



Kansas City, Here I Come!

by Sharon Schmidt, Area 8 Chair

Welcome to the 2022 Area 8 Festival Focus issue of Quavers! This issue shares the currently available information about the Festival June 23rd to 25th, 2022, in Kansas City, MO at the Hilton Kansas City Airport.

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 (easier: levels 1-2) and Gold (more difficult: level 3 & up.)

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 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.

There are also two special topic sessions on the first day – a worship seminar, and a seminar specifically for directors. And of course, there are concerts!

(Here's where I must include the inevitable disclaimer: Plans are subject to change. We'll give you as much notice as possible if that happens.)

We've included two articles from past Quavers about why you and all your handbell musician friends should come to the 2022 Festival. Kathy Leonard urges us to keep learning and growing, and Cheri Leigh outlines the benefits directors and ensembles can reap from participating in a festival.

Both of these articles move beyond the schedule – the activities that make up a festival. They enforce that the worth of a festival comes from the camaraderie that your ensemble experiences in learning, rehearsing, and performing the music. By coming together with other handbell musicians, you strengthen and expand our community and connections, which we so sorely need after recent events. At the core, a festival is about making music and being with people who share your passion.

So read on to learn how you can have that experience. You can also click on [this link](#) to see the YouTube video from the September 2021 Fourth Friday Focus Special Festival Session, which contains much of the same information, as well as some photo memories of past festivals.

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



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

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.

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.

Area 8 Nominations

Area 8 is holding elections in summer of 2022! We are seeking nominations for Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you or someone you know would make a great candidate, please contact [Beth Ann Edwards](#) to submit your/their name for consideration.

Thank you for nominating us and voting us in. We love being on Area 8 Board!



Schedule, Area 8 Festival 2022

		Thursday, June 23	
Session 1A 8:30 am - 2:00 pm	Worship Seminar (includes lunch break, lunch on your own)		
Session 1B 2:15 - 5:45 pm	Directors Seminar - Part A		
Registration 4:00 - 7:30 pm	Registration & Massed Ring Set-up		
Dinner 5:45 - 7:00 pm	Dinner on your own		
Session 1C 7:00 - 9:30 pm	Directors Seminar - Part B BronzeFest First Rehearsal Bonus "Warm-Up" Rehearsal		
		Friday, June 24	Saturday, June 25
Session A 8:00 - 9:00 am	Opening Bell, Massed Rehearsal	Massed Rehearsal	
Session B 9:15 - 10:15 am	Blue Division rehearsal Bronze Festival Ensemble Classes for Gold Division Reading Session	Blue Division rehearsal Bronze Festival Ensemble Classes for Gold Division Reading Session	
Session C 10:30 - 11:30 am	Gold Division Rehearsal Classes for Blue Division Reading Session	Gold Division Rehearsal Classes for Blue Division Reading Session	
Session D 11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch/Shopping Biennial A8 Meeting	Lunch and concert: Lawrence Community Handbell Choir	
Session E 1:15 - 2:15 pm	Blue Division Rehearsal Bronze Festival Ensemble Classes for Gold Division Reading Session	Blue Division Rehearsal Bronze Festival Ensemble Classes for Gold Division Reading Session	
Session F 2:30 - 3:30 pm	Gold Division rehearsal Classes for Blue Division Reading Session	Gold Division rehearsal Classes for Blue Division Reading Session	
Session G 3:45 - 4:30 pm	Showcase Concert	BronzeFest Concert	
Session H 4:45 - 6:00 pm	Massed Rehearsal	Massed Rehearsal	
	6:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner/Shopping	6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner	
	8:00 - 9:30 pm Concert: Columbia Handbell Ensemble	7:30 pm Area 8 Festival Concert	
	9:30 - 10:30 pm Unpublished Reading Session		



2022 Festival

Kansas City, Here I Come!

