

Clapper Chatter

Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota • Wisconsin • Manitoba

Volume 38 • Issue 3 • August 2024

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

**There was always
something going
on at the Area 7
Handbell Festival
in La Crosse.
• June 2024 •**



**Want in on the fun?
Start your planning for
St. Cloud.
• June 2026 •**

Message from the Chair

by Jennifer Cadwell



Thank you to everyone who joined us for Ringing Between the Bluffs in La Crosse. We had a fantastic time ringing together. I hope you enjoyed hearing Bells of the Bluffs, Conference Choir, and the Bronze Plus Ensemble in concert. So many tidbits were learned in the various classes, ready to put into practice this fall. In addition to all the ringing, I loved getting to know people at the Bells and Beer event, paddleboat cruise, and Saturday night happy hour. Building relationships with bell people is what it's all about.

In July I attended the National Seminar in Hartford, Connecticut along with 13 other Area 7 friends. National Seminar is jam-packed with opportunities to take 14 classes, optional ringing tracks, and to attend eight concerts featuring ringers from across the country. It's a great opportunity to meet composers, handbell manufacturers, and publishers, and to meet new bell friends from the United States, Canada, Singapore, Columbia, Brazil, and Hong Kong.

Now that it's August, it's time to get ready for the fall ringing season. This month is the time to prepare for upcoming ringing opportunities. Do you have a new technique you want to work on? Maybe you want to diversify your skills and learn a new ringing position, or you have a favorite piece you would like to program. Talk to your director now. What about refreshing your skills as a ringer or director by attending a workshop? Options are available in South Dakota, Wisconsin, Duluth, and the Twin Cities.

August is also the perfect month to recruit new ringers. Invite friends to join in the fun and hold a "bell tasting" event after worship, or another church or school event, where people can learn to play in just 5-15 minutes. Plan a fun outing between September and May. Maybe you can attend a workshop, join us for Anthornis, or plan a mini-concert in the community. Whatever the fall looks like in your group, remember to try new things and find the joy in ringing together!

~Jennifer Cadwell

Thank you!

Having a successful event takes everyone working together. A special thank you goes out to

- 275 registrants
- 16 faculty that taught 33 classes
- 3 fantastic clinicians
- Bells of the Bluffs
- Great River Ringers
- Area 7 board members

- Borrowed equipment truck crew

We borrowed, transported, and used

- 25 sets of bells (102 octaves)
- 22 sets of chimes (76 octaves)
- 232 foam pads (730 ft)
- 6 bell trees

It took 27-and 20-foot trucks to transport everything from 24 churches, organizations, and groups in the Twin Cities metro area, St. Cloud, Rochester, and La Crosse.

If you are interested in advertising in *Clapper Chatter*, we have a variety of plans that could fit your needs.

There is a 15% discount to those advertisers paying in advance for an entire year (four editions).

\$30 for business-card size per edition

\$55 for 1/4 page per edition

\$65 for 1/2 page per edition

\$80 for full page per edition

If you would like to know more, contact Bill Alexander at editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org



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From the Past Chair

by Anita Fraundorf



The *Hamilton* song "One Last Time" has started playing on a loop in my head as I sit down to write this message. How is it possible that the six-year term I began in October, 2018 is coming to an end? It's been an amazing journey filled with amazing people. Area 7 is extremely fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers

serving on the Board alongside the dedicated and talented directors, composers, and ringers throughout the Area. It has been an honor to be your Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair the past six years. If you are ever asked to serve Area 7, in any capacity, I hope you say "yes" to the opportunity. My undying gratitude to the people who have said "yes" when I've asked (you know who you are!). I look forward to many more adventures with the people of Area 7!

In Memorium



Accomplished composer of musical works for choir, orchestra, and handbells, Arnold Sherman of Tyler, Texas died May 20, 2024 at age 75. Arnold founded Red River Music publishing company and was the founder and director of East Texas Handbell Ensemble. As a clinician

and guest conductor, he led choral and handbell workshops and festivals throughout the United States as well as internationally.

