! Small ensemble ringing gets bells out into the community, fosters ringer connections, and improves listening skills. This hands-on course will teach you the basics with tips for success before ringing through a variety of music to learn how fun and easy it is to play handbells virtually anywhere.

Christina Herold

Class Period 2 Meeting Room E
Class Period 4 Meeting Room E
Class Period 15 Meeting Room E

READING SESSION: More with Less—Highlighting 8, 10, and 12-Bell Music

This will be a reading session filled with a variety of music that works for times when you're shorthanded and need to pull something together. Some titles will stand alone while others will include an optional keyboard to enhance the performance.

Sandy Eithun

Class Period 3 Meeting Room A
Class Period 15 Meeting Room C

READING SESSION: Music that's Both a Floor Wax and a Dessert Topping (for Concerts and Worship Services)

This session will be filled with music where each piece is appropriate to play in schools, public performances, and most worship services. There will be a variety of levels, styles, and challenges. This session will focus on full or full-ish ensembles but with an effort to have 3-5 or 2-5 octave music selected. Bring gloves, mallets, and binders.

Bill Alexander

Class Period 1 Meeting Room A
Class Period 10 Meeting Room A

READING SESSION: My Favorites – by Lee

Reading of Lee's favorites (of his own) over the years—all seasons of the church year and secular pieces as well.

Lee Afdahl

Class Period 9 South Board Room B1-2-3
Class Period 13 Meeting Room A

Relax! Come to a Drum Circle

Need to get your mind out of your music for a while? Try your hand(s) at a drum circle! This popular type of group is wonderful for meditation and relaxation and is energizing, fun, and even healing.

Bring an ethnic drum, shaker, or other type of percussion instrument, Native American flute, or recorder.

No music reading allowed!

Cathy Moglebust

Class Period 3 South Board Room B1-2-3
Class Period 13 South Board Room B1-2-3
Class Period 14 South Board Room B1-2-3



Ring the Story

Is there a “story” behind the music we ring? In many cases there is. Composers gain inspiration for their pieces through personal experiences, relationships, breathtaking scenery, tragedy and loss, important events in the news, and much more. Hearing their stories can bring us great insight into their music and will help both ringers and directors connect to the piece in a deeper way. We will hear in their own words the stories behind the work of some of our top composers—then we will ring their pieces with fresh understanding and a greater appreciation for their gifted pens.

Sandy Mullaney

Class Period 1 Meeting Room E
Class Period 2 Meeting Room A

Score Study—Musicality

From the ink on the paper to changing the molecules in the room, it is incumbent upon both the ringer and director to understand and express the notes on the page to convey the composer's intention to the listener. Analysis, recognition, notation, interpretation, and execution all work to give voice to those dots, transforming them into aural experiences, and perhaps evoking an emotional response. In this class, we will discover and discuss those details, work to increase your awareness, and facilitate musician understanding, director, ringer, and listener. Learn to express those elements through handbells and handchimes and achieve greater musical success in your rehearsals, worship experiences, and performances.

Monica McGowan

Class Period 4 Meeting Room A
Class Period 14 Meeting Room E

Starting and Sustaining a Youth Handbell Program

We will share ideas on successful youth handbell programs. How do you recruit ringers? How do you keep them? Ideas for starting with nonreaders and how to incorporate nonreaders with experienced ringers. How to choose and mark music for your ringers will also be a part of this discussion.

Bonnie Tranby

Class Period 9 Meeting Room B
Class Period 15 Meeting Room B

Subdivide—Taking on Challenging Rhythms

Learn the power of subdivision to take on any rhythmic challenges that might come your way! We will break down beats into their smallest parts to improve counting skills.

Karla Hulne

Class Period 4 South Board Room B1-2-3
Class Period 15 Meeting Room A



This...Is...Jeopardy!

This... Is... Jeopardy! How well do you know handbell music, techniques, and puns? Test your handbell knowledge by trying out for Handbell Jeopardy, a game show experience complete with buzzers, prizes, and a bubbly host! Four contestants will be chosen by a short written test during the session. Wager wisely!

