



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

QUAVERS

AREA 8: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA
MAY, 2013

Captions from the Chair



THE logo for THE handbell festival of THE year 2014!

How many bells do you see in this logo? I see bridge arches spanning the Mississippi River between Iowa and Illinois bringing many people to **Ring Davenport!** There is also an unseen bridge with arches shaped like a bell casting that spans from the states of Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri. The bridge pillars might remind us of bell handles holding up the castings! Might I say that all "bridges" lead to this festival! Now, back to the original question. Most of us will see only ONE bell in the logo design! Use your imagination!

There is something else salient and significant about bridges! Bridges are bi-directional! So as you come to THE festival, then you can return home with new knowledge to share. And, you are always welcome to share ideas with me and the board, hopefully addressing your ringing needs. Then we can cross the bridge, putting ideas together for a more successful *Ring Davenport* Festival.

More details, including clinicians, repertoire, and registration costs, will be announced soon on the website and in the next edition of *Quavers*, so start saving your dollars, raise the funds, and get excited about THE *Ring Davenport* bell festival of Area 8 from June 25-28, 2014.

Dolan Bayless ~ Area 8 Chair

www.area8iii.org



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What to do This Summer

Many of us end our ringing season in May or early June, leaving several months before the program year begins in the fall. Do you make a conscious choice about how to spend those few rehearsal-free months?

Ringers: Consider keeping your skills honed by finding others to create a small ensemble, or by attending a local, area, or national event. Did you know you can attend events in **any** state or area? Use this link (<https://www.z2systems.com/np/clients/agehr/eventList.jsp>) to see what's happening next door or wherever you're vacationing.

You can help your director (or another director) by talking about ringing to folks you meet at games, concerts and picnics—you never know when someone's interest might be sparked by *your* enthusiasm for handbells!

Directors: If you had a difficult year, you might be thankful to close the cases and lock the door. However, if you also lock the troubles away, you might not be in any better shape next year. Find a fellow director, church musician or educator with whom you can explore what could be different in the future. Even if there isn't a simple solution, you're likely to feel better having someone to share with.

If you haven't booked any maintenance, summer is a good time to examine your instrument and determine if there are issues to be addressed. At the very least, you can do the recommended tightening and case cleaning—did you know you should vacuum your cases every year? See the appropriate website for information on maintenance you can do:

http://www.schulmerichbells.com/products_hb_handbellcaremaintenance.php
<http://malmark.com/html/caring.php>

Recruiting—ah, the ubiquitous handbell director challenge. View the summer as an opportunity to meet different groups in your organization's life. For example, I have a rehearsal during the coffee fellowship time at my church. During the summer, I can mingle! You might choose to help with vacation Bible school to meet families who might be ringers. Many years, I've had either a five or six week "Introduction to Ringing" group who played in worship or a one-time "Come Try Bells" experience.

And here I go again—attend a state, area or national event to enjoy the community of ringers and directors. There are many others who share your joys and frustrations, and you'll always hear something new, be it a music selection, a way to teach or an idea for finding ringers.

Sharon Schmidt ~ Illinois State Chair



Burnout

I feel like KC, our *Quavers* editor, chose this topic for me as a therapeutic step as I end a frustrating program year. As of June 4, 2013, I will be *recovering from burnout* in all aspects of my life. I feel like I haven't accomplished what I set out to do with handbell activities in Iowa during the program year. I feel like my students are behind in acquiring basic skills at school. I feel like my church program is stagnating. I feel that I'm not getting better as a musician or as a person. Sounds like a case of burnout!

This is a huge problem for people in our profession as we not only have to plan and organize many things, but also to see that they happen, often while we are a participant or conductor, a chaperone or a clinician. Then we also need to be a *cheerleader* for large groups of people who maybe aren't as passionate about things as we would wish. We then have to be the *advocate* for our programs in the face of financial hardship and personal conflicts.

A good friend and colleague once told me: Acknowledge and move on! Sometimes this is easier said than done, but here are some ideas:

1. Realize that, as someone seeing each step rather than the beginning and the final product, you might not have good perspective on what is really happening in your program.
2. Realize that *no matter what*, what you are doing is important, that you can do it, and that there are people who value everything you are doing. Don't give up!

While you are busy not giving up, summer is an awesome time for **bell maintenance**. Either utilizing a vendor or by doing things yourself, summer is a great time to clean and adjust your bells and chimes, replace worn parts, and possibly plan for replacement of damaged instruments. Seek advice from your instruments' manufacturers or from HIC vendors. More information at <http://handbellmusicians.org/events-networking/buyers-guide/#service>.