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

2024 Election Results

by Past Chair, Anita Fraundorf

Once again Area 7 was fortunate to have an excellent slate of candidates presented to the membership for the online voting in May. To recap the ballot:

Chair-Elect:

Marilee Anderson
Monica McGowan

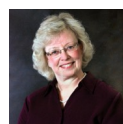
Treasurer:

Theresa Jacobson
Gwendolyn Woerpel

Secretary:

Diane LaFontaine
Deb Madel

It was a close election. Your new officers are



Monica McGowan, Chair-Elect



Deb Madel, Secretary



Theresa Jacobson, Treasurer

Their Board term begins October 1, 2024.

Handbell Musicians of America Membership Levels

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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



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No Need to Bluff: Surviving (and Enjoying) My First Handbell Festival in La Crosse

by Genevieve Cadwell
15-year-old participant



As a first-time attendee of the Area 7 Festival Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin, I was thoroughly ill-prepared to realize just how big of an ordeal this event was to be. During my time at this incredible Festival, I participated in three classes, rang in the Conference Choir, rehearsed countless hours of massed ringing, enjoyed one worship service, sang along at the Bells and Beer event, basked in the scenery of the Paddleboat Cruise, and was lucky enough to be able to attend two free concerts. Not only did I learn of and improve upon various handbell techniques, repertoire, and musicality, but I was also able to form new friendships with other members of this amazing community of ringers. As a dutiful member of various Honor Bands, I have always thrived when attending events where everyone in the room shares the same devotion to making music and getting better at what they do, so to be a part of the 270 handbell ringers from all parts of the country coming together with the same purpose was truly an experience to be grateful for.

During my time at the 2024 Area 7 Festival, I was fortunate enough to attend the classes of Cathy Moglebust, where I was able to let out some steam at an inspiring drum circle; Jennifer Cadwell, where I was provided the chance to read through some of my favorite Christmas pieces and learn of some new ones; and Kristin Tranby, where I had such a blast at her shortened POUND Exercise Class! As you can see, the

classes offered had a wide range of musical aspects, so you could vary your schedule based on your areas of need as well as interest! From reading sessions to drum circles to exercise classes and everything in between, Festival sure did offer everything any aspiring musician could need.

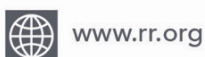
I was also able to learn from the best while being part of the Conference Choir, with Lee Afdahl, a fabulous conductor, marvelous composer, and an even better person! One of the best parts of Festival was being able to interact with everyone during meal times and evening activities, where many of us learned what is often forgotten, that composers and clinicians are normal musicians just like us despite the pedestal we so often raise them upon. Additionally it was such a pleasure, not to mention an immense honor, to premier "Along the Water," which Sandra Eithun wrote in honor of outgoing Chairperson Anita Fraundorf. This commissioned piece was beautiful, and I am so excited to play it again as one of the massed pieces at the 2026 Area 7 Festival Conference in St. Cloud!

This year's massed ringing conductors, Sandra Eithun and Alex Guebert, were both fantastic, and they each offered such great ringing advice as well as masterful conducting. I thoroughly enjoyed working with them both.

Festival was such a treat, and I am so glad that I was able to attend because I met so many new bell friends and had such a great time. I would be doing an injustice to the ten Area 7 Past Chairs who attended Festival if I didn't mention just how star-studded this event was. The number of famed composers, conductors, and clinicians who attended was astronomical, and to have the privilege of seeing them up close and personal with their craft was truly a treat. The dedication that the handbell world, and especially that of our Area, receives from HMA members such as these is unmatched, and it is always an honor to find myself in their presence. I must of course also mention how fabulously the Area 7 Board ran this event. I have long had the privilege of getting to see their work behind the scenes—and let me tell you, did they do spectacular, superhuman work to get everything ready for this event to be a success—which it definitely was! I am so grateful for all that they do and have done. During dinner on Friday night, we became some of the first to learn the results of the recent Board election. An extended congratulations to

The Raleigh Ringers

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Deb Madel (Secretary), Theresa Jacobson (Treasurer), and Monica McGowan (Chair-Elect)!

