



There WILL be a 2022 Area 8 Festival!

by Sharon Schmidt, Area 8 Chair

The Area 8 Board is excited to announce the 2022 Area 8 Festival at the Hilton at the Kansas City Airport, June 23-25. Our clinicians are John Behnke and Alex Guebert.

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June 23, 2022: Pre-conference Worship & Director's seminars, registration, massed load-in, first Bronzefest rehearsal

June 24-25, 2022 (Fri-Sat): Festival, with closing concert @ 7:30pm on Saturday

You may be asking "What is a Festival?" The main event is massed ringing, where all join in rehearsing and performing several selections for the final concert on Saturday. There are two divisions: Blue (music level 1+ to 2+) and Gold (level 3 and above). The repertoire is available on the Area 8 website, [here](#).

In addition to massed ringing, there are classes for everyone and music reading sessions for those who can't get enough ringing. For those who are up for a challenge, the BronzeFest track offers an intense rehearsal schedule to prepare up to 6 higher-level selections in lieu of attending classes. Those selections are presented in a concert on Saturday afternoon.

Registration details will be available in the fall, and we'll have a special Fourth Friday Focus session in September with more information.

If you have attended a festival in the past, we'd love to see you in Kansas City! Who can you think of that would enjoy attending? Start talking to them now and share your excitement about getting together to ring.

Do you have a fun or moving festival story? Your short (2-3 minute) video about your experience could be a part of that special September Fourth Friday Focus. Contact me at chair.area8@handbellmusicians.org to get details about how you can share your story and inspire others to experience the fun!

Alex Guebert, Sharon Schmidt, and John Behnke



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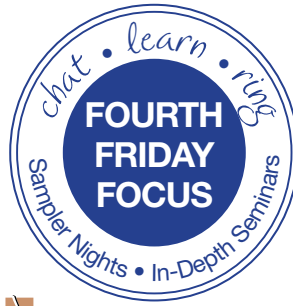
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Nancy Youngman

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



 Handbell Musicians
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Schedule

Aug 27 NO FFF

Sept 24 2022 Festival Preview

Oct 22 Game Night

Update: 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. Both events listed here are free. Check the website for up-to-date registration information.

September 24 Festival Preview Night

Learn about repertoire, classes, BronzeFest, clinicians, venue, and more.

October 22 Game Night

Hang out with friends and play games on-line.

Previous FFFs

You can still register to view past sessions [here](#), or visit the [Area 8 web page](#) for more information.

Do you have a fun or moving festival story? Your short (2-3 minute) video about your experience could be a part of that special September Fourth Friday Focus. Contact [Sharon Schmidt](#) to get details about how you can share your story and inspire others to experience the fun!

Visit the [Area 8 web page](#) to register for any FFF session!

Testimonial from an FFF participant

“I enjoyed the class last Friday evening. I’m practicing what I learned! I did pay for the class on marking the music and look forward to finding some gems of useful information.”

Marjorie from Iowa

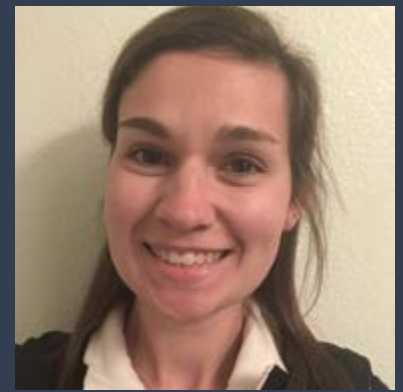
Don't Panic, Don't Panic, Don't Panic: Regrouping After COVID

By Kendall Ladd, Central/Southern IL State Chair

I'll be honest, I feel like I've had that song from Dora the Explorer stuck in my head lately. You know the one I'm talking about...."We did it! We did it! We did it! Yeah!" Now, I know we aren't completely out of the woods from COVID yet, and I know we are all tired of it being a topic of conversation, but I can't help but feel hopeful for the Fall/Holiday ringing season since vaccinations have become more widespread, things are starting to open back up, and talk about returning to a somewhat normal bell choir has been common amongst my bell groups! One thing that comes with this is a challenge I think a lot of bell choirs face after a normal summer break, but one that may be amplified after a year of COVID lockdowns: the need to find new ringers or convince previous ringers to return!

With a few exceptions, I think this is a panic that most directors and choirs feel each year. But just know, you are not alone! I think the toughest thing to figure out, especially in our current environment, is how to best recruit new or past ringers. This question of recruiting is asked often and I think this is partially driven by differences among ringers in our community. This includes reasons for leaving in the first place or what is driving their hesitancy to join or commit to a new choir, particularly if they weren't seeking you out in the first place.

I know some people prefer to take cautious and formal routes, but I've reached the point where I just go all in! I approach it from the most fun and outgoing angle I can depending on who it is I'm reaching out to. This includes inviting them out to dinner, buying them ice cream, goofing off around them in every possible way, the list is endless! And sometimes this means playing the long game. Sometimes planting a small seed now can lead to them joining in a semester or two. Now will this approach work for everyone? No. And is this the absolute best approach for you to take? Also no. But at the end of the day, just know, you got this! Do what you feel is best and hope it works out because we all have some extra hurdles to overcome this year.



