

# QUAVERS

AREA 8: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA NOVEMBER, 2012

## **Captions from the Chair**

Even though you will be reading this article a month later, I am writing the day following our annual Area 8 board meeting held in September at Raytown Christian Church in Missouri, at which we reviewed the summer's Missouri River Ring Festival and made plans for the future.

I would like to mention that we welcomed a new board member, Stephen Swanson, who will be the Membership Chair, succeeding Kathy Leonard, who was elected secretary. Stephen will also be functioning as our local liaison as we plan and work towards our next area festival to be held in June, 2014, in Davenport, Iowa. I would also like to thank Karen Cadmus for her work for the past two years as secretary on our board.

Historian Natalie Radcliffe, who succeeded the grand dame of Area 8, Mary Kettlehut, is resigning. We are grateful for Natalie who collected, assembled and documented the events of Area 8 in recent years. Currently Marilyn Lake is trying to digitize our scrapbooks so that the items can be shared on our website. I know that there are those in our area who are experts and enjoy doing genealogy. You would be perfect candidates to be our historian. Who might step forward to help Marilyn Lake with this project of documenting our history for future generations of handbell ringers in Area 8?

At our board meeting, we spent a significant amount of time discussing the new member initiatives of the national Handbell Musicians of America. There is an excellent article in the most recent issue of *Overtones* that describes all of the benefits and categories of membership in Handbell Musicians of America. Yes, the price of membership has gone up! We have not had a membership fee increase since 2004. What a bargain we have been receiving over the years without a fee increase. So I urge you to set up a login and password for yourself to access the website so that you can benefit from many of the new training sessions, networking, and documents that are available that will enable you, as a director, and all of your ringers, to excel as musicians. If you have questions about the new membership structure and costs, don't just grumble and drop your membership! That action will not do any good for you or your ringers, or for our organization. One of the benefits of renewing your membership and recruiting new members is that Area 8 will receive a rebate for each member, thereby helping our treasury to support more quality events in our Area. If after reading *Overtones*, you are still unsure about whether or not to renew, contact one of your area or state officers listed in *Quavers*. We would welcome your conversations!

I hope that your ringing season has begun with excellence and a full complement of ringers. As the holiday season arrives, there are many opportunities to ring for others and to attend concerts presented by other groups. Handbell people should not exist in isolation—we network so that we all grow together in this musical art.

Dolan Bayless ~ Area 8 Chair

**Past Chair** 

PastChair@Area8.

Handbellmusicians.org

Marilyn Lake

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### **Elected & Appointed Officers**

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### **ILLINOIS**

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David M. Harris, Director

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- A community handbell choir -



### Explore Illinois

I hardly know where to begin... here's a quick overview:

At least four community groups to experience in concert:

- Bells in Motion (Springfield www.bellsinmotion.org)
- Chicago Bronze (Chicago area www.chicagobronze.com)
- Random Ringers (Chicago area)
- The Agape Ringers (Chicago area www.agaperingers.org)

Handbells in at least four colleges:

- Augustana College (Rock Island);
- Illinois State University (Normal);
- Judson University (Elgin);
- Moody Bible Institute (Chicago)

Numerous church ensembles for all ages and experiences

Concerts offered by many of those churches

Workshops offered by Handbell Musicians of America

Festivals offered by Handbell Musicians of America, JuBell-ee (Rockford), Fellowship of United Methodists in Worship and Arts (Springfield area)

Please accept my apologies if I omitted anyone – please update me via email. We have areas on the state website for your concert, workshop and event – you can submit the information to either me or webmaster@il-agehr.org.

The Illinois state committee has four events scheduled so far for 2012-2013:

- Nov. 10, 2012: Handbell Ringing Skills, Wheaton, IL
- Nov. 17, 2012: Fall Festival with David Weck, Barrington, IL
- Feb. 2, 2013: Young Ringers' Mini-Festival with Monica McGowan & KC Congdon, River Forest, IL
- Feb 16, 2013: Workshop with The Agape Ringers, Clarendon Hills, IL

You can find details and registration forms at http://www.il-agehr.org/events.html. If you would be willing to host an event at your facility, we are always looking for sites, especially outside the Chicago area. Contact me at the email listed on page three if you are interested!

