



QUAVERS

AREA VIII: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA
MARCH, 2007

COLLEGES & SCHOLARSHIPS

According to the AGEHR website there are approximately 75 colleges in the United States that offer handbells. I say approximately since some colleges are not members of AGEHR but still offer handbells as a class. Area VIII has six colleges listed: Judson College, Concordia University, Illinois; Pittsburg State University, Kansas; College of the Ozarks, Missouri; Evangel College, Missouri; William Jewell College, Missouri.

As an advocate of music in education, I support the use of handbells at the College level of the educational process. Students who attend colleges with a Handbell Choir as an accredited class are fortunate since those with previous ringing experience have the opportunity to expand that experience into their college years while earning college credits. Many look forward to a class where they have the fun, friendship and camaraderie of ringing in an ensemble. If they haven't had previous ringing experience they can enroll as a beginner.

Most colleges have requirements that include classes in the Fine Arts area. Students in these schools can earn credits by taking Fine Arts classes, ensembles (large or small), or private lessons. Thus, Handbell Choir may be offered as an accredited class or ensemble. Many colleges offer beginning, intermediate and advanced skill levels in these classes. Class meetings per week vary from college to college.

- Collegiate handbell choirs may have advantages over church and Community choirs because College choirs can be very strict about attendance policies. These policies can be tied to the grading scale.
- Budgetary concerns may be lessened. Colleges have budgets for music, equipment, travel, and uniforms that reduces the need for raising money for the choir.
- A wide variety of music is encouraged and not limited to sacred music.
- The ability to enroll music majors/minors in handbell choir escalates the possibility that the ringers can read music and be rhythmically sound.

One distinct disadvantage I have faced while directing a college handbell class and choir is that every year students graduate who have been nurtured, trained and matured into very good ringers. It is very hard to lose these ringers knowing that a new beginner will have to take their place. Another disadvantage for the college handbell class, is scheduling demands of other classes placed on the students. I usually lose at least one ringer per semester because of scheduling conflicts. This turnover is greater than most community or church groups. It is also difficult to see graduating seniors leave after becoming endeared as a part of such a close group. On the other hand, it is inspiring to see them grow as ringers and leaders within the group.

College handbell choirs have an opportunity to serve the college as public relations ambassadors within the community through concerts and other appearances. The opportunity for travel increases because of these appearances and serves as a great motivator for practice and participation. Many colleges have opportunities for travel across the United States and abroad.

The purpose of the Handbell Choir at College of the Ozarks, in Missouri, is to promote the art of handbell ringing, provide a means of personal expression and recreation, and to further the knowledge of the art of handbell ringing.

*Marilyn Droke, Director of Handbells at College of the Ozarks,
on behalf of Debbie Llewellyn ~ Area VIII Chair*

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ILLINOIS COLLEGES

The college search process can be a daunting task if a student doesn't know what they want to do. Having just finished this process for the second time, we found it a lot simpler if you have limiting criteria to start off with. For my second daughter, it was ice-skating, and the skating web sites had a listing of colleges with skating programs. AGEHR, too, has a link to college handbell programs, which lists Concordia and Judson Colleges in Illinois.

Googling for other college handbell programs in Illinois not surprisingly returned primarily small Christian institutions with both undergraduate and graduate programs. The five colleges I was able to talk to were Augustana College in Rock Island, Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Judson College in Elgin, Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and Olivet-Nazarene University in Bourbonnais. All these schools had one or two 4-6 octave bell sets and some had chimes too. Programs were for credit (MBI), extra-curricular (AC, JC) or either (CUCh, ONU). Some groups were specifically for music majors (MBI has one group whose purpose is to expose their sacred music majors to the art) while others are open to anyone on campus (AC, JC), with some putting together as many bell groups as needed at various levels of experience to include anyone interested in ringing (CUCh). All the groups play for campus worship services and campus concert series, esp. at Christmas. Some groups play at area church services and civic functions off-campus (CUCh, JC, ONU). Most of the groups can't tour due to the busy schedules of their students, a lot of whom are in other campus musical ensembles, but Moody Bible Institute has a second group consisting of members of their Women's Concert Choir that performs and tours wherever the WCC goes. Most of these schools don't have scholarships specifically for handbell ringers (all students at MBI are on full tuition scholarships), but Judson College has money available through the Alice A. Thompson Handbell Scholarship Fund.

