



Area 7

Clapper Chatter

Minnesota • North Dakota • South Dakota • Wisconsin • Manitoba

Volume 39 • Issue 4 • November 2025

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA



Looking ahead to the 2026 Festival

Message from the Chair



by Paul McKenzie

Hello to all of you in Area 7. I suspect everyone is back to regular rehearsals, concerts, and worship services.

Summer was a busy time in the handbell world. Of particular note was the national Pinnacle event held in Wichita, KS in July. All of the concerts were well received, including our own Twin Cities Bronze.

I'm looking ahead to Anthornis being held at the end of October at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, MN, to be led by Amy Maakestad.

Area 7 received a gift from the recently disbanded Handbell Industry Council. The board has chosen to use it for the planning of ringing events in the future.

AND, I hope that you are seriously thinking about attending the 2026 Festival being held in June in St. Cloud. I cannot express adequately the excitement that is building in preparation. The list of classes is long and varied — perfect for ringers, directors, composers, church musicians, and enthusiasts. 🎵

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): \$70/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

**Deadline for the next
issue of *Clapper Chatter*
is January 10, 2026**



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heitzhandbells@yahoo.com

Bells of the Lakes BellFest 2026

Saturday, March 7
North Heights Lutheran Church
1700 Highway 96 WSt Paul, MN 55112
Arden Hills, MN



Matthew Compton,
BellFest Conductor

Matthew is a native of Colorado Springs, CO, and has been composing, arranging, and conducting music for handbells since 2007, when he was in the 8th grade. He had his first composition published at the age of 15, making him one of the youngest published handbell composers. Matthew graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music with an emphasis in Composition and Conducting.

**REGISTER
NOW!**

\$35/person
(\$15 lunch-optional)



Registration available at
BellsoftheLakes.org
"EVENTS" > "BELLFEST"

Early bird registration NOW until
December 20, after December 20, \$50/person.

BellFest Repertoire

Hashivenu	Austin	Agape 3028	L2
Children of the Heavenly Father	Compton	Agape 2972	L2+
Ascend	Eithun	CGB1411	L3
Adoro Te Devote	Krug	GMH350031	L3
Capriccio No. 2	Helman	CGB706	L3

Questions? bellfest@bellofthelakes.org

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Find a Nearby Area 7 Community Group

MINNESOTA

Bells of the Bluffs

Redwing, MN

bellsofthebluffs.org

Bells of the Lakes

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

www.bellsofthelakes.org

Ding Dong Dollies

Twin Cities, MN

Great River Resonance

St. Cloud, MN

www.greatriverresonance.org

Joy BRingers

Fergus Falls, MN

maryjane41@aol.com

Northfield Handbell Ensemble

Northfield, MN

www.facebook.com/NorthfieldHandbells

Ring Out!

Minneapolis, MN

www.ringoutmn.org

Rochester Area Handbells

Rochester, MN

rochesterareahandbells.org

Strikepoint

Duluth, MN

www.strikepoint.com

Twin Cities Bronze

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

twincitiesbronze.org

wRight Ringers Community Handbell Ensemble

Buffalo, MN

www.facebook.com/wRightRingersHandbells

SOUTH DAKOTA

Bells of the Hills

Rapid City, SD

www.bellofthehills.com

Sioux Empire Handbells/Heartland Handbells

Sioux Falls, SD

www.facebook.com/HeartlandHandbells

WISCONSIN

Bell Crazy Handbell Ensemble

Lake Mills, WI

www.facebook.com/groups/378241232198/979

Encore! Handbell Ensemble

Oshkosh, WI

encorehandbellensemble.org

Fox Valley Bronze

Appleton, WI

Great River Ringers

La Crosse, WI

www.facebook.com/GreatRiverRingers

Madison Area Concert Handbells

Madison, WI

madisonhandbells.org

Maestro Productions Inc./Ringing Badgers

Madison, WI

www.maestroproductions.org/ringing-badgers.html

Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble

Milwaukee, WI

www.milwaukeehandbells.org

Milwaukee LGBTQ+ Handbell Ringers

Milwaukee, WI

sites.google.com/view/milwaukeeelgbtqringers

Upcoming (Known) Holiday Performances

NOVEMBER 2025						
16	17	18	19	20	21 • Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble	22 • Great River Resonance • Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble
23 • Great River Resonance • Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Have an event you'd like to promote? Email editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org					