Mitchell Eithun

Class Period	2	Meeting Room B
Class Period	10	Meeting Room B
Class Period	13	Meeting Room F

Together on the Journey – Devotional Ideas for Church Bell Choirs

Ideas, resources, and demonstrations for bell choirs on how to begin having devotional time together and/or how to deepen your experience. Practical steps that “lay people” can take to lead and enrich our choir's devotions, strengthening our bonds and growing together on our spiritual journey. Tips on how to get started, ways to involve your group, and a full ringing years’ worth of options that are easy to share with your choir.

Sandy Mullaney

Class Period	10	Meeting Room F
Class Period	14	Meeting Room F

Weaving—Battery

If you struggle to ring chromatic passages smoothly, this class will give you the tools to ring several chromatic bells smoothly.

Mary Yerks

Class Period	9	Meeting Room C
Class Period	10	Meeting Room C

You are Your Instrument: An Introduction to the Alexander Technique

Playing an instrument has been described as “an act of physical coordination with a musical outcome.” Too often it’s the instrument and the music we focus on. In this workshop we’ll focus on the most important aspect of your playing—YOU.

This interactive session will introduce you to the Alexander Technique—a method of self-care used by musicians for over 100 years to improve enjoyment, skill, safety, and efficiency in performance. Explore some simple body awareness skills that can help you move with more ease and less strain, reduce and prevent pain and discomfort, and bring enjoyment and skill to all your activities.

Lauren Hill

Class Period	3	Meeting Room D
Class Period	4	Meeting Room D
Class Period	9	Meeting Room D
Class Period	13	Meeting Room D
Class Period	14	Meeting Room D



Summer Handbell Camp

Workshop for Musicians Who Love to Ring!

Monday, July 29 to Thursday, August 1, 2024

St. John's Lutheran Church

20275 Davidson Road, Brookfield, WI 53045

Summer Handbell Camp is a 4-day workshop focused on handbell technique and musicianship. Daily rehearsals and individual practice emphasize hands-on learning and group performance. Selections will range in difficulty from Level 2+ to Level 4+ of both sacred and secular music for use throughout the year. Clinician Sandra Eithun will direct the mass choirs in a fast-paced group setting to make this workshop enjoyable for musicians interested in improving their handbell performance.

There will be a concert on Thursday, August 1 at 7:00 pm featuring the handbell selections from the workshop. All are welcome!

Space is Limited * * * **Workshop Fee: \$300.00** per person includes:

- 10-13 pieces of handbell music
- Morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack each day
- Dinner Thursday prior to the concert

Deadline to register is July 1, 2024. No refunds given after this date.

For additional information, please contact Carolyn or Heidi. We look forward to welcoming you to Summer Handbell Camp 2024!

Carolyn Masterson

262.366.4357

cmasterson2012@gmail.com

Heidi Bischmann

414.305.7812

hbischmann@gmail.com



Additional information will be available with the confirmation of your registration and email updates closer to the workshop date.

**EARLY
BIRD
REGISTRATION
DISCOUNT**

**\$275.00 per person
with non-refundable
deposit of \$75.00 by
May 15, 2024.**



Workshop Clinician

Sandra Eithun

SANDRA EITHUN, M.M.Ed – is a graduate of Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, WI, with an emphasis in the Kodály teaching method, keyboard, and flute. She is currently on the faculty at Holy Family Conservatory of Music in Manitowoc, WI, leading the handbell program there. She served as Director of Music Ministry, handbell director, children's choir director, organist and choral accompanist at First Congregational United Church of Christ in New London, WI, from 1992-2021. She directed the Silver Lake College Handbell Ensemble from 2009-2020, is an active member of the Handbell Musicians of America and has served on their Area VII Board of Directors. She has been commissioned to write music for many events and for numerous individual handbell ensembles. Most recently, she received the honor of being given the esteemed Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award for the 2020 Week of Handbells in Bay View, MI.

