uavers November 2021





2022 Festival Registration Opens in January! by Sharon Schmidt, Area 8 Chair

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By the time you read this issue of Quavers, the Area 8 website should be updated with most of the information you'll need to get ready to register for the Area 8 2022 Festival on June 23rd to 25th, 2022, in Kansas City, MO at the Hilton Kansas City Airport.

The September issue of Quavers contained information about the schedule, our clinicians, the venue, and how to make your hotel reservation.

This issue has an excellent article from Past-Chair Beth Ann Edwards on the different

Watch for an email in early January announcing that registration is open!

categories of ringers and some of the details associated with registration, as well as information about the Worship and Directors Seminars to be held on Thursday, June 23rd.

If you're a past Festival attendee, is there a ringer you know who would love Festival, but has never been? Invite them out for tea (I'm not a coffee drinker!), tell them about the fun we're going to have in Kansas City, and let them know there's a place for them.

You can still watch the YouTube video from the September 2021 Fourth Friday Focus Special Festival Session, which contains much of the same information, as well as some photo memories of past festivals.

https://youtu.be/gFOzjOxASK8

Read on and check out the Festival website page to get ready to register.

Updates from the Chair

by Sharon Schmidt, Area 8 Chair

Your Area 8 Board had their annual meeting the first weekend in October. The Executive Committee plus the Education Chair met in-person in Kansas City at the Festival site, and the rest of the Board joined by Google Meet. Of course, Festival was a major topic of discussion. We also discussed the details of running an organization – our financial status; our efforts to digitize, consolidate, and organize all the Area files; the open positions on the Board (Missouri Chair, Historian, and Resource Librarian); the Fourth Friday Focus sessions from January to October; updating of job descriptions; and membership.

I'd like to highlight three of these items.

- Financial status: Our 10/1/21 balance of \$67,310 is \$1,521 less than 10/1/20. Fourth Friday Focus brought in around \$750.
- Fourth Friday Focus: Patrick Gagnon went above and beyond in editing, narrating, and producing these Sessions! Special thanks to Prof. Bell & Clapper for their regular contributions, too. We had 195 individuals register for one or more of the eight sessions. Registrants were from all over the US plus Brazil.
- Membership: Area 8 membership has decreased from 390 in 2019 to 331 in 2020 to 315 as of 9/2021. We're excited that the steep trend from 2019 to 2020 is not continuing, but where are all our handbell musician friends? We need your help to bring those lapsed members back and to find those who have never been members. Contact Chris Peck, Chair-Elect and Membership Chair <u>here</u> if you can help.

As always, I'm here to answer your questions about Area 8 business and Festival.

Kansas City, Here I come!

If your church, school, or other organization is not in a position to renew its membership at this time, consider an individual membership. The cost averages out to about \$8 per month. Membership information can be found HERE.



2022 Festival Kansas City, Here I Come!

Repertoire Chosen for 2022 Festival

Massed - Blue and Gold Divisions Directed by Alex Guebert and John Behnke

John Behnke The Bells Must Ring

Alex Guebert Gratitude Reflections on Kelvingrove arr. Jason Krug Over the Rainbow arr. Chris Peck

JAB Publishing JAB051 3-5 Oct, L 3 JAB052 2-3 Oct, Level 1+ Ringing Word MSF201868SF L2-Red River MRRBL5079, Level 2+ Hope MHP2686P, Level 3

Blue Division

Directed by Alex Guebert and John Behnke

A Merry Heart Cynthia Dobrinski CGB471, Level 1+ arr. John Behnke Behold, A Host Arrayed in White Concordia 97-7634, Level 2+ Exultation Matthew Compton AGEHR AG35371, Level 2+ Clarion Call Michael Joy Choristers Guild CGB864, Level 2+

Gold Division

Directed by Alex Guebert and John Behnke

All Creatures of Our God and King arr. John Behnke AGEHR AG36041, Level 3 Fantasy on Restoration **Brian Childers** GIA MGIG8492, Level 3+ Good Christian Men Rejoice Kimberly Strepka From the Top 20327HB, Level 4 arr. Alex Guebert Sheet Music Plus, Level 3+ Mr. Blue Sky

