



## Nick Hanson:

*He Defines "More Than Meets the Eye!"*

By Beth Ann Edwards

### What's Inside

- 3 Signs of Creativity & Genius
- 5 Etiquette: A Ringer's & Director's Guide to Difficult Situations
- 7 Have you used your mentor lately?
- 8 A Community Choir Success
- 9 Reaching up a Level
- 10 Chime Loan Program
- 11 Area 8 Handbell Musicians of America Festival 2020
- 12 Questions about the Area 8 Festival?
- 13 Upcoming Events

If you work with young handbell ringers, I hope you have told them about YouthFest, the ringing event that takes place during the Area 8 Festival. Nick, the YouthFest clinician, is one of the nation's leading handbell composers and clinicians, and he loves to work with young people!

### Here's the public Nick:

- He grew up in Iowa, which is in Area 8, and has been ringing since he was nine years old.
- He directs four handbell choirs in a private school in Virginia and directs an adult/youth handbell choir in his church.
- He has his own website (8bithandbell.com).
- He writes, arranges, and publishes handbell music, much of which is arranged from tunes that are well-known with youth.
- Nick is a ringing member and assistant to the director of the Virginia Bronze Handbell Ensemble.
- He has been a clinician at local, area, national, and international handbell events, and event organizers keep asking him back! (He was a clinician for Area 8 in 2012).
- His undergraduate degree is in music with a handbell emphasis, and he has completed graduate coursework work in handbells.



I first met Nick at a Handbell Musicians conducting masterclass. Nick is easy to ring with, and he's an amazing conductor. He's laid-back, and always has a smile on his face. Yet he knows exactly how to bring out the best musicianship from everyone behind the table. A well-respected handbell friend he has worked with for many years once told me that he is the best handbell ringer she has ever met. Nick is also one of the most humble people I have met, and he has been so easy-going and willing to make sure our Area 8 YouthFest is all about the young ringers. He continues to work on his conducting, and was chosen to work with Dr. Bill Payn as an Associate Conductor for Distinctly Bronze. This opportunity put him in front of 100 advanced-level ringers, and he was under the microscope every second he was on the podium.

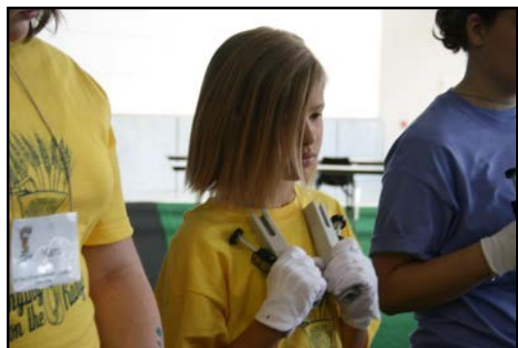
If you bemoan the (somewhat mistaken) idea that our handbell population is aging, then I ask you to invite youth grades 6 through 12 to attend the Area 8 Festival in Overland Park, Kansas, on June 18-19-20. Perhaps you or your organization are in a position to offer a scholarship. The registration price is intentionally kept low so that we can encourage young ringers to attend (\$125 per person, and it includes three meals). I took a youth choir to the 2002 Area 8 Festival, and several of those young people are still ringing bells. Miracles happen at Area 8 Festivals!

**For more information about YouthFest, visit the Area 8 website:**

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/youthfest-2020/>

Registration information can be found at

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/registration/>



## YouthFest 2020 Daily Schedule

### Thursday, June 18, 2020

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Registration

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

Rehearsal/classes with Nick Hanson

### Friday, June 19, 2020

8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Rehearsal, classes, concerts

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Dinner, Shopping with Vendors

8:00 pm

Featured Concert

Columbia Handbell Ensemble

### Saturday, June 20, 2020

8:00 am – 11:30 am

Rehearsal/classes

11:45 am – 1:00 pm

Lunch & YouthFest Concert,  
Nick Hanson, Director

1:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Festival classes or free time

