



## Festival 2024 Updates

by Chris Peck, Area 8 Chair

Happy fall, everyone! As I write this, the weather is changing. It's hard to believe that we will be in Columbia for our 2024 Festival in about 9 months! Our board has been busy planning an exciting festival. I hope you are getting excited, and I hope you find this issue of Quavers helpful as you make plans to participate with us. Handbell festivals are always a time to:

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### Connect

Handbells are a great way to connect us, aren't they? Even though we're a bit of a niche musical art, it's always great to see handbell friends we know, make new friends, and grow stronger friendships at handbell events. We can sometimes identify handbell ringers by their license plates or the stickers on their car.

### Create

Isn't that what we do every time we ring a piece of music? A composer writes down various notes and symbols and we, as musicians, interpret all of this, and create music. We're giving life to a composer's idea.

### Celebrate

Aren't there moments to celebrate ringing bells? It could be that sigh of relief that the piece is finished, and we didn't pick up the wrong bell. That moment could also be that 'a-ha' of learning a new handbell idea from a class on a new topic.

**Handbell Festivals are about CONNECTING, CREATING, AND CELEBRATING!**

This is going to be an exciting and great event and we have a great board ready to help make this Festival a success. Please help us spread the word to those that may not be current members or receiving this newsletter. Festival 2024 might be just the kind of event an individual, partial choir, or full choir might need to feel reinvigorated and inspired. Festival 2024 is a big reason I agreed to be on the slate of nominations for Chair of Area 8 a few years ago. Watch your emails, our website, and Facebook for Festival updates. I am looking forward to a time of being together to connect, create, and celebrate!



# Festival Location

## Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, Missouri

The Festival will take place at the Holiday Inn Executive Center (2200 Interstate 70 Drive SW, Columbia, MO 65203) . We have a guaranteed block of rooms for each of Wednesday through Saturday nights. Our reduced rate is \$129.00 (plus taxes) for 1-4 guests.

## Booking Information

As I write this, the hotel is having an issue with their online booking link. I will forward the booking link when I receive it. In the meantime, reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly at 573-445-8531. Check-in is 4:00 pm and check-out is 11:00. Our room block will be held until Monday, May 20th, 2024.

## Hotel Amenities

Amenities include free wi-fi, a fitness center, an indoor/outdoor pool, and the Sports Zone bar and grill. For breakfast, there are a couple of options. A hot breakfast buffet of something along the lines of eggs, bacon, sausage, potato, juice, and coffee (\$12+tax) will be offered daily in the Sports Zone bar and grill inside the hotel. Vouchers will be available when you are making your reservation and when you check-in to the hotel. You will not be able to eat the breakfast buffet without a voucher. Your other breakfast option is to take advantage of exploring the off-site breakfast options or have something delivered.

## Columbia, Missouri

Columbia, Missouri, has a population of 126,000. The city sits on Interstate 70, midway between Kansas City and Missouri, and is geographically central to Area 8. Come early or stay late and check out Columbia's trails (bring your bike or walking shoes), parks, museums, shops, and wineries. Check out [www.visitcolumbiamo.com](http://www.visitcolumbiamo.com) for lots of helpful information.

*Check out [this website](#) for more information about visiting Columbia, Missouri. There's plenty to see and do in town and in the neighboring communities.*



*While prices all around keep going up, your Area 8 Festival registration costs will remain the SAME as they were in 2022!*

*Super Early Bird \$230*

*Early Bird \$240*

*Regular -- \$265*

*Additional registration information will be available on the Area 8 Website.*

# Registration

While prices all around keep going up, your Area 8 Festival registration costs will remain the SAME as they were in 2022!

Super Early Bird: \$230 (through March 15)

Early Bird: \$240 (March 16 to April 15)

Regular: \$265 (April 16 to June 12)

Registrants who stay in the hotel will have the option to purchase breakfast buffet vouchers from the hotel.

Registration will open mid-late January. Registration will include at least three meals, two feature concerts, many hours of mass ringing and classes, the opportunities to CONNECT with other ringers, CREATE music that may be new to you, and CELEBRATE those big and small victories!

# Festival Scholarship

If you know someone who has not been to one of our Area 8 festivals, but would benefit, take note. Due to great results from our silent auction in 2022, we can offer up to two scholarships for Festival 2024.

## **Each scholarship recipient will receive:**

- One full registration to the Area 8 Biennial Festival, including Pre-Conference Seminars and included meals.
- A \$400 lump sum reimbursement to assist with travel or/and lodging.
- A one-year membership to Handbell Musicians of America.

## **Applicants for this scholarship must be:**

- Someone that has the intent and desire to establish, revive, or help continue a handbell program. Applicants could be a handbell ringer, handbell director, or someone that appreciates handbells and has some big ideas.
- A first-time attendee of an Area 8 Festival.
- A resident of the five-state Area 8 region (Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska).
- Willing to write an article for *Quavers* following the 2024 Festival summarizing their Festival 2024 experience and sharing how what they learned will be put into practice.

More information and the application form will be made available after registration opens.

# Thursday Seminars

As in Kansas City in 2022, we are offering focused sessions on Thursday, the 20th. Stevie and Greig will each lead sessions for both directors and ringers.

