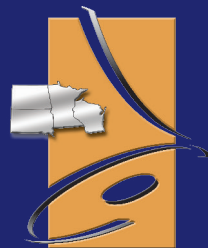


# Clapper Chatter

Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota • Wisconsin • Manitoba

*Volume 38 • Issue 2 • May 2024*



Area 7

Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA



*Every Area 7  
Festival is unique.  
This year's event in  
La Crosse will have  
a not-so-subtle  
difference in attire  
from 2022.*



# Message from the Chair

by Jennifer Cadwell

## Reflecting on the past, looking toward the future.

Each spring we cap off our ringing season with a final performance and celebration. I love to take a trip down memory lane and read through all the pieces we've played this season; September seems so long ago. It's wonderful to hear how much the ringers have progressed in their musicality. What once was a challenging rhythm now is played with ease. Smiles fill the room as we read through our Christmas and more recent repertoire. One of my favorite things to do as a director is to rearrange my ringers so they learn multiple ringing positions. Playing through our season's repertoire in new spots is a great way to have ringers try a new position as they already "know" the piece just from a different perspective. As our season comes to a close we inevitably start talking about next year; music we would like to play, special performances we'd like to have, growing the music program and more.

We at Area 7 are excited to cap off our season with our Festival Conference held in La Crosse, Wisconsin in June. Ringers and directors from more than twelve states are making preparations to join us next month as we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of HMA/AGEHR. Part of celebrating the joy of handbells is reflecting on our past and how we got here. We are asking our members to share their story of how they got started in handbells, handchimes, ringing, directing, and more! I can't wait to hear not only what brought **YOU** to the bell world but also how your ensemble started ringing, and how it has evolved. Sharing about our past helps us grow as an organization. As we celebrate this summer, we also look toward the future. Taking classes, watching performances at the festival, and talking with other ringers and directors fills us with ideas that we can't wait to try in the new season.

Where are **YOU** on your bell journey? What are **YOU** celebrating this spring? Where will the joy of bells lead **YOU** in the coming season?

Your Area 7 board is here to help you celebrate the past and look toward the future. [Dan Ahlman](#) serves as our historian for the Area. [Christina Herold](#) serves as our membership chair. Contact Christina to learn more about the various levels of membership. Did you know, as a director your ringers can get a sub-membership for just \$10/year? Area 7 also has our publications guru, [Bill Alexander](#) who puts together this beautiful newsletter. Do you have stories and pictures from current bell happenings or want to share how your group got started with bells? Send the info to Bill to be included in future newsletters.

"I'm Jennifer. This year I'm celebrating 37 years of ringing and can't wait to attend my 12th festival conference in June. My greatest joy is teaching youth to ring handbells and join the bell family!"



**Deadline for the Next Issue of *Clapper Chatter*  
July 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**

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**\$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](mailto:editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org)



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# 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 Conference 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 "bag swag") are also available.

Contact Anita Fraundorf at:

[pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org)

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



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# Area 7 Election Begins May 1

This May, Handbell Musicians of America (HMA) members will receive email notification of the bi-annual election of officers for the Area 7 Board. Voting will be online and open May 1-30. The candidates and members of the Board will be notified of the results of the election, an announcement will be made at the 2024 Festival Conference, and results included in the next edition of Clapper Chatter.

### Chair Elect Candidates:

Marilee Anderson  
Monica McGowan

### Secretary Candidates:

Diane LaFontaine  
Deb Madel

### Treasurer Candidates:

Theresa Jacobson  
Gwendolyn Woerpel

For bios and photos of the candidates, go to the Area 7 website at [area7.handbellmusicians.org/front/2024-election](http://area7.handbellmusicians.org/front/2024-election). There will be a link on that page to bring you to the ballot where you can then vote online for Chair Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. New Board members will begin their term on October 1, 2024.