One of my favorite evening activities at Festival was the Paddleboat Cruise, a relaxing ride in which we were provided with breathtaking views of the Mississippi River nestled between the gorgeous bluffs. It was a magnificent way to end the day, which we were all so lucky to enjoy with an event involving fresh air, which came at the absolute best time after a rainy day, including a concert complete with audible thunder, that ended with perfect blue skies for a sunny night! Another one of the great parts of Festival was the number of concerts that I was able to attend. Bells of the Bluffs kicked off the weekend with some fun tunes, and both the Conference and Bronze Plus Choirs produced swoon-worthy music, including an amazing rendition of "Fly Me to the Moon," arranged by Joel Raney and played by the Bronze Plus Choir. It was also so nice to attend the worship service on Sunday morning, where bell ringers of varying faiths all gathered together to celebrate the Lord above, complete with music by the Great River Ringers out of La Crosse! The weekend ended with a fantastic massed ringing concert. I can't think of a better way to spend any weekend than to attend a handbell Festival!

Area 7 Festival Sponsorships

We would like to thank our generous sponsors for supporting the Festival in La Crosse:

Sponsorships

Contributor Level: \$100-249

- In Memory of Valerie Stephenson, Tim Waugh, and Arnold Sherman, by Lee Afdahl
- In Honor of the Northern Bell Chimes ensemble, Duluth, by Anita Fraundorf, Director
- In Memory of Area 7 Past Chairs Sandy Stoneking and Betty Fletcher, by Christina Herold
- In Appreciation of Area 7 Festival Conferences, by Northern Bell Chimes (Duluth)

Patron Level: \$250-499

- In Honor of the dedicated ringers of Area 7, by Area 7's Sub-Area Chairs
- In Memory of Cathy's childhood handbell director, Mrs. Barbara Berntson, by Cathy & David Moklebust
- In Honor of Strikepoint's 40th Anniversary, by Strikepoint Fans (Duluth)

Ringling Endorsement Level: \$500-999

- In Honor of the amazing youth ringers in Area 7, by Jennifer Cadwell (Area 7 Chair)
- In Appreciation of Area 7's Board members Past, Present, and Future, by Anita Fraundorf (Area 7 Past Chair)
- In Memory of Cindy Alexander, by members of Strikepoint and Cast in Bronze ensembles (Duluth)
- Buffet following the Saturday Specialty Choir Concert, by Schulmerich Bells
- 70th Anniversary Commemorative pins, by Malmark Bellcraftsmen

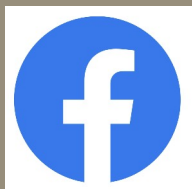
Spotlight Level: \$1,500.00 and up

- In honor of Area 7 Events Coordinator Alanna Teragawa, by Area 7 Board members and friends

Thank you

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

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



Scholarship Recipients

I Can Do This!

by Beverly Mark

My original interest in attending the Area 7 HMA Festival was to gain technical knowledge and perhaps make some connections relevant to bell repair and maintenance for my church's four octaves of White Chapel Bells. I am a new director and have a lot to learn! The Festival did not disappoint! Each class I attended was led by knowledgeable and helpful instructors, and I left each class thinking "I can do this!" I felt well-equipped with a head full of information, useful handouts, and contact information in case I should have any questions in the future.

Attending those class sessions could have been enough, but then there was the mass ringing! I had never experienced anything like it before. I was graciously adopted into an attending bell choir and made to feel welcome ringing at their assigned tables and using their bells. Everyone at the conference was friendly and helpful. No need to feel nervous! But then,

the music! The stunning selections and arrangements were led by two amazing clinicians, and, a WALL OF SOUND like I've seldom experienced. Being part of a team comprising approximately 265 ringers is not something I will ever forget.

The icing on the cake was the concerts given by the Specialty Choirs and the Bells of the Bluffs choir from Red Wing. The ringers and directors exhibited exceptional talent and technical finesse! I really experienced the full realm of the potential of bell choirs.