I do hope that you can attend an event this summer or early this fall because **establishing relationships** with other ringers and directors is one of the best ways to learn more about our instrument, its uses, its possibilities, and its history. Our guild's national seminar is about the best place on earth to do this, and your local events are equally important. I hope to see *tons* of you June 25-28, 2014, in Davenport, Iowa, so that we can all **RING DAVENPORT!!!**

BETH JUDD!!! MICHAEL GLASGOW!!! AAAAAHHHHHH!!!!!!!

Recruiting has to be one of the hardest things we do. We have a unique instrument that requires absolute dedication to rehearsals and performance schedules and is not always "accessible" for everyone who might be successful as a handbell musician. Advertising in your church's bulletin, your schools' newsletter, your community's newspapers, and your organizations' websites for new ringers and directors can be effective. You might also enjoy posting and reading the posts in the guild's *Lifetime of Ringing* area at handbellmusicians.org.

No matter what, use this summer to REcharge, REthink, REengage, REtrain, REcruit, REstore, RENew, REgrow, REimagine, REenjoy, and REMember, why what we do is awesome!

www.agetheria.org



Summer Plans

What to do with your bells and choirs during the summer is a question some of us ask every year. Once in a great while, your bells need to be sent in for refurbishing. So when your bells are gone, how do you cope? Some groups spend that time relaxing and getting to know one another better. It's also a great time to recruit members to your choir. Inviting people to join social gatherings rather than putting them on the spot ringing a bell can make them feel more comfortable with the group. The best time for these gatherings is your regular rehearsal time. Most people have rehearsal time already set in their schedule and this helps keep them on track. If you continue to meet every week you might do the same thing every time or you might change it up. Go to the movies, try a new restaurant, go bowling, learn a craft, attend other music concerts, or go walking as a group. If you've had a difficult ringing season, these activities can help you recover from the burnout some ringers and directors seem to face.

If burnout isn't your issue and you miss your bells, get out your chimes and work on pieces you don't normally rehearse. Chimes, for some people, seem to be a little less intimidating than bells, so use them with some easier music and invite those new people to join in. If you don't have chimes, contact another church with bells and see what their summer plans are. They may be rehearsing for fun and need some extra ringers to fill in for absent ringers.

Summer is also an excellent time to explore what other Areas have to offer. Go to www.hanbellmusicians.org and find out what events are happening. If you are a director, look for a director's seminar. The knowledge you gain could make next season the best so far.

During the summer you can prepare for the coming year. Look through the upcoming schedule and see if you can plan your music for the whole year. Get out all the pieces and spend your summer rehearsals sight reading the music you picked. You can also use that time to polish and adjust bells that need extra care. Some tips on how to care for your Malmark or Schulmerich bells can be found at the following links:

<http://www.malmark.com/html/caring.php>

http://www.schulmerichbells.com/products_hb_hanbellcaremaintenance.php

Find out what's going on this summer in Kansas and around Area 8 by clicking on the 'Events' tab at www.agehr-ks.org. You can also 'Like' our Facebook page <http://tinyurl.com/amcq96q> and share your summer plans.

Cherryl Cox ~ Kansas State Chair





Program Essentials

With a more relaxed rehearsal and performance schedule, summer is a good time to devote to other aspects of a fine music program. This includes intentionally taking care of the director! Many of us live with the Puritan work ethic and the pressures of Advent to Lent to the next concert to choir trip to festival preparation, and next Sunday is always coming! Stephen Covey's habit #7 for *Highly Successful People* is "self-renewal." How do you take care of everything at church and at home without first taking care of yourself? Intentionally scheduling vacation time and relaxation is essential for one's mental health and ability to come back to work refreshed. Everyone with whom you work will benefit from your avoidance of burnout and maintenance of a healthy relaxed frame of mind.

Part of self-renewal is professional development. The Guild's National Seminar in the summer is the place to be to keep up with the advances in the handbell world. The abundance of classes on every aspect of ringing, the reading sessions, and concerts by the premier choirs in our art will be a huge boost for your program. Register for Distinctly Bronze East or West to challenge your own musicianship and ringing skills and find some wonderful repertoire for your choir. Attend a local or state workshop or reading session. Bring in a clinician to work with your choir and improve their technique. Use the summer to catch up with issues of *Overtone*s and other professional reading. Getting your music files in order and cataloging up to date will make your work easier all year long!

Summer is also a good time for getting your bells clean and in top shape for another year. Check your supplies of springs, bumpers, washers, polish, and everything needed to maintain your bells. If you don't know how to refurbish your bells, bring in someone for a day or evening and have your choir do the disassembly, washing, and polishing with the help of an expert. It can be a social event as well as necessary maintenance to keep your set in excellent condition.