## Handbell Musicians of America Membership Levels

**Individual Membership • \$95/year**

**Group Membership for your church, school, organization • \$95/year**

**Retired Director Membership, 65 plus, no longer leading an ensemble • \$65/year**

**Student Membership, full-time college or high school student • \$25/year**

**Sub Membership, individuals ringing with an organization that has a group membership • \$10/year**

For more information, contact Christina Herold  
[membership.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:membership.area7@handbellmusicians.org)

# From the South Dakota Sub-Area Chair

by Cathy Moklebust



## South Dakota Soundings

### Happy Spring!

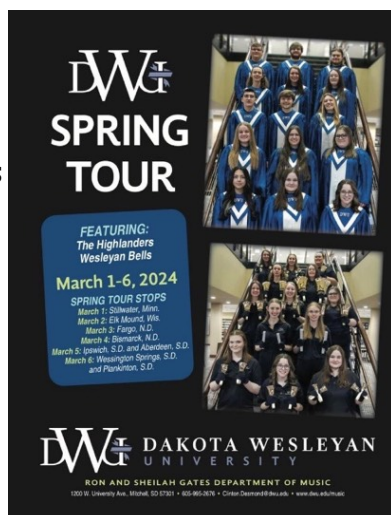


Here's hoping your Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and spring concert ringing has gone wonderfully. Now it's on to thinking about the rest of the program year and summer ringing

activities. Please let us know if you are planning concerts or workshops! And of course we are all geared up for our Area 7 Festival Conference in La Crosse, WI in June!

### Here's what's been going on in our part of the world:

**The Wesley Bells of Dakota Wesleyan University**, in Mitchell, went on their spring tour in early March, and it was very successful! Their tour took them to locations in SD, ND, MN, and WI. I was so happy to have been able to work with them briefly before their tour. They performed a wide variety of music from sacred and secular handbell classics to ABBA's "Dancing Queen!" Erin Desmond is their director.



**The Heartland Handbells of Sioux Falls** performed a concert on Sunday, April 7 at 3pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. It was an entertaining



program: their concert featured music that represented the holidays from New Year's Day to Tax Day, complete with a frustrated "CPA" doing taxes from a desk in front of the ensemble. Their director is Gene LeVasseur.

### Congratulations to Cheryl Ulmer of Aberdeen, SD!



She was notified a few days ago that she is the winner of the W.D. McKeehan Scholarship to attend the HMA National Seminar in Hartford, CT in July! Her application was very impressive. Congratulations to Cheryl! SD is so proud of you!

## Save the Dates!

**Saturday, September 21 – Bells of the Hills Workshop/Festival!** First Congregational UCC Church in Rapid City, SD. Workshop hours: 9am–3pm. Registration begins at 8:30am. We are reaching out to ringers and directors in the western region of South Dakota—from Chamberlain to Casper (WY) to Chadron (NE), Hay Springs (NE) to Hot Springs to Hettinger, Sheridan to Sundance to Spearfish to Sturgis, Buffalo (WY) to Buffalo (SD) to Buffalo Gap and environs in-between. Mark your calendars and tell your friends. Stay tuned here and at the Bells of the Hills Facebook page at [facebook.com/Bellsofthehills](https://facebook.com/Bellsofthehills) for more details See you there!

**Saturday, November 2 - Aberdeen Workshop/Festival!** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, SD will be hosting a handbell workshop/festival with yours truly as clinician. We are in the very early planning stages, and the possibility of an optional Sunday morning presentation during worship is being explored. For more information, email Cheryl Ulmer at [CLUBELLS@msn.com](mailto:CLUBELLS@msn.com).

## Hosting Workshops

If you are interested in hosting a workshop or festival, please do not hesitate! Local events are such



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inspirational, educational, and I dare say, addictive experiences for ringers and directors alike—there's nothing like learning and ringing wonderful music with several other groups. Once your ringers go to an event, large or small, they'll want to go again and again! Let me know your thoughts and we'll get started!

Summer is a great time to try small group/ensemble ringing! There are many, many resources available for solo, duet, trio, quartet, 8-12 bell music with or without piano accompaniment. Look for composers Sandra and Mitchell Eithun, Karen Buckwalter, Anna Laura Page, Jason Krug, and myself—we all have several pieces and collections for very small groups that take minimal effort to work up. Check with Carol from Heitz Handbells and Music at [heitzhandbells.com](http://heitzhandbells.com), or wherever you buy handbell music, for the latest titles.

Make sure to visit and join our Facebook group "South Dakota Handbells and Handchimes" at [facebook.com/groups/924494502014950](https://facebook.com/groups/924494502014950). We have some great discussions and all the latest information and announcements!