I am grateful to have been selected to receive a Clista Wood Scholarship which paved the way for my attendance at the Festival. I learned the value of this Festival in the knowledge that I gained, the music that filled my heart and soul, and the contacts I met. I look forward to St. Cloud 2026!



—continued on next page

STRIKEPOINT

Tour to Japan Begins August 8

International Handbell Symposium, August 12-18,

Representing the United States and HMA in the
International Charity Concert, August 16.



*Our Final Concert before
The International Symposium*

August 4, 7:00pm

*First United Methodist Church
230 E. Skyline Parkway Duluth, MN
(the Coppertop)*

Bill Alexander, artistic director, bill@strikepoint.com

www.strikepoint.com

Festival Reflections From a First-Timer

by Jillene Fisch

A week later and I'm still swimming in the emotion, inspiration, and joy from Festival! What an honor to learn from wise clinicians, play under fabulous directors, and be in the fine company of everyone in attendance. My goal was to improve my ringing, not just for my benefit but for my group's. Little did I know it would convert a hobby to a passion.

While I learned much from all the classes, the one that impacted me personally and as a ringer was, "You Are Your Instrument: An Introduction to the Alexander Technique." The way we hold and move our bodies affects everything we do. Proper posture and ringing techniques will help to keep us from damaging our bodies. Utilizing those ideals, we can enjoy ringing well into the future.

After two days of intensity, I was really hoping the riverboat cruise would be canceled. It was looking promising right up until the last minute. But I'm so glad it wasn't and I'm so glad I didn't skip out. I met some of the most amazing people that night—I can't wait to see them again! Don't be afraid to meet new people or invite someone to join you for a coffee or a meal. Fascinating things can be found just outside our comfort zones.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Scholarship Committee for awarding me and the other applicants the Clista Wood Scholarship. It truly helped make for a wonderful event, and I am grateful for your generosity.

See you in St. Cloud!



It Was SO Much More Than I Thought

by Melanie Yeazel

I was SO incredibly grateful to receive a scholarship to the Handbell Festival Conference. I would never have been able to go otherwise, and this was my first time attending an event such as this. It did not disappoint! It was SO much more than I thought. Being a part of and listening to a group of over 300 handbell ringers was extraordinary! But beyond that, I just loved how dedicated everyone was to making the whole weekend informative, educational, and fun for everyone. Having all of the conductors and teachers sitting at tables with all of the rest of us was

inspirational—I learned a ton. I couldn't believe all of the talent in one place... it was really motivational for someone like me, having only played handbells for the last two years. I even ran into a former band director of mine that I hadn't seen in almost 50 years... what a joy that was! I also ran into members of a handbell group at my father-in-law's church, which is where I first heard handbells and fell in love with them. We're on a break right now with our group for the summer, but I can't wait to get back and start ringing again.

Again, I thank you SO much for the generosity of allowing me to attend through a scholarship. I am truly appreciative!

HMA Team Member Contact Info

With our events going full throttle and our membership growing, there are many new people interacting with HMA. To help streamline who to contact for questions, we've compiled the list below to help you know which team members coordinate the various aspects of HMA activities. Our phone number is 937-438-0085, and the extensions for staff are included in the list.

Membership Invoice Requests:

Ed Rollins, erollins@handbellmusicians.org, ext 801

Membership Renewals:

Vickie Iverson, viverson@handbellmusicians.org, ext 805

Ed Rollins, erollins@handbellmusicians.org, ext 801

Event Registrations, Cancellations, Questions

Marie Clyatt-Larson, mclyatt@handbellmusicians.org, ext 809

Overtones, Area Newsletters, Advertising, HMA Website

JR Smith, jrsmith@handbellmusicians.org, ext 810

Sponsored & Endorsed Events:

Vickie Iverson, viverson@handbellmusicians.org, ext 805

Licensing:

Ed Rollins, erollins@handbellmusicians.org, ext 801

Area 1-6 Activities:

Mya Dundzila, mdundzila@handbellmusicians.org, ext 800

Area 7-12 Activities:

Kim Braswell, kbraswell@handbellmusicians.org, ext 808

AGEHR Publishing:

Brian Childers, bchilders@handbellmusicians.org

HMA Operations, Artistic Decisions, Event

Sponsorships, General Comments or Concerns:

Linda Onorevole, linda@handbellmusicians.org, ext 803

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!