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm

BronzeFest Concert

4:30pm – 7:30 pm

Free time and dinner

7:30 pm

Final concert,

Festival Massed Ring  
and Division Choirs

## New Members

**Lindsey Ferguson**

Gering United Methodist Church  
Gering, Nebraska

**Chip Handrich**

Second Baptist Church  
Liberty, Missouri

**CJ Jurgens**

Bennett, Nebraska

**Noa Jurgens**

Bennett, Nebraska

**Karen Stafford**

Zion United Church of Christ  
Union, Missouri

**Lyn Wheatley**

Peace Evangelical Lutheran  
Church  
Des Moines, Iowa

# Signs of Creativity & Genius

Beth Ann Edwards, Area 8 Chair

It's true confession time: my office is messy. Piles of papers on my desk, credenza, and shelves hold file folders, books of music, bulletins, minutes from meetings, assignment sheets, concert programs ... well, you get the idea. Filing and cleaning my office always go to the bottom of my to-do list. Once I start cleaning or filing, I make progress, but on a day-to-day basis, everything else seems to take precedence. Does this sound familiar?

In an attempt to keep order, I have devoted three-day weekends to nothing but cleaning and filing. (This option also feeds my obsession with before-and-after TV shows.) I have also hired junior high students to file, and from time to time I've hosted a "filing party" for any and all ringers, providing dinner and beverages after a couple of hours. Most recently, one of my adult ringers has agreed to file for me two or three days a month, when her work schedule allows. Gail is my new best friend!

I wonder sometimes if this messiness is a character flaw. The internet can produce research to support just about anything, so I did a little research. I quickly found an article about the correlation between a messy desk and creativity/genius. Check it out at <https://www.inc.com/geoffrey-james/a-messy-desk-is-a-sign-of-genius-according-to-science.html>. Highlights of the article include the following:

... the notion that a clean desk makes you more productive is absurd twaddle. Researchers at the University of Minnesota recently tested how well students came up with new ideas when working in orderly versus disorderly work areas. The study showed:

"Participants in the messy room generated the same number of ideas for new uses as their clean-room counterparts. But their ideas were rated as more interesting and creative when evaluated by impartial judges."

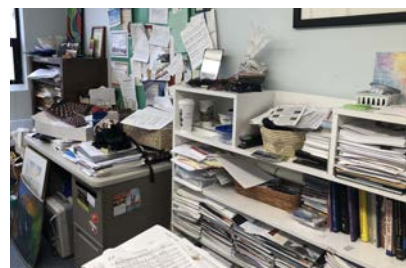
This connection between a messy desk and productivity is often missed because few people consider the cost of neatness, according to Eric Abrahamson and David H. Freedman, authors of *A Perfect Mess*:



*Albert Einstein's Desk*



*Beth Ann's Desk*



*Beth Ann's Office*



# Festival Committee

## CHAIR & PROGRAM BOOK

Beth Ann Edwards

## ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Sharon Schmidt

## EDUCATION

Patrick Gagnon

## TREASURER

Lori Fenton

## REGISTRAR

Linda Ashley

## BRONZEFEST

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal

## YOUTHFEST

Laura Kopff

## LOCAL LIAISON 1

Kipp Willnauer

## LOCAL LIAISON 2

Trey Bures

## LOCAL LIAISON 3

Carol Fleegee

## WORSHIP SEMINAR

Gwen Gepford/Nancy Youngman

## DIRECTORS SEMINAR

Cheri Leigh

## CONCERTS

Pat Latshaw

## INDEPENDENT RINGERS

Laura Kopff

## CLINICIAN HOST

Christie White

## PHOTOGRAPHER/PINS

Wendi Levitt

## VENDORS

Kendall Ladd

## RINGING FLOOR MANAGER

Beth McFarland

## CONFERENCE BAG

Kirsten Hendricksen

"That messiness and disorder can be so useful wouldn't seem such a counterintuitive notion if it weren't for the bias towards neatness programmed into most of us. Specifically, people tend to ignore the cost of neatness, discount the possibility that messiness can't always be excised no matter how hard it's fought, and trust the idea that mess can work better than neatness."

Albert Einstein, Mark Twain, Steve Jobs, and Mark Zuckerberg prefer(ed) to work at messy desks. Albert Einstein famously pointed out that "If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, of what, then, is an empty desk a sign?"