And lastly, if you haven't renewed your HMA membership, please do so. Many memberships come due this time of year. Check the HMA web site to see when yours is due, [handbellmusicians.org](http://handbellmusicians.org). If you aren't a member, please consider a membership here: [handbellmusicians.org/get-involved/become-a-member](http://handbellmusicians.org/get-involved/become-a-member).

Ring on, ~Cathy

## Eau Claire Group Happy to be Back

On April 13 The Handbell Choir at Grace Lutheran in Eau Claire had a great day! There were 45 ringers, all happy to be back after COVID. Over 55 were in the audience — "super fun!" reported director Karen Lionberger, "I combined my choirs to play *Riverside* by Stephenson, which included percussion."



## From the Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair

by Akudo Omeoga



My name is Akudo Omeoga and I took on the position of Twin Cities Sub-Area Chair in October. It has been quite a whirlwind, both in learning the position and connecting with members, and both in the area and specifically in the Twin Cities. I had a great onboarding experience from the past Sub-Area Chair Jennifer Jewell and have been trying to figure out how to best serve the Twin Cities.

I've been ringing handbells since I was in the fifth grade (took a long hiatus between the ages of 12-21) and started ringing again at Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church in St. Paul with Cassandra Warn and Bob Lucas. At Camphor, my love of handbells grew and flourished.

People always ask, "why do you love handbells so much?" For those of us who are associated with handbells, whether it be as a ringer, director, or general supporter, it's hard to explain the magic of playing through a hard passage, or the communal feel of being one large instrument with many hands.

I attended Toll Free's *That's Amore* concert in February and fell in love with the showmanship of bells all over again. Watching so many ringers from across the metro come together to make the music come alive puts warm feelings in my own heart as well. To see the joy on everyone's face (audience member or ringer) is a deep reminder of the unbridled joy handbells bring to people.

To each individual, we have different reasons why we love handbells. What is yours?

**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!**

## 2024 Festival Scholarships

The Clista Wood Scholarship Fund was established to provide encouragement and assistance to eligible individuals to attend an Area 7 ringing/learning event. Due to the generosity of donors and, since scholarships were not awarded during the pandemic years, the Area 7 Board voted to make an exception to the two-scholarship guideline and award five full scholarships to the 2024 Festival Conference in La Crosse, WI! Scholarship recipients have been notified.

Scholarship recipients must be full Handbell Musicians of America members, 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. They may also submit an article to *Clapper Chatter* about their experience at the event.

## From the Southern WI Sub-Area Chair

by Lisa Bourget



### Upcoming events in Southern Wisconsin:

**Saturday, May 18, 4pm**, New Life Church, 7564 Cottage Grove Road, Madison, WI – Bell Crazy Handbell Ensemble's Spring Concert: *Destinations*. Free admission.

**Saturday, June 1, 6:30pm**, Engler Center, Chilton, WI – [Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble's](#) Movie Theme Concert. Tickets available from [Engler Center](#).

**Sunday, June 2, 3:30pm and 6:30pm**, Unity Lutheran Church, 4600 Pilgrim Road, Brookfield, WI – [Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble's](#) Movie Theme Concert. Free-will donation.

# STRIKEPOINT

## Strikepoint Announces Their Summer Concert Series

In preparation for our tour to Japan...



Look for concerts near you

May 5, 7pm, Superior, WI

June 16, 4pm, Minneapolis, MN

June 29, 7pm, Thunder Bay, ON

June 30, 3pm, Grand Marais, MN

July 21, Cloquet, MN

July 27, 5:30pm, Bayfield, WI

August 4, 7 pm, Duluth, MN

Bill Alexander, artistic director, [bill@strikepoint.com](mailto:bill@strikepoint.com)

[www.strikepoint.com](http://www.strikepoint.com)



**Monday, July 29 – Thursday, August 1, St. John's Lutheran Church, Brookfield, WI – Summer Handbell Camp**

## Meet our Festival Conductors!

*by Lisa Bourget*

Ringers are in for a real treat at Area 7's Festival Conference this June in La Crosse, Wisconsin, with three highly-esteemed conductors leading a variety of choirs and massed pieces. Sandra Eithun will conduct the Coppers Division and two massed pieces; Alex Guebert will conduct the Bronze Division, Bronze Plus Ensemble, and two massed pieces; and Lee Afdahl will lead two reading session classes and conduct the Conference Choir.