Attendees from Area 7 at the HMA National Seminar in Hartford, Connecticut, July 9-13, 2024
 (L-R): Jennifer Cadwell, Karen Johnson, Anita Fraundorf, Monica McGowan, Sandra Eithun, Cheryl Ulmer, Cathy Moklebust, Susan Sostak, Sondra Joten, Carol Scheel, Sandy Mullaney, Tracy Scheel, Paul McKenzie.

Japan's Glee Handbell Choir Performing in Area 7



Back by popular demand, the Glee Handbell Choir from Meiji Gakuin Higashimurayama High School in Tokyo, Japan will present concerts in Carmel and Sioux Center, IA; Omaha, NE; and Sioux Falls, SD.

The Glee Handbell Choir, recognized as a leading handbell choir in Japan, has been part of Meiji Gakuin since 1978. The ensemble tours the United States biennially and last performed in our region in 2019. The choir's tour takes them to locations throughout the United States. In each city they visit, the choir members will present concerts, sight-see, and get acquainted with American culture via host families.

**Their performance in Area 7:
 Wednesday, July 31, 7:00pm
 First Reformed Church, 4800 S Tomar Rd
 Sioux Falls, SD**

Bells of the Hills

by Monica McGowan



Bells of the Hills, Rapid City, South Dakota was founded by De Aun West more than 20 years ago. An organizational letter of invitation to start a community handbell ensemble in Rapid City was sent to various churches and interested individuals in October 2001. Bells of the Hills' rehearsal "home" since its inception has been First Presbyterian Church in Rapid City. They ring the instruments of both American manufacturers: five-and-a-half octaves of Schulmerich Bells (C₃-G₈); seven octaves of Malmark Choirchimes (C₂-C₈); and, so far, two Malmark Aluminum bass bells (C₂ and G₂).

Bells of the Hills has performed concerts throughout South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wyoming at such notable venues as the Opera House in Lead, Showcase Choir for the 2008 Area 7 Festival Conference, and several cross-state concerts with Heartland Handbells of Sioux Falls. Over the years Bells of the Hills has presented handbell workshops for ringers and directors throughout the area, hosted Ring-Ins at the Rushmore Mall for local handbell ringers, and ushered in the holiday season ringing at the Kettle Kick Off for the Salvation Army.

Bells of the Hills has adopted a mentorship role, teaching handbell techniques and methodology to choirs such as the Cornerstone Bible Institute in Hot

—continued on page 10

Happy 70th Birthday Handbell Musicians of America

Seventy years ago in 1954, the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers was formed. This milestone was celebrated at the June Festival in La Crosse. There is still time to commemorate our 70th birthday by ordering some mementos with the full-color logo above.



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ORDER FORM 70th ANNIVERSARY ITEMS

2024 marks the 70th Anniversary of American Guild of English Handbell Ringers—
Handbell Musicians of America.
At the June Area 7 Festival Conference in La Crosse, WI, several commemorative items
were introduced. These items are now available to order.



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Complete this order form. **By August 30, 2024** email it to
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When order is ready to ship, an invoice with shipping costs
will be emailed to you with payment instructions.



*An English Christmas presented by Bells of the Hills
Sunday, December 10, 2023
First Congregational UCC, Rapid City, South Dakota*

Springs when they started their handbell program. In 2017 Monica McGowan was named Artistic and Music Director, prompting her move back to Custer, South Dakota in May 2018.

Bells of the Hills maintains a performance schedule of concerts in May and December showcasing the expansive variety and diversity of handbell repertoire. Emerging from their forced hiatus after COVID, Bells of the Hills is weathering the challenges of personnel changes as well as the personal challenges some of its members are currently experiencing. New members have joined the ensemble, and creative handbell assignments have challenged those ringers to do “more with less.”