BronzeFest

Directed by Alex Guebert and John Behnke

Campanae Celebrare Cathy Moklebust Hope 2626, Level 4 Elegy William Payn Hope 1277, Level 4 Jeffers JHS9570, Level 5 Be Still My Soul Alex Guebert Angels We Have Heard on High Kyler Brengle AGEHR AG36056, Level 4 Red River RRBL5088, Level 3+ Spy Ring arr. T. Waldrop Finale from Symphony No. 2 in D minor for Organ arr. Fred Gramann AGEHR AG46016J, Level 5



New for 2022!

Bonus "Warm-Up" Rehearsal

An extra, pre-Festival rehearsal will take place on Thursday, June 23, 2022, from 7:00 - 9:30 pm. Festival music for massed ringing and both ringing tracks will be reviewed. This rehearsal will be led by Area 8 board members and a nominal fee will be charged.

Who should sign up for this rehearsal?

- Ringers who would like just one more rehearsal before the opening bell on Friday morning.
- Ringers who have rehearsed alone or with a small group, and would like to have a pre-festival experience of rehearsing with a full choir.
- Ringers who want to spend a bit more time behind the table.
- Ringers who would like to spend time a little extra time with "their people!"

Festival Seminars

Thursday, June 23, 2022

Do you need a refresher course for directing and worship planning? Plan to arrive in Kansas City a day before the opening bell, and immerse yourself in one or two seminars that will teach you new tricks, affirm your vocational path, and introduce you to peers who just might become your new best friends! The Area 8 Festival Committee has scheduled Worship and Directors Seminars for Thursday, June 23, 2022, and participants can attend both. The cost is \$80 per seminar, or \$150 for both. You can register for these seminars when general registration opens in January.

Worship Seminar

Led by Nancy Youngman, Chris Peck, and Beth Ann Edwards Thursday, June 23, 8:30 am - 2 pm (Lunch break included, lunch on your own).

This seminar is designed for handbell directors and ringers who are looking for information, techniques, and resources specific to handbells in worship. The following topics will be covered:

- Beyond the anthem: handbells in worship
- 2. Writing and arranging simple accompaniments for liturgies and hymns
- 3. Taking care of yourself balancing work with personal faith development
- 4. Handbell programs for youth
- 5. Working with any number of ringers
- 6. Recruiting and incorporating new members into an existing choir

Directors Seminar

Led by John Behnke and Alex Guebert Thursday, June 23, 2:15-9:30 pm (Dinner break included, dinner on your own)

Spend time with two experts who will guide you through basics and nuances of directing.

- 1. What I Wish Someone Would Have Told Me 40 Years Ago About Handbells (John)
- Pulses and natural accents (Alex)
- Making techniques more effective (John)
- 4. Musical phrasing: Making beautiful music (Alex)
- 5. Musicianship: Playing together as an ensemble (John)
- 6. Cueing and shaping the melody with the left hand (Alex)

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Karla Denton

Secretary

OPEN - Contact Julie or Janelle

Chimes

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Missouri State Chair Open: Contact Sharon Schmidt

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Nancy Youngman

Click here to visit the Area 8 website for contact information and bios.

On the Fence About Attending the Area 8 Festival in June?

by Beth Ann Edwards, Area 8 Past Chair

Area 8 Festivals are for all ringers! Residents of Area 8 and other areas are always welcome. If you are feeling unsure about attending, keep reading. You will most probably find yourself in one of the following categories. Ringing groups come in all sizes, from individual to full choir. Here's a quick review for attendees.

Entire choir



















Your director or designated travel person will take care of registrations, rehearsing the music, taking care of bells, foam, and other equipment you need to bring. Your rehearsals will take place with ringers you see every week at rehearsal. The trip might turn out to be a wonderful bonding session with your choir. You can talk about your A8 experiences with choir mates for years to come. Some choirs in cities or metro areas join forces and provide ringers for a full Festival choir.

Partial choir: 3 ringers or more, less than a full choir

Some of the planning and rehearsal schedules might fall on vou and the other ringers who are attending. Some pieces might be learned with your full choir, and others may need to be learned outside of your regular rehearsal. When you register, you may be sharing a table with another partial choir. While you will still have some of your home choir friends with you, be willing to meet and talk with others in your row, or in front of or behind you. Handbell ringers are known for their friendliness and inclusivity.

Partial choirs bring all of the foam, handbells, and other equipment they will need during massed ringing.

If most of your choir will attend, but a few positions will be open, sign up to take on individual ringers. It's a great way to fill your choir! You can make new friends, and you have the opportunity to learn about how other choirs might work out ringing solutions, or handle weekly rehearsals and present music in worship

Individual ringer, or maybe two of you



Sign up to ring with another choir! It's a great way to participate, and if you're going by yourself, you automatically have friends to meet and hang out with. You will need to practice the music on your own, which will take some getting used to. But if you mark your music well and stick with it, maybe rehearse with recordings, you'll be just fine. You can also sign up for the Thursday evening bonus rehearsal. Individual ringers generally do not bring their own bells. When you are assigned to a choir, you can use bells brought by the host choir. Please contact Laura Kopff with questions.



Patrick Gagnon

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

2022 Classes in Kansas City

By Patrick Gagnon, Iowa Chair and Education Chair

We're very glad to be able to meet together in 2022 to make music, but also to learn from some of the best. The following are a sampling of the class options you will have at the 2022 Area 8 Festival/Conference. In addition to what you see here, a repertoire reading session will be held during each class session

Beginning Weaving

Tackle those nasty accidentals and multiple-bell passages by learning and mastering the three-bell weave. Bring your gloves, questions about massed and divisional music, and leave with the ability to easily play even the hardest part of any piece in the battery.

Beginning Treble Bells

Learn or re-learn the basics from C6 and up! Gaining confidence with shelley and 4-i-h ringing can enhance the musical result for your choir, and can make you a more versatile ringer. Arrive with gloves and leave with dazzling treble skills!

Beginning Bass Bells

Learn and master safe techniques for lifting, ringing, damping, and putting down bass handbells. For the purpose of this class, "bass bells" refers to instruments below C4. Bring your gloves and leave with the confidence to sling those buckets!

Auditions: Boon or Bane?

When it's time to audition your ensemble it is possible to foresee great new advancements, and terrible consequences. Talk through ideas and learn from past successes with an experienced director of an auditioned community handbell choir who also works in church and school settings. Bring your questions, concerns, suggestions, success stories, tales of woe, and be ready for a lively discussion.

Ensemble Skills 1

Learn tips and tricks for ringing a full complement of bells with less than a full choir. Ensemble ringing can be a special, difficult, challenging, diverting, and musically satisfying experience. Learn from one who has done and still does ensemble ringing and bring your ideas and questions.

Ensemble Skills 2

Take the next step in ensemble ringing with hands-on experience in weaving, displacement, passing to your neighbor and problem solving. We'll also talk about adapting other music for ensembles, assigning, and polishing your performance. Prerequisite: Beginning Ensemble Class or experience with assignments of 3 or more bells requiring table damping.

Advanced Treble Bells

Ringers who attend this class should already be confident with shelley and 4-i-h, and be ready to try 6-i-h, traveling 4-i-h, and advanced assignment techniques to enhance musical performance and accuracy in the upper 5th, 6th, and 7th octaves. Bring your gloves and leave with the skills used by professional and community choirs!

Advanced Bass Bells

Ringers who attend this class should feel confident playing instruments C3-B3, and be interested in techniques for improving the visual presentation, musical success, and overall confidence of the "heavy metal" section. Bring your gloves and any bell you might have in the lower 6th or 7th octave.

Bell Trees

Learn techniques for assembling and ringing bell trees. Several musical examples will be shown, and several pieces will be used in demonstration. These will be available for purchase from an HIC member following the session.

Handbells in Worship

When we worship we express reverence and adoration, we pray and we listen, we learn, we give, and we hopefully go out and tell others. Find new and creative as well as tried and true ways to make handbells an important part of a worship experience.

Ringing More Musically

Conductors ask for things, and ringers try to deliver. Here are several reliable methods for making the musical product come alive for your audience, and your musicians. Bring your gloves and leave with dozens of ideas to turn your next performance into your best performance.

The Difference Between a Good Ringer and a Great Ringer is a PENCIL!

Mark it! How many directors have said that, and how many ringers have done that? Has it really made a difference? Perhaps we need a codified way to mark handbell music that is transferable from person to person, piece to piece, and ensemble to ensemble. Come learn a system of marking bell changes, choreography, and more that will change the way you approach a handbell rehearsal.

Know Thyself!

Learn to use a personality framework called "The Four Tendencies" to know yourself better, be more productive, and effectively develop habits. This framework can also be helpful to understand the tendencies of those around you so that you can effectively communicate with and motivate them.

After attending the 2022 Area 8 Festival/ Conference we hope you will all be able to say that you know yourself better as a ringer and a musician.

Area 8 Nominations

Area 8 is holding elections in summer of 2022! We are seeking nominations for Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you or someone you know would make a great candidate, please contact Beth Ann Edwards to submit your/ their name for consideration.



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



FFF Videos still available!

You can still register to view past sessions **here**, or visit the Area 8 web page for more information.

Area 8 Festival

Hotel Information

Hilton Kansas City Airport 8801 NW 112th St., Kansas City, MO 64153

Free wifi, free parking, and free grab & go continental breakfast. The updated guest rooms include a mini-fridge and coffee maker.

Price:\$119 per night.

To Book Your Room:

Go to the **Booking Link**.

Hotel:

Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel

Group Name:

Handbell Area 8 - Biennial-2022



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An Acceptance Speech

By Kirsten Hendrickson, Chicago Area Co-Chair

Thank you so much for this amazing award of being able to rehearse in person this fall! This last year has been a wild one and we couldn't have made it without the support of some wonderful people.

I would like to thank the spouses, partners, parents, children, siblings, roommates, neighbors, and pets who had to put up with hearing just one incomprehensible position of a piece over and over until we got that one magical clean take - thank you for your patience. Thank you for putting up with rearranging the furniture to get a table of just the right height in front of a wall with good lighting so we wouldn't be backlit shadowy-specters in our holiday virtual concert videos. Thank you for putting off doing laundry, washing dishes, and mowing the lawn in order to minimize background noise during recording.

Thank you to the directors, ringers, and coordinators who creatively made music this last year, learning new technologies and responding to the everchanging situation. This past year tested our flexibility, our patience, and our resilience. If we were able to make music this past year then we should be able to make music in almost any scenario. The new skills we have learned this year will

This past year tested our flexibility, our patience, and our resilience ...

serve us well as we move forward into the future.

And we wouldn't be here at all without the brave work of all the front-line workers, the healthcare workers, and the scientists who have made returning to normal a possibility. Thank you to the frontline workers for keeping us fed, getting us from place to place, and maintaining some sense of normalcy in this very not-normal time. I show my appreciation of healthcare workers every day by doing everything I can to not add to their workload. And thank you to the scientists who have come up with not one, but three vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 in a remarkably short time frame. Without them, we would not be going back to in person rehearsals this year.

Thank you all!



Kirsten Hendrickson

Chicago Area Co-Chairs Kirsten Hendrickson Beth McFarland

Central/Southern Illinois State Chair Kendall Ladd

Western IL Rep Don Wood

Secretary Beth McFarland

Registrar Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal

Events Sharon Schmidt

Music Librarian Beth McFarland

Handbell Services Rep Debi Robey

Hand Chime Loan Program Coordinator Patti Mangis

Hand Chime Loan Program Mentor Open - please contact Kendall Ladd

Food Coordinator Anna Piro

Handbell Choirs for Seniors

By Nancy Youngman, Nebraska State Chair

For this issue, I would like to focus on working with seniors in a handbell choir. I have a group that I have directed for nearly 30 years!! Some were my age when I started and are now in their 90s! This group is very

dedicated. We play for four Saturday chapel services, plus prepare about 3 different programs each year that we present for church groups and assisted living or nursing homes. Instead of following the traditional school schedule, their "season" runs from Easter to Christmas. so they don't get out in the winter. They started out just using the chimes, but now play mainly bells. This group

... we all work together so that [every] person can ring with our group.

reads music, and if I have a person who doesn't, but wants to play, we all work together so that person can ring with our group.

We stay with mostly Level 1 music, but I do throw in a Level 2 now and then to challenge them. And they do like a challenge! I have found Kevin McChesney's "Ring Together" series a great resource. He has a variety: Christmas, Easter, Gospel, etc. They enjoy pieces with special techniques, although thumb damping can be a problem with arthritic hands. Our go-to staccato technique is with mallets. We work on techniques weekly, usually relating to what is used in the music, and I must say, they have even gotten pretty good at weaving! Their favorite—the echo effect, or, in their terms, the "wa-wa"! Working with this group is truly the highlight of my week.





Nancy Youngman

Nebraska State Chair Nancy Youngman

Registrar Linda Ashley

Scholarship Committee Janet Chiocchi

Secretary Byron Jensen

Members Michael Allen Jessica Kite Deann Nicolaus **Brian Lew** Angela Wright

Jonathan Rippe

Betty Jo Wilcox,

much-beloved Iowa handbell director and Area 8 board member (in the 1960s and '70s) recently passed away at the age of 99. She championed worship music and handbell ringing throughout her life and her presence will be missed. Area 8 members send their deepest sympathy to her family and loved ones. Read more about her life of music leadership here. Handbell Choirs for Seniors, Continued

Our Area 8 Chair-Elect, Chris Peck, also works with a group of seniors. I asked him to write a little about his experiences:

I have been directing chimes at a senior living community in Lincoln, Nebraska for the past six years or so. Initially, I was charged with directing chimes with 6-8 assisted living residents. I was given a couple small cases of miniature toy-like bells with pitches making up an octave of bells and individual note books of sheet music. Initially, the group consisted of about 50% note readers, but over time this decreased, and sheet music was not too productive. I tried out the Ardis Freeman "Ring Along" books and found some instant success. I would often play or sing the melody while they rang their notes when we got to their words that were circled. Eventually, however, this group dissolved.

After some time, I borrowed 2 octaves of chimes from my church and took them over to the independent living side of the community, where I was already directing a vocal choir. I put out a request for volunteers and soon had enough to cover a 2 octave choir (G4-G6). We have been meeting twice each month for about 45 minutes

... they enjoy making and sharing their music.

and I choose music that is very simple. They ring sitting in chairs and we use traditional music stands. There are no tables or pads. We have been ringing this past summer completely from "Chime Time: Reproducible music for 2 or 3 octaves handchimes or handbells" published by Choristers Guild. I have just ordered Cathy Moklebust's new reproducible collection "Ring in the Holidays" published by Choristers Guild that I think will be perfect for this fall. The group is about 50% note readers, but I color-code the music (green for left hand, red for right hand) and try to stay away from bell changes. This has worked for us and they enjoy making and sharing their music.



Upcoming Area 8 Events

December 2021

Friday, December 3, 2021

7:00 pm Holiday Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Christ United Methodist, Independence, MO

7:30 pm Holiday Concert, Gateway Ringers Holy Cross Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, Missouri

7:00 pm Christmas Concert, RiverBend Bronze Handbell Ensemble St. John's United Methodist Church, Davenport, Iowa

Saturday, December 4, 2021

2:00 pm Winter Concert, Chicago Bronze Ela Library, Lake Zurich, Illinois

2:30 pm Christmas Concert, RiverBend Bronze Handbell Ensemble St. John's United Methodist Church, Davenport, Iowa

7:00 pm Holiday Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble First Baptist, Cameron, MO

7:00 pm Bells in Motion Presents a Ringing Christmas First UMC, Decatur, Illinois

Sunday, December 5, 2021

3:00 pm Holiday Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Rainbow Mennonite, Kansas City, KS

3:00 pm Holiday Concert, Gateway Ringers St. John Paul II Catholic Church, St. Louis, Missouri

4:00 pm Winter Concert, Chicago Bronze St. Martha Church, Morton Grove, Illinois

4:00 pm Bells in Motion Presents a Ringing Christmas Faith Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, Illinois

Friday, December 10, 2021

7:00 pm Holiday Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Trinity Lutheran Church, Leavenworth, Kansas

Saturday, December 11, 2021

2:30 and 7:00 pm Winter Concert, Chicago Bronze/West Towns Concert Living Waters Community Church, Bolingbrook, Illinois

4:00 pm Sounds of the Season Concert, The Agape Ringers Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, Elmhurst, Illinois

7:00 pm Holiday Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Olathe, KS

Upcoming Area 8 Events continued on next page

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

Please check websites for updated calendar and event information. Due to social distancing and COVID-19 requirements, events may be cancelled after this newsletter is distributed.

Publishing in Quavers

6 publications per year, published in odd months.

Articles

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

Advertising

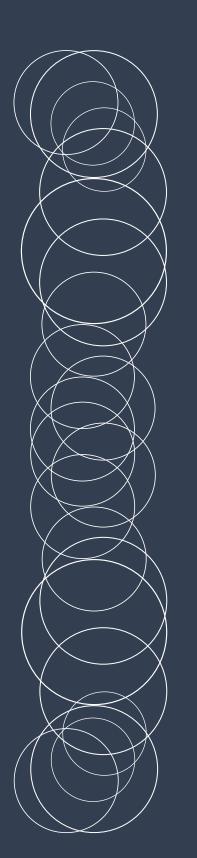
Click here for more details about advertising in *Quavers*. 6 ads for the price of 5! Run 5 identical ads in 5 successive Quavers and get the 6th ad free.

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 Beth Ann Edwards, Editor: newslettereditor.area8@ handbellmusicians.org



events, continued

Friday, December 17, 2021

7:00 pm Winter Concert, Des Moines Concert Handbells St. John's Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa

Saturday, December 18, 2021

7:00 pm Winter Concert, Des Moines Concert Handbells Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

Sunday, December 19, 2021

4:00 pm Christmas Concert, The Chalice Bronze Raytown Christian Church, Raytown, Missouri

3:00 pm Holiday Concert, Gateway Ringers St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois

April 2022

Friday, April 8, 2022

7:00 pm Spring Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble St. Mark's Catholic Church, Independence, Missouri

Saturday, April 9, 2022

7:00 pm Spring Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Merriam Christian Church, Merriam, Kansas

Sunday, April 10, 2022

4:00 pm Spring Concert, Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Missouri

June 2022

Thursday, June 23

Area 8 Festival, Pre-conference Worship & Director's seminars, registration, massed load-in, first Bronzefest rehearsal, Hilton Kansas City Airport

Friday and Saturday, June 24 & 25

Area 8 Festival, with closing concert @ 7:30 pm on Saturday Hilton Kansas City Airport

July 2022

Saturday, July 30 - Saturday, August 6, 2022

International Handbell Symposium & Associated Events Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee For more information, visit the Handbell Musicians of America website or the website for the 20th International Handbell Symposium.

Does your choir or ensemble have an upcoming concert or handbell event?

Area 8 can help you publicize your event. When the forms found on the Area 8 website event page (found here) are filled out, the event is posted on the Area 8 website, Quavers, monthly e-blasts, and Facebook posts.