



HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA

QUAVERS NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2018

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA



Planetarium Laser Show



Glow in the Dark Puppets



Goodnow House

UNIQUE PERFORMANCES

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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 EDUCATION: Lauran Delancy HISTORIAN: Open RESOURCE LIBRARIAN: Open MEMBERSHIP: Michael Allen

	<u>ILLINOIS</u>	<u>IOWA</u>	<u>KANSAS</u>	<u>MISSOURI</u>	<u>NEBRASKA</u>
Chair	OPEN	<u>Lori Fenton</u> 3213 45th St Des Moines, IA 50310 515.229.6712	<u>Kipp Willnauer</u> 117 W Main St Gardner, KS 66030 913.488.2295	<u>Jeff White</u> 2576 Pioneer Dr St Louis, MO 63129 314.803.6324	<u>Linda Ashley</u> 9107 Meadow Dr Omaha, NE 68114 402.320.5312 402.397.9551 (h)
Treasurer	Open	<u>Mary Lee Parks</u>	<u>Karla Denton</u>	<u>Suanne Comfort</u>	Open
Secretary	<u>Beth McFarland</u>	<u>Donna Sprague</u>	Open	Open	<u>Byron Jensen</u>
Website	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Wendi Calkins-Levitt</u>	<u>Linda Ashley</u>
Other	<i>Events</i> <u>Sharon Schmidt</u> <i>Registrar</i> <u>Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal</u> <i>Chime Mentor</i> <u>Diane Oster</u> <i>Chime Loan Coordinator</i> <u>Patti Mangis</u> <i>Food Coordinator</i> <u>Anna Piro</u> <i>Central Illinois Rep</i> Open <i>Western Illinois Rep</i> <u>Don Wood</u> <i>Handbell Services Rep</i> <u>Debi Robey</u>	<i>Historian</i> <u>Tina Gehrke</u> <i>Chimes</i> <u>Aaron Hansen</u> <i>Eastern Rep</i> <u>Cat Walker</u> <i>Western Rep</i> <u>Yvonne Johnson</u>	<i>Chimes</i> <u>Shirley Myers</u> <i>Chime Chair</i> <u>Anne Miller</u> <i>Membership, St Louis</i> <u>Sherry Boland</u> <i>Christie White</i>	<i>Registrar</i> <u>Deann Nicolaus</u> <i>Chimes Coordinator</i> <u>Nancy Youngman</u> <i>Jessica Kite</i> <u>Mike Allen</u> <i>Joyce Miller</i> <u>Angela Wright</u> <u>Charles Cohen</u>	



The Raleigh Ringers

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Things to do in Omaha

While at the Area 8 Festival

Into animals?

Go to the [HENRY DOORLY ZOO](#)

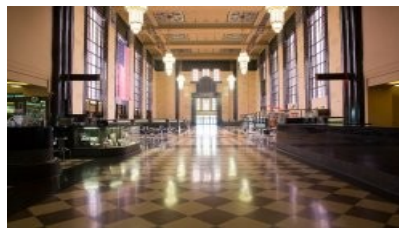


Into plants & trains?

Go to [LAURITZEN GARDENS](#)



Into history & trains?
Go to [DURHAM MUSEUM](#)



Into bridges?

Go to [BOB KERREY PARK](#)



Into giant slides & shopping?

Go to [GENE LEAHY PARK](#)



Into Band concerts?
Go to [BAND FESTIVAL](#)



Foodie? Go on a
[FOOD](#) TOUR



Try your hand
at [PADDLEBOARDING](#)



Jeff White~ Missouri State Chair

Being a ringer in a community group for almost 20 years means that you get to experience some unusual situations. The Gateway Ringers of St. Louis (founded in 1995) has become well-known throughout the area, and we frequently get requests for performances that are not always concerts with us up in front and a quiet, attentive audience. We once rang our Christmas concert repertoire as dinner music over a very loud group of people, dishes clinking, laughing, talking...you couldn't hear a bass bell to save your life!