The Bells of the Hills Board of Directors and Artistic Director agreed to adopt a more positive approach for the Spring 2024 rehearsal season. Rather than struggle to fledge a full ensemble and stress about rehearsing repertoire for a yet-to-be-named concert date, they are devoting this spring’s rehearsal schedule to in-house skill and drill sessions, reviewing techniques, refining skills, perfecting their musicality, and honing their sense of ensemble. Outreach and recruitment efforts are being implemented for membership opportunities for interested handbell ringers in the greater Rapid City area to join Bells of the Hills for their fall rehearsal season.

To further their educational mission, Bells of the Hills is offering a handbell workshop this September for all handbell ringers and directors from the geographic areas of Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Ringers and directors are encouraged to attend and invited to experience this day-long educational opportunity. Save the Date: Skills and Drills presented by Bells of the Hills, Saturday, September 21, 2024 at First Congregational UCC Church, 1200 Clark Street, Rapid City, South Dakota. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.; workshop hours: 9am–3pm. Additional details will be published on their Bells of the Hills Facebook page. If interested, please contact Artistic and Music Director, Monica McGowan, at msmcgowan@goldenwest.net.

Duluth Holds "Fall Into Ringing" Workshop September 21

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

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](#).

South Dakota Events Fall 2024

**September 21, 2024
Bells of the Hills Workshop**

First Congregational UCC
Rapid City, SD
9am-3:30pm

Contact Monica McGowan
monica@ringingrestorations.com

**November 2, 2024
Handbell workshop**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Aberdeen, SD

Cathy Moglebust, clinician.
Contact Cheryl Ulmer
clubells@msn.com



Submitted by Cathy Moglebust, South Dakota Sub-Area Chair



Heartland Handbells began in 2005 when a gift of four octaves of Schulmerich handbells was given in memory of Doriene Halvorson—a handbell ringer, composer, and arranger—for the purpose of starting a community handbell choir. Jack Mohlenhoff and Pat Penn led the group in the early days, with Jack

wielding the baton and Pat as artistic director. When Jack retired, Pat was promoted to director and served in that role until 2019 when she moved to Iowa City to be near her grandchildren. Gene LeVasseur, who had served as guest percussionist and substitute director, took over as director at that time.

Heartland performs two concerts each year: a Christmas concert in December and a Spring concert in April or May. The concerts often include guest musicians—percussionists, pianists, organists, flutists, and even a bagpipe player. Over the years they have performed in combined concerts with other musical groups including Bells of the Hills from Rapid City, High Plains Woodwinds, Sioux Empire Brass, Prairie Song, the Singing Boys of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls Children’s Choir, and the First United Methodist bell choir, Les Cloches. Heartland also performed at “Christmas at the Cathedral” in Sioux Falls in 2013 as well as providing pre-show entertainment in the lobby of the Washington Pavilion for the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra’s Christmas concert in 2016.

Heartland ringers are from the Sioux Falls area but also have

ringers from Madison, Garretson, and Brookings. We currently have 14 ringers and seven on our substitute list but anticipate having a couple of openings this fall. Our ringers have a variety of day jobs including music educators, pastor, dental professional, and a variety of other professions. The one thing Heartland members have in common is they all love to ring and strive to have fun while making extraordinary music.

In the spring semester of 2023, Heartland was honored to have Cathy Moglebust ring as a substitute in the C-D4 position and perform in the Spring concert. That concert also included Brian Tervo’s arrangement of “Singin’ in the Rain” which was synced to Gene Kelly’s dance scene from the movie of the same name. The audience loved it, and Gene (the director) did an amazing job of keeping the tempo perfectly in sync to the video.

Heartland is blessed to partner with 1st Presbyterian Church of Sioux Falls who provides rehearsal space for the group and generously shares their fifth octave of bells, Malmark handchimes, and bell tables. The group consists of skilled ringers from Sioux Falls and the surrounding area who meet to rehearse weekly from September through April.

