



HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA

ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA

QUAVERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2014

Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

2014-2016

Chair-Elect:

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal

Treasurer:

Sharon Schmidt

Secretary:

Kathy Leonard

RESULTS

Congratulations to your newly elected officers in Area 8.

The Bylaw Revisions passed which will enable elections to be held via online voting in the future.

A special thank you to Marilyn Lake, Past Chair, and the nominating committee. And a thank you to those members who cast their ballots.

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Area 8 Festival
June 22-25
2016
Springfield, IL

Save The Date

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ELECTED	ELECTED	APPOINTED
CHAIR: Dolan Bayless c/o Kirkwood UMC 201 W Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122 314.966.8167 TREASURER: Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal 295 Town Center Blvd, Gilberts, IL 60136 630.699.3802 PAST CHAIR: Marilyn Lake 5748 W. 87th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207 913.302.1010	CHAIR-ELECT: Patrick Gagnon 211 S Victor (P.O. Box 314), Hubbard, IA 50122 641.373.2972 SECRETARY: Kathy Leonard 1st UMC 612 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan, KS 66502 785.532.4926  Like us on Facebook	COMMUNICATIONS: Pat Latshaw EDUCATION: Lauran Delancy FINANCIAL ADVISOR: Stephen Swanson MEMBERSHIP: Stephen Swanson QUAVERS: KC Congdon RESOURCE LIBRARIAN: Kathy Harrison WEBMASTER: Wendi Calkins

	ILLINOIS	IOWA	KANSAS	MISSOURI	NEBRASKA
Chair	Sharon Schmidt 28 Oriole Ct Naperville, IL 60540 630.369.9879	Patrick Gagnon (acting chair until filled)	Cherryl Cox 14684 W 152nd St Olathe, KS 66062 316.305.7055	Suanne Comfort 6108 Blueridge Blvd Raytown, MO 64133 816.353.1708	Mike Allen 1414 20th St P.O. Box 347 Aurora, NE 68818 402.694.3580 (H)
Treasurer	Debbie Perisho	Mary Lee Parks	Karla Denton	Cathy Leiboult	Janet Chiocchi
Secretary	Beth McFarland		Staci Cunningham	Open	Nancy Youngman
Web	Gary Dietschweiler	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Wendi Calkins-Levitt	Janet Chiocchi
Other	Membership Open Registrar Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal Chime Mentor Diane Oster Chime Coordinator Aimee Legatzke Shelley May Hutchison Food Coordinator Anna Piro Handbell Services Debi Robey Student Liaison Ben Hafner	Historian Tina Gehrke Chimes Aaron Hansen Eastern Rep Cat Walker Western Rep Yvonne Johnson Des Moines Area Rep John Cook	Past Chair Kathy Leonard Chimes Shirley Myers	St Louis Area Sherry Boland KC Area Kathy Ford At Large Marilyn Droke Kathy Harrison Chime Chair Anne Miller	Registrar Linda Ashley Chimes Coordinator Nancy Youngman Byron Jensen Vicky Vandervort Joyce Miller Angela Wright Natalie Radcliffe Charles Cohen Deann Nicolaus Jessica Kite

The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613
 phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir

QUAVERS OFFICE

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED AT REHEARSAL

It seems as though it has been a long time since we gathered in Davenport, Iowa, for *Ring Davenport*. Since the festival, I have represented Area 8 at National Seminar in Atlanta, Georgia, where we heard many outstanding choirs, participated in high level classes, enjoyed getting reacquainted with our clinicians Beth Judd, Michael Glasgow, and Bill and Carolynne Mathis, and joined over 500 other directors and ringers for an enriching experience! As a part of the opening banquet, the outgoing chairs of the various areas were recognized and presented with a plaque for their service. I am very pleased to celebrate the leadership of Area 8 personnel at the national level—especially recognizing KC Congdon and Sharon Schmidt.

From the evaluations that you wrote during the days of the *Ring Davenport* festival, you seemed to be pleased with the classes, the festival clinicians, the massed ringing, and all things festival. I have read some very positive critiques that will enable the board to make improvements to the 2016 festival in Springfield, Illinois. Start saving your dollars, save the dates of June 22-25, 2016, and let's find more humorous stories about the festival. I always say "there is nothing like a road trip to festival with a bell choir!"

I am very eager to read the articles that follow in this issue on the theme of "a funny thing happened on the way to ..." I am sure that all of my ringers could tell many stories that would embarrass this director to the point of blushing! I will leave it to you to identify the ringers from Kirkwood United Methodist Church and solicit their funny stories.

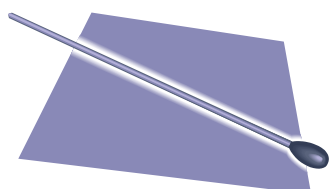
So here is my story as to a funny thing that happened at rehearsal: The place shall remain nameless but let's just say that it was a former church in another area. As can happen, ringers often provide humor and horseplay, and so begins the story of "Dr. Ding", a pathologist who was an excellent ringer. He was making fun of the gyro ring and executed the gyro much too close to his eyebrow! You know how facial and head wounds bleed, well that was the case with Dr. Ding whose blood immediately began spurting from his brow! Thank goodness the wife of the local plastic surgeon was also in the bell choir! She called her husband and then both Dr. Ding and the plastic surgeon's wife were off to the office for several stitches. The bad pun is that story was told numerous times and kept all of us in "stitches" as to the escapades of the gyro and Dr. Ding.

May you not have the experience of Dr. Ding and may you always practice safe ringing! In case you do not know, the lip of the handbell is a very sharp object!

Dolan Bayless ~ [Area 8 Chair](#)

JOKE TIME

How many directors does it take to change a light bulb?



No one knows because no one ever watches the bell director.

WHAT HAPPENS ON THE BUS, STAYS ON THE BUS, EXCEPT WHEN IT DOESN'T!

The Agape Ringers recently went on a weeklong tour, and after 7 days and 7 nights, which is 168 hours of togetherness on a bus, there are bound to be stories. For example...did you know that Karl Kay has a tattoo? Our bass ringer extraordinaire recently purchased a tablet, and thought he would take advantage of the long bus ride to Oklahoma and our tech-savvy folks to learn how to work it. Many of us were surprised by this recent purchase, as we don't think we have even seen Karl with a cell phone. This surprise was expressed with "Karl, you have a tablet!" But by the time the comment made it up to the front of the bus, Karl had a tattoo. Have *you* played telephone lately?

Entertaining adults can be just as difficult as entertaining a five year old, so our wonderful tour committee goes to great lengths to find attractions that all can enjoy. Along this year's route was Grand Falls in Joplin, Missouri, one of Missouri's most scenic destinations. The description read: The largest, continuously flowing natural waterfall in Missouri, Grand Falls plunges 25 feet to a solid ledge before flowing southward. So we were imagining a glorious waterfall with trails to hike. When we arrived, we were slightly confused by a tiny little waterfall, wider than high, and just off the side of the road. However, we looked more closely and realized that it was quite beautiful. We enjoyed some peaceful moments and took the opportunity for a group photo.

Tours are a lot of work but they are also a lot of fun. We always enjoy reminiscing about past tours and we're sure these stories will be told many times over the years to come, as are ones from the past—always check the time zones! What are your stories?

Sharon Schmidt ~ [Illinois State](#) Chair ~ and Sarah Ward

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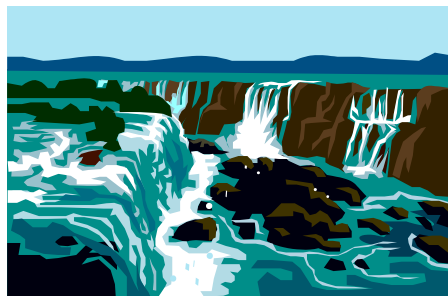
Up to \$5000 scholarship award for qualified ringers

For more information contact:

[Dr. Byron Jensen](#)
 402.461.7361



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STORY TIME

Ring Davenport—ah, the memories!

Should I tell the story about Michael Glasgow and the cheesecake?

Should I tell the story about Michael Glasgow and the wedding cake?

Should I tell the story about Michael Glasgow and the bridal party?

Should I tell the story about the angry bridesmaid and the “gremlins?”

Should I tell the story about the incredible bass ringing in Bells of the Lakes?

Should I tell the story about the Embellish ringer who almost gave birth on stage?

Should I tell the story about finding two new awesome committee members? (Done)

Should I tell the story about boring people literally to tears while I talked about intervals?

Should I tell the story about boring people to tears while I talked about bass bells?

Should I tell the story about Monica and Christopher finding their very own Coke bottles?

Should I tell the story about the poor hotel contact person who was traumatized by the amount of equipment we had to bring in to the Radisson?

Should I tell the story about “PH’s” amazing speech at the biennial meeting?

Should I tell the story about almost being in tears because Mrs. Cappell likes our events?

Should I tell the story about how Sharon & Gerry Schmidt celebrated their wedding anniversary by helping us load the truck with the bell sets from Chicagoland?

Should I tell the story about how the entire area was flooded out the day **after** we left?

Should I tell the story about how I remembered **almost** every time about the one-way streets?

I can’t possibly tell them all, but an Area 8 Handbell Festival is worth everything that it takes to make it happen. It is worth every ounce of sweat, every pound of bell loan, every dollar for gas, and every minute spent to get ready, get there, and make amazing music.

Should I tell the story about how **unbelievably excited** I am for 2016 in Springfield at the Prairie Capitol Convention Center and President Abraham Lincoln Hotel? Over the next two years that will be my all-consuming job so that we can tell the story all over again.

Patrick Gagnon ~ Acting [Iowa State](http://www.agghehr-ia.org) Chair (the almost-Chair)

Please do all you can to support the new state chair for Iowa, **John Cook**. He is Minister of Music and Fine Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, IA. Originally from Atlanta, John holds a Master's in Music from Butler University in Indianapolis, IN, and has studied bell techniques with Nancy Jessup and Michelé Sharik. He has been ringing and directing handbells for 15 years, and he and his wife Lisa, who he met through handbells, have four children. John is an avid fisherman and once caught a 25 pound walleye using his bare teeth. That last little bit is in there to see if anyone reads these.

Please give your Iowa love to our new secretary for the state committee. **Donna Sprague** rings at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. She was born in Fort Dodge and her family moved to Cedar Rapids in 1995 with MidAmerican Energy. Donna retired in 2007 and works part-time at Timberline Mfg. The Spragues are a combined family with 5 grown children and 10 grandchildren. The oldest just got married and the youngest is 8. Donna has been playing handbells for almost 40 years. Her hobbies include reading, golfing, quilting, crocheting and learning new crafts. Donna and her husband are avid University of Iowa sports fans and attend most home games.

My funny story about festival is that I went with an incomplete committee and came home with a **full slate** after meeting these awesome people who will see the best way forward for Iowa. Keep liking us on Facebook, keep checking our beautiful [website](http://www.agghehr-ia.org), and keep attending our awesome events. By the way, have you received your registration packet for the October 2014 Webster City Handbell Festival? If I never met you, I apologize, but it has been a true blessing to be the Iowa chair these past few years. I hope to be an effective Area 8 chair, and that our paths will continue to cross in the years to come.

Patrick Gagnon (retired Iowa Chair)

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED...

I hope your summer has been filled with funny quips, great friends, and lots of handbells. This article isn't filled with techniques or how to ideas. The following remind you of your summer fun and encourage you to spend next summer traveling with your friends and bells.

Sometimes when you travel, your body doesn't always remember you've switched beds, or that the person sleeping next to you is not your alarm clock. Just an FYI, most roommates really don't appreciate it when they're slapped in the face first thing in the morning because you are trying to hit the snooze alarm. With any luck, they like you enough to finish the trip with you.

Sharing a room with some of your group usually means that someone sleeps on a roll away bed. My roommate, having slept a couple of days on the roll away, felt something in the bottom of the bed. She pulled back the sheets and found a dark sock. She didn't have any socks like that, and neither did anyone else in the group. She says, "that's not my sock and I sure hope they wore underwear!"

While stopping at the rest stop for a quick break, and hoping to get back on the road, what would you do if you and the youth you're supervising came back to your car to find a dead person lying on the ground nearby? That's right—you'd just get in your car and continue on your way to the festival.

Again at the rest stop, a clinician wearing a handbell shirt was stopped by another person asking, "Do you ring handbells?" The clinician, groaning on the inside, started with his standard answer of "Yes, but handbells aren't just for Christmas...." The other person agreed and, come to find out, was headed to the same festival as a clinician.

Sharing hotel space with more than one conference sometimes means moving drums to a different room to accommodate the other conference. Moving once is not completely uncommon, but moving drums *four* times in *five* days is asking a bit much.

Packing space is usually at a premium, so if your group is in charge of bringing all the t-shirts for the festival and you are also hauling drums, consider using the drums to put the t-shirts in. You'd be surprised at how many shirts you can get into the tall drum.

Always go back and double check you've packed everything in the room or the hall. If you forget to check, hours may go by before you realize that you left the tall drum and all the toys that go with the drums sitting in the hall.

Handbells have afforded me most of these funny memories and the friendships of people who shared them with me. Share your funnies with us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/KansasHandbellMusiciansOfAmerica>.

Cherryl Cox ~ [Kansas State](#)



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE CHOIR TRIP...

The Raytown Christian Church youth choir trip went to Boston, New York, and Niagara Falls in 1993. One day we took the youth to Cedar Point, the famed amusement park at Sandusky, Ohio, on the banks of Lake Erie. Even though it was a very hot day for northern Ohio, the kids had a great time on the roller coasters and other rides in the park. We left Cedar Point mid-afternoon to drive a short distance to Clyde, a small town where we were to do a service that evening. Because of their day in the sun at the amusement park, the youth were tired and dehydrated when we arrived and began preparations for the evening. The sanctuary of the small Christian Church was one where we were challenged to find room to set up all of our bell tables. In northern Ohio there are not enough hot days to warrant air conditioning in many facilities, so there was no cooling in the small sanctuary. It was very warm as we carried in bells and tables and struggled to fit everything in the space available. Two of the girls began feeling faint as we set up equipment. One of our sponsors was a nurse, and she began giving them liquids and trying to cool them down. During our setup time we discovered that the Ohio volunteer firefighters were having their annual state convention that weekend in Clyde, and fire trucks were going up and down the street in front of the church. From time to time they set off an occasional celebratory siren! When all was ready in the sanctuary the church served us dinner, and we fell over each other getting dressed in the cramped space provided. Nurse Carol was vigilant during our preparations as some of the youth were feeling rather limp.

The residents of Clyde turned out in force for our service. Our choir trip programs have always consisted of a 30-40 minute concert by the Inspiration Ringers, followed by the youth choir presentation. Somehow we got through the handbell part of the service without losing anyone to the heat, but the energy and stress of ringing took its toll as the sanctuary grew warmer. As the choir began its musical, young people began to grow faint. A pale soprano left the platform and sat down by Nurse Carol, who had a cold can of pop ready to put on the back of her neck. Another soprano, and then an alto wilted and left the choir.

To add to the stress of the warm sanctuary and fainting choir members, the volunteer fire fighters' celebration was heating up outside. During our ringing and singing, the fire trucks were screaming up and down the street with the firemen and their girlfriends and their beer cans in the back of the trucks having a great party. Nurse Carol kept using more cold pop cans, and took some youth out to lie down. The combination of the hot sanctuary, the choir members continuing to drop like flies, and the sirens screaming outside made the evening one of those occasions when you tell yourself, "This too shall pass"!

After the service two choir members were so sick that we took them to the emergency room of the local hospital. By the next morning everything was calm, the youth were fine, the weather was cooler, and the fire fighter parties were quiet. In retrospect it is funny, but at the time the day was a perfect storm of a disaster. Clyde, Ohio, was etched in our memories forever.

Suanne Comfort ~ [Missouri State](#) Chair



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED DURING OUR CONCERTS...

I don't think it's possible to be involved with a group of individuals for 20 years and not have something funny happen now and again.

My first happening relates to the first time my choir of six months, Proclamation, was asked to play at another church, and I understood we were to be the only entertainment. We prepared a 30 minute concert and after many rehearsals, we were ready to perform. At the church, we learned that we were one of several acts performing, and that we were the finale act. My ringers were *nervous* to begin with, and having to wait a long 45 minutes to perform did nothing to lessen their anxiety.

When it came time to play, we did fine until the next to last piece we prepared—*Visions* by Douglas Wagner—a level one piece for 2-octaves comprised of two movements. The first was a slow number designed to set the mood while the second was a faster piece with a lot of eighth notes and a narrator.

We got through the first movement without any problems, but midway through the second piece, one ringer got lost and simply quit playing. Soon her neighbors got lost and they stopped. It continued until no one was playing, but thankfully the narrator just kept on reading his part, and I kept waving my arms even though no one was playing. We finally got to a place near the end of the piece where the music and the narrator are supposed to stop and then we joined up and completed the piece. If it hadn't been for the deer-in-the-headlights looks on everyone's faces, no one would have ever guessed we had no clue where we were for most of the second movement.

A second funny happening occurred during our annual Christmas concert at a local nursing home. We had one listener, an older lady, who every year, repeatedly asked if we could play "In Heaven There Is No Beer" and every year, I kept telling her I was looking for the music.

We continued with our Christmas concert and our closing number was an arrangement of *Silent Night*. It had two verses with a two measure interlude before the start of the second verse. Well, the same lady started singing at the top of her lungs with us during the first verse of *Silent Night*. Unfortunately, she didn't have the same arrangement we had, because when we finished the first verse and she saw we were continuing to play, she kept on singing the first verse again, while we played our two measure interlude before we got to the main tune again. For the entire second verse she was two measures ahead of us. We had a heck of a time concentrating on our music, trying to keep our place while she, and by now, several others were singing ahead of us. They finally finished and then two measures later we did too. Everyone had a good laugh and was certainly in the festive spirit by that time. It just goes to show, when humans are involved, anything can happen.

J. Michael Allen ~ [Nebraska State Chair](#)



MARKETING 101

As members of Handbell Musicians of America, you have found a certain value for your membership. Your National and Area Boards of Directors, as well as State Committees, are working to keep the value of membership fresh, informative, and relevant to all constituencies of the Guild.

Guild—that word has a purpose and reason why it's used for our organization. Dictionary.com defines *guild* as “an organization of persons with related interests, goals, etc., especially one formed for mutual aid or protection.” Notice the words monarchy, hierarchy, oligarchy, or even Board are not present in the definition. Handbell Musicians of America is **your** guild, **your** association, **your** vehicle to unite with others to promote our musical art form. The Guild is as grassroots as they come, with members either looking for your help or wanting to help you. This means, as a member of the Guild, you are a leader, champion of the cause, role model (how about those for additional titles besides member?!?)... and... **you** are the best advertisement to others outside the Guild to encourage them to become members.

We are blessed as an association to have a great support structure of dedicated and capable talent in our National staff and Board. They provide tools and resources for us on a grand scale. Locally, however, it's up to you to urge your friends and colleagues to join your Guild. You have a better and more intimate connection than a postcard or email mailing from the Guild. Your influence with someone just down the road, even if a slight connection, is more effective and more convincing than a flyer or advertisement they may see about Handbell Musicians of America. So, Mary Martsalot, Randy Ringsright, Carl Countsoutloud, and Dianne Directordiva, we need you on the front lines in your local churches, schools, and community groups to fan the grass roots fire for membership.

How would you help to fan that fire? What benefits would you share to convince someone to join the Guild? Would it be the informative *Overtones*, the ability to participate in official Guild events like National Seminar, Area Festivals, Distinctly Bronze, Master Class, and other sponsored events? Do you value the ability to access the great member's only resources on National's website? What about the connections you've made to ringers, directors, and clinicians?

When I began my journey as a director for my group, it was my first experience in front of the tables. While I knew what a lot of the funky symbols meant and how to wave my hands, I didn't know how to execute those techniques, or to omit certain notes with those <>, or what to do to explain a technique or rhythm with bell changes. In short, I was lost, my group frustrated and floundering, and a set of bells fast headed to the closet for indefinite storage.

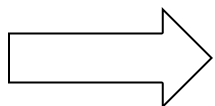
But I found where to turn, and I found help from the Guild and its members. The connections I've made with Jack and Jill Ringer (names changed to protect the not-so-innocent) have been invaluable. Because of them, I've been able to share the joys of ringing with other churches as well as my denomination's region. Because of the knowledge attained from my membership in the Guild, I've taken on a position with a retirement village. This fun, no-sweat group is the highlight of my week. I encourage you to consider a similar group! Because of my membership in the Guild, I met some local colleagues and we formed a community group ... a long desired resource in the community. And because of the wisdom imparted to me from the resources available through the Guild, my skills as a director have improved. My group now works on musicality more than notes and techniques. The congregation looks for their bell "fix" in service and interest in ringing is spreading from a choir of 3-octaves to 5-octaves. Actually it's more than 5 octaves. Because of no small part of the Guild, where my church nearly had a \$15,000 dust collector, interest is such that we're on the cusp of making my second ensemble into a 3-octave choir. My church's average attendance: 70-75. I'll let you calculate those percentages.

I still want to learn from you. My request isn't difficult at all; quite anecdotal, actually. I would love to hear from you why you continue to be a member of the Guild. What is the value you have received from your membership? What experiences would you share with a potential member and what would you say to convince them to join? Furthermore, what are some ways you can think of or have done to bring in new members? A Christmas gift for a friend? A special offering for a church you visited? What about "bring a friend to Guild?" Invite directors and members along to a workshop? Is your community group a member of the Guild, and do you give two minutes to discuss the benefits of the Guild at your concerts? I believe that for the price of one fast food value meal per month, you get something of so much more value from **your** Guild. Send your thoughts to [membership](#). I'll be back in an issue or two to share with you some ways to help continue grow the Guild and keep those roots strong for the next generation of ringers.

Stephen M. Swanson ~ [Membership Chair](#)

Membership

2014	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sep 12-13	Flint Hills Handbell Fest Various	YMCA Camp Wood Elmdale, KS	Kipp Willnauer
Oct 11	Webster City Handbell Festival Lauran Delancy, Patrick Gagnon, Cathy Moglebust, Rezound!	Webster City, IA	Iowa
Oct 18 8:30a-Noon	Youth Handchime Festival— 10th Anniversary	Good Shepherd Catholic 12800 West 75th St Shawnee, KS	Marilyn Lake
Oct 18 9a-6p	2014 Cedar Valley Handbell Festival Cathy Moglebust	First UMC 718 Clay St Cedar Falls, IA	Aaron Hansen
10/25 8:30a-4p	Fall Show Me Ring Rezound!	First UMC 301 SW Woods Chapel Rd Blue Springs, MO	Missouri
2015	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
2/28 8:45a-4p	Ring in the Spring Bronze—Jason Krug Coppers—Lauran Delancey	Church of the Resurrection 13720 Roe Ave Leawood, KS	Gwen Gepford
4/10-11	Nebraska Spring Ring The Agape Ringers	St Mark UMC Lincoln, NE	Nebraska

CONCERT LISTINGS? **CLICK HERE**

Concerts

VIRTUOSO

An Extraordinary Performance Experience

CLINICIAN: Dr. William Payn

DATE: Friday, June 12, 2015 -
Sunday, June 14, 2015

LOCATION: Raleigh, North Carolina

Virtuoso was created by The Raleigh Ringers to be a unique opportunity for 29 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, 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 December 1, 2014.

Email RRadmin@rr.org for an application packet. More information can be found at www.rr.org/events/virtuoso

The Raleigh Ringers, 8516 Sleepy Creek Drive, Raleigh, NC 27613 www.rr.org 919-847-7574