We posed a few questions to "our" conductors to provide a more personal introduction that augments their impressive [\*biographies and credentials\*](#). The questions, and conductors' very personable responses, are below.



**Lee Afdahl** stated that "it's always an honor to be asked to conduct; thank you, Area 7, for this opportunity." The reverse is definitely true; it's an honor to have the opportunity to ring under the direction of such high-caliber conductors and composers, gain some small insight into their individual approaches, and be part of a large community that together brings to life our unique style of music under their expert guidance. What could be better than that?

***How did you first become involved with handbells, what prompted you to make them such a prominent part of your life, and what has that meant for you?***

**Lee:** I first became acquainted with handbells when I became Director of Music of Trinity United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the early 1970s. The church had handbells but my predecessor allowed only junior high boys going through the voice change to ring them. I immediately learned that boys and girls and adults wanted to ring, so I learned all I could at a worship conference that first summer. Soon after, we had five handbell ensembles. Thus began a long love of handbells and conducting. Within the first couple of years, we organized a city-wide handbell festival. We had no budget, so I was willing to

conduct. And that success led to conducting for Michigan events and Area 5 events. Each church I served in my church music career has had a handbell program, or I started one.



**Alex Guebert:** I got roped into ringing in the adult handbell group at my small church, at around 6th grade, if I remember correctly. I started getting interested in composing/arranging right about when I entered high school, and the director of that group let me try out some of my new pieces with them. That director was Bruce Benne, who is still active with Pacific Bells, a community handbell group here in Orange County, California.



**Sandra Eithun:** In 1992 when I was hired to be the Director of Music Ministry at my church, they had a set of handbells stored away in a basement closet. I was given charge of getting them out of the basement and back into use. I attended a few local workshops and fell in love with the idiom. We did not, however, have a large budget for music at my church, so I decided to start writing a few things for our ringers to use. I bought a very primitive computer program on a floppy disk (remember, it was the early 90s), and I started to score some very usable settings. Once I noticed that the pieces were well-received and I was getting positive feedback, I decided to send a few of them off to some publishers. We had to do that via large mailing envelopes—no email or PDF attachments at that time. Sometimes you had to wait up to six months for an answer. I ended up getting around 18 acceptances within the first two years.

***What are your thoughts on handbell ringing, conducting and composing? Was there any particular progression for you? Would you have any advice for ringers who might be considering conducting or composing?***

**Lee:** For those who want to learn more about conducting and composing, take advantage of classes at area and national events. Also consider private coaching from experienced conductors and

—continued on next page

composers. We are more than happy to encourage new talent. Advice? Just take a step at a time. I didn't allow much time or thought of composing early in my career as there were always many choirs for which I was responsible. But late in the 1980s, I thought there may be musical ideas that I would like to put in writing and hear a handbell ensemble perform. That first published piece is always a memorable joy for composers.

**Alex:** Handbell ringing is a specific art, and handbell conducting is just as specific to that art. The conducting technique is different from choir or other instrumental conducting. One big part of that is clarity of pulse. On the other hand, an expressive flow is just as important. The duality between these two might be something I spend my whole life trying to master! My advice for conducting would be to find a great teacher (mine was Ramona Miller), learn from them and adopt a humble posture (as in, be open to changing anything and everything about your technique for the sake of improving). Practice often, and record video of yourself practicing conducting.

For composing, it's.... well, handbells are my favorite instrument to compose for; there are so many possibilities for techniques, sounds, soundscapes, harmonic complexities... as a composer, this is exciting. My advice for handbell composers would be: study lots of scores of the classics. Then write something, then get it played (at least read-through) by an ensemble; then assess what worked and what didn't work, then make changes, then repeat the process. There's no substitute for experience, and this is how you get experience composing—you have to hear your music being played live. One silver bullet of composing advice for handbells is this: use texture to create dynamics. If you want soft, use thinner chords. If you want loud, thicken the chords.