Currently, our culture values clean spaces and minimalism. This way of thinking could invoke guilt in us because we can't seem to get our offices to look like the photos in the magazines or on television. We need to remember that for the creative person, clutter often acts as a sparkplug. Another source, Andrew Tate, writes at [www.canva.com/learn/creative-desks/](http://www.canva.com/learn/creative-desks/):

"A clean desk looks so inviting. It feels like you are ready for work and your mind is focused on the task ahead. But by removing any semblance of self from your working environment you are stopping your brain from wandering and making the connections required for creativity. The chaos required to jumpstart ideas isn't there and you can find that you might be more productive, but not on anything creative."

The right balance is one that works for you. Some people are neat by design and others love a mess. Don't clean your workspace because you think it needs to be done, and certainly not to 'clear your mind.' Your mind needs those little ideas floating in the periphery so that it can find the random, complicated, creative answers for your work.

So, all of you handbell directors with messy desks, don't blame it on poor time management or failed prioritization. Stop wringing your hands and start the celebration! Surrounding yourself with all of the accoutrements of our profession actually stimulates creativity and brilliant decisions. And finally, I hope that all of you can find a "Gail" in your life!



*Steve Job's Desk*



*Thomas Edison's Desk*



*Mark Twain's Office*

# *Etiquette: A Ringer's & Director's Guide to Difficult Situations*

By Kirsten Hendricksen, Chicago Area Co-Chair

*Kirsten Hendrickson is a current member of the Agape Ringers in Chicago, IL, and Bells In Motion in Springfield, IL. She began ringing at age 11 when she was asked to sub at a friend's church and has been ringing ever since!*

*As a member of The Agape Ringers and Bells In Motion, Kirsten has performed and taught at Area festivals. She plans to eventually attend events in all areas.*

*Kirsten has a BA in Biochemistry, Cell, and Molecular Biology from Drake University. After working for a number of years as the manager of a medical clinic, Kirsten went back to school and is now pursuing a Masters of Science in Nursing degree. She is currently living in Chicago, IL, where in her spare time she can be found reading non-textbooks while lying on the couch with her cat.*

## **Volume 1: Wrong Notes**

It happens at all levels of ringing; someone has played a wrong note. How should we handle wrong notes? The response depends on the situation.

### **The First Wrong Note**

**Ringers:** If you know you are guilty of playing a noticeably wrong note, confess. It will save rehearsal time if the director knows that you know that we all know you grabbed the wrong bell. A simple "sorry" spoken over the music is sufficient. If your wrong note went unnoticed, congratulations! No further action is necessary, but correct it on the next run through.

**Directors:** Don't stop when you hear the first wrong note. Hopefully a confession is coming from the mistaken ringer. A look, somewhere on the spectrum of "questioning" to "scathing" depending on the severity of the infraction, is appropriate. If no confession is made, it's possible the ringer thought their wrong note had gone un-noticed and it will be corrected the next time through. It is also possible that the ringer is unaware they played a wrong note. The only way to know is to run through the section again and see if the mistake has been corrected.

### **The Second Wrong Note**

**Ringers:** If you know you made the same mistake again, confess again. Be aware that the look from the director will move closer to the "scathing" end of the spectrum with repeat infractions. If it's a difficult note to get to, start looking for options to give something away, especially if you know the final tempo will be faster than the current one. If you are a ringer standing by someone who has played a wrong note twice in a row without confessing, consider politely bringing it to their attention. A simple "Hey, did you notice that A#?" or "Oh, did you see the key changed at the top of the page?" will suffice. Depending on the ringer, waiting for a third wrong note or allowing the director to address the situation are valid options.