The state also has two sets of handchimes (3-octaves each) that are available for loan to public or private schools. The sets come with instructional materials, and a mentor is available to aid in classroom use. If you are interested in borrowing the chimes, please contact chimeloan@il-agehr.org.

That's a quick overview of what  $\mathbf{I}$  know is going on  $-\mathbf{I}$  bet you know of others. Please let me know about those. More importantly, let your ringing friends and colleagues know what Handbell Musicians of America can offer them in education, information, events and community. We'd love to have them join us!

 $Sharon\ Schmidt \sim Illinois\ State\ Chair$ 



### lowa Insights

Being a relatively "new" Iowan, I am still learning about the many wonderful reasons to be here. I love my students, my neighbors, my home, my church, and my Handbell Musicians! Our *Quavers* editor, KC, has suggested these categories for us to explore this month.

**Community Choirs:** I wish I knew about more, but two come immediately to mind. The first is a newly formed group that made a wonderful debut this summer in Cedar Rapids. The Cedar Valley Handbell Ensemble and the King Ringers in Eagle Grove/Fort Dodge have both collaborated and performed wonderful literature for our instrument. The North Central Iowa Handbell Ensemble has participated in local and regional festivals, and will be performing in Eagle Grove during December 2012 as part of the Eagle Grove Community Christmas program.

**Colleges with Handbells:** I know that Luther College, Iowa Lakes Community College, Wartburg College, and others have handbell programs. Also, Collegiate United Methodist Church in Ames has a handbell choir primarily comprised of ISU students, so that may qualify as a "college choir," thanks to their director, Dee Dreeszen.

**Workshops:** This is our big resource. We offer several annual workshops: Fall Skill Building, Winter Youth Event, Spring Ringing Event, Spring Handbell Musicians (Ringers and Directors) event, and coming **soon**, the 2013 Webster City Handbell Festival with **Cathy Moklebust** and **Rezound!** Visit our facebook page or our website for more information.

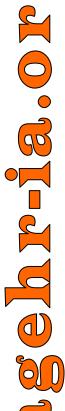
**Resources:** Chimes! We have two sets of handchimes that we place in public and private schools each semester. Currently we also send copies of *Manhattan Daily News, Basic Training for Bells* and *Tunes that Teach,* Vol. 1 with each chime loan. Visit our website and read about how to get one of these chime sets. As a member of the guild you are also encouraged to use one of our *mentors* for a workshop or rehearsal. Any committee member and many directors who are former committee members are mentoring experts and would love to visit your program for a brush-up, or a shake-up.

**Website:** Our website is managed by the Area 8 webmaster, Wendi Leavitt. We have current information about upcoming events, pictures from past events, and links to information about committee members and things interesting to the modern handbell musician. Please visit us often! www.agehr-ia.org

**Composers:** We are blessed to count Cathy Moklebust and Chris Peck as Iowa residents. As I meet more Iowans, I meet more people who have arranged and composed music for handbells, but we made special mention on our website of Cathy's recent commission, *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus*, honoring the life of Mary Kettlehut, and Chris's new piece, *American Salute*, and its recent inclusion in the repertoire for Distinctly Bronze East 2012.

**Conductors:** Iowa schools have been training wonderful conductors for years. Handbell directors are no exception and we are blessed with many on our committee and in our community.

Patrick Gagnon ~ Acting Iowa Chair





### Kansas What's What

What does Kansas have to offer? The question might need to be, "What doesn't Kansas have to offer?" The answer is, an ocean. But this is a handbell publication so when it comes to handbells, Kansas has much to offer.

We have great events that happen every year. For 22 years Kansas people have been in charge of an Intergenerational Handbell Camp. We have the Flint Hills Festival and Ring in the Spring. In 1992 Mary Jane Voogt and Kipp Willnauer began the Adult & Youth Ringing Festival. Those events became Ring in the Spring at Church of the Resurrection in Leawood. This event has grown to over 300 ringers with great leadership from Gwen Gepford. Marilyn Lake hosts a Chime Festival for upper elementary students. This event is an opportunity for young ringers to get experience ringing with others around the state. J.W. Pepper, a major publishing/music company, sponsors a reading session every August with nationally known clinicians. The session is for bells and vocal music.

