



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

QUAVERS

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

SEPTEMBER, 2013

Invitation, Evaluation, Award

The **Invitation:** You and your ensembles are cordially invited to attend and participate in **Ring Davenport** Area Festival.

When: Wednesday, June 25 through Saturday, June 28, 2014

Where: River Center and Adler Theatre, Davenport, Iowa

RSVP: www.areaviii.org

The **Evaluation:** I was thrilled to represent the directors and ringers of Area 8 at the National Seminar in Portland, Oregon, from July 24-28. Thank you for the opportunity to network with other directors, ringers, national board members and clinicians at this event. The concerts were over-the-top in execution of handbell musicianship! The classes were *the best* that I have experienced in my 35 years of directing handbells and attending seminars presented by various music organizations. But this one topped all of the previous bests: instructors had relevant and new topics, the instructors had credibility in their area of expertise, and the class sessions will help me to be a better music and handbell director. Thank you to the national planning committee and Jennifer Cauhorn, our executive.

Area 8 was well represented at the National Seminar—I think that we had at least one person attending from each of our states, and in many cases several. KC Congdon had the position of putting faculty and classes together so that each of us could have a wonderful learning experience. Handbell Industry Council (HIC) Area 8 was well represented through vendors such as Hope Publishing (David Weck) and Third Bell on the Right (Wendi Levitt).

An **Award:** As part of the final banquet in Portland, Oregon, at National Seminar, President Lee Afdahl presented the Presidential Award for an outstanding volunteer. I am very pleased to announce to you that one of our own, Sharon Schmidt, was the recipient of this very prestigious award which recognizes valuable contribution to the Handbell Musicians of America at the national level. Sharon is the Illinois State Chair and is an outstanding leader among us. She most recently served at the national level as coordinator/chair for Distinctly Bronze for 11 events during eight years. Congratulations, Sharon, you are a most deserving recipient!

Please monitor our website www.areaviii.org for the most up-to-date information about the **Invitation** and the application for handbell ensembles to perform. Lastly, I would like every member of Handbell Musicians of America to encourage the **ringer membership** for all of your constituent ringers. This allows them to benefit greatly from the guild and to participate at a new level in ringing musicianship.

Dolan Bayless ~ Area 8 Chair



www.areaviii.org



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The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

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A community handbell choir



2, 4, 6, 8: I Can't Syncopate

To many, syncopation means rock or contemporary Christian music. But did you know that the classical composers Bach, Handel, Mozart, and Beethoven also used syncopation? So it's not a new thing, and you **can** learn how to syncopate.

First, understand what syncopation is, as it can be created by several means:

- Inserting a rest where we expect a note
- Tying notes so the emphasis is changed from the normal beats
- Stressing the off-beat
- Shifting notes so they occur on the off-beat

You can see examples of these at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncopation>.

So now you know what it is – how do you play it? There are three simple steps:

- Count
- Practice
- Get feedback and assessment

Yeah, I know – you want me to wave the magic syncopation wand over you instead.

For counting and practice, you can work through the rhythm lessons found at <http://www.rhythm-in-music.com/fundamentals-of-rhythm.html>, which starts with the very basics, and works up to complicated patterns. There's an audio track with a metronome, counting, and playing. You can easily work along through the lessons at your own pace.

Another way to practice is to find pieces with syncopated rhythms in the melody from your organization's library (ask your director), and go to the publisher's website or www.hanbellworld.com to find a recording. First, just clap along with the beats (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4), as you listen and watch the score, perhaps just up to the first page turn. Then, sing the melody as you clap the beats. Next, see if you can count the melody rhythm as you clap along. You might want to write in the counting. Finally, pretend you have two notes in the melody and air-bell along. Then try another two notes...Lather, rinse, repeat!

All this practice is for naught if you're not doing it right. Find a practice partner to work with, and schedule a few minutes with a director, piano teacher, organist, band director, or drummer to check your counting and playing.

Soon you'll be saying "2, 4, 6, 8: I love to syncopate!"

Sharon Schmidt ~ Illinois State Chair

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.



Trust

Billy Joel sang about it and Drake raps about it.

When a handbell program gets a new director, handbell musicians can be challenged when having to TRUST someone new.

Let go of the past

You have a new director now, so be proactive in embracing that idea. The old ways may have been successful and the new ways may be as well. Continually referencing "how we used to do this" or "Sally always used to" is not helpful moving forward. Sometimes a person new to handbells needs education and that can be frustrating, but everyone has a learning curve and being a helpful part of that education might be more productive than referencing the past.