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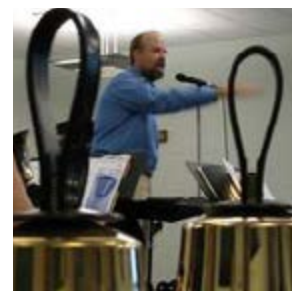
Please continue to keep yourself and your community safe by wearing a mask, frequently sanitizing your hands, and by keeping a social distance between yourself and others. We want you all in West Des Moines this fall for our 2021 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival with Brenda Austin, and 125 of your best handbell friends.

Looking forward...

By Patrick Gagnon, Iowa Chair

I look forward to ...

- ... hauling tables around awkward corners
- ... staring at a passage that I couldn't sight-read and trying ten different solutions that don't work.
- ... giving the same correction....again.
- ... being at the same table as another ringer.
- ... seeing peoples' mouths (especially the ones who count under their breath).
- ... the indescribable experience of massed ringing - the good, the bad, and the ugly.
- ... making music and then hearing people's reaction (especially if it's positive).
- ... good news about venues being opened.
- ... staring at my car and thinking "there's no way I can fit the bells in here."
- ... repertoire reading sessions which aren't pre-recorded and presented on YouTube.
- ... meetings that aren't about "what do we do now," but are about "what do we get to do next?"
- ... everything I used to complain about.
- ... bell polishing parties.
- ... driving a moving van full of bells and chimes around a strange city, and getting back in time to shower and get to the closing concert.
- ... the 2021 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival with Brenda Austin! [Click Here For More Information.](#)
- ... the opening bell of the 2022 Area 8 Festival/Conference in Kansas City!
- ... seeing you in person, to hearing your choirs, to learning with you, and to joining with you in the great mission of our organization - that of Uniting People in a Musical Art.





Janelle Flory Schrock



Julie Assel

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Janelle Flory Schrock

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Chimes

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How Handbells Heal Us

By Janelle Flory Schrock

Area 8 Kansas Co-Chair, McPherson, Kansas

In the Plum Village tradition of Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leader Thich Nhat Hanh, the sounding of a bell plays an integral role in daily meditation. Prior to the ringing of the bell, the following poem is uttered:

Body, speech and mind in perfect oneness
I send my heart along with the sound of this bell.
May the hearers awaken from their forgetfulness
and transcend the path of all anxiety and sorrow.

Listen, listen
This wonderful sound brings me back to my true self.

An increasing number of studies are examining the powers of sound vibrations to help relax, to relieve pain, and to clear a pathway for healing. Often at handbell festivals, we talk about the ways in which ringing challenges our brain and works our muscles. There are even books on healthy ringing, ergonomically speaking. But how powerful of an impact does handbell ringing have on our wellbeing on an energetic or spiritual level?

A few years ago, one of our ringers learned that she had cancer and requested an anointing ceremony* a few days before her treatment began. At the anointing service, the ringer sat in the center of a circle of friends while, as she had requested, we used the singing bell method on a G4. The pulsating frequency filled the space quite quickly, joining our prayers for healing with a palpable, unifying energy.

I'm curious to know, when and in what ways have you felt moved by the sound and vibration of bells? Do you have a particular song, or passage, or chord that never fails to get your body buzzing, bring a smile to your face or tears to your eyes? How much have you noticed the absence of this feeling over the past year during the pandemic? And how would you describe this feeling to someone who is thinking about ringing for the first time?

I recall one performance of Moglebust's "Meditation on Beautiful Savior" about 20 years ago, when, at the climax of the piece and the striking of THAT CHORD - if you know the piece, then you know the one I mean - it felt like there were beams of light streaming from my fingers. In that moment, I was in complete energetic union with the bells, with my fellow ringers, with everything.

The sound had indeed "awakened me from my forgetfulness and brought me back to my true self."

*In my religious tradition, an anointing may be requested by any member of the congregation and includes a small gathering of people, a time of prayer and sharing, reading of scripture, a blessing with oil, and a laying on of hands of the individual who has asked for healing.



Cheri Leigh

Former Missouri State Chair

Cheri Leigh

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Suanne Comfort

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The Area 8 Board thanks Cheri for her service as Missouri State Chair. If you would like to learn about connecting with and supporting handbell musicians in Missouri as State Chair, contact Sharon Schmidt, Area 8 chair.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

By Cheri Leigh, Missouri State Chair

This an ode to the most joyful music for voice, orchestra, small ensembles, and especially handbells. The wonderful hymn “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee,” written by a pastor, Henry Van Dyke, has been a Christian staple for over a hundred years. I can think of no other hymn that brings me as much joy. The thrilling music, written by the master Beethoven, and the inspiring words by Van Dyke are appropriate for most of the Christian traditions, for weddings, for funerals, for any occasion where one wants to lift awe and praise.