**Sandra:** I cannot think of a time in my life where I wasn't either going to be a musician or was a musician. When I was in about 6th grade, my piano teacher gave me some manuscript paper and we worked on composing a very short tune. It wasn't much of anything, but the blank manuscript paper was enticing to me. When I was in college, I wrote a few pieces for flute and piano. Composing has given me an enormous creative outlet throughout my life. I love that it's different every time. Coming up with a creative work that evolves out of your own thought process can be a rush. During the years when I was a

young mother with four young children, it was something I could do at home and get a sense of accomplishment. It also helped me become a better musician, which is still ongoing. It's given me a network of other composers and editors that I consider true friends. It's helped me to develop an even better ear for listening and appreciating all sorts of music. My advice for aspiring composers is to keep writing and don't be afraid to take constructive criticism from someone whose opinion you respect. Everything you write won't necessarily land, and that's okay.

***What are your observations on directing an individual choir vs. directing massed ringing? What especially appeals to you about massed ringing?***

**Sandra:** The goal is to get the "mass" to sound like "one" choir. This is especially difficult with passages of running 8th or 16th notes in a large space. Nuanced conducting can often be tossed out the window, as it may be that "large conducting" is the requirement for certain pieces or parts of pieces. The person in the back row needs to see you as much as the person in the front. I do my best to sort of create a hybrid conducting style in massed ringing that grows organically out of what is happening at the time based on the needs of what I'm hearing and the abilities of the ringers... especially the ability to look up.

**Lee:** Contrasting conducting styles from one ensemble to massed ringing: with one ensemble you can have a smaller beat pattern, and allow for non-conducting hand cueing with a more intimate style. Massed conducting usually requires a larger, more defined beat pattern. One learns to minimize what you say and how you say it to produce more musical results from the massed ensemble.

**Alex:** Handbells are special because they are a composite instrument. It's one instrument being played by 11-15 people. In this way it is distinct from choir or orchestra. Mass ringing is even more special because each ringer has several others in the room playing the same part. Conducting a mass ring is much different, as my job becomes a little less "orchestra director" and a little more "drum major." However, it's still fun to squeeze some musicality out of a big room, so it's not all just rhythmic counting. My favorite thing about mass ringing is when we really lock in as a group... there's nothing like that feeling, in a huge room, all playing together. It's a metaphor for community, and why we need each other.



## ***Do you have a favorite handbell memory or story you'd like to share?***

**Alex:** I love the community of handbell ringers and how these big events usually result in the making of some solid friendships! I met Matthew Compton (handbell composer whose music is part of this festival) at the National Seminar in Grand Rapids in 2018; we became fast friends and have now collaborated on lots of handbell-related concerts and compositions.

**Sandra:** Since I had directed bells at my church for nearly 30 years, I was privileged to see a lot of the high school ringers graduate and move on with their lives. Some would stay in the area, while others went away to college or joined the workforce. I didn't often get to see many of them once they were out of the high school group. On one occasion, however, I took the current church high school ensemble to another area church to be part of the Sunday service there. The older sister of one of the ringers had come back to town to visit family, and she was there. She was a former ringer from years back. She sat down next to me in the front pew after we had done a quick warmup prior to the congregation arriving, leaned into my ear and said, "You have no idea how much I miss this, I just want to be up there with them." Those are the best memories for me as a teacher/director, to know you were part of someone's life that they recall so fondly. I have a lot of other very wonderful memories, but these are the special ones.

**Lee:** Favorite handbell memory? So many, especially conducting at International Symposia and Handbell Musicians of America national events. Helping to bring musicians together to make music from many cultures and countries is exhilarating. One senior citizen came up to me after a national festival in Indiana years ago and had to tell me that all her life she had been told that she wasn't talented enough to sing or play an instrument (sadly). Ringing in a handbell ensemble finally gave her the musical and artistic outlet for which she had longed her whole life!

## ***What were some of the considerations that went into choosing the repertoire for this year's Festival? What in particular are you looking forward to at this summer's Festival?***

**Alex:** Fun, accessibility, catchy rhythm, opportunities for musical expression—these are all elements that are part of considering music for festivals. I'm most excited for the two big mass ring pieces. My church

group, Cathedral Bells, is currently playing *Spiritus Sanctus* and it's a real gem of a piece with a fresh melody that sounds almost pop-songish, yet with so much exquisite beauty in the expansive middle section of the piece. And *Bound for South Australia* is always fun; I have conducted it many times.

