



# HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA

## QUAVERS NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2014

Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

Christmas  
in July

### HASTINGS COLLEGE

*rings.....*

**18+ member bell choir**  
**5+ octaves of Schulmerich Bells**  
**5 octaves of Schulmerich Chimes**  
**3 octaves of Petit-Fritsen Bells**

*Up to \$5000 scholarship award for qualified ringers*

For more information contact:

[Dr. Byron Jensen](#)

402.461.7361



**HastingsCollege**  
Music

Hastings College-710 N. Turner-Hastings, Nebraska 68901  
[www.hastings.edu](http://www.hastings.edu)



### LOOK INSIDE

Ads	<a href="#">1</a> , <a href="#">2</a> , <a href="#">5</a> , <a href="#">6</a>
Chair	<a href="#">3</a>
Concerts	<a href="#">W</a>
Events	<a href="#">9</a>
IL	<a href="#">4</a>
IA	<a href="#">5</a>
KS	<a href="#">6</a>
MO	<a href="#">7</a>
NE	<a href="#">8</a>
Officers	<a href="#">2</a>

# Table of Contents



	<u><a href="#">ILLINOIS</a></u>	<u><a href="#">IOWA</a></u>	<u><a href="#">KANSAS</a></u>	<u><a href="#">MISSOURI</a></u>	<u><a href="#">NEBRASKA</a></u>
Chair	<u><a href="#">Sharon Schmidt</a></u> 28 Oriole Ct Naperville, IL 60540 630.369.9879	<u><a href="#">Patrick Gagnon</a></u> (acting chair until filled)	<u><a href="#">Cherryl Cox</a></u> 14684 W 152nd St Olathe, KS 66062 316.305.7055	<u><a href="#">Suanne Comfort</a></u> 6108 Blueridge Blvd Raytown, MO 64133 816.353.1708	<u><a href="#">Mike Allen</a></u> 1414 20th St P.O. Box 347 Aurora, NE 68818 402.694.3580 (H)
Treasurer	<u><a href="#">Debbie Perisho</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Mary Lee Parks</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Karla Denton</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Cathy Leiboult</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Janet Chiocchi</a></u>
Secretary	<u><a href="#">Beth McFarland</a></u>		<u><a href="#">Staci Cunningham</a></u>	Open	<u><a href="#">Nancy Youngman</a></u>
Web	<u><a href="#">Gary Dietschweiler</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Wendi Calkins-Levitt</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Wendi Calkins-Levitt</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Wendi Calkins-Levitt</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Janet Chiocchi</a></u>
Other	<i>Membership</i> <b>Open</b>  <i>Registrar</i> <u><a href="#">Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal</a></u>  <i>Chime Mentor</i> <u><a href="#">Diane Oster</a></u>  <i>Chime Coordinator</i> <u><a href="#">Aimee Legatzke</a></u> <u><a href="#">Shelley May Hutchison</a></u>  <i>Food Coordinator</i> <u><a href="#">Anna Piro</a></u>  <i>Handbell Services</i> <u><a href="#">Debi Robey</a></u>  <i>Student Liaison</i> <u><a href="#">Ben Hafner</a></u>	<i>Historian</i> <u><a href="#">Tina Gehrke</a></u>  <i>Chimes</i> <u><a href="#">Aaron Hansen</a></u>  <i>Eastern Rep</i> <u><a href="#">Cat Walker</a></u>  <i>Western Rep</i> <u><a href="#">Yvonne Johnson</a></u>	<i>Past Chair</i> <u><a href="#">Kathy Leonard</a></u>  <i>Chimes</i> <u><a href="#">Shirley Myers</a></u>	<i>St Louis Area</i> <u><a href="#">Sherry Boland</a></u>  <i>KC Area</i> <u><a href="#">Kathy Ford</a></u>   <i>At Large</i> <u><a href="#">Marilyn Droke</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Kathy Harrison</a></u>   <i>Chime Chair</i> <u><a href="#">Anne Miller</a></u>	<i>Registrar</i> <u><a href="#">Linda Ashlev</a></u>  <i>Chimes Coordinator</i> <u><a href="#">Nancy Youngman</a></u>   <u><a href="#">Byron Jensen</a></u>   <u><a href="#">Vicky Vandervort</a></u>   <u><a href="#">Joyce Miller</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Angela Wright</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Natalie Radcliffe</a></u>