Kirsten Hendricksen

### **Central/Southern Illinois State Chair**

Kendall Ladd

### **Chicago Area Co-Chairs**

Beth McFarland

Kirsten Hendricksen

### **Western IL Rep**

Don Wood

### **Secretary**

Beth McFarland

### **Registrar**

Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal

### **Events**

Sharon Schmidt

### **Music Librarian**

Beth McFarland

### **Handbell Services Rep**

Debi Robey

### **Handchime Loan Program Coordinator**

Patti Mangis

### **Food Coordinator**

Anna Piro

# Area 8 Board

## CHAIR

Beth Ann Edwards

## CHAIR-ELECT

Sharon Schmidt

## SECRETARY

Pat Latshaw

## TREASURER

Lori Fenton

## PAST CHAIR

Kristin Kalitowski- Kowal

## COMMUNICATIONS

Laura Kopff

## CHIMES CHAIR

Nancy Youngman

## FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Stephen Swanson

## MEMBERSHIP

See Past Chair & Chair-Elect

## RESOURCE LIBRARIAN

Charlton Pendry

## WEBMASTER

Wendi Calkins-Levitt

## EDUCATION

Patrick Gagnon

## HISTORIAN

Christie White

## ILLINOIS CHAIRS

Kendall Ladd, Beth McFarland,  
Kirsten Hendrickson

## IOWA CHAIR

Patrick Gagnon

## KANSAS CHAIR

Kipp Willnauer

## MISSOURI CHAIR

Cheri Leigh

## NEBRASKA CHAIR

Nancy Youngman

Please visit the Area 8  
website for contact  
information and bios.

**Directors:** If the repeat offender has confessed again, employ the dirty look and keep going. You may consider stopping to allow the ringer time to arrange giving the bell away or figuring out how to get to the right note. If there is no confession and you know where the wrong note is, either stop or make a note to correct it before the next run through. It's possible a neighboring ringer has brought the wrong note to the attention of the oblivious ringer.

## The Whole Group Missed the Key Change

**Ringers:** Mark the key change so you know it's coming, especially those tricky ones right at the page turn. Why do publishers do that? A question for another day...

**Directors:** Stop. It will save rehearsal time to go back and try the key change again now that everyone knows it's coming.

---

*Why do publishers  
do that? A question  
for another day...*

---

## Wrong Notes in Performance

**Ringers:** Don't let your face or body language show your guilt. The audience will only know something is wrong if you give them a hint. Smile and save your tears for the dressing room.

**Directors:** As your back is to the audience, you may employ the dirty look. Be aware that dirty looks may make it harder for ringers to keep a straight face and the audience unaware. A smile, used appropriately, may both reduce stress and increase guilt in some ringers.

These are just a few basic wrong note scenarios, hopefully the suggestions here can help you navigate the wrong notes that arise in your rehearsals.



STAY UP TO DATE WITH US!

 <a href="http://www.rr.org">www.rr.org</a>	 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RaleighRingers">/RaleighRingers</a>
 <a href="https://twitter.com/RaleighRingers">@RaleighRingers</a>	 <a href="https://www.instagram.com/RaleighRingers">@RaleighRingers</a>

# *Have you used your mentor lately?*

By Patrick Gagnon, Iowa Chair

Greetings, friendly Area 8 Handbell Musicians! I come bearing information and ideas about playing the handbells! I come with experiences small and great with so many ringers, directors, and composers! I come with the message that it is time for you to contact your Area 8 MENTOR!

Mentors come in all varieties, and some are available in a two-for-one special. Just pay shipping and a small processing fee (not true) and you get a free ShamWow! (also untrue).

There are eligible ringers and directors all across Iowa available to lead a clinic for your handbell musicians. These sessions could address such topics as:

- A technique or skill that your group is struggling with.
- A technique or skill that your group has learned “incorrectly.” (n.b. there are a LOT of ways to do things correctly, but some can work better than others for a variety of reasons, and for a variety of individuals.)
- A technique or skill that you HAVE taught correctly, but are experiencing some resistance. (Fyi - a visiting clinician doesn’t have to “get along” with any of your ringers next week so they might be able to say something more directly to a ringer that you might be uncomfortable saying.)
- Repertoire that has been “sure-fire” for a particular season or a particular ability level.
- Simply a “refresh, review, and renew” for ringers and directors alike.