Be open and honest

When hiring a new director be sure to disclose FULLY any "drama" surrounding the previous director's departure. I have stepped into bad situations where I was unaware of my predecessor's reasons for departing and the management of the "drama" is completely soul-destroying. Full disclosure is important for the applicant and the institution.

Set boundaries

Is it okay to call your director at home? Should you text or email? Even having conversations about how you would prefer to be addressed (Mr. or Ms./Mrs., especially with young ringers), or how you would like questions to be raised can let everyone know who is in charge – every choir has "that" ringer who tries to pilot the boat. If you are hired as the director, be the director. If you have an issue to bring up with your director, bring it up within acceptable boundaries.

Keep promises

I feel strongly that I should have all of the ringing equipment set up for my ringers before our rehearsal begins, and that they should assist me with putting everything away. If I trust them to turn up on time, they should trust me to have everything ready to go. That's just how I roll and you can certainly do it your own way, just to say that there should be follow-through on any agreements/understandings/promises made either way in the ringer/director relationship.

Communicate

Sending your ringers a weekly email with the week's rehearsal order, upcoming ringing dates, information about local, regional, and national guild events, links to a great YouTube handbell performance, reminders of ringers' birthdays, etc, is a good way to communicate. For ringers without email, this could be distributed at rehearsal or even sent in the mail (while we still have the postal service, anyway). This would allow ringers to reply to you with questions, let you know if they were going to be absent, etc. If you are hoping to build trust with ringers, especially new ringers, don't pull any punches or give any surprises.

It's all just a matter of trust.

Oh, and by the way, does anyone want to be the next Iowa Chairperson?

Patrick Gagnon ~ Acting Iowa Chair



www.agehr-ia.org



Stress Relief

According to the University Of Maryland Medical Center's website, nearly everyone experiences stress and some amount of stress is healthy, but excessive stress leads to anxiety and illness. In an article on WebMD, Susan Kuchinskas writes "stress starts in the brain and then kicks off a chain reaction that switches on the stress response in every cell of our bodies." Researchers know playing musical instruments turns off this stress response, improving physical and emotional health.

Playing a piece of music allows you to focus on learning and crafting music, which helps your body and mind let go of the problems of your day. Studies continue to be done about the benefits of making music. Nursing students and long term care workers who routinely experience burnout are being helped by playing and listening to music. School performance and behavior for young students improves when music programs are a part of the education system. Making music should be included as a tool for health and well-being.

As handbell ringers and directors, we are asked all the time why we ring. Kath Wissinger said that many adult ringers tell her "This is the one thing I do for Me!" It's a time for the ringer to decompress, focus on the music, enjoy fellowship, and time away from anything else going on in their lives.

When learning a new piece of music, most of us experience some stress. When performing a piece of music, some of us experience stress. When a piece of music is completed the way we envision, the stress is forgotten and the healing effects of accomplishment and relaxation linger. Most musicians don't dwell on stress. It is a small part of the musical process. The pleasure music gives can be felt and recalled long after the last bell is damped.

Kansas has a great stress relief weekend available for ringers. Flint Hills Ring will be September 27-28, 2013, at YMCA Camp Wood, Elmdale, KS. Led by Kipp Willnauer, Friday evening is an optional ring with plenty of fellowship and star gazing on the plains of Kansas. Saturday is a day filled with ringing and classes. You can find more about it and other events by clicking on the 'Events' tab on the Kansas site at www.agehr-ks.org or at www.handbellcamp.org. Handbell Camp also has a Facebook page. You can find that at www.facebook.com/handbellcamp. You can also 'Like' our Facebook page www.facebook.com/KansasHandbellMusiciansOfAmerica.