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. In 2013, Sandra had the honor of working alongside Doc Severinsen and the Fox Valley Symphony to include handbells in his holiday show, Jingle Bell Doc, at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton, WI. Sandra's compositions have been recently featured on the PBS Christmas special, Holiday Handbells, as well as concerts by noted groups across the country including The Raleigh Ringers and The Bells on Temple Square in Salt Lake City. She continues to work as a handbell clinician and conductor at numerous festivals and workshops throughout the United States. She has four grown children and currently resides in Appleton, WI.

Summer Handbell Camp 2024 Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Church/School _____ City _____ State _____

Workshop Fee: Monday, July 29 – Thursday, August 1, 2024

\$300.00 per person (Includes music, snacks, lunches and dinner Thursday prior to the concert)

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: \$275.00 per person with non-refundable deposit of \$75.00 by May 15, 2024.

Full payment in advance of the workshop is required. Send complete registration form with a check payable to **Gardensong Arts** to: **Summer Handbell Camp**
c/o Heidi Bischmann
205 Woodlands Court, Hartland, WI 53029

Handbell Assignment Request

Ringing positions will be assigned in advance of the workshop. Please indicate your 1st, 2nd AND 3rd choice positions (select ONLY 3 by indicating 1, 2 AND 3 below).

Low Bass	C4-D4	E4-F4	G4-A4	B4-C5	D5-E5	F5-G5	A5-B5	C6-D6 D7	E6-F6 E7-F7	G6-A6 G7-A7	B6-C7 B7-C8

Every attempt will be made to honor your request above. In the event that is not possible, please check below all positions you are willing and able to ring for the entire week (select ALL that apply).

Low Bass	C4-D4	E4-F4	G4-A4	B4-C5	D5-E5	F5-G5	A5-B5	C6-D6 D7	E6-F6 E7-F7	G6-A6 G7-A7	B6-C7 B7-C8

Equipment

Please indicate equipment you are willing to bring if it is needed:

- Handbells (_____ Octaves)
- Handchimes (_____ Octaves)
- Mallets (_____ Octaves)
- Foam Padding and Table Covers (_____ Feet)

All equipment needs will be confirmed in advance. Thank you for your help.

Registration Confirmation

Upon receipt of registration and full payment by mail, you will receive an email confirmation and receipt.

Deadline to register is July 1, 2024. No refunds given after this date.

Date Rec'd _____ Check # _____ Email Confirmation _____ Deposit Date _____
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Area Events Calendar

June 20, 2024 (Thursday)

Bells and Beer at Pearl Street Brewery, La Crosse, WI. Featuring the Twin Cities Beer Choir, food trucks, and the “Bells and Beer” composition composed and conducted by Cathy Moklebust. There is an additional fee for this optional, yet FUN event, which includes two free beverages—either our own Area 7 LET’S RING LAGER or a beverage of your choice.

June 20 (pre-fest.), 21-23, 2024

Festival Conference – La Crosse, Wisconsin, 70th Anniversary Event area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference-2024

Clinicians: Sandra Eithun, Alex Guebert, Lee Afdahl. Bring a non-perishable food, cleaning item, or cash donation for the local food shelf.

June 21, 2024 (Friday)

Showcase Concert at the Festival Conference 7:30pm La Crosse Center, WI
Featuring Bells of the Bluffs Handbell Ensemble
Marilee Anderson, artistic director
Festival registrants – free admittance
\$20 Tickets sold at the door to non-registrants.

June 23, 2024 – Sunday 1:30pm

Festival Conference Closing Concert

La Crosse Center, WI
Free and open to the public.
Invite your friends and neighbors.
Bring non-perishable food, cleaning items. or cash donations for the local food shelf.

July 9-13, 2024

National Seminar – Handbell Musicians of America
To celebrate HMA’s 70th Anniversary
Hartford, CT

handbellmusicians.org/event/national-seminar-2024

August 12-17, 2024

International Symposium (21st)

Hamamatsu, Japan

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Hamamatsu 2024

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

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