Repertoire Chosen for 2022 Festival

Massed – Blue and Gold Divisions

Directed by Alex Guebert and John Behnke

The Bells Must Ring	John Behnke	JAB Publishing JAB051 3-5 Oct, L 3 JAB052 2-3 Oct, Level 1+
Gratitude	Alex Guebert	Ringling Word MSF201868SF L2-
Reflections on Kelvingrove	arr. Jason Krug	Red River MRRBL5079, Level 2+
Over the Rainbow	arr. Chris Peck	Hope MHP2686P, Level 3

Blue Division

Directed by Alex Guebert and John Behnke

A Merry Heart	Cynthia Dobrinski	CGB471, Level 1+
Behold, A Host Arrayed in White	arr. John Behnke	Concordia 97-7634, Level 2+
Exultation	Matthew Compton	AGEHR AG35371, Level 2+
Clarion Call	Michael Joy	Choristers Guild CGB864, Level 2+

Gold Division

Directed by Alex Guebert and John Behnke

All Creatures of Our God and King	arr. John Behnke	AGEHR AG36041, Level 3
Fantasy on Restoration	Brian Childers	GIA MGIG8492, Level 3+
Good Christian Men Rejoice	Kimberly Strepka	From the Top 20327HB, Level 4
Mr. Blue Sky	arr. Alex Guebert	(Available through SMP), Level 3+

BronzeFest

Directed by Alex Guebert and John Behnke

Campanae Celebrare	Cathy Moglebust	Hope 2626, Level 4
Elegy	William Payn	Hope 1277, Level 4
Be Still My Soul	Alex Guebert	Jeffers JHS9570, Level 5
Angels We Have Heard on High	Kyler Brengle	AGEHR AG36056, Level 4
Spy Ring	arr. T. Waldrop	Red River RRBL5088, Level 3+
Finale from Symphony No. 2 in D minor for Organ	arr. Fred Gramann	AGEHR AG46016J, Level 5



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Thank you!
Your membership in Handbell Musicians of America is most gratefully appreciated. If your church, school, or other organization is not in a position to renew its membership at this time, consider an individual membership. The cost averages out to about \$8 per month. Membership information can be found HERE.

Hotel Information

Hilton Kansas City Airport
8801 NW 112th St.
Kansas City, MO 64153

Free wifi, free parking, and free grab & go continental breakfast. The updated guest rooms include a mini-fridge and coffee maker.

Price: \$119 per night.

To Book Your Room:

Go to the [Booking Link](#).

Hotel:

Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel

Group Name:

Handbell Area 8 – Biennial-2022

Massed Ring Clinicians

John Behnke and Alex Guebert,

Clinicians for Both Divisions, Area 8 Festival 2022

Alex Guebert is a composer, arranger, percussionist, music director and music teacher from Orange, California. He directs five handbell groups in the area; among those are two advanced-level groups: Cathedral Bells of St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange, and L.A. Bronze. His compositions and arrangements have been published and performed nationwide and overseas. Alex's compositional style is a result of his background as a percussionist, his love of film score, and his desire to broaden the horizons of handbell repertoire.

Alex holds a bachelor's degree in percussion from Concordia University Irvine, and an M.M. in Music Composition from Cal State Long Beach. Alex has studied conducting with Dr. Bill Payn, Dr. Herbert Geisler (Concordia University Irvine), and Ramona Miller. He teaches music classes and leads band programs at schools in Orange County, and has taught classes at handbell seminars throughout the country. Married in 2014, Alex spends his free time adventuring with his wife Heather, bicycling around Southern California.



Why stay at the Conference Hotel?

When attendees stay at the conference hotel, Area 8 receives credits for expenses incurred at the venue, which keeps overall costs lower. If registrants who live more than 50 miles from the hotel choose to stay at another location, they will be charged a fee to cover venue costs.

Dr. John Behnke is the former director of the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, retired Music Editor for AGEHR Music - Handbell Musicians of America, and retired Organist and Choir Director at Historic Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee, WI. Dr. John Behnke is Emeritus Professor of Music at Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin, where he taught organ, graduate handbell courses, and directed The Alleluia Ringers, Concordia's touring handbell choir, for 29 years from 1986 until August of 2015.

Dr. Behnke is a frequent organ recitalist, handbell clinician, and festival director. He enjoys composing and arranging, with nearly 400 handbell, choral, and organ compositions in print with seventeen different publishers in the United States, Germany, and Taiwan.

A 1974 graduate of Concordia-River Forest, IL. he received his M. Mus. in Church Music and Organ from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. in 1978. His D. Mus. was awarded to him in 1984 by Northwestern University where he was elected into the Alpha Chapter of Pi Kappa Lambda, a National Honorary Music Society. From August 1978 to July 1979 Dr. Behnke studied at the Westphalian Church Music Institute in Herford, W. Germany, where he passed the "A" Exam in Organ with the grade of "1-Excellent".

Area 8 Festival 2022

What's New This Year

Massed Ringing and Ringing Divisions

Two ringing divisions are available: Gold Division music is primarily level 3-4 and Blue Division is primarily Level 2-3. John Behnke and Alex Guebert are sharing directing responsibilities for both divisions and massed ringing.

Festival Schedule (see Page 3)

Thursday: Worship Seminar, Directors Seminar, Bonus Warm-up Rehearsal, first BronzeFest rehearsal.

Friday and Saturday: Massed ringing, division ringing, concerts, shopping, classes, and BronzeFest.

Festival Registration

Choirs, partial choirs, and individuals can register beginning in January. Choirs and partial choirs, please be ready to supply names and email addresses of all attendees. This information will help Festival volunteers communicate with all participants and facilitate class registration before they arrive in Kansas City.

Class Registration

All attendees are asked to sign up for classes before they arrive. When participants sign up for classes, Festival planners can make sure classes and attendees are matched up to best meet their needs. Class descriptions will be available on the website soon.



Dedicated Shopping Time

In addition to shopping during the Festival, vendor booths will be open on Friday from 6 to 8 pm for your browsing and shopping pleasure.

Reading Sessions

Evaluations from the 2018 Festival indicated you LOVED reading sessions. They will be offered during every class session. If this is your "jam" you can be in the reading session room as often as you like!

Keep checking the website!

As more information becomes available, it will be posted at
<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/2022-festival/>

New for 2022! Class Registration

The Festival Committee has been working with Education Chair Patrick Gagnon to offer classes that are the most valuable to attendees. When you register for classes, we will know which classes have hit the mark. If a class does not reach a certain threshold, we can substitute a class that might be more beneficial for ringers and directors. If a class sign-up is large, we will have time to add another section.

How Will This Take Place?

Festival registration will take place beginning in January and the process will be similar to previous Festivals, with one exception: Directors are asked to list every attendant's name and email address.

After Festival registration is complete, each attendee will receive an email asking them to select classes or reading sessions they would like to attend. Registrants will also have an opportunity to purchase Tshirt and extras meals, and sign up for BronzeFest, Worship Seminar, Directors Seminar, and Bonus Warm-Up Rehearsal.

Reflections on a Festival

by Kathy Leonard, Past Kansas Chair



Kathy Leonard
Kansas State Chair, 2010

This article came from the Quavers archives. It was written by Kathy Leonard for the September 2010 issue and highlights the 2010 Area 8 Festival Ringing on the Range that took place in Topeka, Kansas.

Where did you go on your Summer Bell-cation? Were you one of the over 400 folk ringing, learning, laughing, and growing while registered at Ringing on the Range? Did you attend Pinnacle and hear about the exciting direction AGEHR is heading? Did your church denomination host a music event that included a handbell track? Did you look through all the catalogs that come from our various publishers and suppliers? Did you listen to the CDs and find some new and exciting things for your choirs to play this year, or perhaps attend a reading session? Did you and your choir have a bell polishing party?

I asked some folks that attended Ringing on the Range to share what they learned from the Festival this year. Some of the thoughts shared:

- One of my biggest take-home messages was the need to encourage everyone in my group to practice the music on their own, not to wait for the group rehearsal night. Waiting for group rehearsal night to look at the music means the group can't put the piece together, and everyone's time is wasted. I think we will make huge gains with that one improvement in the use of our rehearsal nights.
- We learned that everyone learns differently and that what works for some doesn't work for others, so try learning your music in different ways. For some, studying the music before playing helps and for others just jumping in works best. We need to get back to basics, remembering what first drew us to play bells. For me, what drew me in was the sound produced and the flowing motions of the bell ringer. There are times lately when I ring that I feel I am just going through the clipped motions. Festival helped to remind me to enjoy the music, feel the music, see the flow, and love the overwhelming peace that is found by playing bells. I can't wait to renew those feelings of joy I get when I put a bell in my hand.