Cherryl Cox ~ Kansas State Chair

Convention Center:

The River Center

<http://www.riverctr.com/>

The Adler Theater

<http://www.adlertheatre.com/>

Hotel:

Radisson

www.radisson.com/handbells2014 \$104

Hotel Blackhawk

[Book your group rate: Handbell Musicians of America Area 8 >>](#) \$139



Area 8 Festival June 25-28, 2014



AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION
HOTELS



Health Issues and Music

Some years ago before bell ringers were aware of healthy ringing issues and before I taught good bass bell technique, my high school ringers rang Dobrinski's "Rondo Passacaglia" in the solo concert at a national festival to enthusiastic applause. I was feeling pretty satisfied until then-national Guild president Richard Coulter came up after the concert and very graciously said, "If your bass bell ringer keeps playing like that, he will end up with carpal tunnel!". Jeremy got a wonderful sound from the bass bells, but he was tipping the bell too far forward and breaking his wrist! **We are responsible for the health of our ringers!**

Instrumental musicians are a special risk group for repetitive motion injuries. Sizable percentages of them develop physical problems related to playing their instruments: string players are prone to injuries of the back, neck, shoulders, and wrist; wind instrumentalists are prone to ear, nose, throat, mouth, lips, neck, shoulder and arm injuries; percussionists are subject to back, shoulder, neck, hand, wrist, finger and arm pain and tension; many musicians sit for long periods of practice with poor posture on poorly designed chairs in poor lighting. Combine that with overuse and lack of proper rest and you have a recipe for strain and injury. If they are computer users for a significant amount of time, the risks are compounded. Instrumental injuries often include the same conditions experienced from computer overuse: carpal tunnel syndrome, tendinitis, bursitis, and trigger finger/thumb are common among keyboardists, fretboardists, flute, and string players. Years of handbell rehearsal in small cinderblock rooms can take a toll on the hearing as well!

Injury prevention is much more powerful than waiting for the injuries to occur. **ALWAYS WARM UP.** Athletes do not abruptly start vigorous activity without warming up and stretching because they know it is an invitation to injury. **EVALUATE YOUR TECHNIQUE.** Reduce force, find postures that keep joints in the middle of their range of motion, use large muscle groups when possible, avoid fixed, tense positions. **TAKE BREAKS TO STRETCH AND RELAX.** Constant tension and repetitive motion does not allow the body to flush away metabolic waste products, and this is traumatic to tissues over time. Even in the middle of playing a piece, you may have a moment to relax a hand or arm to restore circulation. **EVALUATE OTHER ACTIVITIES.** Your problems may be caused or aggravated by other things you do frequently – computer use, sports, carrying children, hobbies, and excess effort/tension in other daily things may contribute to the pain. **GET MEDICAL HELP.** Musicians are notoriously hard to persuade to reduce or stop their playing to allow injuries to heal. If you notice an odd twinge when playing or singing, stop, rest, and get help, and never push through persistent pain. Susan Berry's book *Healthy Ringing* is the handbell ringers' Bible for care of the body, correct ringing techniques, warm up exercises, stress management, and every aspect of care of your ringers. If that book has been sitting on the shelf for some time, get it down and review it before beginning another year of ringing.

Suanne Comfort ~ Missouri State Chair

2014 Festival: June 25-28

Beth Watson-Judd: Div 1 & 3

Michael Glasgow: Div 2 & 4

Bill Mathis: Distinctly Davenport

Carolynne Mathis: Youth Festival

Headlining Concerts:

Bells of the Lakes (MN)

Embellish (MI)

Pre-conf Director's Track:

Available again

www.agehr-mo.org



Stage Fright

Do you find yourself filled with anticipation and excitement prior to your musical performances **or** filled with a sense of dread and impending doom?

A long ago study showed the top three fears of people are: #3 being broke, #2 dying and #1 performing in front of people. Commonly called Stage Fright, the anxious feelings many performers get are sensations with which they all must learn to deal. Failure to do so can result in poor performances, affecting what you love to do, even possibly harming your career. They can even negatively impact your self-esteem and self-confidence.

Despite many hours of rehearsals, once in front of a group of people, their mouth gets dry, their pulse races, breathing quickens, pupils dilate, they get a queasy, sick feeling in their stomach and palms get sweaty. These physical responses are consistent with the "fight or flight" autonomic reflex. Those reflexes are designed to prepare the body to stand and fight in response to stressful situations or run away. As a musician, fighting with your audience certainly isn't a very popular option and running away from them won't do much to enhance your musical career. So what's a person to do?

Accept that ringing handbells is not a life or death situation. It is **ok** to make a couple of mistakes and one need not castigate one's self for those mistakes. In fact, that nervous energy can be channeled into a positive flow resulting in improving performances. Many world class performers actually rely on the "butterflies" feeling to rev up their mental preparedness resulting in terrific performances.

Here are some tips to help you reduce what can seem like a paralyzing feeling capable of affecting your performance (gleaned from an article on Performance Anxiety on WebMD.com.)