DECEMBER 2025						
	1	2	3	4	5 • Bells of the Bluffs	6 • Bell Crazy • Bells of the Lakes • Twin Cities Bronze
7 • Bell Crazy • Bells of the Bluffs • Bells of the Lakes • Twin Cities Bronze	8 • Rochester Area Handbells	9	10	11	12 • Madison Area Handbells • Strikepoint	13 • Madison Area Handbells • Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble • Strikepoint • Twin Cities Bronze
14 • Madison Area Handbells • Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble • Twin Cities Bronze	15	16	17	18	19 • Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble • Rochester Area Handbells • Strikepoint	20 • Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble
21 • Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble • Rochester Area Handbells	22	23	24	25	26	27

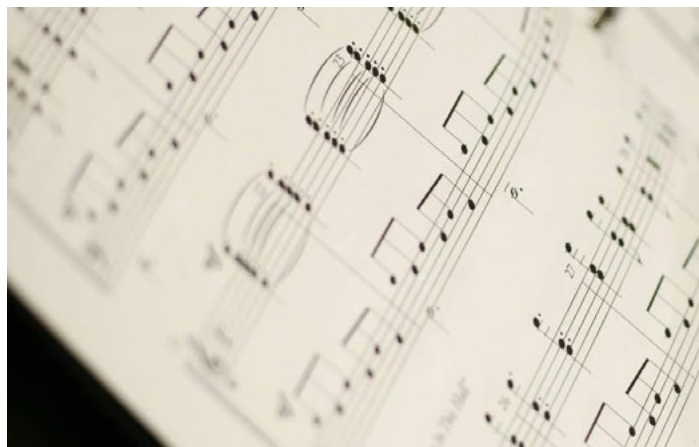
The New Composers Initiative: Growing the Next Generation of Handbell Composers

by Paul Kingsbury, on behalf of the Allured Composition Award Committee

The Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award is pleased to announce a new initiative for the creation of handbell music. Established in partnership with the Handbell Musicians of America, the New Composers Initiative will identify and support new talent seeking to break into the world of published handbell music. Recipients will be mentored by an established composer, receive a cash fee for their composition, have their work published by AGEHR, and have their work premiered at a prestigious HMA-sponsored event.

The New Composers Initiative's inaugural award in 2025 went to Aryaman Joshi of Minneapolis. Aryaman graduated from St. Olaf College in 2023 with a B.A. in Music Composition and Mathematics with a Data Science Minor. During his time at St. Olaf, he studied composition under Dr. Timothy Mahr and Dr. Justin Merritt. He currently rings with Ring Out! in the Twin Cities. His composition, tentatively titled "Za'atar" integrates Arabic modes, rhythms, and ornaments. It will be premiered at Distinctly Teen 2026.

The New Composers Initiative is currently looking for the next recipient of the award. Interested applicants should have acquired the musical expertise and compositional skills necessary to produce an original handbell work which meets the standards to be premiered at a major HMA event.



Because the Initiative is designed to promote new composers, applicants should have no more than two handbell compositions accepted by an established music publishing house.

Applications will be accepted at [weekofhandbells.com/newcomposers](https://www.weekofhandbells.com/newcomposers) from Jan 1, 2026 until Feb 28, 2026. The winner will be announced by March 31, 2026. Composers wishing to be considered for the award should submit:

1. A comprehensive sampling of their compositional output, as possible with sound files, which demonstrates the applicant's understanding of music theory and the handbell idiom. Examples need not be restricted to compositions for handbells, but at least one work must demonstrate an understanding of the handbell idiom.
2. A brief (250-word) statement sharing their vision for the sponsored commission, including any ideas that might be considered unique and innovative.
3. Contact information for a reference who can speak to the applicant's talent and skills as a composer.

