



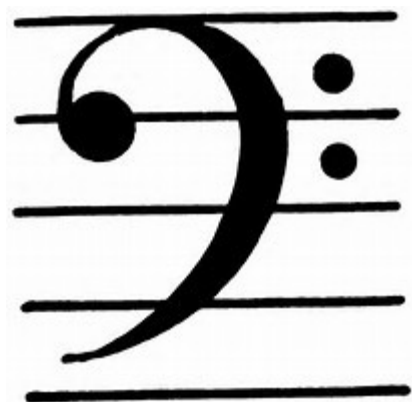
HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA

QUAVERS NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2017

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA



MOVING RINGERS

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FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL
ISSUE

ILLINOIS	n/a
IOWA	9
KANSAS	10
NEBRASKA	11
MISSOURI	n/a

ELECTED	ELECTED	APPOINTED
CHAIR: Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal 295 Town Center Blvd Gilberts, IL 60136 630.699.3802 TREASURER: Sharon Schmidt 28 Oriole Ct Naperville, IL 60540 630.369.9879 PAST CHAIR: Patrick Gagnon 211 S Victor (P.O. Box 314) Hubbard, IA 50122 641.373.2972	CHAIR-ELECT: Beth Ann Edwards 1810 NW 80th Ct Clive, IA 50325-5610 515.490.9408 SECRETARY: Pat Latshaw 5205 W 83rd Terrace Prairie Village, KS 66207 913.219.3643  Like us on Facebook Visit us on the WEB	COMMUNICATIONS: Laura Kopff QUAVERS: KC Congdon WEBMASTER: Wendi Calkins-Levitt FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Stephen Swanson MEMBERSHIP: Michael Allen EDUCATION: Open HISTORIAN: Open RESOURCE LIBRARIAN: Open

	ILLINOIS	IOWA	KANSAS	MISSOURI	NEBRASKA
Chair	Ben Hafner 18175 Dillon Ln Villa Park, IL 60181 630.696.6929	Lori Fenton 3213 45th St Des Moines, IA 50310 515.229.6712	Staci Cunningham 21370 Harper Rd Chanute, KS 66720 620.433.7223	Jeff White 2576 Pioneer Dr St Louis, MO 63129 314.803.6324	Linda Ashley 9107 Meadow Dr Omaha, NE 68114 402.320.5312 402.397.9551 (h)
Treasurer	Open	Mary Lee Parks	Karla Denton	Suanne Comfort	Open
Secretary	Beth McFarland	Donna Sprague	Open	Open	Byron Jensen
Website	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Janet Chiochi
Other	<i>Events</i> Sharon Schmidt <i>Registrar</i> Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal <i>Chime Mentor</i> Diane Oster <i>Chime Loan Coordinator</i> Patti Mangis <i>Food Coordinator</i> Anna Piro <i>Central Illinois Rep</i> Pam Wall <i>Western Illinois Rep</i> Don Wood <i>Handbell Services Rep</i> Debi Robey	<i>Historian</i> Tina Gehrke <i>Chimes</i> Aaron Hansen <i>Eastern Rep</i> Cat Walker <i>Western Rep</i> Yvonne Johnson	<i>Chimes</i> Shirley Myers <i>Past Chair</i> Cherryl Cox	<i>Chime Chair</i> Anne Miller <i>Membership, St Louis</i> Sherry Boland Christie White	<i>Registrar</i> Deann Nicolaus <i>Chimes Coordinator</i> Nancy Youngman Jessica Kite Mike Allen Joyce Miller Angela Wright Charles Cohen



Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal**~Area 8 Chair**

In this edition of *Quavers*, the Area 8 Board is excited to share the repertoire lists for **Bring It! Ring It!**—our biennial festival in Omaha, Nebraska, June 27-30, 2018. You'll also get to know our clinicians for the event.

On top of that, check out the articles from our State Chairs, discussing the pros and cons of having your ringers *moving* to new positions.

Speaking of *moving*, we've also had some new Board members *move* into their positions! I'd like to welcome Jeff White as our new Missouri Chair and Laura Kopff as Communications Chair.

We hope you'll meet Jeff at a future event in Missouri, and you're sure to see Laura posting on our facebook page and sending out our e-blasts every couple of weeks. They are also introducing themselves in this edition of *Quavers*. You'll get to meet them both in person when you **Bring It! Ring It!** in Omaha next summer.