The people of Kansas are represented by some very well-known names. John Leavitt from Leavenworth is an exceptional composer, conductor, musician and teacher. He currently teaches at Mid America Nazarene University in Olathe. Cynthia Dobrinski, formerly from Great Bend, has more than 175 handbell compositions. She has conducted at more than 350 festivals and workshops around the world. Eugene Butler has been named Kansas Composer of the year and is a respected conductor and church musician with over 650 music compositions. Lauran Delancy has arranged several pieces of music. She currently serves on the Area 8 board and rings with Rezound! Handbell Ensemble. Joan Shull currently lives in Manhattan and was editor of *Overtones*, guild historian, teacher and mentor to many handbell ringers. Eunice Tarum can still be seen at festivals and workshops as a Malmark representative and was the first director for Bethany College. Chris Peck is a composer and arranger with ties to Bethany College. These are just a few names well known in the Kansas handbell community.

Kansas has a chime loan program that offers a 3-octave set of chimes to a school for a semester. This program has helped many schools see the benefits of chimes in their music program. While the Resource Library is an Area 8 resource, all members in Kansas have the opportunity to use it. Check out the extensive list of videos and paper resources at http://www.areaviii.org/Resources/resources.htm.

There are college choirs as well as many community and combined church choirs located around the state working together to share resources and bells.

To find out more about Kansas bells, go to our website at www.agehr-ks.org.

Cherryl Cox ~ Kansas State Chair



Missouri is home to several accomplished handbell programs in colleges, communities and churches. The handbell program at **William Jewell College** in Liberty, MO, begun by Dr. Don Brown in 1975, presents fall and spring concerts, several Christmas engagements, and an annual tour. Now directed by Christie White, both the beginning and advanced choirs emphasize music education and teaching techniques to prepare students to direct or ring in future programs. The handbell program at **Central Bible College** in Springfield doubles as the men's basketball team. For this team, a road trip is more than a game. It is a ministry opportunity. In 2008 Coach Kirk Hanson asked Kathy Harrison to teach his players to ring handbells. He wanted something they could do as a team as they ministered in churches across the country. Although some players were involved in music groups in high school, others had no music background before joining the team. Handbells have opened many ministry and performing opportunities for the team, including a feature on ESPN in March 2011.

Missouri is honored to be the home of **Ed Rollins**, the President-Elect of the Handbell Musicians of America. He was Area 8 Chair two times and has served multiple years on the National Board of Directors. He has been clinician/conductor/coordinator for handbell events in 20 states. Ed is married to **Deborah Carr**, a nationally recognized handbell clinician and conductor. She is in demand to teach classes about the personalities of choirs and how to deal with them, this coming from her background in educational psychology. This year she has led conferences in Canada, California, and Virginia. Together with Tom Brintnall, Ed and Deb organized the **Columbia Handbell Ensemble** in 1988 to promote musical excellence through the medium of handbells. CHE quickly developed into a nationally recognized ensemble known for its musicality and fine programming. Most recently they were a featured choir at the 2011 National Seminar in Minneapolis. The ensemble has had numerous works written or arranged for them.

The auditioned community group in the Kansas City area is **Rezound!** Performance highlights include appearing on the Kansas City Symphony's annual Christmas Festival Concerts and holiday concerts in the Powell Gardens Chapel. Rezound! has created educational programs for metro area schools, and members are active as festival clinicians and workshop instructors. The St. Louis area boasts two community choirs. The **Gateway Ringers** formed in 1995 to inspire excellence in musicianship and heighten awareness of handbell music. They are currently directed by Chuck Peery. **ReBELLion** was founded by Dolan Bayless in 2009 and is actively promoting handbells in St. Louis and eastern Missouri. Among the educational and musical outreaches of the **Handbell Association of Greater St. Louis** is a Substitute Ringer pilot program, offering competent substitutes for rehearsals, worship, and programs within 100 miles of downtown.

The longest Guild membership in Area 8 is held by Suanne Comfort at Raytown Christian Church in Kansas City, whose youth Inspiration Ringers will make their 42<sup>nd</sup> annual tour next spring. Since 1971, guild festivals and conferences have been indispensable to the success of all the choirs in that program.

Suanne Comfort ~ Missouri State Chair





Nebraska has a fairly small handbell community compared to other states, but it is quite active and it is growing. I am going to outline what we in Nebraska have to help the handbell community in the form of community choirs, college choir opportunities, resources, workshops, etc.

Currently, **The River City Ringers** out of Omaha, directed by Joyce Miller, is the only active community handbell choir in Nebraska, but there are rumors that one or two others are being contemplated within the state. The River City Ringers perform throughout the state and put on a superb concert ... you don't want to miss them.