The composer selected for this award will be closely managed to ensure completion of the composition.

The Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award was originally established in 1993 by attendees of the Bay View Week of Handbells to honor and ensure an appropriate legacy for Mr. Allured. The purpose of the Award was to commission original handbell music that would exemplify the highest standards and expectations that Donald Allured would demand in such works. Since its inception, the Award has commissioned compositions from many of the field's most prominent composers for premiere at the Bay View Week of Handbells concert. While the Allured Award enthusiastically continues this activity, it also seeks to expand the pool of capable composers to carry the art into the future. For more information, please contact allured-wiltse-funds@handbellmusicians.org. 🎵

From the Wisconsin North Sub-Chair



by Denean Smith

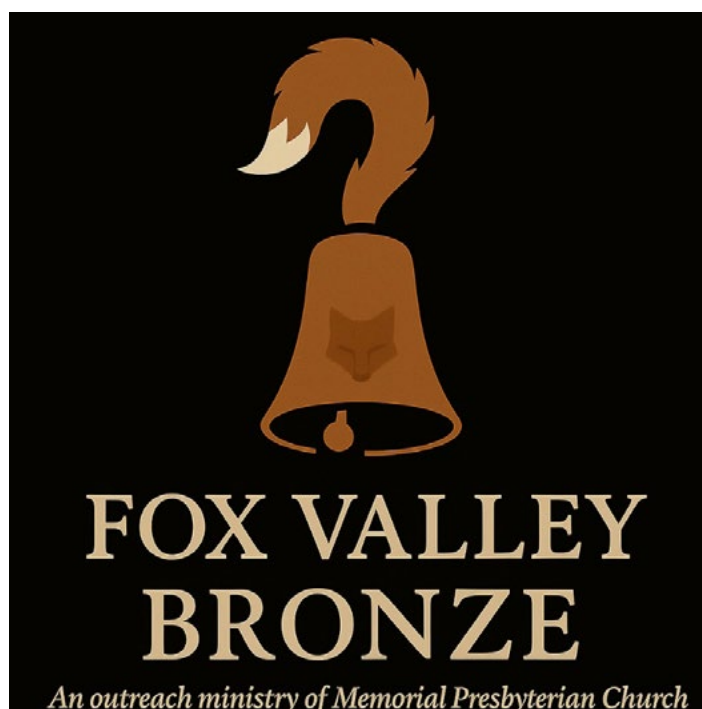
A New Handbell Organization

After many years with Silver Lake College and Holy Family Conservatory of Music, Sandra Eithun has moved her bell program to Appleton, Wisconsin.

Rehearsals have begun at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Ringers are primarily from the Conservatory in Manitowoc and from her church group in New London.

Watch for details of upcoming holiday concerts at:

- Memorial Presbyterian Church, Appleton
- De Pere 🎵





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Apply now for Bay View Week of Handbells 2026

by Fred Gramann

Application forms are now online for the 2026 Bay View Week of Handbells to be held August 10-14 in Petoskey, Michigan.

There are two \$750 scholarships available for bronze-level handbell musicians between the ages of 18 and 30 (application deadline is December 15, 2025), and openings for ten bronze-level first-timers (application deadline is December 1, 2025).

Alumni who apply will be selected via a lottery process (application deadline is December 31, 2025).

For more information and to access the online application forms please go to:

<https://weekofhandbells.com/2026-information>.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Fred Gramann at gramannfred@gmail.com. 🎵



Celebrate the holidays with

STRIKEPOINT

Hallelujah! Holiday Jubilations & Traditions
with the Arrowhead Chorale

Friday, December 12 • 7:00pm and Saturday, December 13 • 3pm

First Lutheran Church, 1100 E. Superior St., Duluth, MN

A Bell Noël: Ringing in the Holidays!