Would you like to *move* onto the Board as well? We have a few positions we are looking to fill. Contact me [here](#) and we can talk about how you can get more involved.

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YOUTHFEST 2018: **Designed for Young Ringers** **June 28 - June 30**

Youth directors, has your handbell choir had the opportunity to ring with a clinician or guest conductor? A clinician will often give your choir the same instructions you have been telling them for years, but when it comes from someone new, it takes on new meaning with new importance. Young ringers grades 3 through 8 are invited to attend the Area 8 Festival in Omaha, Nebraska, to work with handbell expert Patrick Gagnon. He has taught children's music classes throughout his career, and his handbell knowledge and directing experience are amazing. He's fun, knows how to talk to youth, and has a great sense of humor. After YouthFest 2018, you will spend a lot of rehearsal time saying "Remember what Patrick said about ..." and hearing "Remember, Patrick told us to do it this way ..."

YouthFest includes a comprehensive opportunity for youth ringers:

- **Two ringing divisions.** Division 1 ringers will receive Level 1 music at the conference and can ring on chimes or handbells. Division 2 ringers will purchase and rehearse the Level 2/3 music before they arrive. Both divisions will also have a chance to ring together.
- **Participation.** Bring the entire choir, or just a few ringers.
- **Performance Opportunity.** YouthFest participants will have an opportunity to present a mini-concert on Saturday morning.
- **T-shirt.** Included in the YouthFest registration!
- **Rehearsals.** Each division rehearses with Patrick for at least seven rehearsals.
- **Classes.** Ringers will attend classes geared for youth. Topics include skill-building, community-building, and fun, plus maybe an art project or two.
- **Activities.** The conference hotel includes an indoor water park, and a 3-day pass is included in the registration fee. YouthFest concludes on Saturday morning, leaving the afternoon free for a trip to the world-famous Omaha Zoo (not included in the registration fee) or more time at the water park.



Patrick Gagnon is a music educator dedicated to the development of the tuneful person. A 1998 graduate of the Boston University College of Fine Arts, he is currently a K-5 music specialist and High School choir director for the South Hardin community schools in Eldora, Iowa.

Patrick is Director of Music at First Congregational Church UCC in Eldora, where he is cantor, principal pianist and organist, and director of adult and youth vocal and handbell choirs. He is the program chair for the Hardin County Performance Series, and Musical Director/Conductor for Iowa State University's spring musical theater productions.

Patrick currently serves Area 8 as Past Chair.



YOUTHFEST (Patrick Gagnon)

Division 1:

Music will be handed out at first rehearsal.

Division 2:

- 1) Serenity—Jason Krug
L.2 / 3-5 oct #201835SF
(SoundForth)
- 2) I Will Arise and Go To Jesus—Cathy Moglebust
L.2 / 2-3 oct #CGB747
L.2 / 3-5 oct #CGB748 (Choristers Guild)
- 3) Festive Promenade—Kathleen Wissinger
L.3 / 3-5 oct #20/1252L (Lorenz)
- 4) March of Praise—Valerie Stephenson
L.1 / 3-5oct #AG35184 (AGEHR)



**10-Day Panama
Canal Cruise**

January 2019



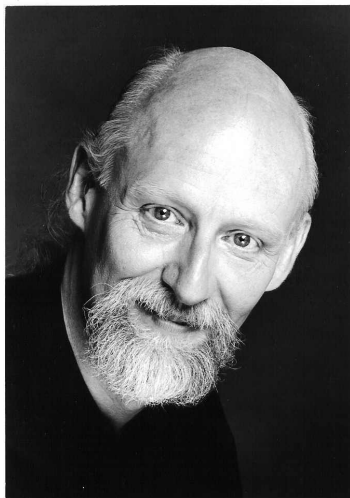
More details are coming soon. Receive the latest information by joining our mailing list at:

www.bells of the cascades.org/signup

Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and start planning for

PANAMA!

Bells of the Cascades



**MASSED
Division 3
Division 4**

Internationally acclaimed conductor, Tim Waugh, is a well-known in many performance mediums, including handbells, choral, church music and musical theatre.

His continued work in music follows his retirement; from a career spanning over 33 years of public school music education with award-winning choral groups in southern West Virginia, and serving many churches throughout Southern WV and in Charlotte, NC.

Tim currently is the Artistic Director and Founding Conductor of one of the newest community bell choirs, Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble, based in uptown Charlotte, NC.