[Charles Cohen](#)  
[Deann Nicolaus](#)  
[Jessica Kite](#)

*The Raleigh Ringers*

**David M. Harris, Director**

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613  
phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: [rringer@rr.org](mailto:rringer@rr.org) • web: [www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org)

*A community handbell choir*

# Unififio

## GREETINGS AREA 8 RINGERS & DIRECTORS!

As I write this article, I am anticipating an extraordinarily high feeling for the upcoming Area 8 Ring Davenport Festival. If all of us can just catch a glimpse and gather a little energy from Michael Glasgow and emulate his enthusiasm! So let me close this paragraph by saying, that it only takes a bell road trip to create a new buzz among your ringers! Inside jokes and stories will abound! And others in your groups will not want to miss the next "road trip" to a festival.

Now on to the theme of this issue: Handbells, handchimes, and Christmas music are made to complement each other! I am looking forward to reading the following articles as I will undoubtedly find a new Christmas favorite. For many years...make that decades, I have closed either my church concert or community choir concert with Frances Callahan's arrangement of *Gloria (Angels We Have Heard on High)*. In fact, some of my groups have played our signature piece by memory which was a major accomplishment.

Dolan Bayless ~ [Area 8 Chair](#)

# TIME TO VOTE

I want to emphasize a critical part that you have in Area 8. I am not speaking about "critical" as a life-threatening situation nor as being critical or judgmental. I am speaking of "critical" as being a turning point or the exercise of making a decision. Soon you will receive a ballot for the election of Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer for **your** Area 8. Members of Area 8 will choose the future direction of Area 8 by participating and casting their votes for the candidates. At no other time has leadership been more important than with this election. Biographical sketches of the slate of nominees are already posted on the Area 8 [website](#). Please study these nominees, make your decision, and then vote when the ballot arrives.

As members of Handbell Musicians of America, you have an active voice in determining the future events and activities within Area 8. Board members are available to serve you, our constituents, through leading into new paths. We want your input, we need your ideas, and we need you to vote.

If you are interested in working and serving as an Area 8 appointed board member or at the state level, please convey your interest to me or any one of the current Area 8 board members. Get involved!

## HANDBELLS & CHRISTMAS...

Now there's something we've never heard before...oh, wait, yes we have! However, it seems I have more use for Advent music than Christmas music, as my church tends to stick to the lectionary. So I've asked a few director friends to send me their favorites, which are mixed in among mine. And it was interesting to discover we had some picks in common.

### ***Stille Nacht*, arr. Betty Garee**

As my friend said, "a breathtaking, brilliantly arranged setting of "Silent Night." Some chromatics and triplets could challenge the ringers, but it presents opportunities for music that changes the molecules in the room!"

### ***The Rose Carol*, arr. Arnold Sherman**

This piece offers a lot of opportunity for musical expression. The melody line is supported with lightly pulsing eighth note patterns and the bass can easily be doubled on chimes for a rich full sound. It's beautiful, flowing and very reflective which makes it a nice church or concert piece.

### ***Change Ring Prelude on "Divinum Mystrium"*, arr. Fred Gramann**

This setting of "Of the Father's Love Begotten" is an excellent introduction to mixed meter, and ranges from ethereal to majestic. Once learned, always enjoyed.

### ***We Three Kings*, arr. Arnold Sherman**

My ringers always ask to play this. Add the tympani and you can hear the camels swaying across the desert.

### ***Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski**

Unmetered, but very patterned and learnable. I taught it by rote with clapbacks before they ever saw the music on the page. The rhythmic opening and ending are a contrast with the lyric middle section.

### ***Mary's Cradle Song*, arr. Karen Lakey Buckwalter**

A beautiful music box setting of the traditional Austrian carol with optional flute.