Friday, December 19 • 7pm

First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Pkwy, Duluth, MN

Tickets: \$25 for adults; \$10 for students and children

Artistic Director Derek Bromme • dbromme@css.edu • Duluth, Minnesota

Ensemble Spotlight: Bell Crazy — Joy!

by Lisa Bourget

There's a new handbell choir in town.

Meet Bell Crazy, an ensemble in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, that has spent the past two years forming, expanding, and ringing under the direction of Karen Johnson.

It's such a delight for me to see our handbell community growing and thriving, so of course I wanted to know more. How did Bell Crazy come about?

The answer is all about joy.

When Karen and her husband, Neil, relocated to be closer to grandchildren, she left behind decades

of experiences. Those experiences included 34 years as a high school band director, plus the wealth of extra involvement that can entail. They also included being a church's bell choir director, which she expanded from one 2-octave choir to two choirs playing 4 octaves.

After relocating, Karen filled her time with music ensembles, quilting, and family. She joined a community handbell ensemble, their new church home's bell choir, and a community band. But she found she was really missing conducting and leading an ensemble. Her supportive husband suggested starting a bell choir, and the result is Bell Crazy.





Ringers share the joy during a concert.

With encouragement and support from some handbell friends, they started from scratch, putting a planned remodel on hold to buy equipment.

Karen and Neil drove to Austin, Texas, to purchase a used 3½-octave set of Malmark Handbells. They drove down over two days, made the purchase, and began the journey home, which included a visit with their grandson at Iowa State University. They'd planned to spend the night in Ames, Iowa, but a massive storm was looming, so they checked out of their hotel, loaded up the bells, and drove to beat the storm. (They did.) With bells in hand, they purchased tables, foam, binders, "rehearsal" table covers, risers, gloves, various supplies, mallets, and music to get started.

The encouraging handbell friends not only gave emotional and generous monetary support, but said

they'd play if Karen directed. Two were not active in a community ensemble at the time; the third was on the fence regarding her status. They contacted others and word spread. A couple of people from the church bell choir joined. Others were recruited, including a college friend and a former student. Karen's daughter and daughter-in-law asked to join. Ringers had a wide range of abilities, from beginners to having played for over 30 years.

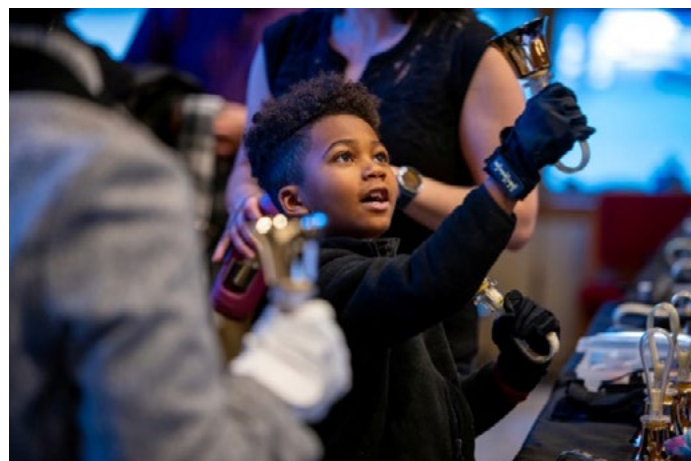
Karen held the first Bell Crazy rehearsal on March 18, 2023. And yes, it brought joy.

"Oh, the JOY I felt to have this wonderful group of people come together to share making music with handbells."

Bell Crazy rehearses in Karen's walk-out basement. It has no affiliation with a church. There are no salaries. Karen is the director and owner. Members are asked to pay a \$50 membership fee each semester to help with the cost of music and supplies. Bell Crazy's goal is to share their passion for ringing handbells with the community and each other.

The group expanded, adding chimes and ordering its upper 4th octave of bells in 2023.