Yes! That's what Festival (or any of those other events) is all about—reminding us to re-open our eyes to the beauty of our art. We are so lucky to be a part of an aural AND visual art! Hopefully everyone went home inspired to try new things in new ways. That's not to say the old ways aren't good or don't work, but as stated above, 'everyone learns differently.' Share what you have learned. Listen to what others have learned. Keep attending events. Host an event for your church, town, or area. (It doesn't need to be a multi-day "big" event. Maybe concentrate on just one aspect of bell ringing.) Keep learning and growing. Challenge yourself and your group to try new styles of music, look for opportunities to share in new venues, volunteer to run a program for an organization in your community, start a new choir, and don't keep yourself tied to 'your two bells' in your 'slot' in your church. Branch out! Hope you've found some inspiration! Call on your State and Area officers to help. If we don't know the answers, we'll help you find the folks that CAN answer your questions. And it's exciting to start saying "See you at our next Area event!"

Undercover Benefits for Directors at Festivals

by Cheri Leigh, past Missouri State Chair

The handbell choirs prepare the music as best they can to get ready for the Area Festivals. They come, feeling like they're not quite ready to perform. But then during the festival, some miraculous things happen.

First, they find they are just as prepared as everyone else. Second, playing the music is easier, because ALL of the bells are there in the mass ringing sessions and the momentum of the lowest bass bells is carrying everyone along. And third, and this is where the director benefits, the suggestions of the guest directors are taken as unique and innovative, even if you have made the exact same suggestions.

During the handbell year, I will hear our handbell ringers adopt the relaxation techniques of Tim Waugh, suggest a "neighbor favor" emphasized by Michael Glasgow, remind everyone of the technique to create that final soft chord together as taught by Barbara Meinke, and remember the special hand position of a martellato from Kathy Ford. When handbell ringers learn something new themselves, it is multiplied as they share with the rest of the choir, in a way that is more persuasive than if the director suggested it.

The fourth reason to come to the Festival as a director is to learn new directing techniques from the guest clinicians. I know the music, as our choir has worked to prepare it, but I always learn something new that increases my skills as a director.

And the fifth reason, is that you are no longer in charge of directing your choir, and can relax and have a genuinely good time as a ringer! It's the reason we are all in handbells, because it is fun to ring!

Please plan to come to the next Area 8 Handbell Festival to learn, ring, and have a good time. Your choir will be successful, and they will adopt all the things you already told them as their own.



Cheri Leigh
Past Missouri State Chair

This article came from the Quavers archives. It was written by Cheri Leigh for the November 2019 issue of Quavers.



Upcoming Area 8 Events

Area 8 Fourth Friday Events (To register, visit the Area 8 website.)

Friday, October 22, 2021 Area 8 Fourth Friday Sampler: Game Night

October 2021

Sunday, October 10, 2021

3:00 pm Organ and Handbell Concert with Dr. John A. Behnke
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois

Monday, October 11, 2021

7:30 pm Organ and Choral Reading Session with Dr. John A. Behnke
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois

December 2021

Saturday, December 4, 2021

7:00 pm Bells in Motion Presents a Ringing Christmas
First UMC, Decatur, Illinois

Sunday, December 5, 2021

4:00 pm Bells in Motion Presents a Ringing Christmas
Faith Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, Illinois

Saturday, December 11, 2021

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

Friday, December 17, 2021

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

Saturday, December 18, 2021

7:00 pm Winter Concert, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

April 2022

Friday, April 8, 2022

7:00 pm Spring Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble
St. Mark's Catholic Church, Independence, Missouri

Saturday, April 9, 2022

7:00 pm Spring Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble
Merriam Christian Church, Merriam, Kansas

Sunday, April 10, 2022

4:00 pm Spring Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble
Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Missouri

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

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