Looking ahead, Heartland would like to keep beautiful bell music alive and vibrant in South Dakota, and has been talking about possibly hosting a handbell festival in the Sioux Falls area. Besides performing concerts Heartland will consider other performances.

From the Area 7 Events Coordinator

by Alanna Teragawa



Festival Conference— Ringing Between the Bluffs June (20) 21-23, 2024, La Crosse, WI

Great fun was had by the 300 ringers attending the handbell festival in La

Crosse. Thanks go to

- The clinicians Sandra Eithun, Alex Guebert, and Lee Afdahl who led us to great concert performances
- The many faculty members who inspired and taught

us to improve our skills, reminding us that ringing handbells is fun

- Those who donated items to the Silent Auction
- Those who bid on the Silent Auction items, resulting in over \$3,800
- Those who donated to our Service Project (food and \$1,200 in cash donations were given to the Wafer Food Pantry in the La Crosse area)

—Events Coordinator, continued from previous page

- The Bells of the Bluffs Handbell Ensemble under the direction of Marilee Anderson for presenting the Showcase Concert
- The frivolities at the Bells and Beer event Thursday night (It was a delightful surprise that the song leaders were none other than handbell friends Rebecca Erickson and Tyler Behny. Almost 150 ringers packed the brewery and especially enjoyed Cathy Moklebust leading them in her “sing and ring-along” composition of “Bells and Beer.”)
- The weather cooperating for the Pizza Cruise on the La Crosse Queen Paddleboat (There had been rain and lightning all day until the 130 ringers boarded the boat. The clouds lifted and the sun came out, making a delightful cruise down the great Mississippi River which was very high due to many prior days of rain)
- JENNIFER CADWELL for her great leadership and hosting this year’s Festival, and for her dedicated service to Area 7 as its Chairperson. We look forward to her continued guidance on the Board as she serves two years as its Past Chair.



The next Festival will be held in St. Cloud, MN June 25-28, 2026.

Clinicians will be Jill Mahr from St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN; Carlos Rivera-Aponte from Puerto Rico; with Jennifer Cadwell as the Conference Choir conductor. The Rochester Area Handbell Ensemble will be presenting the Showcase Concert under the direction of Paul Kingsbury.

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 Moklebust

Repertoire:

- **Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy** – Hart Morris, Hope 1777
- **Kindness** – Cathy Moklebust, Choristers Guild, CGB1298
- **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God** – Cathy Moklebust, Choristers Guild, CGB362
- **Nordic Polska** – Matthew Compton, From the Top Publishing, 20677
- **Patapan** – Cathy Moklebust, Choristers Guild, CGB909 (additional instruments: flute and percussion)
- **Prelude on Herzliebster Jesu** – Fred Gramann, AGEHR, AG47002

\$70 per person for both Friday and Saturday

\$15 per person for Friday night reading session only

Registration will open August 15.

Friday Reading Session 7:00–8:40pm
Sight-read a variety of handbell compositions which highlight different techniques and skills.

Saturday Schedule 8:30am–3:30pm
Rehearsal of the event repertoire listed below, to prepare for the 3:30 concert, open free to the public.

Something New This Year

Westwood Lutheran Church has invited ringers of this Anthornis event to participate in their Sunday worship services October 27 at 9am. There will be room in the sanctuary for two five-octave choirs. Indicate your willingness to participate in this event during the registration process.

More event information can be found online at area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2024



THE GLEE HANDBELL CHOIR OF JAPAN

MEIJI GAKUIN HANDBELL CHOIR



Back by popular demand, the Handbell Choir from Meiji Gakuin Higashimurayama High School in Tokyo, Japan, will present concerts in Carmel and Sioux Center, IA; Omaha, NE; and Sioux Falls, SD.

The Glee Handbell Choir is recognized as a leading handbell choir in Japan and has been part of Meiji Gakuin since 1978. The ensemble tours the United States biennially and last performed in our area in 2019. The choir's tour takes them to locations throughout the United States, and to each city they visit, the choir member will present a concert, sight-see and get acquainted with American culture via host families.