Judson College will be hosting our Illinois Spring Ring this year (4/14) which Augustana College will be attending again.

If you have high school sophomores or juniors who would love to continue ringing in college, please encourage them to check out these or any schools that have handbell programs. It's never too early to start.

Contact info: LarryPeterson@augustana.edu, jean.harrison.bojes@cuchicago.edu, rsimpson@judsoncollege.edu, arnold.rawls@moody.edu, Nwoodruff@olivet.edu

Debi Robey ~ Illinois State Chair

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IOWA

I will be honest with everyone and let you know that I had a hard time finding information about handbells and their use at college and/or scholarships that are available. I'm sure there are even more but I just couldn't find them. Below is what I could find.

Iowa Lakes Community College has a Handbell Ensemble with auditions in the fall & spring.

Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa has a Handbell Ensemble.

Central College in Pella, Iowa has a Handbell Ensemble.

My best advice for anyone looking to continue with handbells at college is to ask and inquire with the Music Department.

I was approached a couple years back by one of my ringers who wanted to know if I would help her find someplace to ring while she was away at college. I went on to Handbell-L and put out an inquiry about any handbell groups that would be interested in having a transplant ringer while she was at college. I received many replies with possible locations for her to check out as she headed off to college.

I think it is awesome we play such an accommodating instrument that we are able to take our talent with us no matter where our lives take us whether that is college or just moving to a new town. Word of mouth, Handbell-L & AGEHR Area and State Committees are great avenues to find out what handbell groups are out there just looking to find new members.

Kathryn Jaeger ~ Iowa Chair

AREA VIII YR CAMP REPERTOIRE

TINS

1+	Joy Bells	Mitchell	CP7029	Composers Music
1+	Jubilee	Sherman	CGB472	Choristers Guild
2	C Jam Mood	Davenport	CP7027	Composers Music

BRONZE

4	Rock Around the Clock	Mizell	CGB493	Choristers Guild
3	Plink Plank Plunk	Thompson	2367	Hope Publishing
2+	Joyous Spirit	Stephenson	BL5019	Red River Music

MASSED

2	God's Train	Stephenson	2132	Hope Publishing
3	Soon & Very Soon	McChesney	FBBGH1008	Fred Bock
3-	Praise to the Lord the Almighty	McChesney	2-3oct 1489 3-5oct 2180	Hope Publishing
3	Handbell Odyssey	Stephenson	JHS9117	Jeffers Handbell Supply



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KANSAS

Okay, so you're a bell ringer and you're in high school. You have been ringing since you were knee-high to a grasshopper (thanks, Grandma). It's time to graduate and go off to college. What are you going to do without bells? Well...you don't have to be without them! There are many opportunities to ring: a church other than your home church, community groups, and, the topic for today — a college or university. There are many ringing opportunities at colleges or universities. The following is a list from the great state of Kansas.

Bethany College, Lindsborg

Contact Dr. Daniel Masterson for more information

Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina

Director: Karla Lovell
785-827-5541

Kansas State University in Manhattan

Rhapsody Ringers
Director: Judy Scharmann
785-341-2300

The *Rhapsody Ringers* are not associated with Kansas State in an official capacity, but we have many K-State students that ring in the choir. We are connected to the University in that we play many joint concerts with some of the University's performing groups. *Rhapsody Ringers* is part of the First United Methodist Church and rings in worship. They also play many community events in the surrounding area.

Ottawa University in Kansas City

Director: Blakely Bunning
785-242-9102

The *University Ringers* at OU have a long and storied history. They have played in Washington, D.C. at the Kennedy Center, at the KMEA convention in Wichita and, most notably, have toured England and played for the Royal Family. They are currently in a "re-building" phase. The new director, Blakely Bunning, is very excited about the choir and the direction they are heading. She has a lot of passion and energy for what she is doing. After visiting with Blakely over the phone, I have confidence that the choir is in the right hands. There have been scholarship opportunities in the past; however there aren't any currently for handbells specifically. There is opportunity for a general music scholarship. I visited with a former ringer, Amanda Leonard, and she had a positive experience in the choir. She informed me that they were committed to 3-4 major concerts per year. They also played in local churches. They rehearse in the evening and you can earn 1 hour of credit each semester.

Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg

I contacted the head of the music department at PSU, Dr. Craig Fuchs, and he said that currently there was not a bell program at the University. However, he said there was a community group called *Bells of the Balkans*. The director is Carolann Martin and you can contact her at cmartin42@cox.net.

So, as you see, there are many opportunities for college ringers in Kansas. Directors, please encourage your high school ringers to ring in college. Whether it is at the school, in a church, or in a community group, they will benefit from being part of something good!

Judy Scharmann ~ Kansas State Chair



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MISSOURI

Why have a college handbell choir? Is it worth the time and effort to put a group together that will change with every graduating class or at the whim of the course schedule? Is it worth the commitment of already "stretched too thin" budget dollars?

Most definitely!

Whether in the school, church or community setting, college students bring a wonderful energy and a unique perspective to handbell ringing. College students come from different parts of the country, thus, bringing a variety of musical experiences to the ensemble. As they share memories of their previous performing groups, a camaraderie begins to develop among the ringers.

The musical and technical skills developed in high school, whether as instrumentalists or vocalists, provide a solid basis on which to build the musicianship of the ensemble. Not only will they continue to develop as musicians, but the ensemble is where they will develop the skills they need to become directors.

Colleges and universities often see a performing ensemble as a means to recruit prospective students and to promote the school. With the many campus and community events, there is usually no shortage of performance opportunities.

Several years ago, I took an elementary age choir to a young ringers festival at Oklahoma Baptist University. It was a great trip for the kids, and they played well. What they continued to talk about long after the festival was the concert by the *University Ringers*. The kids were in awe of the college ringers, and wanted to grow up and ring just like them.

Forming and directing a college handbell choir is an investment in the future of Handbell ringing.

Kathy Harrison ~ Missouri State Chair

Directors Seminar

**June 29—30,
2007**





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NEBRASKA

What do Grace University, Concordia College, Union College and Hastings College in Nebraska have in common? All own sets of handbells and have had or currently have handbell choirs.

Grace University in Omaha owns five octaves of bells but for this semester not enough students signed up to have a full choir. In the past, choirs from Grace have performed with the Omaha Symphony. It is a student activity and no scholarships are offered. Contact Person: Dr. Greg Zielke.

Concordia College in Seward currently has two choirs: a beginner choir and an advanced choir. Students have the option of taking the class for credit or as an audit class. No scholarships are offered and no degree in handbells. The choirs do local performances in the Seward area. Contact person: Jeffrey Bleresch, Dept. Chair.

Union College in Lincoln is a Seventh Day Adventist college. The handbell program is under the direction of Ardyth Mendenhall. The choir meets for one hour a week. The class can be a credit or non-credit class. The choir rings with four octaves plus three low bass bells. No scholarships are available. Contact person is the director: Ardyth Mendenhall.

Hastings College in Hastings currently has an active choir ringing with five octaves of both bells and choir chimes. It is a semester class with credit for non-music majors. Some scholarship money is available. The choir does tour from time to time. Contact person is BJensen@Hastings.edu.

Joyce Miller ~ Nebraska State Chair



***Young Ringers Camp
Windmill Inn & Convention Center
June 14—17, 2007
Branson, MO***



AGEHR SPONSORED EVENTS

2007	EVENT	CLINICIAN	LOCATION
Mar 3	Ring in the Spring Workshop for Beginners through Adults Home.kc.rr.com/kansasarea8	Janet Carter Jason Wells	UMC of the Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave Leawood, KS Gwen Gepford 913.491.6461 Gwen.gepford@cor.org
Apr 14 9:00a-6:00p	Illinois Spring Ring www.il-agehr.org	Monica McGowan	Judson College Elgin, IL Debi Robey 630.904.4028
Apr 21	Missouri Spring Festival www.areaviii.org/missouri.htm	Dr. Deborah Carr	Dardenne Presbyterian 7400 Highway N Dardenne Prairie, MO Sally Johnson
Apr 28	Nebraska Spring Ring www.agehr-ne.org	Michael Kastner	Bethany Lutheran Church 4200 N 204th St Elkhorn, NE Joyce Miller Jmiller@tconl.com
Jun 14-17	Young Ringers Camp Area VIII Festival www.areaviii.org	various	Branson, MO Debbie Llewellyn Dal60525@sbcglobal.net
Jun 29-30	Director's Seminar www.areaviii.org	various	Platte Woods UMC Kansas City, MO Debbie Llewellyn Dal60525@sbcglobal.net