Bell Crazy's first performance was on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Stair Crest Retirement Community in Muskego, WI. Its December concerts have been titled 'Bringing Holiday Joy,' and the choir performed the following Saturday, at Grace Lutheran Church in Cambridge, WI.



"Bringing Holiday Joy" continues even after the concert concludes. (December, 2024.)

“During our first performance at the retirement community, the director of the facility interrupted the concert because the pharmacy was there to deliver prescriptions. That’s when we did the impromptu ‘handbell/chime technique talk/demo.’ It was unexpected by the choir but their reaction was ‘We should do that at every concert, I know my family would be interested to hear this...I learned some things as well.’ So that was cool.”

Bell Crazy ordered more bells, refurbished its original 3½ octaves, and purchased a 5th octave of chimes in 2024.

“At our December 2024 performance, a gentleman came up after our performance and asked if he could join! Well, that was a pleasant surprise and a welcome one. At the time I could only offer him an option to sub, but circumstances changed, and he is now one of our bass ringers.”

Neil has printed 3-D practice bells (non-ringing) for a few individuals to work with at home. Son Aaron designed Bell Crazy’s logo and serves as its photographer.

Today, Bell Crazy is a full 5-octave choir (handbells and chimes), with an extra 4-octave set of handbells to help resolve impossible situations in the music. It rehearses for 2½ hours twice a month for 6-7 rehearsals in advance of early December concerts, then breaks over the holidays. It rejoins for a spring session, then breaks over summer. Last year it started having a mini-retreat day for one rehearsal, which gives members an opportunity to bond as a group over a meal and through conversation. Some of its members take advantage of summer conferences. It had a group attend the Area 7 Festival in LaCrosse in June 2024 as well as Handbell Camp in July 2025.

“Our future hopes and plans are to keep doing what we have started and continue to grow as a handbell ensemble. This is the start of our third year of performing and I am so proud of the growth of the ensemble. The gap between beginners and experienced musicians is narrowing every rehearsal and performance. We truly enjoy making music together and sharing it with our audiences. It’s all about the music and the time together. Bringing joy to anyone and everyone wanting to experience.”



Neil's 3-D practice handbells.

You can see Bell Crazy perform at the Lake Mills High School Auditorium in Lake Mills, WI, at 2pm, Saturday, December 6, and at Grace Lutheran Church in Cambridge, WI, at 2pm, Sunday, December 7. The concerts are titled “Bringing Holiday Joy”. Performances are all free admission. Bell Crazy does accept donations, which go to building its music library, equipment maintenance, and instruments.

Does Karen have advice for anyone else thinking of maybe starting a community handbell choir?

“You need a space, instruments, equipment, music, and a passion for sharing music. Have fun, find the JOY!” 🎵



Director Karen Johnson proudly acknowledges her ensemble.



HANDBELL
PERFORMANCES

BRINGING HOLIDAY JOY

SATURDAY · DECEMBER 6 · 2PM

PRESENTED BY THE LAKE MILLS AZTALAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY...

Lake Mills High School Auditorium · 615 Catlin Dr · Lake Mills

SUNDAY · DECEMBER 7 · 2PM

Grace Lutheran Church · 501 Skogen Rd · Cambridge



**FREE
ADMISSION**

BELL CRAZY
HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Under the direction of
Karen M. Johnson

From the Area 7 Events Coordinator



by Alanna Teragawa

Here's a look at upcoming Area 7 events. In particular, read on for classes, schedules, and other details related to the upcoming festival.

Follow the updates on the Area website:
area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-2026

Important dates related to the festival also are included in the calendar of events on the back page.

REMEMBER WHEN....?

The last time an Area 7 Festival was held in St. Cloud was 2006.