He is an active published composer and author. His compositions of liturgical, choral, organ and handbell music are published in the US by ten publishers. Tim has won several composition contests.

A life-long California girl, Barbara Meinke holds a BA in Music from Cal State Fullerton and is celebrating 24 years directing handbell and choral music at Hope Lutheran Church in Temecula, CA. She is a founding member of Timbré Ensemble, rings regularly in Distinctly Bronze, and is accredited to teach Handbell Techniques for the Guild's Certification Program. A conductor and teacher in her heart and soul, Barbara was a finalist in the 2014 Distinctly Bronze Associate Conductor's Program, has served as faculty at past National Seminars, and has inspired massed ringers and taught handbell techniques classes all over the United States and in Germany, including the Presbyterian Association of Musicians conference on music and worship at Montreat in 2016. In her spare time, she is in demand as a substitute teacher and enjoys cooking and entertaining, crafting, traveling, and hanging out with her family. Barbara brings enthusiasm, energy and superb musicianship to the classroom and podium.

**MASSED
Division 2**



MASSED (Vaugh & Meinke)

- 1) Bound for South Australia—Alex Guebert L.2+ / 3-5 oct #(**TBD**)
- 2) Festal Dance—Tim Waugh L.3 / 3-5oct #CGB521 (Choristers Guild)
- 3) Beach Spring Transcendence—Brian Childers L.3 / 3-5oct #(**TBD**) (GIA)

DIVISION 2 (Barbara Meinke)

- 1) Sesame Street—Michael Glasgow L.2+ / 3-6oct #CP706 (Composers Music)
- 2) O Worship the King—Michael Mazzatenta L.2+ / 3-5oct #AG35346 (AGEHR)
- 3) What Child is This?—Alex Guebert L.2 / 3-5oct #AG35356 (AGEHR)

DIVISION 3 (Tim Waugh)

- 1) Tin O O—Emily Li/Sierra Tse L.3- / 3-5oct #**Ω**
- 2) Recollection—Tim Waugh L.2+ / 3-5oct #CGB974 (Choristers Guild)
- 3) Rondo Passacaglia—Cynthia Dobrinski L.3+ / 4-5oct #1237 (Hope)

DIVISION 4 (Tim Waugh)

- 1) Utage—Yashuhiro Otsuka L.5-6 / 5oct #**Ω**
- 2) Gaudete—Michael Glasgow L.4- / 3-7oct #CGB907 (Choristers Guild)
- 3) For the Beauty of the Earth—Brian Childers L.3 / 3-5oct #20414 (From The Top)



New Music Reading Session

Saturday, August 19, 2017

Kirkwood Baptist Church
Kirkwood, (Saint Louis) Missouri

Sponsored by
The Handbell Association
of Greater St. Louis

Music Supplied by
Midwest Sheet Music

For more information and to register visit
www.stlbells.org

TBD—Please stay tuned to www.areaviii.org for when the release date on these pieces will be made available.

Ω—Negotiating a state-side purchase option from a foreign publisher. Please stay tuned.

DIVISION 1

Not ready for massed ringing? We are designing a learning track just for you!



Bronze Festival Choir

Larry Sue began playing handbells in a workshop at a 1987 music conference. He then spent 16 years with the Valley Ringers (Cupertino, CA) and eight years with Son Ringers (Mountain View, CA). He directed the Alleluia Rings at Los Altos UMC until the summer of 2016, when he and Carla moved to Holland, MI to start a new adventure there.

As a bass bell specialist, he was the Artistic Figurehead for eight years of Low Ding Zone, the World's First Bass-Only Handbell Ensemble.

Larry is a published handbell composer/arranger, and is the author of the Bass Ringer's Notebook.

Larry has been a church musician for most of his life, serving on piano, guitar, clarinet, voice and electric bass. Conducting and composing in the choral and instrumental ministries have been part of his efforts as well.

BRONZE FESTIVAL CHOIR

- 1) Festival Sanctus—Cathy Moglebust
L.4 / 4-6 oct #CGB570 (Choristers Guild)
- 2) Elysium—Susan Nelson
L.? / 5 oct #TBD
- 3) Sympatico—Jason Krug
L.5 / 3-7 oct #20361 (From the Top)
- 4) Song of the Flowers—Kevin Mazimas
Ko L.4 / 3-5 oct #AG35229 (AGEHR)
- 5) Rescue—Larry Sue
L.3 / 3-7 oct #** (Choraegus)
- 6) The Final Crossing—Larry Sue
L.3- / 3-6 oct #** (Choraegus)
- 7) A Minor Crash—Larry Sue
L.4 / 5-8 oct #** (Choraegus)

**In your confirmation, you will receive a private access code from the composer for a discounted price to his music at Choraegus.com.