## **Where can you get one of these mentors?**

Email me at [ia.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ia.area8@handbellmusicians.org) or any of the Area 8 state chairs (see Page 6 for email addresses). Where can you meet one of these mentors? If only we were hosting our biennial Festival/Conference in close proximity to Iowa this very summer....like Overland Park, Kansas or something like that. Great news! You can register NOW for the 2020 Area 8 Festival/Conference - More Than Meets the Eye here: [2020 Registration](#)

Consider learning from a master this October on 10/10/2020! The Iowa Committee will bring Handbell Clinician and Composer Brenda Austin for the 2020 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. Read more on the Area 8 website: <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/iowa/iowa-events/>

Did I forget to mention that a session with an Area 8 mentor is FREE for you as a member of Handbell Musicians of America? This is such a great benefit from such great members of such a great organization that I would hate for any Handbell Musician to miss out.



## **Iowa State Chair**

Patrick Gagnon

## **Treasurer**

Mary Lee Park

## **Secretary**

Donna Sprague

## **Historian**

Christina “Tina” Elwood Gehrke

## **Western Representative**

Yvonne Johnson

## **Eastern Representative**

Cat Walker





Carol Fleeger and  
Becky Harris

### **Kansas State Chair**

Kipp Willnauer

### **Treasurer**

Karla Denton

### **Secretary**

OPEN - Contact:

Kipp Willnauer

### **Chimes**

Shirley Myers

# *A Community Choir Success*

By Carol Fleeger and Becky Harris, Co-Directors  
Lawrence Community Handbell Choir

The Lawrence Community Handbell Choir (LCHBC) is a new(ish) not-for-profit auditioned community music group formed in Lawrence, Kansas, in the fall of 2016. We are focusing on advanced ringing techniques for those who already have ringing experience.

In February 2016, Central United Methodist Church (CUMC) had the opportunity to purchase a five octave set of Malmark handbells and a four octave set of Malmark choirchimes from Eunice Tarum (2/25/1932 – 4/13/2018), former Kansas State Chair and Kansas Sales Representative for Malmark. The church graciously provides use of this equipment and rehearsal space to LCHBC. Recently the choir conducted a successful fundraiser to purchase the fifth octave of Malmark chimes.

After researching various HMA articles and contacting other community group leaders for their thoughts and advice about forming a new group, flyers announcing the formation of this new group were mailed to Lawrence area churches. We had no idea what the responses would be, but were thrilled to have about 16

people attend our first audition session in August. Our first performance was given on November 13, 2016 to members of the hosting congregation as well as other members of the community. Eunice and Mel Tarum were our esteemed special guests



for this first concert. Since that time, we have performed a series of annual Christmas concerts, spring/summer concerts, played for an area annual conference meeting of the United Methodist denomination, the Lawrence Music Club, sent quartets to ring for a Christmas wedding, retirement communities, and even rang at an area Walmart, enhancing the red kettle ringers during their holiday shopping time! Two of our members have composed and/or arranged selections for us, two of which were performed as part of the University of Kansas (KU) School of Music's New Music Guild composition concert.

The LCHBC is honored to have been invited to ring a lunchtime concert in June as part of Area 8's More than Meets the Eye! Handbell Festival and Conference. In keeping with our goal of ringing sacred, secular and popular music, we will be presenting a varied repertoire of selections, including a new commissioned piece for handbells and accordion. We look forward to ringing for you!!





### Missouri State Chair

Cheri Leigh

### PastChair

Suanne Comfort

### Treasurer

Suanne Comfort

### Membership

Sherry Boland

### Chime Chair

Christie White

# Reaching up a Level

By Cheri Leigh, Missouri Chair

Here we are, in the middle stretch of working on the mass ringing pieces for the Area 8 Festival in June, and I am wondering how our choir will pull it all together. There is good news and bad news about this. The bad news is that these pieces are more difficult than we usually play. And the good news is that these pieces are more difficult than we usually play. We have to stretch to reach up to those Level 3+ pieces.

We have a cross section of abilities and attitudes in the choir, probably like most of you. When a piece is “too difficult” and we are having trouble learning it, there are those who suggest taking the easier route of playing something else. (This also includes the director.) And in the same choir are those who say “We’ll get it, let’s just keep practicing it about a hundred times.” Usually the encouragers are right - it just takes more practice, sometimes a lot more practice.