### ***I Wonder As I Wander*, arr. Fred Gramann**

It's Fred Gramann, so of course, there's more than one tune. He intersperses "We Three Kings" with the haunting title tune, and it invokes the vision of the Star over Bethlehem.

Sharon Schmidt ~ [Illinois State](http://www.il-aghehr.org) Chair



## Bells In Motion

Handbell Ensemble

---

Looking for versatile advanced ringers to join our jazz/pops ensemble. Rehearsals are once a month in Springfield, IL. Concerts in December, May and special occasions. Ringers hail from WI, IL and MO.

Contact me regarding auditions: KC Congdon, Director  
[KC@BellsInMotion.org](mailto:KC@BellsInMotion.org) / [www.bellsinmotion.org](http://www.bellsinmotion.org)

www.il-aghehr.org

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR IOWA COMMITTEE!

### **Ding! Dong! Merrily on High, arr. Eithun**

One of my favorite carols fantastically balanced between bell choir and flute. Both flute and choir act as dance partners. The whole piece is a well-executed duet not just a bell choir/instrument duel.

### **God With Us for All Time, arr. Garee**

An oldie but a goodie. Christmas music should be a mix of mystery and majesty and this piece does both exceptionally well.

### **African Noel, arr. Moglebust**

An "out of the box" selection for advanced choirs, with lots of changing rhythms meaning the choir is **never** bored.

### **Variations on 'People Look East,' arr. Helman**

Advent tunes usually get short shrift but *People Look East* is a gem. Helman's settings are fun, challenging and exciting for choir and congregation alike.

*~John Cook, Des Moines area Representative / Westminster Presbyterian Church, Des Moines*

I know one of our favorite pieces for Christmas is **Now the Green Blade, arr. Kevin McChesney**, which was pretty fun for us! Our bell group has played this piece off and on for a number of years. This piece brings feelings of intrigue, excitement, and expectation. It provides a variety of techniques: mallets, marts, accenting in rhythmic places. Fun things!

Another piece that we like is **Fred Gramann's Carol of the Wise Men**. This piece takes you to the desert! It is truly fun to ring and fun to imagine. We also like having a soloist. We even like doing it in January when people think Christmas is over! This is very beautiful, musically, and has a meaningful text.

*~Jo Reaman, St. Paul's LCMS, Webster City*

### **It Came Upon A Midnight Clear, arr. Arnold Sherman**

I love this arrangement because it has a lush sound with interesting chordal structures. It includes chimes in the beginning and end, plus some tower swinging. Beautiful arrangement.

### **The First Noel, arr. Cathy Moglebust**

Cathy has again created a lovely arrangement with interesting harmonies and a delightful interlude melody. The piece starts with a very quiet setting and builds throughout. Another gem from Cathy!

*~Aaron Hansen, Chimes Chair / FUMC, Cedar Falls / Wartburg College, Waverly*

I have two: **I Wonder as I Wander, arr. Karen Buckwalter** and **God With Us for All Time, by Betty Garee**. Simply amazing writing that is incredibly creative and powerful.

*~Cathy Moglebust, North Central Iowa Handbell Ensemble / clinician / composer  
Compiled by Patrick Gagnon ~ Acting [Iowa State](http://www.iowastate.org) Chair*

**SEE YOU ALL AT THE  
2014 WEBSTER CITY  
HANDBELL FESTIVAL  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014!**

Patrick Gagnon  
Cathy Moglebust  
Lauran Delaney And Rezound!

**FESTIVAL COMING**

## CHRISTMAS FAVORITES IN JULY!

We took a poll on the Kansas Handbell Musicians of America Facebook page asking "What's your favorite Christmas handbell piece?" The response was that most people really like the standards: **Carol of the Bells**; **Silent Night**; **Little Drummer Boy**; **O Holy Night** and **In the Bleak Midwinter**.

**Carol of the Bells** The piece was written in 1916 by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovich and titled "Shchedryk." The song tells the tale of a swallow flying into a household to proclaim the plentiful year the family will have. The song's title is from the Ukrainian word "shchedryj," which means "bountiful." There are many arrangements of this piece, with at least nine titled **Carol of the Bells**.