**Lee:** This year's repertoire for me was easy, as the decision was a collaborative one with the Area 7 Board. The choice for a commissioned piece to honor the past chair was a given. (The Conference Choir will premiere a piece by Sandra Eithun, *Along the Water*, commissioned in honor of Area 7's past chair, Anita Fraundorf.) The request to include a piece for double choir was the Board's creative suggestion. And the Board wanted me to include one of my own compositions, appreciatively.

**Sandra:** We work in tandem with the Area 7 Board. We send them our ideas, and they make suggestions or approve what we've selected. I had recently completed *Fantasy on All Creatures of our God and King*, so I was excited to hear it with a large group, as it really has some dramatic sections towards the end of the piece that I'm sure will fill the space. I'm so honored that Anita selected me to write the piece in honor of her years on the Board. I'll be excited to hear the performance of *Along the Water*.

---

## **Summer Handbell Camp, Brookfield, WI**



Just a reminder that the **Early Bird Discount** deadline is May 15 for Summer Handbell Camp 2024 This is a **workshop for musicians who love to ring!** If you have not already registered, we hope you are still planning to join us. It is going to be an exciting week!

A flyer and registration form can be found later in this issue of *Clapper Chatter*, as well as hotel information at the very bottom of this article. Please share this information with others that you know who may be interested in this unique handbell experience.

**Monday, July 29 to Thursday, August 1, 2024**  
St. John's Lutheran Church

—continued on next page

20275 Davidson Road  
Brookfield, WI 53045

Summer Handbell Camp is a four-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 7pm featuring the handbell selections from the workshop. All are welcome!

Space is Limited —Workshop Fee: \$300 per person includes:

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

Take note of the **Early Bird Discount**—\$275 per person with non-refundable deposit of \$75 by May 15, 2024.

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

We're very excited and hope you will join us! We look forward to welcoming you to Summer Handbell Camp 2024!

~Carolyn Masterson and Heidi Bischmann

**Hotel Reservations** – Copy and paste the URL below into your browser to access the exclusive rates available for this group:

Booking Link: [hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhocn=MKEBORU&groupCode=SHC&arrivaldate=2024-07-28&departuredate=2024-08-01&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT](https://hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhocn=MKEBORU&groupCode=SHC&arrivaldate=2024-07-28&departuredate=2024-08-01&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT)

**Hotel:** Tru by Hilton Milwaukee Brookfield  
**Group Name:** Summer Handbell Camp  
**Arrival Date:** 7/28/2024  
**Departure Date:** 8/01/2024  
**Cut-off Date:** 06/28/2024

## Fall Into Ringing Workshop September 21

*ISO (in search of) people interested in learning how to ring handbells and handchimes or looking to expand their basic knowledge of the instrument.*

Maybe you, or someone you know is a music educator considering adding bells or chimes to their classroom. Maybe you have a teenager or young adult wanting to learn bells. Maybe you are someone who just loves to ring and wants to share their passion with others. Then this is the workshop for you! See the flyer in this newsletter or contact Anita Fraundorf for more information:

[pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org)

**Note for Music Educators:** did you know that Area 7 has a bell and chime loan program? More information can be found on our [website](#).

## In Memoria

### Valerie Stephenson

Valerie Stephenson, teacher, musician, and handbell composer, died November 8, 2023. She was a dedicated member of the Handbell

Musicians of America and received an Honorary Life Membership in 2014. Valerie's compositions included reflective, introspective pieces as well as upbeat, festive ones, including all malletted arrangements of familiar tunes.



### Timothy Waugh

An internationally acclaimed conductor, composer, and performance arts educator, Timothy (Tim) Waugh, died on February 8, 2024, at age 69. Throughout his career, his passion for music and education inspired countless musicians and he was a tireless champion for performance arts in the church, classroom, and community. Tim was Area 7's Festival Conference Clinician in Eau Claire, WI (1996), St Cloud, MN (2000), and La Crosse, WI (2014).

### Ruth Ann Molloy

Ruth Ann Molloy of Alexandria, MN died on March 26, 2024 at age 63. Ruth's nurturing spirit extended beyond her family as she also dedicated herself to various community activities; including the Handbell Musicians of America, Area 7, serving as the Northern Minnesota Sub-Area Chair (2016-2020).



# Fall Into Ringing

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Handbell Workshop for Beginners and Level 1 Musicians

Enjoy a fun, low-stress, hands-on learning experience!