1. **Be Prepared—Practice, Practice, Practice...**Do not short change the time needed to adequately prepare the performance pieces. This is obviously the number one tip as it maximizes your confidence giving you the best chance to perform well. Remember the old 6P Principle....Proper Preparation Prevents Pitifully Poor Performance!
2. **Shift focus off yourself and onto the audience**, focus on friendly faces, picture them enjoying your performance. Connect with your audience, smile, make eye contact, think of them as friends not critics. Visualize success, **not** what could go wrong, curtail thoughts of self-doubt.
3. **Utilize deep breathing techniques** to force yourself to relax before the start of and throughout the performance. Practice relaxation techniques at other times so you can develop the skill when you really need it.
4. **Listen to music prior to a performance.** World class divers often do this to calm themselves prior to a big dive as they visualize the doing of their best dive ever.
5. **Take a walk, do some exercises**, shake out your muscles to help ease your anxious feelings.
6. **Limit caffeine, sugar intake day of performance.** Don't rely on that Diet Coke to jump start your body, instead have a low-fat meal a few hours before the performance, complex carbohydrates will give you a more stable energy platform from which to perform and control your hunger.
7. **Act natural**, be yourself, laugh when you can, it will help you to relax. Make yourself look good, look professional. When you look good, you feel good. And you will play well!
8. **Watch your director.** His or her confidence can help boost yours and help you to relax.
9. **Eat a healthy diet**, get adequate sleep and live a healthy lifestyle, the same sorts of things a world class athlete would do to promote peak performance.
10. **Understand that stage fright** is usually worse before you begin to perform but often lessens once you get started and get into the flow of the performance. Smile, enjoy the ride and the exhilaration of a performance well done. Oh...and the applause!

J. Michael Allen ~ Nebraska State Chair



Virtuoso

On June 7, 28 ringers from across the country, representing 16 states, gathered in Raleigh, North Carolina, to participate in the inaugural offering of *Virtuoso*, an advanced ringing and performing opportunity—a sort of “fantasy camp” for handbell musicians. It was sponsored by the Raleigh Ringers and the clinician was Dr. William Payn.

Four of the ringers who attended have ties to Area 8: Lori Fenton (Des Moines, IA); Mike and Tami Lamb (recent transplants from Petersburg, IL to FL); and Cathy Rowe (Springfield, IL.)

The event was announced in early October, and participants had to submit a written application, a three minute performance DVD and at least two letters of recommendation, all by December 31. The applications were reviewed by a selection committee and applicants were notified in early February of their acceptance by David Harris, director of the Raleigh Ringers.

Participants were assigned positions based on submitted preferences and were provided with the repertoire list (a total of eight pieces) ahead of time so they could come to Raleigh fully prepared. And they were! From the first down beat, it was obvious that everyone had done their homework.

In addition to all the rehearsal and preparation ahead of time, the participants had about ten hours of rehearsal time with Dr. Payn between Friday noon and Saturday afternoon. The rehearsals all took place in the Raleigh Ringers facility, which, for handbell musicians, is sort of like a Cubs fan getting to play catch at Wrigley Field. Everyone had gathered early enough that rehearsal started *prior* to the scheduled start time! When was the last time *your* bell choir did that??

Following the final Saturday rehearsal, the ringers “helped” the Raleigh Ringers pack up everything for Sunday’s concert. If you’ve seen a RR concert, you know how much equipment they have for just themselves; then add on two additional choirs worth of tables, foam, bells and chimes.

On Sunday morning, everyone gathered for set up at Meymandi Hall, where *Virtuoso* would perform as the guest choir on The Raleigh Ringers spring concert that afternoon. Just setting up for such an event is a workout in itself. The organization and teamwork of the RRs is one of the reasons they are as successful as they are.

In between all of the ringing and performing, the participants were treated to outstanding hospitality by the members of The Raleigh Ringers, who provided shuttle service to and from all rehearsals, the performance and most importantly, meals! Saturday evening, the participants were treated to a North Carolina BBQ feast, accompanied by a special batch of *Virtuoso* home-brewed beer. Participants also received a personalized *Virtuoso* beer stein from which to enjoy it.

While the participants had a busy and intense three days, the level of excitement and enthusiasm remained high all weekend, and continued even after everyone had gone home, as was evidenced by all of the Facebook posts and addition of “life event” to several timelines. Everyone is, of course, now friends with everyone else, if they weren’t already. DVDs of the performance were mailed in mid-July, which allowed the participants to relive their *Virtuoso* experience, though it is definitely something they will never forget!

Lori Fenton ~ Des Moines, IA





Featured Choirs



EMBELLISH was founded in the fall of 1995 as a professional level group that promotes the art of handbell ringing by providing a high quality musical experience for diverse audiences. Based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Embellish is governed by a Board of Trustees, and is incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization. Yearly auditions are held for all positions in the sixteen-member ensemble. Embellish rings six and a half octaves of Malmark handbells and five and a half octaves of Malmark chimes. All bells and equipment are owned by the

group.

Under the direction of Stephanie Wiltse since 1998, Embellish has performed numerous concerts in the West Michigan area and other venues across the United States. Among their achievements are performances at the Directors Seminar in Saginaw, MI (2002), Pinnacle in Addison, TX (2004), the movie premier of *The Polar Express* in Grand Rapids, MI (2004), AGEHR National Festival Conference in Dayton, OH (2006), AGEHR Area I Festival Conference in Orono, ME (2009) and Pinnacle in Nashville, TN (2010). In addition, Embellish maintains a busy tour schedule which has included an international tour to France, a week-long tour to the East Coast as well as several shorter tours throughout Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, and Illinois. Visit us at <http://embellishhandbells.com/>



Stephanie Wiltse is one of the founders of Embellish, and has been music director of the group since 1998, during which time the group has performed for two Pinnacle (Handbell Musicians of America community/professional) events, various Area and National events, and numerous concerts throughout the United States and France. Stephanie has directed the Valenti Handbell Ensemble of Aquinas College since 1998 and has been director of the Calvin College Handbell Ensemble since the fall of 2001. She is also a handbell director and worship music leader at Trinity United Methodist Church. She has served as conductor for mass rings and directors' events in North Carolina, California, Indiana, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and New Mexico. In 2012, she was the U.S.A. female representative to direct a massed piece for the International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool, England, and shared conducting duties for an auditioned U.S.A. All-Star Ensemble at the same event. She has taught handbell classes for the Calvin College Symposium on Worship as well as at various Area and National Handbell Musicians of America events. Stephanie is in her final year of a six-year term on the National Board of Directors of the Guild. She is also a choral singer and a vocal soloist, and keeps a busy performance schedule throughout the greater Grand Rapids area.





Festival Schedule

Working Draft (7/29/13) Subject to Change

Wednesday, June 25th

6:00-9:00 pm

Registration/Setup

7:00-9:00 pm

Pre-Conference Director's Track

Thursday, June 26th

7:00-9:30 am

Registration/Setup

7:30-9:30 am

Pre-Conference Director's Track

9:00-9:15 am

Chaperone Meeting

9:00-9:45 am

Reading Session

10:00-11:15 am

Opening Bell and Mass Rehearsal

11:00-11:15 am

Faculty Meeting

11:15 am-12:30 pm

Divisions 1-3 Lunch
First Time Orientation

11:20 am-12:05 pm

Division 4 Rehearsal (Glasgow)

12:05-12:30 pm

Division 4 Lunch

12:30-1:30 pm

Division 3 Rehearsal (Judd)
Class Session A

1:45-2:15 pm

Mini-Concert #1

2:30-3:30 pm

Division 2 Rehearsal (Glasgow)
Class Session B

2:30-4:45 pm

Distinctly Davenport Rehearsal (Mathis)

3:45-4:45 pm

Division 3 Rehearsal (Judd)
Class Session C

5:00-6:15 pm

Mass Rehearsal

6:45-7:45 pm

Banquet

8:00 pm

Embellish Concert

Friday, June 27th

7:00-7:45 am

Reading Session

7:30-9:00 am

Director's Breakfast

8:00-8:45 am

Mass Rehearsal

(Continued on page 12)



Festival Schedule

Friday, June 27th cont'd.

9:00-10:00 am	Division 4 Rehearsal (Glasgow) Class Session D
10:15-11:15 am	Division 3 Rehearsal (Judd) Class Session E
11:30 am-12:45 pm	Buffet Lunch
12:15-12:45 pm	Mini-Concert #2
1:00-1:30 pm	Mini-Concert #3
1:45-2:45 pm	Division 2 Rehearsal (Glasgow) Class Session F
1:45-4:00 pm	Distinctly Davenport Rehearsal (Mathis)
3:00-4:00 pm	Division 1 Rehearsal (Judd) Class Session G
4:15-5:15 pm	Mass Rehearsal
5:30-6:15 pm	Youth Concert
6:15-8:00 pm	Dinner on Your Own
8:00 pm	Bells of the Lakes Concert
10:00 pm	Unpublished Music Reading Sessions

Saturday, June 28th

7:00-7:45 am	Reading Session
7:00-9:00 am	Distinctly Davenport Rehearsal (Mathis)
8:00-9:00 am	Division 1 Rehearsal (Judd) Class Session H
9:15-10:00 am	Showcase Concert
10:15-11:15 am	Division 2 Rehearsal (Glasgow) Class Session I
11:30 am-12:15 pm	Worship
12:15-1:15 pm	Lunch on Your Own
1:15-2:15 pm	Division 4 Rehearsal (Glasgow) Class Session J
2:30-3:15 pm	Distinctly Davenport Concert
3:30-4:30 pm	Division 3 Rehearsal (Judd) Class Session K
4:45-6:15 pm	Mass Rehearsal
6:15-7:00 pm	Box Dinner
7:30 pm	Closing Concert
9:30-11:00 pm	Reception



Featured Choirs



BELLS OF THE LAKES is a community handbell ensemble from the Twin Cities of Minnesota. Just completing their 18th year together, they play concerts, sponsor an annual festival and directors' seminar, and give workshops throughout the region. They regularly commission new works, premier music composed by their music director, William Mathis, and perform music from classical and recently published handbell literature. They record new releases for publishers, as well as their own CDs. Their website (bellsofthelakes.org) sells those CDs, singing bell batons, colorful gloves, and iTunes now has six of their handbell ringtones!

Performer Trivia

Weirdest thing to have happened to the group on a road trip?

Embellish (E): We were on a tour on the East Coast traveling by motor coach. We had left NJ and were headed north through NY state, when we heard some cars honking behind us. Eventually, a driver behind us zoomed past us and cut us off, stopped his car, climbed aboard our coach and began berating our driver. It turned out we were headed north on a road with a number of low bridges, and we were in danger of tearing the top right off our coach if we went under one of them! Complete with police escort, we had to BACK down the highway and take an exit to a road that had adequate clearance for our tour bus. We were very fortunate we weren't ticketed! Apparently our driver hadn't checked anything more than his GPS for our route.

Bells of the Lakes (BotL): The broken fuse on the truck in Fargo in January. Scott was under the truck for quite some time at 6:00 on a Sunday morning at 20 below.

Most unusual thing that has happened to a ringer on a trip?

E: On this same tour, Dennis, our fabulous bass bell ringer, suddenly came down with a severe headache and a violent case of vertigo right before our concert in Danbury, CT. Because we only had our tour bus, we had to leave Dennis in bed at the hotel, went to set up at our concert site, and make hasty assignment changes to cover the bass bells for our performance. The bus driver then went back to the hotel and found that Dennis was feeling much better, so the driver brought Dennis back to the venue and we played the concert as if nothing had happened!

BotL: The conductor forgetting his tux for a concert at a national event.

What is your most favorite song to conduct?

E: I think conducting Michael Glasgow's "Anthornis" played by the Agape Ringers and Embellish together at River Forest Presbyterian in Illinois was a real high point! I also love anything in a crazy meter, like "Gwerzy." OK, I also love the pieces I can count off and then go sit down while the group runs with it!

BotL: Mussorgsky "Pictures at an Exhibition"

Do you, as a director, still get nervous? If so, what causes the heart palpitations?

E: I feel fortunate that I don't get terribly nervous, unless it's a really bizarre, unusual situation. I have a great deal of trust in the group to come through despite any challenges we might face. One unique situation was in a 15th century church in the French countryside; an ancient, tiny little place, where we were doing a joint concert with a French vocal choir. We had to cram into the tightest setting we've ever experienced; we were very tight and cozy. When we first arrived, we could tell the vocal choir wasn't impressed by the idea of bells either. It was so gratifying to see their amazement when they saw what bells could do! Another very fun experience was when, all throughout

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Upcoming Concerts

2013	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sep 22 4p	Agape Ringers	La Grange Bible Church 850 S 7th Ave, La Grange, IL	www.agaperingers.org
Oct 11 7p	Rezound! <i>In Concert</i>	Trinity Lutheran 1229 Kathy Ln, Webster, IA	news@rezound.org 816-866-RING
Oct 13 3p	Rezound! <i>In Concert</i>	Plymouth Congregational 4126 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines, IA	news@rezound.org 816-866-RING
Oct 18 7p	Agape Ringers	Boyne City School Performing Arts Center 1025 Boyne Ave, Boyne City, MI	www.agaperingers.org <i>Tickets required</i>
Oct 19 4p	Agape Ringers	Woodside Church 1509 E Court St, Flint, MI	www.agaperingers.org <i>Tickets required</i>
Oct 27 4p	Gateway Ringers	Webster Groves Presbyterian 45 W Lockwood Ave, Webster Groves, MO	www.gatewayringers.org
Oct 27 4p	River City Ringers <i>Halloween Concert</i>	St Paul's UMC 5410 Corby, Omaha, NE	www.omahametrohandbells.org/main/index.php
Nov 3 4p	Gateway Ringers <i>Bells & Brats</i>	Good Shepherd Lutheran 327 Woods Mill Rd, Ballwin, MO	www.gatewayringers.org
Nov 9 2p	River City Ringers <i>Veteran's Day Concert</i>	Thanksgiving Lutheran 3702 Plaza, Bellevue, NE	www.omahametrohandbells.org/main/index.php
Nov 10 12-2p	River City Ringers <i>Christmas Open House</i>	Mulhall's Nursery 3615 N 120th, Omaha, NE	www.omahametrohandbells.org/main/index.php
Nov 17 3p	Agape Ringers with the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra	Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church 149 Brush Hill, Elmhurst, IL	www.elmhurstsymphony.org <i>Tickets required</i>
Dec 1 4p	River City Ringers	Eastridge Presbyterian Lincoln, NE	www.omahametrohandbells.org/main/index.php
Dec 6 7p	Concordia Handbell Choir <i>Christmas at Concordia</i>	St John's Lutheran 877 N Columbia Ave, Seward, NE	Lana Eiting lane.eiting@cune.edu
Dec 7 7p	Bells in Motion <i>Christmas Show</i>	Zion Lutheran Church 500 S Old Rt 66, Mt Zion, IL	www.bellsinmotion.org/
Dec 7 3p & 7p	Concordia Handbell Choir <i>Christmas at Concordia</i>	St John's Lutheran 877 N Columbia Ave, Seward, NE	Lana Eiting lane.eiting@cune.edu
Dec 8 2p	River City Ringers	Countryside Community 8787 Pacific, Omaha, NE	www.omahametrohandbells.org/main/index.php
Dec 8 3p	Concordia Handbell Choir <i>Christmas at Concordia</i>	St John's Lutheran 877 N Columbia Ave, Seward, NE	Lana Eiting lane.eiting@cune.edu



Upcoming Events

2013	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sep 27-28	Flint Hills Handbell Festival	YMCA Camp Wood Elmdale, KS	Kipp Willnauer www.handbellcamp.org
Oct 12	Webster City Handbell Festival Cathy Moglebust	Webster City Middle School Webster City, IA	Patrick Gagnon pga1820@gmail.com
Oct 19	Chime Festival Elizabeth Mulkey Kipp Willnauer	Good Shepherd Catholic 12800 W 75th St Shawnee, KS	Marilyn Lake lqrngldr@kc.rr.com 913-302-1010
Oct 26 9a-4p	Missouri Show Me Ring	1st UMC 301 SW Woods Chapel Rd Blue Springs, MO	Suame Comfort Music@raytowncc.org
Nov 16 8a-5p	Illinois Fall Ring Andrea Handley	Barrington UMC 98 Algonquin Rd Barrington, IL	www.il-agehr.org



Performer Trivia

(Continued from page 13)

France, we performed the Bizet "Farandole," and when we would get to the familiar "March of the Kings," all of the audience would hum along! What a thrill.

BotL: A flaky ringer, but of course we don't have any this year.

What would the group consider as the performance of a lifetime that they would not want to pass up?

E: Area Festivals are so much fun, because it is a total kick to play for our peers. Fellow handbell ringers know just how difficult it is to do what we do, but they are doing it too, and have every reason to judge. It would really be cool to take handbells where no one has ever heard them, and have the experience of showing the wonder of handbells to a whole new audience. How about Brazil? Iceland? Somewhere no handbell has gone before?

BotL: Opening concert for Area 12 the year the festival is in Maui.