**Silent Night** In 1816 Joseph Mohr created the poem. In 1818 on Christmas Eve, Franz Xaver Gruber composed a melody to fit the text. *Silent Night! Holy Night!* has its world premiere that night in the St. Nicholas church of Oberndorf near Salzburg Austria, performed by Franz Xaver Gruber and Joseph Mohr. There are more than twenty arrangements titled *Silent Night*.

**Little Drummer Boy** Originally titled *Carol of the Drum*, this song was written in 1941 by pianist Katherine K. Davis. It's based on a traditional Czech carol. There aren't as many arrangements of this piece as you might think.

**O Holy Night** In 1847, mayor, wine merchant and an occasional poet, Placide Cappeau was asked by a parish priest to write a poem for Christmas mass. Cappeau decided that his *Cantique de Noel* was not just a poem, but a song in need of music. He asked his friend Adolphe Charles Adams to write the music. There are over 20 pieces titled *O Holy Night*.

**In the Bleak Midwinter** This piece was written by Christina Rossetti as a Christmas poem for an American magazine, *Scribner's Monthly*, in 1872. She authored three collections of mostly religious poetry and four devotional books. She also wrote *Love Came Down at Christmas*.

These pieces have a fascinating history. On the Kansas website [www.agehr-ks.org](http://www.agehr-ks.org) I've added some more information about these and other Christmas pieces. I hope you will go to the website and read more.

Christmas in July also happens at Handbell Camp in Parkville, MO. Kansans organize this event so check out [www.handbellcamp.org](http://www.handbellcamp.org) for more information.

Cherryl Cox ~ [Kansas State](http://www.agehr-ks.org)

The Kansas Chimes are available for loan to a school in Kansas for Fall 2014. If you or a school you know are interested, find out more about the program on our website [www.agehr-ks.org/?page\\_id=10](http://www.agehr-ks.org/?page_id=10).





## CHRISTMAS FAVORITES

Everyone loves bells at Christmas! It is a blessing to bring so much joy to others with the carols and wonderful music of Christmas. Over the years my adult choir has built up a repertoire of favorites we like to use for caroling. Our “golden oldies” include several **Cynthia Dobrinski** arrangements: **Ding Dong! Merrily On High!**, **White Christmas**, **Silver Bells**, **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**, and **Jingle Bells** (bring children up from the audience to play sleigh bells). Audiences love to sing along with **Doug Wagner’s** series of four **Christmas Carol Fests** published by Agape. Each of the four is a straightforward arrangement of several familiar carols which can be rung alone or invite audience participation. We like Doug’s **Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!**, and his charming **Frosty the Snowman** ends with a malleted coda that sparkles. Put a child in a snowman costume to dance around the audience and everyone is delighted. Other favorites include **William E. Gross’s A Nativity Celebration**, **Hart Morris’s West Indies Carol** with percussion, **Joel Raney’s We Three Kings**, a transcription of the choral classic **Carol of the Bells** by **Richard Litterst**, and our favorite concert opener, **McChesney’s Now the Green Blade Riseth**. To these we add the repertoire from the current season.

I always need new processional. My choirs love to ring and sing. I enjoy **Dobrinski’s** easily memorized 3-octave **Seasonal Procession** from Agape, with two different sung texts for Christmas and Easter. This year we used **Hart Morris’s On This Day Earth Shall Ring** from CPH, which sounds quite medieval with muffled snare drum and finger cymbals. Nutcracker arrangements are always a hit at Christmas. We have used **Griffin’s** transcription of **Dance of the Reed Flutes** from Flammar, his arrangement of **Marche** from *The Nutcracker Suite* from AGEHR, **Ardis Freeman’s Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy** from Cantabile Press, **Doug Wagner’s Trepak** from Agape, and **McChesney’s Arab Dance** from Jeffers Handbell.