2008
Area VIII Conference
June 19-21
Peoria, IL
Mark your calendars!





UPCOMING CONCERTS

2007	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Mar 4 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	St John Evangelical Lutheran 305 Circle Ave, Forest Park, IL	Catherine Hegarty 708-366-4214
Mar 17 4:00p	Bell Fest Concert Choirs Directed by Dr. Bill Payn	Manchester UMC 129 Woods Mill Rd, Manchester, MO	Sherry Boland 636-394-7506 x 3133
Mar 30 7:00p	Gateway Ringers <i>Spring Concert</i>	O'Fallon UCC 206 W Adams, O'Fallon, IL	Phil Wilhelm 618-632-3496
Apr 1 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	1st UMC 155 S Main St, Lombard, IL	Kurt Linstead 630-627-2508 (church)
Apr 15 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	1st Presbyterian Church 824 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL	Judith Fuller 847-234-4327
Apr 15 4:00p	Gateway Ringers <i>Spring Concert</i>	St Joan of Arc 5800 Oleatha Ave, St Louis, MO	Andy Eversole www.gatewayringers.org
Apr 17 7:30p	Hastings College Bell Choir French Memorial Chapel	Hastings College 710 N Turner Ave, Hastings, NE	Byron Jensen 402-461-7361
Apr 28 7:30p	Bells in Motion	1st Christian Church 700 S 6th St, Springfield, IL	www.bellsinmotion.org
Apr 29 7:00p	Spring Concert Bell Choirs of 1st UMC	1st UMC 612 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS	Judy Scharmann 785-341-2300
May 6 3:00p	17th Annual Spring Ring Manchester UMC Choirs	Manchester UMC 129 Woods Mill Rd, Manchester, MO	Sherry Boland 636-394-7506 x 3133
May 12 8:00p	The Rhapsody Ringers	Manhattan Arts Center 1520 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS	Judy Scharmann 785-341-2300
May 15 7:30p	Alleluia Ringers Concordia College	1st English Lutheran Church 1311 E 18th St, Spencer, IA	712-262-5598
May 16 7:30p	Alleluia Ringers Concordia College	Zion Lutheran Church 14205 Ida St, Omaha, NE	402-493-1744
May 18 7:30p	Alleluia Ringers Concordia College	Lutheran High School 12411 Wornall Rd, Kansas City, MO	816-241-5478
May 19 2:00p	Chicago Bronze	Cutting Hall 150 E Wood St, Palatine, IL	847-705-5123 x 411
May 19 7:30p	Alleluia Ringers Concordia College	Trinity Lutheran Church 803 Swifts Highway, Jefferson City, MO	573-636-6750
May 19 7:30p	Chicago Bronze	St Mark's Lutheran Church 27 S Edgelawn Dr, Aurora, IL	630-897-6891
May 20 3:00p	Chicago Bronze Cathedral Concert Series	Cathedral of St Raymond 604 N Raynor Ave, Joliet, IL	815-722-6653

ATTENTION

YOUNG RINGERS AND DIRECTORS

Attend the Young Ringers Conference this summer
in Branson, Missouri

“Where Young Ringers Become the STARS”

DATES: June 14-17

LOCATION: Branson, Missouri
Windmill Inn and Convention Center

FEATURES: Perform Where the Stars Perform
Perform Under the Stars at the New Branson Landing
Spend the afternoon and evening at Celebration City
Walking distance to great shopping and entertainment

LODGING: Great hotel with reasonable rates

- Double room with two queen beds, refrigerator, Coffee in room, microwave (\$50, sleeps 4)
- Family units
- Adjoining rooms ideal for choirs
- Bring the family for a great vacation

PERFORM: Conference massed choirs will be performing in a Branson Theatre with “*Branson On Stage Live*”. If your choir would like to perform as a solo act on stage live at one of the theatres you can contract with this company to schedule your group for a performance while in Branson for the conference or before or after the conference. *These arrangements will be made between you and “Branson On Stage Live.”* Contact Marilyn Droke for more details.

~Area VIII Directors Seminar ~
at
Platt Woods United Methodist Church, Kansas City, Missouri
Friday & Saturday, June 29 & 30, 2007
Reasons You Should Be There...