Area 7 Concert Appearance

First Reformed Church of Sioux Falls

4800 Tomar Rd, Sioux Falls, SD

Wednesday - July 31, 2024, 7pm

Strikepoint Announces Bill Alexander's Retirement



At the conclusion of this year's Summer Concert Series, including their trip to Japan and the International Handbell Symposium, Bill Alexander will step away from his role as Director and Player Coach after 40 years of tireless, innovative, and inspiring service to the ensemble he founded and dearly loves.

As he states in his letter to the group, "I have been able to play handbells at the highest level and accomplish things with you that others could only dream of. Strikepoint has brought me around the world and allowed me to meet thousands of new friends. It has given me a taste of new lands, traditions, and cultures, and led to conducting huge handbell festivals, leadership positions in HMA, and the thrill of traveling the United States and the world with ten of my closest friends. I am sincere when I say that Strikepoint has shaped almost every aspect of my life as well as who I am. For that, I am at a loss of all

possible words needed to express my gratitude."

Bill is not walking away from handbells. He intends to continue as Director of Handbells at First United Methodist Church in Duluth, directing three handbell ensembles. He will continue to conduct festivals and workshops and maintain his support for HMA, Area 7, and Strikepoint.

Strikepoint will be left in good hands and will continue to set a standard for community/professional ensembles. The key to doing that is continuity of leadership.

Strikepoint is pleased to announce that Derek Bromme, current member and Director of Bands at the College of St. Scholastica, has accepted the position and is excited to continue playing, creating, and performing music with Strikepoint in his new leadership role.



Bill with Strikepoint at the 1986 Symposium in Japan. See what 40 years with Strikepoint can do to a person!

Bells For Everyone!

Workshop held by Madison Area Concert Handbells

Saturday October 12

Madison, WI



Whether you are brand new to ringing or have been ringing for years, join us at this workshop to build and to hone ringing techniques commonly encountered. We will culminate in a reading session pulling everything together. There is something for everyone!

Pick your Session:

Basic Session: for those new to ringing to build a foundation of good ringing techniques

General Session: covers a variety of techniques and skills to improve your ringing

Optional Advanced Add-On: Weaving and 4-in-hand (can be done alone or with General Session)

All Groups together:

Mallet like a pro: Learn mallet techniques from a professional percussionist (who is also our director)

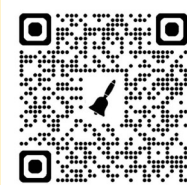
Stations available during break including an equipment petting zoo (Malmark, Schulmerich, Whitechapel). Try your hand at ringing the bell extremes (C2 and C8) and making bells sing.

Reading Session Finale:

We will finish by playing 3 pieces together (level 2-3) where you can experience the learned techniques in context. This will include tips for marking music (yours to keep, purchase included in registration fee).

More details available on our website

madisonhandbells.org



Fall Into Ringing

2nd 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

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.

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

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

Area Events Calendar

August 12-17, 2024

21st International Handbell Symposium
Hamamatsu, Japan



Hamamatsu 2024

August 16, 2024

International Handbell Concert
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

June 20-22, 2025

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

For additional information, go to the
Area 7 Events Page

area7.handbellmusicians.org/events

Young Ringers Camp 2025

June 20-22, 2025, Friday–Sunday morning

Clinician: Bonnie Tranby

Camp Omega – Waterville, Minnesota



This camp is for those in grades 3 to high school. Less-than-full choirs are welcome.

\$225 per youth and director.

\$200 per chaperone.

Registration will open in February, 2025.

Registration fee includes five delicious meals, t-shirt, ringing, lots of fun games, canoeing, tomahawk throwing, mud pit, swimming, gaga ball, 9-square, and much more.

Friday: arrive by 1pm

Sunday: 11am – free closing concert (open to the public).

More information:

Contact Jessica Haeder, [Youth Events Planner](#), for fundraising ideas or with questions.



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