TBD Please check back for updates for release information at www.areaviii.org.

Lori Fenton**~Iowa State Chair**

We all know the ringer(s) who absolutely will not move from their assigned spot.

- Maybe it's the high treble ringer (aka diva) who absolutely must have their 8 bells and 4 chimes and will not give them up under any circumstances.
- Or the ringer who will only play B4/C5 or DE5 because those are the only bells they can read easily on the staff.
- And there are ringers who are limited maybe not to a spot but to a staff, either due to issues with lifting heavier bells, not being able to read treble or bass clef, or not wanting to read ledger lines.

While I'm not a director, I can appreciate how frustrating it can be, especially if the ringer can't always handle "their" spot on every piece. In a group of varied abilities, it can be helpful to be able to assign parts based on the ability of the ringer but if ringers won't move, that isn't an option. Or maybe you have a few ringers who are willing to move but maybe they fit into one of the situations above and it just doesn't work to switch them.

Sometimes the situation doesn't accommodate ringers moving—like in festival situation. There is often limited space or time for ringers to do this. My church group found this out the hard way. We were very used to moving around and didn't think it would be an issue at a festival.

I advocate for moving ringers as I think it helps to develop a ringer's overall ability.

If a group is overall reluctant, maybe it can be tried in a retreat or sight reading situation. Like a kid with vegetables, they at least should try it. Take a specific rehearsal to help readers address the challenges they think they might have changing spots. For example, moving from battery to treble can be scary because of the need to do 4-in-hand. So pick a three octave piece, or just have the ringer ignore the upper bells. Have a "bass clinic" for the treble ringers and let them have an opportunity to ring the 3s. Maybe they'll still decide it's not for them but don't let them say no without trying it.

The most extreme example I've seen of changing positions was by Embellish at the Area 8 festival in 2014. During a performance, they moved one position to the right about every four measures, including the director's position. (They had a few extra ringers so they could also rotate out.) This was amazing to watch and I think would be a great exercise for any group with ringers who are reluctant to move. Maybe it's something to try slowly and maybe it would take the whole rehearsal time to get through a piece but I think it would be a great way to expose your ringers to changing positions in a fun and non-threatening way—which is what bells should always be.



Staci Cunningham
~ Kansas State Chair

To coin a phrase from Shakespeare, “To move, or not to move—that is the question”. It’s actually a very popular question and one that has been asked, discussed, and talked about over and over again. It’s a question that doesn’t seem to have a right or wrong answer. But, it’s a good question, none-the-less.

I, personally, like to move from one assignment to another. It allows me to become a better ringer by learning how to play both bass bells and treble bells. And, believe me, they don’t ring the same! I have become confident in my ringing because I know I can ring in any position. It also offers me a mental challenge in that I have to remember where on the staff I need to watch. For me, moving makes playing bells fun and challenging.

That’s not always the case for some people. In my experience with church choirs, many ringers don’t want to move. Perhaps they’ve rung in that position for years and can’t imagine being able to play somewhere else. Maybe they are comfortable where they are and don’t want to take the next step to advancing their skills. Sometimes as a director, this is hard to deal with. We just have to remember that these people are volunteers and they enjoy what they are doing. There is no reason to run them off because we are forcing them to move on every song. Besides, many of us need those people because no one else will step in to take their place if they leave!

So, what should you do if you have a choir of mixed movers and stayers? You can always move around those who want to be moved and keep those who want to stay in their stationary positions. And, every so often, play fruit-basket-upset. I will sometimes (but not too often!) have everyone pick a different position and sight read a piece. We won’t stay in these positions, but it gives everyone a chance to see handbells (or the director!) from a different angle. It shows them they can step out of their comfort zone and play something other than what they always play. This allows a safety net to be cast (not staying in this spot for performance) while introducing a new experience. Who knows, they may enjoy moving around after all!