But the one performance that really stands out in my mind as unusual was something we did a couple of years ago at the St. Louis Science Center McDonnell Planetarium: we rang a laser show! One of our ringers had contacts with the Science Center, and arranged for us to ring a space-themed concert in the planetarium as a laser show was presented above our heads. Despite the very icy conditions outside, they had a great turnout, and we learned to ring in the darkest conditions possible. Chuck Peery, our director, had to use a glow stick baton so we could see the beat! It was hard not to look up and watch the light show above us, but every now and then it was possible to sneak a peek. Imagine Nancy Hascall's *Andromeda* being rung in that type of situation!

One never knows what the possibilities are!

~ Illinois State

As a director, I am constantly looking for new performance opportunities. This not only keeps my creative juices flowing but it excites my ringers and gets handbells out into the public where they are less known.

While this is not a unique opportunity, I took my beginning choir and advanced choir to a Section 8 (subsidized housing) with which our church has a ministry. Many of these residents speak little to no English and are immigrants or refugees. But Christmas being a time of giving and music being the universal language seemed to bridge the gap! What was so meaningful was hearing all the languages at once sing along quietly on *Silent Night*.

At least every other year, I make a point to do one of Tammy Waldrop's *Ring-a-Stories*. My adult choir helps with the props and costumes while the kids learn the music, acting and lines. I've done this with Kindergarten through 3rd grade as well as a 7th through 12th grade group. Just when I received word that one of the kids was sick, a voice from the bell choir (whom I thought hadn't been paying attention) chimed up and said, "It's ok Mrs. C. I know her lines. I can cover her part!" As well as *Ring-a-Stories*, several composers have added bells to the choir cantatas.

Linda McKechnie, along with other arrangers/composers, has made accompaniment CDs for bell choirs to perform with a band or orchestra. I've used an amp as well as the church's full sound system as amplification of the CD. This is exciting for both the congregation and the ringers, especially if the church is

too small to have an entire orchestra. With the modern advances of the contemporary service, I've asked my techno-geek ringers to put together power points that has made several bell pieces extremely emotional for the congregation. To hear complete and utter silence or a whispered "wow" or a whimper, I know that we've touched someone deeply.

Black light can add another dimension to a performance. The use of white cotton gloves, glow-in-the-dark paint, glow-in-the-dark masking tape, or glow sticks will enhance the black light show. (Teeth also glow in the dark.) This does, however, require some memorization of the music. Black light bulbs can be found in any hardware store while Goodwill sells small bedroom lamps cheaply and most homes have a few extension cords lying around waiting for Christmas to arrive.

Some churches even have a puppet ministry that would be willing to dance to the bell piece. Some of the puppets even glow in the dark so you can incorporate black light into the dance as well!

How about posting on the Area 8 [Facebook](#) page what creative thing your choir has done to enhance a worship service or concert?

KC Congdon
Newsletter Editor



Kipp Willnauer

~ Kansas State Chair

I requested help from my peers and here is their response to "weird and unusual concerts."

My first thought was definitely 'breath-taking'. Early in my ringing career Joan Shull lined up our newest choir to ring at Manhattan's Sunset Zoo. Outdoors in the shelter house. At night. In December. It was so freakin' cold! Couldn't have been ringing more than 1-1/2 to 2 years, so we were still rookies. Oh dear!

Kathy Leonard

During the 1990's, I taught a 9th grade Choir of singers and ringers. In their Language Arts class they studied Romeo and Juliet. The students concluded their study by making and wearing clothing of the times. We dressed up in that garb and performed at the Renaissance Festival of Kansas City. The real challenge was finding songs that would be successful ringing outdoors and in the style of 1500's.

Kipp Willnauer

Christmas Eve, circa 1985, St. Peter's By the Sea Presby., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. As a bell choir we had rehearsed "Silent Night" to be rung along with the organist that evening in worship. I casually mentioned to the organist that we were prepared to play it in the key of Bb, like the hymnal. He informed me, however, that he NEVER plays it in that key because it was too high for the congregation.

So rather than have the choir learn something new in short order, I put masking tape over the letters on the

handles and re-marked them so they could ring what they thought were the same notes. It nearly drove me crazy knowing that they weren't ringing the notes on the page I was looking at!

[Marilyn Lake](#)

Most unusual was when a quintet of us played in the upstairs of the Goodnow House (historical site here in Manhattan, KS) during a Christmas Open House Tour. It was a small room at the top of the stairs of a house built in the 1850s – we barely fit in, but we had a good time.