So back to the Festival. Yikes! There are not a hundred more practices left, and we haven’t even started three of the pieces. However, in addition to our own practices, we will be working on the pieces during the Festival to get them performance ready. By the end of the Festival, they will be in good shape. In the Fall we will only need to freshen up a few pieces to have them ready for performance at church. We will have had the benefit of some great conductors and teachers and with all that we will learn at the Festival, we will be ringing with confidence! That is my vision and I’m sticking to it.

See you at the Festival.

## Area 8 Nominations

Area 8 is holding elections in summer of 2020! We are seeking nominations for Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you or someone you know would make a great candidate, please contact Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal ([pastchair.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:pastchair.area8@handbellmusicians.org)) to submit your/their name for consideration.



*Thank you for nominating  
us and voting us in. We love  
being on Area 8 Board!*

# Chime Loan Program

By Nancy Youngman, Nebraska Chair

As Area 8 Chimes Chair, I would like to share information about the wonderful opportunity of the Chimes Loan Program. Started over 25 years ago, the aim is to get chimes into the curriculum in the educational setting. As churches were the most common setting for handbells and chimes, the program has been successful in broadening the focus, usage, and exposure of these instruments. Each state has at least one set of chimes to be loaned out, by semester or school year, to an educational setting, either public or private.

As a music educator, I was able to use Nebraska's set of chimes in a middle school. Most schools have a set curriculum of goals that have to be met, but it really was not hard to adapt and enhance these goals to include the chimes. Many schools use Orff instruments, and chimes are the perfect addition to them. I taught the students common chord progressions and they could play the chimes along with any vocal music they were to use. They were able to work on rhythms and expand this to composing their own works. At an age when some students are embarrassed to sing, the chimes are very cool! My principal was so impressed with the enthusiasm of the students that he had the school purchase a set, which is still in use several years later.

Each state has a Chimes Chair, all listed on The Handbell Musicians of America Area 8 website. The application forms are available online. When an educator is chosen to receive the set, they will also receive a set of teaching materials and a one year membership to the Guild. The chimes are available for the schools to purchase if desired at the end of the year. Please contact either me or your state Chimes Chair if you have an interest in using this great opportunity to enhance your curriculum and further the use of chimes!

## State Chime Chairs:

**Illinois:** Patti Mangis

**Iowa:** Patrick Gagnon

**Kansas:** Shirley Myers

**Missouri:** Christie White

**Nebraska:** Nancy Youngman



## Nebraska State Chair

Nancy Youngman

## Registrar

Linda Ashley

## Scholarship Committee

Joyce Miller

# Area 8 Handbell Musicians of America Festival 2020

June 18-19-20, 2020 Sheraton Overland Park, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66211



- Nationally known Clinicians
- Massed Ringing
- Extraordinary Vendor Shopping
- Ringers from throughout Area 8
- Concerts! Concerts! Concerts!
- Learning Opportunities
- New Friends Waiting to Be Met

## Concerts

- Columbia Handbell Ensemble
- Lawrence Community Handbell Choir
- Massed and Divisional Ringing
- BronzeFest
- YouthFest
- Showcase

## Classes and Reading Sessions

Four class sessions for each Division, each session with six (or more) class options. Classes are taught by experts who have both training and experience in their chosen topics.

## Massed Ringing

Led by John Behnke, Alex Guebert, and Lauran Delancy  
Four one-hour rehearsals, 5 music selections

## Division Ringing

Led by John Behnke and Alex Guebert

Blue Division, primarily Level 2, four one-hour rehearsals, 4 music selections

Gold Division, primarily Level 3-4, four one-hour rehearsals, 4 music selections

## Friday & Saturday, June 19 & 20, 2020

Massed Ringing, Division Ringing, Classes, Concerts, Shopping, Networking

## Additional Opportunities

### Thursday, June 18

**Worship Seminar** with Gwen Gepford, Lauran Delancy, and Beth Ann Edwards

**Directors Seminar** with Alex Guebert & John Behnke

**Bonus Brush-Up Rehearsal** with Area 8 leadership

### BronzeFest Advanced Ringing Track with Lauran Delancy

This track begins Thursday night and will rehearse for about 7 hours throughout the Festival.