ANTHORNIS 2025

This event, with clinician AMY MAAKESTAD concluded on November 1st — too late to be included in this month's newsletter. Pictures and updates will be posted online and in the next issue. THANK YOU, Amy!

area7.handbellmusicians.org/anthornis-2025/



Maakestad



AREA 7 2026 FESTIVAL CONFERENCE

June (25) 26-28, 2026
River's Edge Convention Center
St. Cloud, Minnesota

In 2006, in attendance was 187 groups, represented by 540 ringers. Jason Wells and Lee Afdahl were the main clinicians. If you attended the 2006 Festival, spread the word to your neighboring ringers how much fun you had. Invite them to 2026 so they can experience it for themselves.

In 2024 in La Crosse, WI, there were 30 groups, represented by 242 ringers. They TOO had lots of fun!





CAN'T ATTEND THE FESTIVAL? LOAN US YOUR HANDBELLS / HANDCHIMES / FOAM

Here is what is needed to host 30 classes at an Area 7 Festival:

- 1 set of 6-octave handbells and handchimes
- 25 sets of 5-octave handbells
- 22 sets of 4-octave handbells
- 22 sets of 3-octave handbells
- 44 sets of 4- to 5-octave handchimes
- 22 sets of 3-octave handchimes
- 1,752 feet of table foam (584 pads!)

Your loaned equipment is picked up and delivered back to you and is fully insured while away from your building. In the many decades of hosting Area 7 Festivals, every bell and chime were returned safe and sound.

The Area's experienced BORROWED EQUIPMENT CUSTODIANS, pictured below, have taken great care of all transported equipment for many Festivals.



From left to right: Christina Herold, Michelle Finlon, Bonnie Tranby, and Alyssa Boock.



By the time the door closes on this 26' truck, it will be loaded from top to bottom. It will then be driven very carefully to its destination.

CALLING ALL HANDBELL VENDORS & AREA 7 COMMUNITY GROUPS

Make yourself known to the Festival registrants by hosting a table (or several) at the 2026 St. Cloud Festival.

Vendor Hours:

Friday June 26

Setup 7:30am to 9:30AM

Open: 9:30-11:45AM and 12:30-3:30PM

Saturday June 27

Open: 8:30-10:40AM and 12:30-3:10PM

Tear Down: 3:15-5:15PM



The busy vendor area in 2024.

Costs:

Uncovered TABLES: \$20 each (bring your own coverings)

Upholstered CHAIRS: \$10 each

If you would like to reserve a spot, more information will be sent to you after contacting Alanna Teragawa at events.area7@handbellmusicians.org. Do so by March 1, 2026.

FESTIVAL CLASS TOPICS & FACULTY 2026

Classes are taught on June 26-28 (Fri & Sat).

Listed below are the many great class topics and faculty for this Festival:

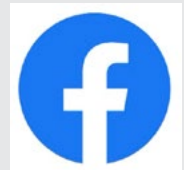
- Bang on a Can: Tips for Effective Bass Bell Ringing PAUL KINGSBURY
- Basics of Handbell Weaving TRACEY BOWERS
- Bell Lore SANDY MULLANEY
- Bell Tree Beginning KAREN VAN WERT
- Brain Gym: Lifelong Brain Health & Nimbleness SANDY MULLANEY
- Conducting – Pattern and Planning PAUL McKENZIE
- Copyright Laws JEFF CADWELL
- Craft Classes: Iris Folding Technique Handbell Card TRACEY BOWERS
- Crash Course in Recording for Handbells MATT GENDER
- From Ringer to Conductor JESSICA WESTGARD LARSON
- Handbell/Handchime Maintenance – both Manufacturers MONICA McGOWAN
- Healthy Ringing & Adaptations for Those With Injuries MICHELLE JENSEN
- Hitting the Road! Taking Your Bell Choir on Tour NANCY EATON, DEREK BROMME
- How To Plan a Workshop BONNIE TRANBY
- I'm New Here, Now What? MARY YERKS
- I've Got Rhythm JILL MAHR
- Joys of a Non-Performing Handbell Ensemble AMY MAAKESTAD
- MAP for STARS KAREN VAN WERT
- Motivate & Educate Children About Bells & Chimes CHERYL ULMER
- Plink, Plank, Plunk CATHY MOKLEBUST
- Reading Session: Use of Alternative Instruments in Music PAUL KINGSBURY
- Reading Session: Mini Masterpieces CATHY MOKLEBUST

- Reading Session: Sacred Music or New Music JENNIFER CADWELL
- Reading Session: Crowd Pleasers and Show Stoppers DEREK BROMME
- Reading Session: Secular Music JORDAN GOODWATER
- Small and the Mighty: 3-6 Ringer Ensembles CHRISTINA HEROLD
- Sound Bath Experience – Singing Bowls CHAKRA SOUND GARDEN, SARTELL
- Treble Bell Techniques BONNIE TRANBY
- Using Media to Engage Your Audience AMY MAAKESTED
- WYSIWYG – Seeing is Believing CATHY MOKLEBUST

DID YOU KNOW YOU COULD ATTEND THE FESTIVAL BY DAY?

Don't want to do any massed ringing for the closing concert? Register for either Friday or Saturday so you can reap the benefits of these wonderful class topics! 🎵

**Keep in touch with
Area 7 on Facebook**



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 advertisers who pay 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 Jen Welch at

editor.area7@handbellmusicians.org



Area 7 Festival Conference – 2026

OPTIONAL FESTIVAL ITEMS

FESTIVAL MEAL TICKETS for non-registrants

\$25 each

Want a friend to join you for a Festival meal?

They can!, with a pre-purchased meal ticket.

Meals available for purchase:

Friday lunch, Friday dinner or Saturday lunch or Sunday lunch.

All meals are catered by the Center.



NEW this year, Friday LUNCH is available for all for an additional **\$20**, which must be pre-paid during the registration process.

Or you may choose to eat at a local restaurant for Friday lunch. There is 1.25 hours allotted for lunch.

FESTIVAL T-SHIRTS for non-registrants

\$12 per shirt

All registrants will receive a **BLACK** T-shirt as part of their registration, to be worn during the closing concert. Perhaps there are some people who could not attend the Festival, but they want a Festival shirt anyway. Extra shirts can be purchased during the registration process and will be available for pickup on Festival Check-in day.

HANDBELL HAPPY HOUR

Thursday June 25, 2026

5:30 - 7:30pm Food trucks onsite

7:00 – 9:00pm Happy Hour with the Beer Choir

\$35 per person – payable at time of Festival registration. Space is limited – register early!

Includes the first TWO beverages (for a cocktail, a mocktail or other beverage), a handchime to play, an official Beer Choir hymnal adapted for handbells, sing-along and a whole bunch of fun.

Additional discounted drink tokens can be purchased onsite for \$10 if more than two beverages are desired.

At Iron Street Distillery, 539 E. Germain Street, St. Cloud.

Highlights:

- * a special cocktail (or mocktail) created for Area 7 will be prepared.
- * Cathy Moglebust will be conducting her new **HANDBELL HAPPY HOUR** composition
- * all other frivolities will be led by the Twin Cities Beer Choir folks

All of the above optional items must be purchased during the Festival registration process.

2026 FESTIVAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE
River's Edge Convention Center
10 4th Avenue South, St. Cloud, MN
as of 09.27.2025

**THU JUN 25****5:30-9:00****OPTIONAL****HANDBELL HAPPY HOUR** at Iron Street Distillery**5:30 – 7:30** Food Trucks on site**7:00 – 9:00** Beer Choir Leaders – songs and chimes*Includes a new sing/ring-along composition by Cathy Moglebust.*

539 E. St. Germain Street. Pre-registration required.

FRI JUN 26**8:00-3:30****REGISTRATION.** Bring non-perishable food items or monetary donation to support the local Food Shelf.**9:00-10:00****PERIOD 1****REHEARSAL – Bronze Plus Specialty Choir****REHEARSAL – Conference Choir Specialty Choir****Classes:** both **Coppers** and **Bronze** Divisions - 5**9:30-11:45**

Handbell Vendors & Silent Auction are open to shop and mingle

10:30-11:30**PERIOD 2****REHEARSAL – Bronze Plus Specialty Choir****REHEARSAL – Conference Choir Specialty Choir****Classes:** both **Coppers** and **Bronze** Divisions - 6**11:30-12:45**

Lunch on your own.

Pre-order catered lunch for \$20, OR explore the wonderful food options in downtown St. Cloud

Vendors and Silent Auction are open at 12:30

11:45-12:30

Vendors are closed

12:30-3:30

Vendors are open

1:00-2:00**PERIOD 3****Classes:** both **Coppers** and **Bronze** Divisions - 7

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 - 7

Vendors and Silent Auction are open

3:30

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**
MASSSED REHEARSAL – all ringers
- 7:30 – 8:40 **PERIOD 8**
SHOWCASE CONCERT
with **ROCHESTER AREA HANDBELL (RAH) ENSEMBLE** from Rochester, Minnesota
Paul Kingsbury, Artistic Director
Concert is free for Festival registrants. Tickets on sale \$20 at door for all others.
- 9:00 Retreat to your hotel.
- SAT JUN 27**
- 8:30-10:45 Vendors and Silent Auction are open to shop and mingle
- 8:30-9:30 **PERIOD 9**
Rehearsal - COPPERS DIVISION
Classes: Bronze Division - 8
Vendors and Silent Auction are open
- 9:40-10:40 **PERIOD 10**
REHEARSAL – Conference Choir Specialty Choir
Rehearsal - BRONZE DIVISION
Classes: Coppers Division - 6
Vendors and Silent Auction are open
- 10:50-12:30 Vendors and Silent Auction are closed
- 10:50-12:00 **PERIOD 11**
MASSSED Rehearsal – all ringers
- 12:10-12:45 **PERIOD 12**
Lunch, provided
- 12:30 – 3:10 Vendors and Silent Auction are open
- 1:00-2:00 **PERIOD 13**
REHEARSAL – Bronze Plus Specialty Choir
Classes: both Coppers & Bronze Divisions - 8
Vendors and Silent Auction are open
- 2:10-3:10 **PERIOD 14**
Rehearsal – COPPERS Division
Classes: Bronze Division - 8
Vendors open. **Last Chance to bid on Silent Auction items.**
- 3:10 Vendors and Silent Auction are 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 - 6
- 4:30-5:15 **PERIOD 16**
Concert of the Specialty Choirs: Bronze Plus and Conference Choir
- 5:30 pm FREE EVENING on your own.
SUGGESTION: Make your own restaurant reservations before arriving at Festival.

SUN JUN 23

- 8:00-8:45 **WORSHIP SERVICE**
led by **Great River Resonance Ensemble**, St. Cloud, MN – Jordan Goodwater, Director
and Rev. Ron Vert and Paul McKenzie
- 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 will be collected for the local Food Shelf.
- After 2:45 **SAFE TRAVELS HOME**



Area Events Calendar

February 1-May 1, 2026

AREA 7 FESTIVAL REGISTRATION OPEN

A link will be provided in the February newsletter

March 1

REGISTRATION DEPOSITS DUE

\$35 per registrant

February 1-May 23, 2026

MAKE FESTIVAL HOTEL RESERVATIONS

A block of rooms will be available at Best Western Kelly Inn. Link to discounted rates will appear in the February Clapper Chatter.

June (25) 26-28, 2026

AREA 7 FESTIVAL

Rivers Edge Convention Center

St. Cloud, MN

area7.handbellmusicians.org/festival-2026

June 25 (Thursday)

HANDBELL HAPPY HOUR

7:00-9:00PM with food trucks at 5:30

Iron Street Distillery, St. Cloud, MN

June 28 (Sunday)

1:30 FESTIVAL CLOSING CONCERT

River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud

Open free to the public.

Donations to local food shelf accepted.

For additional information, go to area7.handbellmusicians.org/events

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