Kathy Leonard

[Lori Fenton](#)

[~ Iowa State Chair](#)

I admit that I'm generally a "purist" when it comes to handbells. I'm not one who likes a lot of bell-ography, props or shtick, unless the ringing is excellent and the extras add to the performance rather than attempt to compensate for the quality of the ringing.

The Raleigh Ringers are excellent at incorporating a "performance" into their ringing. I think everyone is familiar with their "rock" arrangements but if you're not, check out this performance of ["Don't Stop Believin'"](#).

The group we have coming to the Area 8 festival, Timbré, also excels at combining ringing with other types of performance. Hopefully you're already registered for the festival so you can catch their performance.

Bells are showing up in non-traditional places, including the Broadway stage. The musical Stomp Live incorporates handbells into one of their numbers. And I've also seen handbells in Drum & Bugle

Corps numbers.

In addition to bell "performances", traditional bell pieces can also be used in non-traditional ways. As I'm writing this it's Good Friday. Many of you will probably have played on Easter Sunday. Many years ago at my then-church we played the "Finale" from Stravinsky's "Firebird", on Easter morning! If you were going to orchestrate the stone being rolled away and Christ rising from the dead, this piece would be it; conventional, no, but effective. If you're not familiar with it, listen [here](#).

You shouldn't be afraid of adding to your handbell performances or adding bells to other performances but do what works for **your** group and audience. The extras should be just as thoughtfully considered, programmed and rehearsed as much as the music itself.

[Linda Ashley](#)

[~ Nebraska State Chair](#)

Thinking out of the box is something that can turn a great handbell performance into a memorable one. I have seen a couple of things that have stuck in my mind.

The first one goes back to an Area Festival, I believe in Cedar Rapids, IA. The Raleigh Ringers were there and gave a concert. When it came to the portion of the concert where they transform to the Rocking Raleigh Ringers, one of their numbers was *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Most of the audience started singing along. I guess this is not an usual occurrence for them, as they still remarked about it years later.

Another performance was by Bells in Motion at our last Festival in Springfield,

IL. As I recall, they used blacklights and puppets in one of their numbers.

Do you have a memory of something unusual in a handbell concert? Share it on the Area Facebook page. It just might spark something for another group.

I hope many of you are coming to ***Bring It! Ring It!*** in Omaha this coming June. There should be many opportunities for you to see something and learn something new and different to try with your choirs at home.

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal

~ Area 8 Chair

It's always an exciting time to perform handbells. It's even more fun when you or a group you love have the chance to explore music making beyond a traditional handbell performance setting. I myself have had the pleasure of performing handbells with a ballet quartet and at another time with a [pipa player](#).

Those of you who will ***Bring It! Ring It!*** in Omaha this June will have a unique experience at the Timbré concert, *She Dreams the Stars*, which tells the story of a young woman on an incredible journey of discovery via music, dance, and audio-visual components.

The members of Handbell Musicians of America are so supportive of fellow handbell musicians breaking the mold.

Hopefully, some of the "outside the box" performances our state chairs have shared with you in this *Quavers* issue will inspire you!

Be sure to [share your events and concerts](#) with the rest of Area 8 so our members can be motivated by you!



Upcoming Events

2018	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jun 27-30	Bring It! Ring It! Area 8 Festival	Hotel RL Omaha 3321 S 72nd St Omaha, NE	Area 8
Jun 28-30	Bring It! Ring It! Area 8 YouthFest	Hotel RL Omaha 3321 S 72nd St Omaha, NE	Area 8
Jul 8-12	Handbell Camp	Heartland Center Parkville, MO	Janet Carter
Jul 14-17	Master Class in Conducting & Composition	Grand Rapids, MI	National
Jul 17-21	National Seminar Various	Grand Rapids, MI	National
Jul 19-21	Distinctly Teen	Grand Rapids, MI	National
Aug 18	2018 Reading Session	Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Ladue, MO	HAGSTL
Sep 22	Autumn Leaves & Handbells Please!	Southminster Presbyterian Prairie Village, KS	Heartland
Oct 20	14th Annual Handchime Festival	Knox Presbyterian 9595 W 95th St Overland Park, KS	Heartland
Oct 20	Show-Me Ring Rezound! Handbell Ensemble	1st UMC Blue Springs, MO	Rezound!