**Saturday, September 21, 2024  
1:00-4:30pm**

*Registration begins at 12:30*

**First United Methodist Church  
230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN**

**Cost: \$10 per person  
*Bring all your friends!***

**Clinicians: Bill Alexander, Anita Fraundorf, and friends  
Questions? Contact Anita at:**

**[pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org)**

### FALL INTO RINGING REGISTRATION FORM

**Return this form (or email the information requested on the form) to: Anita Fraundorf, Our Savior's Lutheran, 4831 Grand Ave., Duluth, MN 55807 or [pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org).**

**The registration and the \$10 registration fee is due by August 1.**

**Make checks payable to *Our Savior's Bell Fund*.**

Participant Name _____	HMA Membership number (if applicable) _____
Mailing Address _____	Name of church or organization (if applicable) _____
City, State, Zipcode _____	
Phone Number – Text Ok? _____	Reading Music Knowledge (choose one):
Email Address _____	<input type="checkbox"/> No Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Some Experience
Name of Handbell Director (if applicable) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Experienced

# From the Area 7 Events Coordinator

by Alanna Teragawa



## Festival Conference Ringing Between the Bluffs

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

The excitement is building for a fabulous Festival. Have you registered yet?

There are already over 250 coming to help celebrate HMA's 70th Anniversary while Ringing Between the Bluffs.

There are 3 great clinicians, 31 classes, 11 topics, 16 faculty, lots of friends to make, and lots of long-time friends to greet again. A few handbell-related vendors will be in the shopping area, plus many of the Area 7 auditioned community ensembles will have a display with information on how to book them for a concert in your area.



**The last day to register for the 2024 Festival is May 15.**

**Registration Link**

[area7handbellmusiciansofamericaregfox.com/  
area-7-festival-conference-2024](https://area7handbellmusiciansofamericaregfox.com/area-7-festival-conference-2024)

**General Festival Information link:**

[area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-  
conference-2024](https://area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference-2024)

## Checklist to Prepare for the La Crosse Festival Conference

**May 1** Notify the Registrar if you would like to perform a solo piece during the Mini-Concert hour, Period 13.

**May 15** \$160 full Festival balance due; or \$80 one-day Festival balance due.

**May 15** Optional fees due: \$30 Bells & Beer event

**May 15** Optional fees due: \$45 La Crosse Queen

Page 12

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.

**June 20** 3:00pm You can start arriving at the Center to unload your equipment

**June 20** 3:00–5:00pm Registration open at the La Crosse Center

**June 20** 5:30–7:30pm Enjoy a variety of foods from the Apothik Food Truck outside the Pearl Street Brewery where the Bells and Beer Event is being held. You can eat outside or take them inside the Brewery.

**June 21** 8:00am Registration open at the La Crosse Center

**June 21** 9:00am Classes start

**June 21** 3:30pm First Massed Rehearsal – all ringers must be set up and ready to ring.

## How Much Equipment is Needed for Festival Classes?

- 200 pieces of foam
- 25 sets of handbells
- 14 sets of handchimes
- 30 music stands
- Lots of teaching aids and music

**All of these FILL this truck to the top.**



—continued on next page



## Your Help is Needed

*Can't come to the Festival?  
Please loan us your equipment!*

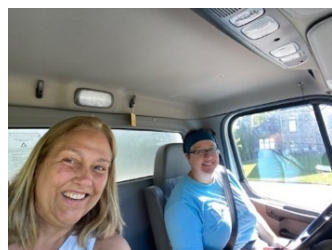
If you or your choir cannot attend the Festival Conference this year, you can still be a special part of it by loaning your handbell equipment for classes.

### Did You Know?

- All borrowed equipment is fully insured by HMA from the time it leaves your building to its return?
- In the history of Area 7 Festivals, there has NEVER been any loss or damage to borrowed equipment?

Contact Michelle Finlon at

[chime.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto: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. All equipment will be securely stored. Here

are the cheery faces of the borrowed equipment custodians and transporters: Bonnie Tranby and Alyssa Boock.

## Area 7 Festival Silent Auction

Bring and/or buy an item from the Festival Silent Auction. Almost anything can be up for auction. Some suggestions you may consider: Items (wine, cheese, snacks, etc.) that represent where you live, a handbell trinket, a painting, gently used music that you no longer need in your library, and many more. You are limited only by your imagination. Your purchase helps offset the rising cost of hosting Festivals. Thank you!