Our instructors? David Weck and The Agape Ringers from Chicago, as well as members of the Area VIII Board, the Heart of America Orff Schulwerk Association, and Prairie Point Quilt Shop.

Will The Agape Ringers perform? Why, yes! Even if you are not able to attend the seminar, you should plan on coming to hear them Friday night – your seminar registration includes the concert performance.

What classes will be available? Beginning Conducting, Advanced Conducting, Beginning Adult Bell Choirs, Children and Youth Ringers, Touring, Duets/Trios/Quartets, 4-in-Hand/Shelley Techniques, Bass Bell Techniques, Bells Plus, Publicity, Showmanship, Recruiting/Retention, Handbell Notation, Chimes in Schools, Bell Maintenance, Round Table Discussions, Working with Special Needs Ringers, Banners in About an Hour, Orff Schulwerk for Ringers, and four different reading sessions, including previews of upcoming festival music for 2008! Whew! That's a LOT of classes!

What about the hotel accommodations? We will be staying at a beautiful Courtyard by Marriott Kansas City Airport. Make your own hotel reservations by calling **TOLL FREE 1-800-321-2211 before 6/7/2007 to get a rate of \$79.00 per room - plus tax, per night.** Callers will need to identify themselves with the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers of Area VIII in order to be guaranteed for this group rate. The hotel reservation also includes a breakfast buffet. The hotel will provide a free shuttle service to & from KCI. The Kansas City area bell ringers will provide shuttle service from the hotel to the Platt Woods UMC for the Directors Seminar activities. *Please note that we have negotiated an even better room rate since the registrations were printed!*

Do I have to be a director to attend? Of course not! Director and Ringers alike are welcome. There will be plenty of classes to interest everyone, and plenty of ringing, if that is your pleasure.

What about other concerts? We will host several Break-out concerts in the same format as last summer at our Area VIII Festival. If you are interested in bringing your choir to perform, please contact Marilyn Lake at LQRngLdr@kc.rr.com

What does my registration include? All the classes, concert by The Agape Ringers, two lunches and one dinner, and FELLOWSHIP!

Where can I find the Registration Form? The Registration form can be downloaded from the Area VIII web site (www.areaviii.org), or from the January issue of *Quavers*.

What does the daily schedule look like? (subject to change)

Friday

9:00 am—10:00 am	Registration
10:00 am—12:00 pm	General Session
12:00 pm—6:00 pm	Vendors open
12:00 pm—1:00 pm	Lunch (catered)
1:00 pm—3:00 pm	Class Session I Beginning Conducting Reading Session (will last only one hour to allow time to shop) Class Sessions
3:00 pm—3:30 pm	Break
3:30 pm—5:00 pm	Class Session II Beginning Conducting Reading Session (will last only one hour to allow time to shop) Class Sessions
6:00 pm	Dinner (catered)
7:30 pm	Evening Concert—Agape Ringers
9:00 pm	Reception—sponsored by Area VIII

Saturday

8:00 am—10:00 am	General Session
10:00 am—1:30 pm	Vendors Open
10:00 am—10:30 am	Break
10:30 am—12:30 pm	Class Session III Advanced Conducting Reading Session (will last only one hour to allow time to shop) Class Sessions
12:30 pm—1:30 pm	Lunch (catered)
1:30 pm—3:30 pm	Class Session IV Advanced Conducting Reading Session (will last only one hour to allow time to shop) Class Sessions
3:30 pm	Announcements and Final Bell

Any additional questions? Contact Marilyn Lake, LQRngLdr@kc.rr.com



UPCOMING CONCERTS con't.

2007	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
May 20 7:00p	Spring Ring XV Choirs of 1st UMC	1st UMC 1032 Maple Ave Downers Grove, IL	Pattie Barnes 630-953-0146
May 21 7:30p	Alleluia Ringers Concordia College	Living Lord Lutheran Church 500 Cedar Circle Dr Lake St Louis, MO	Jill Kirk 636-327-7729
May 22 7:30p	Alleluia Ringers Concordia College	Immanuel Lutheran Church 2750 E Sangamon Ave Springfield, IL	217-528-5232

**Is your address incorrect? Are you moving? Then contact Headquarters:
Dan Virzi 800.878.5459 x 112 membership@agehr.org**

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