Summer provides valuable time for recruiting and building new friends for your program. Since I start my junior ringers in the fourth or fifth grade, I like to teach Vacation Bible School and lead the singing for VBS opening exercises in the summer. I get acquainted with the third through fifth graders (and their parents) and can greet them by name on Sunday morning, and they come to know me as a friend and fun person with whom to make music. Then when I call them and invite them to bells, I am not some intimidating person about whom they are not sure.

Planning of choir lineups and publication of schedules needs to be done by the end of July or early August. By the first week in August, parents are signing children up for piano lessons, dance lessons, soccer and basketball teams, karate... They need to know choir schedules and performance dates early in August or they will be committed elsewhere! Have a happy, relaxed, and productive summer!

Suanne Comfort ~ Missouri State Chair

www.agehr-mo.org



See You in September...Until Then

Spring brings with it showers and flowers, warm weather and...the end of most handbell choir's season. The question then becomes what are we able to do *now* to begin to prepare for fall.

It's always challenging to put ringers through hours of rehearsals, multiple performances and the leg work involved in hauling equipment around, and then setting up and tearing down, without resulting in some degree of burnout...even we directors feel the pressure of burnout following several months of time together. As a way to close out the season leaving everyone feeling good about all of their efforts, I think it is helpful to end the year with a social event/polishing party. We end our season by cleaning/repairing bells and equipment, having some snacks (potluck) and watching videos of various performances, sharing some funny stories and happenings that occurred through the year as a way of ending the season on a positive note. (Pardon the pun!)

We take three months off in the summer and come back in the fall to begin our next season. During those three months, even though we don't have any structured rehearsals, some of my ringers will get together on their own (unless they ask for my help) to prepare some special music for church services: duets, solos or small ensemble numbers. I also encourage them to consider attending nearby workshops or festivals where they can have a chance to recharge their batteries and get different perspectives on how others perform, rehearse, direct, etc., to help expand their horizons. Often these small group experiences do a lot to build and strengthen relationships throughout the summer, which can only help make for a stronger choir in the fall. Ultimately, if I can convince some of them to attend the Area 8 Festival when it is held, I know they will come away with a much stronger appreciation of this wondrous musical instrument they have undertaken to master.

As mentioned above, we do an intense polishing of our bells and any repair work at the end of our season, and after we sent our bells in last summer to be refurbished professionally, it was evident that our routine polishing over the past 19 years really made a difference. I am a firm believer that after rehearsals, choirs should get in the habit of doing a quick wipe down of the bell castings, and if there are stubborn spots of tarnish, the time should be taken to try and eliminate them as best they can, short of getting out the heavy duty polish materials.

My choir struggles sometimes to maintain the numbers needed to perform week in and week out. We have a smaller, older congregation and I have recruited from within them to the max, and now am venturing outside of our church into the community to recruit members. I placed ads in our local newspaper and I was able to recruit one new member. We have brainstormed among ourselves regarding individuals who might be interested in playing and I have picked up two that way. When you live in a small town, recruitment can be challenging but yet rewarding when you hit pay dirt. One individual who recently joined us had played handbells when she was in grade school and had been considering coming to me to ask if she could play with us which really shows how sometimes God does work in mysterious ways. It never hurts to work on recruiting new ringers either as full-time ringers if needed or into becoming loyal substitutes who can fill in on short notice when your choir is short a ringer or two.

Summer will be here and gone before you know it, and thus the new handbell season is just around the corner, so take advantage of the summer and prepare for the fall. Remember the old 6P Principle ... *Proper Planning Prevents Pitifully Poor Performances*, and summer is the time to prepare yourself and your ringers for a fabulous fall season.

J. Michael Allen ~ Nebraska State Chair



Things You Should Know

2014 Festival: June 25-28

Beth Watson-Judd: Div 1 & 3
Michael Glasgow: Div 2 & 4
Bill Mathis: Distinctly Davenport
Carolynne Mathis: Young Ringers

Headlining Concerts:

Bells of the Lakes (MN)

Pre-conference Director's Track: available again

Convention Center:

The River Center
<http://www.riverctr.com/>
The Adler Theater
<http://www.adlertheatre.com/>

Hotel:

Radisson
www.radisson.com/davenport-hotel-ia-52801/iadaven \$104
Hotel Blackhawk
www.hotelblackhawk.com \$139

2016 Springfield, IL
2018 Omaha, NE

We need your help! Area 8 is compiling a database to be used as a resource for finding clinicians/teachers for area, state and local events as well as mentoring local directors. It's easy to register! Just go to: <http://goo.gl/7hDXs> or you can access the form via the **Area 8 webpage** under the "**Area 8 Resources**" tab. Please take a few minutes to enter your information and/or spread the word and invite others to enter their information. (None of the information collected will be made public; it will only be available to Handbell Musicians of America elected or appointed leadership.)