Participants will give a concert on Saturday afternoon, performing six advanced-level music selections.

### Handbells 101 Non-Performing Track with Sharon Schmidt

Ringers and directors are welcome to this hands-on track. Ringers gain experience before tackling division and massed ringing in the future. Directors will learn a methodical way of teaching new ringers.

### YouthFest with Nick Hanson

Designed for youth grades 6-12, runs concurrently with the A8 Festival. Participants will work with Nick from Thursday evening through Saturday morning and will present a concert at noon on Saturday.

\$125 per person, includes 3 meals, classes, concerts, and shopping. Hotel rooms are not included.

## Registration Fees

\$225 per person through March 15

\$235 per person March 16—April 15

\$260 per person after April 15

(Fees include Friday & Saturday massed and division ringing, classes, concerts, vendor shopping, & four meals.

Hotel rooms are not included.)

[area8.handbellmusicians.org/registration/](http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/registration/)

For more information, visit <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/2020-festival/>  
or contact Beth Ann Edwards, Area 8 Chair: [chair.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.area8@handbellmusicians.org)



Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA



**I want to connect with a real person. Who do I contact?**

Beth Ann Edwards, Area 8 Chair  
[chair.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.area8@handbellmusicians.org)

Linda Ashley, Festival Registrar  
[registrar.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:registrar.area8@handbellmusicians.org)

Sharon Schmidt, Assistant Registrar and Area 8 Chair-elect  
[chairelect.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chairelect.area8@handbellmusicians.org)

Patrick Gagnon, Education Chair  
[education.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:education.area8@handbellmusicians.org)

Lori Fenton, Treasurer  
[treasurer.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:treasurer.area8@handbellmusicians.org)

**Elected officers**  
<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/elected-officers/>

**State chairs and appointed officers**  
<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/appointed-officers/>

# Questions about the Area 8 Festival?

## Check out these resources!

The Area 8 Website is your go-to spot for answers about the Festival. The links listed below will walk you through some of the basics and give you a glimpse of what an A8 festival is all about! Here's a quick run-down of where to find answers:

### What is Area 8 Festival?

**Basic overview:** <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/2020-festival/>

**Schedule:** <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/2020-schedule/>

### I'm a first-timer! Will anybody talk to me?

**First-timer information:** <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/1416-2/>

**Handbells 101 track for beginners and directors of beginners:**

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/handbells-101/>

### What classes will be offered?

Attendees who are not in the BronzeFest Track can take four classes: two on Friday and two on Saturday. A variety of topics and hands-on techniques will be covered, and reading sessions will be offered at every class period.

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/classes/>

### How do I register? Can I register all by myself?

Come by yourself, come with a friend, bring a partial or full choir. We can accommodate you! <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/registration/>

### Where should we stay?

Stay at the conference hotel! It's convenient, and a continental breakfast is included with your hotel reservation. When participants stay at the conference hotel, overall event registration rates are kept at a reasonable cost.

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/hotel-information/>

### What is BronzeFest?

BronzeFest is an advanced ringing opportunity, right here in Area 8! BronzeFest provides a bronze-level experience for ringers looking for a ringing challenge and who want to improve their skills while working with a nationally recognized conductor.

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/bronzefest/>



### What about youth ringing opportunities?

Bring your young ringers! They are our handbell legacy, and they might need a road trip. Bring one, a few, or a whole choir to participate in YouthFest.

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/youthfest-2020/>

### Who are the clinicians?

World-renowned and highly respected clinicians will direct the massed and divisional ringing: John Behnke, Alex Guebert, Nick Hanson, Lauran Delancy.

Read more about them here: <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/leadership/>

### Can I advertise in the program book, or help with a sponsorship?

#### What if I want to be a vendor?

Absolutely! Vendor spaces, advertisements, and sponsorships help you get your name in front of musicians, and ringers will know that the Festival is worthy of support by individuals and organizations.

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/vendors-advertising-sponsorships/>

### I'm a director. How can I brush up on my leadership skills?

Two intentional paths for leadership training will take place during the Festival. And don't discount the learning that occurs during massed and divisional ringing under master conductors!