We have three college-based handbell choirs in Nebraska: one at **Hasting's College** in Hastings, one at **Concordia College** in Seward and one at **Union College** in Lincoln.

As a state committee, one of our major charges each year is to provide ample opportunities for handbell ringers to gain additional knowledge and experience with this glorious instrument. To that end, we provide two workshops each year, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. Most of these workshops are conducted by members of the state committee, but every two years, we provide a well-known clinician to lead one of the more advanced workshops. And in an effort to help reach more ringers, several members of the committee often go out into various communities and help organize and conduct workshops to teach local choirs how to be the best they can be.

As for resources available, we offer a handchime loan program to various schools, churches and organizations, on a semester by semester basis. We have also recently added a *Kids Play Handbell* set to our loan program for younger musicians.

The Nebraska Committee also provides a scholarship on a biannual basis to provide financial aid to the Area 8 Handbell Festival every two years.

We are fortunate to have several individuals who are highly talented in the area of handbell music composing. This is a unique style of music and takes a special skill set to compose and arrange music to be performed and enjoyed by handbell musicians. Linda Boatright and Chris Peck (who lives in IA but rings in NE) are leading the way in this arena.

Nebraska is proud to provide numerous opportunities for handbell ringers both in education, ringing experience, listening enjoyment and creative expression. And as was noted initially, we may be a small community of handbell ringers and choirs, but we are constantly striving to expand our membership and involve more individuals and communities across Nebraska.

Dr. J. Michael Allen ~ Nebraska State Chair



# Things You Should Know

2014 Festival: June 25-28 Beth Watson-Judd Michael Glasgow

Distinctly Davenport: TBD

2016 Springfield, IL

2018 Omaha, NE

Do you have ideas for topics you would like discussed in *Quavers*? Drop me an idea at NewsletterEditor@Area8.handbellmusicians.org

The Handbell Musicians of America Music Sampler project is complete. Each drive includes 34 tracks of handbell music performed and recorded by handbell musicians from all over the United States. This is a true sampler showcasing the best in handbells including a variety of musical genres and performers from all elements of Guild membership – church choirs, community choirs, university choirs, handbell soloists, small ensembles, adults, and youth.

In addition to the three CDs worth of music included on the drive, you will also see our brand new guide to Handbell Musicians of America – *Discovering Your Membership*. This is a 1GB flash drive with over half of the available space left open so you can use it for your own personal, portable storage.

Order yours online now at www.handbellmusicians.org



CLINICIAN: Dr. William Payn

DATE: Friday, June 7, 2013 - Sunday, June 9, 2013

LOCATION: Raleigh, North Carolina

Virtuoso is a unique opportunity for a small group of advanced ringers to participate in a professional performance experience, under the baton of renowned conductor Dr. William Payn. The three-day event will include all aspects of preparing for and presenting a formal concert, including intensive rehearsals for music mastery, transportation/equipment logistics, stage setup and tech/lighting rehearsals, culminating in a featured performance on a concert stage as special guests during The Raleigh Ringers' Spring Concert at Meymandi Concert Hall.

Participants will be determined by an application/audition process. Deadline to apply is January 1, 2013. Email RRadmin@rr.org for an application.

This event is sponsored by The Raleigh Ringers, 8516 Sleepy Creek Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613 www.rr.org