Lauran Delancy
Education.area8@handbellmusicians.org

Come join us as we present our Spring 2013
Concert Series

Chicago Bronze Celebrates the Seasons

Saturday, May 4, 2013 7:00 PM
Lutheran Church of the Cross
2025 S. Goebbert Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Free Will Offering to benefit the Northwest
Chicagoland Food Pantry

Saturday, May 18, 2013 4:00 PM
Gary United Methodist Church
224 N. Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187

Tickets available for purchase at our website,
www.chicagobronze.com
Group Ticket rates available by contacting
info@chicagobronze.com

Chicago Bronze English Handbell Ensemble
1-877-7WE-RING





Upcoming Concerts

2013	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
May 3 7p	Manchester Bell Choir & Celebration Ringers	Friendship Village Senior Living 15201 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO	Sherry Boland Bolandse@aol.com
May 4 7p	Bells in Motion <i>Celebrate the Journey</i>	Zion Lutheran Church 500 S Old Route 66, Mt Olive, IL	www.bellsinmotion.org
May 4 7p	Chicago Bronze <i>Benefit concert for Chicagoland Food Pantry</i>	Lutheran Church of the Cross 2025 S Goebbert Rd, Arlington Hts, IL	www.chicagobronze.org
May 5 2p	Vesper Bell Choir Concert	Meramec Bluffs Senior Living 1 Meramec Bluffs Dr, Ballwin, MO	Sherry Boland Bolandse@aol.com
May 5 3p	Concordia Handbell Choirs	Concordia University Music Center Recital Hall, Seward, NE	Jessica Kite Jessica.kite@cune.edu
May 5 3p	Gateway Ringers <i>Contrasts</i>	Holy Trinity Lutheran 2030 Union Rd, St Louis, MO	www.gatewayringers.org
May 5 3p	Kansas Bronze & Kings Ringers <i>Spring Ring Handbell Concert</i>	King of Kings Lutheran 306 E Madison St, Gardner, KS	Kipp Willnauer willnauk@hotmail.com
May 5 4p	Bells in Motion <i>Celebrate the Journey</i>	Douglas Ave UMC 501 S Douglas, Springfield, IL	www.bellsinmotion.org
May 5 4p	Random Ringers	UMC of Libertyville 429 Brainard Ave, Libertyville, IL	Beth McFarland bmcfarland6107@yahoo.com
May 9 7:30p	Hastings College Bell Choir	French Memorial Chapel Hastings College, Hastings, NE	Byron Jensen bjensen@hastings.edu
May 12 3p	River Bend Bronze Handbell Choir	Ascension Chapel—Augustana College 820 38th St, Rock Island, IL	Larry Peterson LarryPeterson@augustana.edu
May 18 4p	Chicago Bronze <i>Tickets required</i>	Gary UMC 224 N Main St, Wheaton, IL	www.chicagobronze.com
May 18 7p	Handbell Choirs of 1st UMC <i>Voyage of the Imagination</i>	First UMC 1032 Maple St, Downers Grove, IL	Pattie Barnes bellhog@juno.com
May 19 4p	The Agape Ringers	St Francis Xavier 524 9th St, Wilmette, IL	www.agaperingers.org
Sep 22 4p	The Agape Ringers	La Grange Bible Church 850 S 7th Ave, La Grange, IL	www.agaperingers.org
Oct 20 4p	Gateway Ringers	Church of the Transfiguration 1860 Lake St Louis Blvd, Lake St Louis, MO	www.gatewayringers.org
Oct 27 4p	Gateway Ringers	Webster Groves Presbyterian 45 W Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, MO	www.gatewayringers.org



Upcoming Events

2013	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 7-11	Intergenerational Handbell Camp	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	Kipp Willnauer www.handbellcamp.org
July 11 7p	Intergenerational Handbell Camp <i>Final Concert</i>	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	Kipp Willnauer www.handbellcamp.org
Jul 12 9a-3p	Kansas City Rings Reading Session	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	Kipp Willnauer www.handbellcamp.org
Jul 24-27	National Seminar Various	Portland, OR	www.handbellmusicians.org
Jul 25-27	Distinctly Teen Ron Mallory	Portland, OR	www.handbellmusicians.org
Aug 10	Directors' Seminar <i>The Handbell Assoc of Greater St Louis</i>	Immanuel Lutheran 632 East Highway N Wentzville, MO	Burnell Hackman burnell@bhackman.net
Sep 27-28	Flint Hills Handbell Festival	YMCA Camp Wood Elmdale, KS	Kipp Willnauer www.handbellcamp.org
Oct 13	Webster City Handbell Festival Cathy Moglebust	Webster City Middle School Webster City, IA	Patrick Gagnon PGa1820@gmail.com
Nov 16 8a-5p	Illinois Fall Ring	Barrington UMC 98 Algonquin Rd Barrington, IL	www.il-agehr.org

The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir