



Have you heard?

By Sharon Schmidt, Area 8 Chair

We're excited to announce our Fourth Friday Focus virtual encounters which will be offered throughout 2021.

Gather with handbell musicians to chat, learn, and ring at 7 p.m. on the fourth Friday night of the month in a virtual format alternating between Sampler Nights and In-Depth

Seminars. Sampler Nights are based on speed dating and these 90-minute sessions will offer short introductions to a variety of topics. Sampler Nights are free. In-Depth Seminars focus on one handbell topic for a one-hour session, and there is a small fee.

Our first Sampler night is January 22nd and here's the planned line-up, which will be emceed by our own Patrick Gagnon:

- Technique Tip - Malleting
- Top Sellers from Choristers Guild
- Director Tip - Solving that Problem Measure
- How to Reach Out to Other Ringers & Directors
- What's Honorary Life? Who are the Honorary Life members of A8?
- Instant Success –Using Processionals to Hook New Ringers
- Preview of the February 26th In-Depth Seminar, Mark Your Music

In addition to the class material, you'll be able to chat with fellow handbell musicians after the session.

If there are topics you'd like to see in future months, email them to events.area8@handbellmusicians.org.

The link to register for the January and February sessions is on our website at area8.handbellmusicians.org.

As we bid 2020 farewell, the view of 2021 is still murky. Our dearest hope is that we will be able to gather and ring together soon, but "soon" remains elusive. In the interim, bring your favorite libation to our Friday nights together, keep in contact with your handbell friends, and stay safe!

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Open - contact Sharon Schmidt

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Click here to visit the Area 8 website
for contact information and bios.



Schedule

January 22	Sampler Night
February 26	In-Depth Seminar: Mark Your Music!
March 26	Sampler Night
April 23	In-Depth Seminar

Fourth Friday Focus!

Gather with handbell musicians to chat, learn, and ring at 7 p.m. on the fourth Friday night of the month in a virtual format alternating between Sampler Nights and In-Depth Seminars. Check the website for up-to-date information.

Sampler Night

Based on speed dating, these 90-minute sessions will offer short introductions to handbell topics such as techniques, history, top 10 lists, games, trivia quizzes, and more. Sampler Nights are free.

In-Depth Seminars

Focus on one handbell topic for a one-hour session.
A nominal fee will be charged.

What topics would you like to see included in either format?
Email your suggestions to events.area8@handbellmusicians.org.

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Virtual Handbell Concerts Available for Viewing

If you missed a handbell concert in December, or wish to watch it again, here's a sampler of what is available online.

Celebrate the Sounds of Christmas

Bloomington-Normal Community Bells, Central Illinois
Facebook: [Bloomington-Normal-Community-Bells-175808799935996](https://www.facebook.com/Bloomington-Normal-Community-Bells-175808799935996)

We'll be Home for Christmas

Bells in Motion, Central Illinois
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vg-mfTl16bM>
<https://bellsinmotion.org/>

A Maskerade Christmas

Houston Bronze Ensemble, Houston, Texas
<https://youtu.be/eZVFRX8FdDg>

Home for the Holidays

The Raleigh Ringers, Raleigh, North Carolina
<https://youtu.be/rp2KKIUVOYw>

Joy in January

Pacific Ringers, Portland, Oregon
Find link at [facebook.com/pacificringers](https://www.facebook.com/pacificringers)

Home for Christmas

Kalamazoo Ringers, Kalamazoo, Michigan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMcyWu5DJXQ>

Christmas Handbells from Bay View, Michigan

Larry and Carla Sue, Holland, Michigan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um8t5MnG2LA>

December 2020 Concert

Mosaic Handbell Ensemble, Harrisonburg, Virginia
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ei5i_Uc2ma8

Christmas Program

Redeemer Classical School, Harrisonburg, Virginia
<https://www.redeemerclassical.org/2020-christmas-program>
Password Required: MerryRCSxmas20

Ringin' by the Candlelight 2020 with Rouge and Blanc

Hong Kong Elite Youth Ringers, Hong Kong
<https://youtu.be/FwOT57ufeFA>

Ringin' by the Candlelight on Christmas Day

Hong Kong Elite Youth Ringers, Hong Kong
<https://youtu.be/u9xQU3GRjC4>

Home for the Holidays

Merrimack Valley Ringers, Chelmsford, Massachusetts
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmpD3AVqwo&feature=emb_logo

Happy HoliDAZE from Our House to Yours

Music City Bronze, Nashville, Tennessee
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOyCRIho3d0>

A Christmas Concert,

Queen City Bronze, Cincinnati, Ohio
<https://youtu.be/EvDLaCXs26c>

25th Anniversary Concert

Golden Bells of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia
<https://youtu.be/nc3P3rgdZBM>

2020 Winter Concert—Doing the Best we Can

Mele Mai Paki Lima Community Handbell Ensemble, Oahu, HI
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=INd0wzLMcU8>

Feliz Navidad ~ At Home for the Holidays

Shoreline Ringers, Southern New England
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUOWXmhHRxl>

Let the Christmas Spirit Ring

Bells of Joyful Sound, Layton, Utah
<https://youtu.be/aCPckZ0CsJM>

Comfort and Joy

Virginia Handbell Consort, Tidewater, Virginia
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-LAE9UNyFE&t=4s>

Home for the Holidays

Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
<https://pluckypieces.com/>

Zooming Through the Holidays

Tintabulations Handbell Ensemble, Northern Nevada
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fDJobED1Is&t=208s>

A Christmas Blessing

Queen City Ringers, Charlotte, NC
<https://youtu.be/rzwPGLdg5mc>

Can't Stop the Music!

Stow Heritage Ringers
<https://youtu.be/R2bQYWhFGCY>

Sounds of the Season 2020

The Agape Ringers, Chicago, Illinois

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCk4IrrmFYU&t=966s>

Songs of Christmas Past and Present

Virginia Bronze, DC Metro Area

<https://youtu.be/7Tae4daQGC4>

Tenth Anniversary Celebration

Three Rivers Ringers, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0z5yfvqGzg&feature=emb_logo

A Virtual Christmas Concert

The River City Ringers, Omaha, Nebraska

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlykQBOvq1M&feature=youtu.be>

Welcome Yule!

Charlotte Bronze, Charlotte, North Carolina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZJGGhGRF2E>

12 Days of Christmas

Bells of the Sound, Seattle, Washington

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gImYLawW23Q&list=PL6_QEFmOCpr3TkoHT-GmPPSZHUqOCIWV-



Reflections on a Year Like no Other

By Beth McFarland, Chicago Area Co-Chair

What a year 2020 has been: a year where we were forced to slow down and stay home, stop our normal routines and learn new ways of making music with our choirs. We will look back on this year and say that it was truly like no other.

In a year of recording music for church, meeting with choirs virtually, changing our choirs to small ensembles or spreading out our choir members to be 6 feet apart, I feel that we have also experienced a new way of sharing our love of bells with our colleagues and our communities. We have been so blessed to see and listen to so many handbell ensembles and soloists sharing their holiday programs virtually that we would not have experienced before.

Our Illinois team and the Area 8 committee are looking for ways to bring us all together virtually until it is safe to gather again for workshops and massed ringing events. Stay tuned for information on 2021 workshops and ringing events. Yes, this year has made us slow down but possibly made us better and forced us to be more creative and learn new things like we have never done before.

I am excited to look forward to what 2021 holds - hopefully bringing some normalcy back to our lives and putting this virus behind us.



Beth McFarland

Chicago Area Co-Chairs

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Central/Southern Illinois State Chair

Kendall Ladd

Western IL Rep

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Western Representative

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Eastern Representative

Cat Walker

Our Community Carol (with the Bells!)

By Patrick Gagnon, Iowa Chair

Central Iowa handbell ensembles were busy recording music for the fall 2020 Iowa State University Department of Music and Theater production of "Our Community Carol." Inspired by the Dickens classic and updated for today and for right here (2020 in Ames Iowa), this has been a huge undertaking by Tiffany Antone, director, and an enormous staff of writers, designers, videographers, and a large cast and crew. One feature of the "soundtrack" is a group of recordings made by local HMA member choirs.

Memorial Handbells of Memorial Lutheran Church in Nevada, under the direction of Lois Theesfield, made a series of recordings of singing bells, random ringing, and pieces of melodic material from "Wexford Carol" on bells and handchimes. Additionally, the Handbell Choir of Collegiate United Methodist Church in Ames, under the direction of Dee Dreezen, recorded peals and accompaniments for that same Wexford Carol.

*... I will be so lucky
for the memory ...
of visiting great
friends to record
handbell music ...*

In a time when we cannot meet together, cannot spend much time together, cannot perform for a crowd, and cannot enjoy what we do best (uniting people...), this project proved rather difficult, but we got the bells recorded!

Editing is underway as of the writing of this article, and we will have missed the live-streamed event as it only runs through December, but I will be so lucky for the memory - that of visiting great friends to record handbell music for a project that will reach so many, so far away.

Both ensembles were in the throes of recording music for their own online church services and I was lucky to get a moment on both calendars. Many thanks and congratulations to Memorial and Collegiate for continuing to do what you do so well! Many thanks for allowing me to capitalize on your precious rehearsal time, and for capturing your great music making for Our Community Carol (with the Bells!)

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Gagnon, Iowa Chair
Handbell Musicians of America, Area 8

Kansas State Chair

See below

Treasurer

Karla Denton

Secretary

OPEN - Contact
Sharon Schmidt

Chimes

Shirley Myers

*Now, about that Kansas
state chair position...*

Who would want to be a
state chair?

- ✓ Someone who is **passionate** about handbells
- ✓ Someone who **believes** that Handbell Musicians of America and Area 8 are organizations that bring worth to our musician members
- ✓ Someone who is willing to **volunteer** their time for a two-year term and contribute to Quavers
- ✓ Someone who **enjoys** being plugged into the local handbell community
- ✓ Someone who is **willing** to run a small committee and plan events

If that sounds like you (or you and a friend – you can serve with a co-chair), please contact Sharon Schmidt at chair.area8@handbellmusicians.org.

Something to be grateful for!

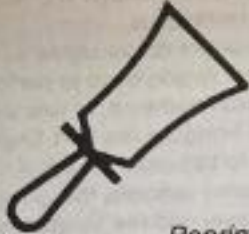
Notes from Kansas:

Reminiscences from the Archives

by Sharon Schmidt, Area 8 Chair


If you're directing in these changed times, you've probably spent hours on the internet looking for music that can be played by a small number of ringers, without shared bells or both! I know my browser autofills several sites for me as I search for selections for the 2-4 ringers we can have in our socially distanced live-streamed services. I'm grateful that the number of options seems to grow every week.

If you need to be convinced that you should be grateful, here's an excerpt from the December 1958 *Overtones* regarding the music available for handbell bands:



Handbell Music For Sale

Reprinted from OVERTONES, December 1958.



THE YEAR 1958 will always be remembered as the year handbell music was actually put on the market. It has been sold by our own arrangers for several years, but not until this year did the music publishing houses begin to produce music for handbells. Choral Services, Inc., brought out Richard Litterst's arrangements of hymn tunes; Harold Flammer, Inc., published Alinda B. Couper's arrangement of Leontovich's "Ukrainian Carol of the Bells" for voices and bells; and J. Fisher and Brothers published Mrs. Couper's "Pastorale for Organ and Handbells." We hope that before 1958 is over other handbell music will be published by these and other music houses.

In the meantime, we can still depend upon the good music which our arrangers themselves publish. We should appreciate their help, for even if they charge a little, this does not repay them for their professional work. Look up back *OVERTONES* to see who these people are; and patronize them. And read the advertisements below.

r "Swiss Hand



Cheri Leigh

Missouri State Chair

Cheri Leigh

Past Chair

Suanne Comfort

Treasurer

Suanne Comfort

Membership

Sherry Boland

Chime Chair

Christie White

Creativity During Pandemic

By Dolan Bayless, Guest Columnist

I was reading about the Dallas chapter of Choristers Guild virtual workshop titled *Our Song Must Go On!* I have been reflecting on that title and know that it must be the truth! Within the hour I read about the virtual church music workshop, I was writing a script for the 38th Hymn of Comfort. The hymn, *Blessed Be the God of Israel* is an Advent hymn that is less than 50 years old, tune by Hal Hopson and text by English clergyman Michael Perry. The last line of the third verse of that hymn is:

O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

I have seen and watched many well-made videos of bell ensembles, church vocal choirs, and professional musicians online. And yes, that is one way that music has been kept alive through this pandemic.

The pandemic interrupted the Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis reading session that we sponsor in August. So we went virtual with our reading session linking to the publishers' website for listening. Our board members wrote reviews about how each piece could be used in our particular situations. If you would like to participate in the virtual reading session, please visit our website stlbells.org.

Plans are being developed for February Flourish, a virtual church music workshop sponsored by the St. Louis chapter of AGO. For the last three years AGO has shared the day with the Handbell Association as we realized there are many organists, pianists, and handbell directors that are one and the same person in various churches. February Flourish will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2021. The actual virtual class sessions will be distributed to registrants for viewing the preceding week. A moderator will then host the zoom where registrants can ask questions about the topics. For more information check out AGO chapter of St. Louis at agostlouis.org.

We need to be creative, first and foremost. How can I be creative when I am depressed and stuck at home, isolated from peers and friends with whom I can brainstorm. We just have to adapt, be creative and persevere.



Dolan Bayless is in his 15th year as Director of Traditional Worship and Music at Kirkwood United Methodist Church in suburban St. Louis. Dolan is a past chair of Area 8, and before moving to St. Louis, he was a past chair of Area 9 (Oklahoma and Texas). ReBELLion Handbell Ensemble was formed more than 10 years ago based on his experiences with the Houston Bronze Ensemble.

Ringling at Concordia Univ., Nebraska in the Age of Covid

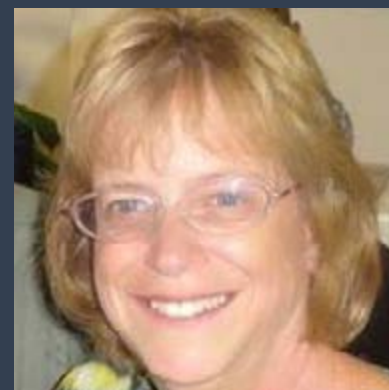
By Prof. Jessica Kite, Director of Handbell Choirs
at Concordia University, Nebraska

COVID protocols for rehearsals are the new normal. Sanitize your hands on the way in and out, masks required at all times, assigned positions, gloves washed and returned to the same ringer, sanitizing equipment after rehearsals....If you have been ringing, you know these steps well! Even with extra precautions, we were so thankful to make music as a handbell choir once again this Fall Semester! One habit I will keep after COVID is giving each position an equipment bucket. The students have their complete set of necessary mallets, dowels, pencils, and polishing cloths in a bucket with their position number. At the beginning of rehearsal, they get their folder and bucket and instantly have what they need (in addition to bells, of course)! It is very efficient!



Concordia University, Nebraska Handbell Choir

Even though we rang again as a choir in Fall 2020, the semester was still very different. We could not have our usual performances in campus chapel, local worship services, tour, or give a face-to-face Christmas concert. Concordia University's Music Department planned a recorded Christmas at Concordia Concert (usually a live annual tradition), but the week before recording began, one-third of our music students were quarantined mostly due to contact with others who had tested positive.



Nancy Youngman

Nebraska State Chair

Nancy Youngman

Registrar

Linda Ashley

Scholarship Committee

Janet Chiocchi

Secretary

Byron Jensen

Members

Michael Allen

Jessica Kite

Deann Nicolaus

Brian Lew

Angela Wright

Jonathan Rippe

While the entire campus only had a couple dozen actual cases, our ensembles were impacted by quarantines to the extent that we had to cancel the event. This was certainly tough on morale. However, we powered through via subs and patience as we awaited all students to be cleared to rehearse. Finally, a month after the wave of quarantines, everyone was back and we had a big recording session before the semester ended. We had to cut several of the pieces we would have liked to do, but we were glad to share some of our favorites on our Facebook page! With rights from publishers, this has been a great way to share our ringing while we cannot have traditional performances.

COVID requires flexibility from all of us! It definitely makes us appreciate the importance of each individual ringer and the blessing of being able to perform music as a whole choir. I tell my students (many of them future teachers or parish musicians) that being flexible and positive during unexpected challenges is a skill that will serve them well their entire lives! May we all model that with our ensembles during these unusual times!

Concordia's first handbell choir was organized in 1979. The University now has two auditioned handbell choirs which total 28 ringers and one of the largest collegiate handbell programs in the Midwest. The students play more than 5 octaves of handbells and 4 octaves of handchimes ranging from C2 to C8. Concordia Handbell Choir and Handbell Choir II rehearse twice weekly and appear in concerts, worship services, campus chapels and community events. Concordia offers handbell choir opportunities for students, regardless of degree program, who have a passion for ringing! Check us out at <https://www.facebook.com/cunehandbells>

Jessica Kite, M.M.
Director of Handbell Choirs
Concordia University, Nebraska



Prof. Jessica Kite has been Director of Handbell Choirs at Concordia University, Nebraska since 2006. Kite is a Concordia graduate and received her Master of Music degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is a member of the Nebraska State Committee for Handbell Musicians of America. As a director of beginning and advanced ringers, Kite enjoys helping her choirs grow musically through a variety of fun and challenging pieces. Kite is also an elementary music methods instructor at Concordia and a private piano teacher.

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Area VIII of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Inc

Upcoming Area 8 Events

Please check websites for updated information. Due to social distancing and COVID-19 requirements, events may be cancelled after this newsletter is distributed.

Area 8 Fourth Friday Events

To register, visit area8.handbellmusicians.org

Friday, January 23, 2021

Area 8 Fourth Friday Sampler

Friday, February 26, 2021

Area 8 Fourth Friday Seminar: Mark Your Score

Friday, March 26, 2021

Area 8 Fourth Friday Sampler

Friday, April 23, 2021

Area 8 Fourth Friday Seminar: Topic TBD

July 2021

Thursday, July 1, 2021 - Monday, July 17, 2021

Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar: Glendale, Arizona

October 2021

Friday, October 8, 2021

6:00 pm Beer, Wine, and Bells: Des Moines, IA

Saturday, October 9, 2021

8:00 am 2021 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival: Windsor Heights, IA



Handbell Happy Hour

Sponsored by Handbell Musicians of America

Looking for a fun way to help ease self-quarantine and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic? Join us for a casual, virtual chat with your hand bell friends.

Tuesday, January 5, 4pm EST - National Board: Greig Ashurst and Bill Mathis

Thursday, January 14, 7pm EST - National Board: Jill Fedon, Gillian Erlenborn, Linda Minnotte, and Tracey Bowers

Tuesday, February 2, 4pm, and Thursday February 18, 7pm EST - topic and guests TBD

Join the Chat! Each chat will be hosted by a member of the national staff or board of directors. Use this time to check in with each other, share ideas for staying musically connected, and discuss your love for all things handbell. No need to pre-register, just follow this link (<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1482015406>).

Sessions will last up to an hour. Have ideas for topics to discuss on these chats? Just email your suggestion to info@handbellmusicians.org.

So grab your favorite snack and beverage and join us online!

Publishing in Quavers

6 publications per year, published in odd months.

Articles

Articles are due on the 10th day of even months.

Advertising

Click here for more details about advertising in *Quavers*. 6 ads for 5! Run 5 identical ads in 5 successive *Quavers* and get the 6th ad free.

Events & Concerts

must be submitted by the 25th of even months to be included in *Quavers*. To submit a concert or event for inclusion, click here or go to the A8 Website, Events page.

Questions?

Please send all questions and comments about this and future *Quavers* publications to Beth Ann Edwards, Editor: newslettereditor.area8@handbellmusicians.org

Find the most up-to-date calendar and details about events on the A8 website.