# Upcoming Concerts

2012	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Nov 2	Rezound!	Lutheran Church of the Resurrection	news@rezound.org
7:30p		9100 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS	816-866-RING
Nov 3	Rezound!	Indian Creek Community	news@rezound.org
7:00p		12480 S Black Bob Rd, Olathe, KS	816-866-RING
Nov 4	Rezound!	St James Lutheran	news@rezound.org
3:00p		1104 NE Vivion Rd, Kansas City, KS	816-866-RING
Nov 4	Gateway Ringers	Good Shepherd Lutheran	Jamie De Geer
4:00p	Wild Things	327 Woods Mill Rd, Ballwin, MO	636-391–6685
Nov 4	William Jewell College	Gano Chapel at William Jewell	Christie White
7:30p	Flute & Handbell Choirs	500 College Hill, Liberty, MO	whitec@william.jewell.edu
Nov 11	River City Ringers	Thanksgiving! Lutheran	Joyce Miller
3:00p	Veteran's Day Tribute	3702 S 370 Plaza, Bellevue, NE	www.omahametrohandbells.org
Nov 17 7:00p	1st UMC Ringers  Hanging of the Greens  Tickets required	1st UMC 1032 Maple Ave Downers Grove, IL	Pattie Barnes bellhog@juno.com 630-953-0146
Dec 1 7:00p	Bells in Motion A Ringing Christmas  Tickets required	United Presbyterian 2550 Rock Hill Rd Wood River, IL	www.bellsinmotion.org elyhelen@hotmail.com
Dec 1	Rezound!	Rolling Hills Presbyterian	news@rezound.org
7:00p		9300 Nall Ave, Overland Park, KS	816-866-RING
Dec 2	Rezound!  Powell Gardens Holiday  Concert Series	Powell Gardens	www.powellgardens.org
3:00p		1609 NW US Hwy 50, Kingsville, MO	816-697-2600
Dec 2	River City Ringers	Benson Presbyterian	Joyce Miller
3:00p	Christmas Concert	5612 Corby St, Omaha, NE	www.omahametrohandbells.org
Dec 2 4:00p	Bells in Motion  A Ringing Christmas  Tickets required	First Congregational 2100 S Bates Springfield, IL	www.bellsinmotion.org elyhelen@hotmail.com
Dec 7-9	Concordia Handbell Choir	St John Lutheran	www.cune.edu/arts/music/
Varies	Christmas at Concordia  Tickets required	Seward, NE	Christmas-at-Concordia/
Dec 8	Chicago Bronze  Tickets required	Divine World Chapel	http://youthchoraltheater.org/
4:00p		2001 Waukegan Rd, Techny, IL	concerts_professional
Dec 9	Chicago Bronze	Ela Public Library	www.epl.org
2:00p		275 Mohawk Trail, Lake Zurich, IL	RSVP requested
Dec 9	River City Ringers	Countryside Community Church	Joyce Miller
3:00p	Christmas Concert	8787 Pacific St, Omaha, NE	www.omahametrohandbells.org
Dec 9 4:30p	Chicago Bronze	St Martha Church 8523 Georgiana Ave Morton Grove, IL	www.chicagobronze.org



# **Upcoming Concerts**

2012	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Dec 13-16 Varies	Rezound! Christmas Festival Concerts	Kansas City Symphony Kauffman Center	www.kcsymphony.org 816-471-0400
Dec 13-16 Varies	River City Ringers  Christmas with the Symphony  Tickets required	See website	www.ticketomaha.com/ productions/Christmas-with-the- Symphony
Dec 15 4:00p	The Agape Ringers Sounds of the Season  Tickets required	Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church 149 W Brush Hill, Elmhurst, IL	www.agaperingers.org
Dec 16 3:00p	Concordia Handbell Choirs In Concert	Concordia University Music Center, Recital Hall Seward, NE	Jessica.Kite@cune.edu 402-643-7282

# Upcoming Events

2012	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Nov 10	Handbell Ringing Skills	Gary UMC Wheaton, IL	http://www.il-agehr.org/ events.html
Nov 17 9a-6p	Illinois Fall Festival David Weck	Barrington UMC 98 Algonquin Rd, Barrington, IL	http://www.il-agehr.org/ events.html
Feb 1-4, 2013	Master Series	Tucson, AZ	http://handbellmusicians.org/ events/master-series-2013- registration-now-open/
Feb 2, 2013 9a-3:15p	Young Ringer's Mini-Festival Monica McGowan & KC Congdon	Grace Lutheran Church & School River Forest, IL	http://www.il-agehr.org/ events.html
Feb 16, 2013	Handbells, Handbells, Handbells (workshop)	Community Presbyterian Church Clarendon Hills, IL	http://www.il-agehr.org/ events.html
Feb 28- Mar 3 2013	Distinctly Bronze West Fred Gramann	Bremerton, WA	http://handbellmusicians.org/ events/distinctly-bronze-west- registration-now-open/
Mar 2, 2013	spRINGfest John Behnke	Peace Lutheran Church St Louis, MO	Burnell Hackman burnell@bhackman.net
Apr 20, 2013	Spring Handbell Workshop	Wilson Performing Arts Center Red Oak, IA	http://www.agehr-ia.org/ Events/Events.htm