**Handbells 101 Track:** <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/handbells-101/>

**Directors Seminar:** <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/thursday-workshops/>

### What about handbells in worship? I need a refresher!

The Worship Seminar is for you! Meet with Area 8 leaders with specific training and experience in worship music. Learn some nuts-and-bolts, and talk about challenges and joys of working in music ministry.

**Worship Seminar:** <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/thursday-workshops/>

### I might need to review the massed ringing/division ringing music before opening bell on Friday morning. Can you help?

Yes! Attend the Warm-Up Rehearsal Thursday night.

<http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/thursday-workshops/>

### Hotel Information

Book your hotel room for Area 8 Festival 2020 Sheraton Overland Park 6100 College Boulevard Overland Park, KS 66211

#### Room rates

\$139-\$149/night (includes continental breakfast)

Use this link to Book your group rate for Area 8 – Handbell Musicians of America

### Why stay at the Conference Hotel?

When attendees stay at the conference hotel, Area 8 receives credits for expenses incurred at the venue, which keeps overall costs lower. If registrants who live more than 50 miles from the hotel choose to stay at another location, they will be charged a fee to cover venue costs.



### Handbell Services, Inc.

Shop online for unique gifts & supplies for Handbell & Handchime Musicians

[www.handbellservices.com](http://www.handbellservices.com)  
toll-free: 800-37-BELLS

Artisan-made gifts, unique designs on promotional products, Educational resources, table foam, gloves & shirts.

DETROIT, MI • FOUNDED BY SUSAN & DAVE BERRY

## Publishing in Quavers

6 publications per year,  
published in odd months.

## Articles

Articles are due on the 10th  
day of even months.

## Advertising

Click here for more details  
about advertising in Quavers.

6 Ads for 5! Run 5 identical  
ads in 5 successive Quavers  
and get the 6th Ad free.

## Events & Concerts

must be submitted by the  
25th of even months to be  
included in Quavers. To  
submit a concert or event for  
inclusion, click here or go to  
the A8 Website, Events page.

## Questions?

Please send all questions and  
comments about this and  
future Quavers publications to  
newsletereditor.area8@  
handbellmusicians.org

---

*Find the most  
up-to-date  
calendar and  
details about  
events on the  
A8 website.*

---

# Upcoming A8 Events

## March 2020

**Sunday, March 8, 2020**

4:00 pm The Agape Ringers: Western Springs, IL

**Saturday, March 28, 2020**

6:30 pm Purdue Bells: Mattoon, IL

## April 2020

**Sunday, April 19, 2020**

4:00 pm The Agape Ringers: Naperville, IL

**Friday, April 24, 2020**

7:00 pm Rezound! Handbell Ensemble: Independence, MO

**Saturday, April 25, 2020**

7:00 pm Rezound! Handbell Ensemble: Prairie Village, KS

7:00 pm Bell-issimo: Omaha, NE

**Sunday, April 26, 2020**

3:00 pm Rezound! Handbell Ensemble: Kansas City, MO

4:00 pm Chicago Bronze: Deerfield, IL

6:00 pm Bell-issimo: Lincoln, NE

## May 2020

**Saturday, May 2, 2020**

4:00 pm Chicago Bronze: Barrington, IL

7:00 pm Bells in Motion: O'Fallon, IL

**Sunday, May 17, 2020**

2:00 pm Des Moines Concert Handbells: Des Moines, IA

## June 2020

**Friday, June 5, 2020**

7:00 pm Des Moines Concert Handbells: Des Moines, IA

**Sunday, June 14, 2020**

2:00 pm Forté Handbell Quartet: Junction City, KS

**Thursday, June 18, 2020 - Saturday, June 20, 2020**

Area 8 Handbell Festival: More than Meets the Eye: Overland Park, KS

Area 8 YouthFest: Overland Park, KS

## July 2020

**Thursday, July 16, 2020 - Monday, July 20, 2020**

Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar: Orlando, FL

## October 2020

**Friday, October 9, 2020**

6:00 pm Beer, Wine, and Bells: Des Moines, IA

**Saturday, October 10, 2020**

8:00 am 2020 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival: Windsor Heights, IA