More advanced choirs would enjoy several Christmas selections that have been rung at Distinctly Bronze in recent years. These include **Moklebust’s** dramatic **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** in the Raleigh Ringers Series from Jeffers Handbell, **Sherman’s** fun level 5 setting of **Up On the Housetop** from Agape, **Moklebust’s** haunting level 4 **Greensleeves** with hand percussion, and **Raney’s** ethereal **Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming** with synthesizer and percussion. Catholic and Episcopal churches where Annunciation Sunday is observed know the hymn, **The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**. My Episcopal friend from Cleveland was thrilled when Distinctly Bronze rang **Raney’s** setting of that hymn from Agape with synthesizer and percussion. It is a great concert piece. Another great level 4 piece is **Brian Childer’s Dreamscape on ‘Still, Still, Still’** from Alfred, with flute and percussion. The Area 8 festival in 2000 at Topeka used **Hart Morris’s** Level 4 **Las Campanas de la Navidad** from Alfred; the marimba, guitar, percussion, and malleted bass bells give it a wonderful Spanish flavor.

What a privilege we have to share such wonderful music with our ringers and audiences!

Suanne Comfort ~ [Missouri State](#) Chair

## NEBRASKA CHRISTMAS FAVORITES

Our task this month is to present a list of our favorite Christmas handbell selections. I have included a few of my own favorites as well as some from my state committee.

### **Come, Emmanuel, arr. Matthew Prins**

A medley of three pieces, characterized by the use of numerous mallet techniques throughout, giving it a sort of mystical feel. A mesmerizing arrangement guaranteed to keep your audience's attention.

### **The First Noel, arr. Cathy Moglebust**

This was written for the Raleigh Ringers Series, but is accessible for intermediate choirs. Truly a beautiful piece.

### **Change Ring Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium," arr. Fred Gramann**

A beautiful arrangement for use during Advent or Epiphany.

### **2 Christmas Carols, arr. Paul McKlveen**

This is actually two separate pieces, *Stille Nacht* and an original composition, *Christmas Lullaby*. These have been masterfully arranged to fully recreate Chip Davis' original arrangements, and they sound spectacular on handbells. I even arranged a synthesizer part to fill in the violin, the vocals and the wind effects. You will definitely get a great reaction from your listeners.

### **Traditions of Christmas, arr. Paul McKlveen**

This has been a perennial favorite and again, sounds terrific when played on handbells.

### **Were You There On That Christmas Night, arr. Martha Lynn Thompson**

This is an emotional piece for Christmas and is fast becoming a popular favorite in the bell world.

### **Mary Did You Know, arr. Douglas Wagner**

Consider using this with your SATB choir which makes for a wonderful joint presentation. I have done this with bells and a joint vocal choir and it is stunning in its impact on the listeners.

### **On A Still and Silent Night, arr. M. Akers**

Accessible and musically satisfying for ringers of all ages. It is a clever combination of *Still, Still, Still* and *Silent Night*. It is a powerful piece for a Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

### **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski**

We often have played this as a memorable anthem and it truly displays the power of bells on Christmas.

Not many instruments seem so perfect for the Christmas season as do handbells. Consider the above selections along with the others in this issue and make your next Christmas season spectacular. Not only in your church, but why not put together a concert and present it to the entire community. You will be glad you did and so will your listeners!

*J. Michael Allen ~ [Nebraska State](#) Chair*



2014	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jul 6-10	Intergenerational Handbell Camp Various	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	<a href="#">Camp</a>
Jul 15-18	National Seminar Various	Sheraton Atlanta, GA	<a href="#">National</a>
Jul 16-18	National Seminar <i>Distinctly Teen</i> —Kimberley Strepka	Sheraton Atlanta, GA	<a href="#">National</a>
Sep 12-13	Flint Hills Handbell Fest Various	YMCA Camp Wood Elmdale, KS	<a href="#">Kipp Willnauer</a>
Oct 11	Webster City Handbell Festival Lauran Delancy, Patrick Gagnon, Cathy Moglebust, Rezound!	Webster City, IA	<a href="#">Iowa</a>

**CONCERT LISTINGS?  
CLICK  
BELOW**

**Concerts**

**Upcoming Events**