MOVE

Linda Ashley**~ Nebraska State Chair**

Many directors have to face the question of *to move or not to move their ringers*. Most of us have musicians who are confident with reading both clefs and handling most sizes of bells. We also have ringers who learn where their two notes are and that's where they want to stay.

There are pros and challenges to moving your ringers.

- By moving your ringers, they can become well-rounded musicians with an appreciation for the other positions.
- Ringers in bass positions can trade off with treble ringers, helping to prevent any potential physical stress from playing the same positions (hands with 4iH and Shelley, arms with heavier bells).
- Challenges to moving your ringers include taking more time for setup in a concert situation.
- New ringers may not be as confident moving between positions. It may be best to keep a new ringer in the same position for a time until they get more confidence.
- Younger ringers may not be able to handle the size and weight of larger bells.

- Younger ringers may be more flexible to learn other parts. I have had young ringers beg to play other parts, which I let them do, provided the ringer at the stand they want to play is agreeable to trading.
- Older ringers for the most part tend to find a position they play well and stay there. They can be very resistant to moving. This is not necessarily a bad thing and they are likely to be more confident with their 'own bells'.

One way to get your ringers to move could include picking just one piece in your repertoire and asking them to trade positions with someone.

Working with your choirs, you will gain a sense of whether your ringers are able to be moved around or are better off in the same position.



Jeff White**~ Missouri State Chair**

Jeffrey A. White, a native and lifetime resident of St. Louis, MO, has been involved in music since the age of 8 when he began taking organ lessons. By age 15, he was playing the organ for worship services. Jeff began ringing handbells in his mid-teens as well, joining his church choir. After one year at Concordia University Chicago, Jeff returned home and assumed the role of director for his church bell choir. Jeff has held memberships in both Handbell Musicians of America and the American Guild of Organists (AGO), where he is finishing his term on the Executive Committee. He also holds a certification at the Colleague level in the AGO which he earned in 2012. He earned a Master of Church Music degree with an emphasis in Organ in 2009 through Concordia University Wisconsin, and was a student of both Dr. John Behnke and Mr. Arnold Sherman. In addition, since 1999, he has been a ringing member of the Gateway Ringers of St. Louis, MO, an auditioned community handbell group, which concertizes throughout the St. Louis metro area, as well as venturing out further into the state of Missouri and southern Illinois. Within this group, Jeff has served on the board as Secretary, President, Vice President, and currently as Member at Large. Jeff works during the day for Mastercard as a business analyst and has also held leadership roles within the company. He is Associate Director of Music at historic Trinity Lutheran Church, where he conducts the choir, rings in the handbell choir, and shares organ duties with the Director of Music. He has also conducted and played organ for hymn festivals, and other musical concerts.

Laura Kopff**~ Communications Chair**

Laura grew up in St. Louis and first picked up a bell in her high school's only instrumental music class—handbells. A few years later she joined a church handbell choir as a form of "stress relief" during graduate school. Since then, Laura has played with various bell choirs as she's moved around the Midwest. Currently, she rings with Altar Bells at Gary UMC in Wheaton, IL, and directs the Chimeringers at First Congregational UCC in Naperville, IL.

When she is not busy with bells, Laura teaches chemistry at a local university. She can often be found being crafty, reading a good mystery novel, or doing some "experimental baking." Laura is excited to take over as the Communications Chair and become more involved in the Area 8 handbell world.

Upcoming Events

2017	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
5/13	Children/Youth Roundtable Discussion	Gary UMC Wheaton, IL	Illinois
7/9-13	Intergenerational Handbell Camp – 27th Year!	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	Handbell Camp
7/8-11	Master Class in Conducting Dr. William Payn	Hyatt Regency Orange County Garden Grove, CA	National
7/11-15	National Seminar various	Hyatt Regency Orange County Garden Grove, CA	National
7/13-15	Distinctly Teen Hart Morris	Hyatt Regency Orange County Garden Grove, CA	National
8/19	St Louis Area Reading Session	Kirkwood Baptist Kirkwood, MO	HAGSTL
10/5-8	Distinctly Bronze East Dr. William Payn	New Bern, NC	National
2018	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jun 27-30	Bring It! Ring It! Area 8 Festival	Omaha, NE	Area 8
Jul 17-21	National Seminar Various	Grand Rapids, MI	n/a
Jul 19-21	Distinctly Teen Hart Morris	Grand Rapids, MI	n/a
Aug 6-11	18th International Symposium	Cairns, Australia	International