What is the occasion for my celebration of this hymn? I have found yet one more arrangement of Joyful, Joyful to bring out of the file drawer for an outdoor summer service. We must have six or eight arrangements of this venerable hymn in all levels of complexity and for small or larger ensembles. This arrangement is by Sondra K. Tucker. It was printed in the July/August 2011 Overtones and it is a reprint of AGEHR’s Handbell Zebra, November 1999.

It is a one-page Bell Tree Processional, which could just lead into congregational singing. The melody is played by a five-note bell tree, which could also be played by a solo instrument such as a flute. The rest of the piece is in ostinato style with only nine other bells.

This meets the criteria for a small group of ringers, and with the repetition of the ostinato, could easily be performed without music. Best of all, when the congregation hears the music, they will just fill in with all of the rest of the orchestra and the beautiful words as we worship in God’s joyful creation.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE

I am offering for sale my Malmark Handbells, 4 solo tables/foam and maroon corduroy table covers. The Malmark handbells are C4-G7 (additional A7 and B7). They have the quick adjust strikers. Bells are in very excellent condition. I have kept them clean and polished.. Small dings from bell tree work. Comes in 4 cases with mallets.

The 13 feet of table space consists of 1 four foot and 3 three foot trapezoid tables. There are two table top covering for 13 feet or 10 feet of table space. The drapes are attached to the top covering using velcro and are adjustable for either length.

I am willing to make an attempt at hand delivery to avoid an estimated \$400 shipping cost.

Bells and Port-A-Bell cases \$11,000
Tables, foam and covers - \$1,000

James Dahlgran
Janesville, WI

Bell-issimo Community Choir

By Nancy Youngman, Nebraska State Chair

For the past four issues, I have had committee members write about the special handbell choirs that Nebraska has. Now it's my turn!! Bell-issimo is Lincoln, Nebraska's auditioned community handbell choir. I began the choir in 2002 as requests for concerts were becoming too much for my church choirs. I asked those who were talented and dedicated ringers to form this group, and for several years, this group would present programs when needed. I retired from public education in 2014 with the goal of

I feel strongly that handbell concerts are better with variety, and adding other instruments is a great tool for that ...

regular fall and spring concerts, along with special programs and Christmas festivities. We have traveled to other states along with various communities in Nebraska.

Two specific goals were in my plans and are written into our mission statement. One is to have every concert and program feature other musical talents with the bells. We have wonderful instrumentalists and vocalists within our group, and there will always be at least one piece, and often several, that include these talents. During auditions, it is a definite plus if a ringer is also accomplished on another instrument. I feel strongly that handbell concerts are better with variety, and adding other instruments is a great tool for that, along with keeping the audience's interest and showcasing the talents within the choir.

The other goal has been to bring handbell music to a much broader audience than the traditional one of handbell enthusiasts and church settings. Bell-issimo has performed several pops and rock concerts at two of Lincoln's most popular music venues: Vega and the Royal Grove. At both venues, we had standing room only, places that tend to feature today's rock bands, country singers, and hip hop artists!!



Nancy Youngman

Nebraska State Chair

Nancy Youngman

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Janet Chiocchi

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Byron Jensen

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Jonathan Rippe

Bell-issimo Community Choir, Continued

We presented music for the chapel service of the Willa Cather International Convention in 2019, and most of the attendees had never heard a handbell choir before!! They were completely entranced and want to have us return in the near future. We have become a regular fixture with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra for their Christmas concerts which draw large audiences.

Please look for Bell-issimo's Facebook page, "like" us, and follow along with our adventures!



Bell-issimo, Lincoln, Nebraska

Are you or someone you know looking for a college that has handbells? Click here for a list of college handbell programs found on the national Handbell Musicians website.

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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 the Area 8 website.

Friday, September 25, 2021

Area 8 Fourth Friday Seminar: 2022 Festival Preview

Friday, October 22, 2021

Area 8 Fourth Friday Sampler: Game Night

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

Sunday, October 31, 2021

3:00 pm Des Moines Concert Handbells Joint performance with Des Moines Community Orchestra: Sheslow Auditorium, Des Moines, IA

Saturday, October 16, 2021

9:00 am Fall Show-Me Ring with Rezound! handbell Ensemble: Blue Springs, MO

December 2021

Saturday, December 11, 2021

4:00 pm: The Agape Ringers concert, Sounds of the Season: Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, Elmhurst, Illinois

Friday, December 17, 2021

7:00 pm: Des Moines Concert Handbells Winter Concert: St. John's Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA

Saturday, December 18, 2021

7:00 pm: Des Moines Concert Handbells Winter Concert: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, IA

June 2022

Thursday, June 23

Area 8 Festival, Pre-conference Worship & Director's seminars, registration, massed load-in, first Bronzefest rehearsal, Hilton Kansas City Airport

Friday and Saturday, June 24 & 25

Area 8 Festival, with closing concert @ 7:30pm on Saturday, Hilton Kansas City Airport

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 the price of 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.

Does your choir or ensemble have an upcoming concert or handbell event? Area 8 can help you publicize your event. When the forms found on the Area 8 website event page (found here) are filled out, the event is posted on the Area 8 website, *Quavers*, monthly e-blasts, and Facebook posts.