**Happy 70th Anniversary to the Handbell Musicians of America!**

**Special surprises are in store at the Festival to celebrate this historic milestone. And, there will be some fun giveaways for all.**

## Anthornis

This year's Anthornis event will be held on October 25-26. in St. Louis Park. This is a change of month and venue from past years.



**Location:** Westwood Lutheran Church, 9001 Cedar Lake Rd St. Louis Park, MN

**Clinician:** Cathy Moglebust

### Repertoire:

**Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy** – Hart Morris, Hope 1777

**Kindness** – Cathy Moglebust, Choristers Guild, CGB1298

**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** – Cathy Moglebust, Choristers Guild, CGB362

**Nordic Polska** – Matthew Compton, From the Top Publishing, 20677

**Patapan** – Cathy Moglebust, Choristers Guild, CGB909 (additional instruments: flute and percussion)

**Prelude on Herzliebster Jesu** – Fred Gramann, AGEHR, AG47002

More event information can be found online and will appear in the August edition of *Clapper Chatter*.  
[area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2024](http://area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2024)

## Young Ringers Camp 2025

*It's never too early to start talking about summer camp in 2025.*

**June 20-22, 2025, Friday–Sunday morning**

**Clinician:** Bonnie Tranby

**Camp Omega** – Waterville, Minnesota

**More information** can be found in the Events tab online at [area7.handbellmusicians.org](http://area7.handbellmusicians.org)



# 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 Ralieg 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> AND 3<sup>rd</sup> 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) 7-9pm

**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. This is a SOLD OUT event.

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

**Festival Conference** – La Crosse, Wisconsin, 70th Anniversary Event [area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-conference-2024](https://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  
Featuring Bells of the Bluffs Handbell Ensemble  
Marilee Anderson, artistic director  
Festival registrants – free admittance  
\$20 Tickets sold at the door to the general public

## June 23, 2024 – (Sunday)

**Festival Conference Closing Concert**  
1:30pm, La Crosse Center  
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  
Celebrating HMA’s 70th Anniversary  
Hartford, Connecticut  
[handbellmusicians.org/event/national-seminar-2024](https://handbellmusicians.org/event/national-seminar-2024)

## July 27-30, 2024

**International Handbell Music Camp**  
Clinician: Monica McGowan  
International Music Camp/International Peace Gardens  
Dunseth, North Dakota  
[internationalmusiccamp.com](https://internationalmusiccamp.com)

## August 12-17, 2024

**21st International Handbell Symposium**  
Hamamatsu, Japan



## August 16, 2024

**International Charity Concert Hamamatsu 2024**  
Hamamatsu, Japan  
Area 7's Strikepoint will represent the United States and the HMA

## October 25-26, 2024

**Anthornis Ringing Event**  
Westwood Lutheran Church – St. Louis Park, Minnesota  
[area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2024](https://area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2024)

## June 20-22, 2025

**Young Ringers Camp**  
Camp Omega – Waterville, Minnesota  
[More information here](#)

## Area 7 Board

### Chair

Jennifer Cadwell  
[chair.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.area7@handbellmusicians.org)

### Chair-Elect

Paul McKenzie  
[chairelect.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chairelect.area7@handbellmusicians.org)

### Past Chair

Anita Fraundorf  
[pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:pastchair.area7@handbellmusicians.org)

### Secretary

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### C.H.I.M.E. Representative

Michelle Finlon  
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### Membership Coordinator

Christina Herold  
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### Historian and Media Library Coordinator

Dan Ahlman  
[historian.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:historian.area7@handbellmusicians.org)

### North Dakota Sub-Area Chair

Karisa L. Templeton  
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### South Dakota Sub-Area Chair

Cathy Moklebust  
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### Northern Minnesota Sub-Area Chair

Jordan Goodwater  
[minnesotanorth.area7@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:minnesotanorth.area7@handbellmusicians.org)

### Southern Minnesota Sub-Area Chair

Paul Kingsbury  
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### Twin Cities Metro Sub-Area Chair

Akudo Omeoga  
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### Northern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair

Denean Smith  
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### Southern Wisconsin Sub-Area Chair

Lisa Bourget  
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