## Directors Seminar (\$100 per person)

Creating More Effective Rehearsals (led by Greig and Stevie)

Part 1 - 8 am-11:30 am; Part 2 – 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

## Ringers Seminar Classes (\$25 each)

- 1) Balls (taught by Stevie) (2:00-3:10)  
OR Mastering Mallet Technique (taught by Greig) (2:00-3:10)
- 2) Balloons (taught by Stevie) (3:20-4:30)  
OR Can High Fructose Corn Syrup Improve Your Rhythm? (taught by Greig) (3:20-4:30)
- 3) One class taught by both Stevie & Greig, content to be announced soon. (4:40-5:50)

## Bonus “Warm-up” Rehearsal

For a nominal fee, spend some time Thursday evening ringing through all the pieces in the Blue, Gold, and Mass Divisions. Space may be limited, so register early.

# Festival Extras

## Music Swap

Do you have music sitting in your file cabinets that your choir hasn't rung for 20 years? Are you looking to expand your limited library? Do you like to recycle? Bring all those dusty folders of handbell music that you're ready to part with to Festival next summer. Leave them in a designated place we will have available. For a donation to the Area 8 Scholarship fund, other Festival participants can take some or all of what you brought.

## Silent Auction

Funds raised from the Auction will assist with scholarships for future Festivals. Check your closets and attics now to see what you might donate. Gift cards, services, and other creative items are always welcome. Be ready to bid on some soon-to-be-favorite take-aways. Check the website and future *Quavers* issues for more information.

**And more! Plan now to attend  
Area 8 Festival 2024!**



# Repertoire: 2024 Area 8 Festival

This year's repertoire has been selected primarily by Stevie and Greig, with input by the board. This means you will be ringing music that the conductors are EXCITED and KNOWLEDGEABLE about! It is a diverse list with 16 different composers throughout the 18 selections on the list – THREE of which are **Area 8 composers!**

## Blue Division (Levels 1 & 2)

Children of the Heavenly Father; Matthew Compton  
Hope MHP2972; 3-7 Octaves; L2+

El Coqui; Carlos Rivera-Aponte  
From the Top MFM202213; 3 octaves; L2  
MFM202215; 5 octaves; L2

Jubilee; Arnold Sherman  
Choristers Guild  
MCGB472; 2-3 Octaves; L1+  
MCGB473; 3-5 Octaves; L1+

Praise Unfolding; Sandra Eithun  
Choristers Guild MCGB523; 3-5 Octaves; L1

## Gold Division (Levels 3 & 4)

Angels We Have Heard on High; Cathy Moklebus  
Choristers Guild MCGB1283; 3-7 Octaves; L4-

Eternity's Timepiece; Jason Krug  
Lorenz MLC202135L; 3-6 Octaves; L3+

Morning Light; Stevie Berryman  
From the Top MFM20347; 5 Octaves; L3

Take Time in Life; Greig Ashurst  
Hope MHP2953; 3-5 Octaves; L3-

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## Massed Ringing (Levels 2 & 3)

Bells of Freedom; Jon Schmidt/Chris Peck  
From the Top MFM20409; 3-6 Octaves; L3-

Everything to God in Prayer  
Charles Converse/William Bradbury/Ron Mallory  
Alfred/Jubilate MJMG1142; 3-5 Octaves; L2

Hymn to Joy; Edward Hodges/Michael Keller  
Hope MHP1457; 3-5 Octaves; L3

Oh Happy Day; Edwin Hawkins/Tammy Waldrop  
Alfred MAP47794; 3-5 Octaves; L3

Sing a Song of Pentecost Kipp Willnauer/Kath Wissinger  
WILL BE AVAILABLE

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## Which division should I select?

In addition to massed ringing, we have two divisions: Blue (easier: levels 1-2+) and Gold (more difficult: level 3 & up.) The massed ringing music for this festival ranges from level 1+ to level 3. Both divisions will prepare eight selections – four massed ring and four division.

If eight selections are too many, you can choose to not play all of the pieces. Opting out of the massed ring is also an option. If you don't play any of the massed ringing pieces, you can attend additional classes. Note that if you choose to play only some of the selections (either division or massed), we ask that you remain in the room for the entire rehearsal and be respectfully quiet.

There are at least two schools of thought regarding which division to choose. Which school are you in?

### **We'll never play music like the Gold Division (level/type/selection) normally, so let's go for it!**

If you select this option, plan on lots of rehearsal time before Festival so that you'll be ready to make music with the rest of the division.

### **We want a relaxing festival experience, so let's choose the easier music!**

You'll still want to prepare by rehearsing the music for the Blue Division.

Another thought to bear in mind – many musicians think that the best festival experience is when they are comfortable with the music before they arrive and are able to put full attention towards the conductor.

# Showcase Concert

*Once again, we will be looking for any interested soloists, small ensembles, or full choirs to perform one or more musical selections from the Massed Ringing floor, on Friday, between 3:45 and 4:30. No extra equipment will be provided. An application will be made available later this winter after registration opens*

## Bronzefest

### What is BronzeFest? Who should apply?

BronzeFest presents a concert of up to six advanced (level 3 and above) selections on Saturday afternoon. Ensemble members are selected through an application process, and position assignments are made ahead of time. Musicians purchase and rehearse the music ahead of the event, as there are only six hours of rehearsal prior to the concert! BronzeFest rehearsals begin on Thursday night, and are then held during Gold division class periods, so musicians who are selected won't attend any classes, and must select the Gold division.

Successful BronzeFest musicians have experience with music more difficult than level three, are willing to put in extra time before Festival to prepare the music, are eager to ring with new neighbors (and possibly in a new position), and look forward to making music with new conductors.

### BronzeFest Track Repertoire (Levels 4 & 5)

Cathedrals; Margaret Tucker

Red River Music MRRG5006; 5-7 Octaves; L5

Jazz Rag; Arnold Sherman

AGEHR; MAG37006; 3-7 Octaves; L3

Mountain Journey; Brian Childers

Choristers Guild MCGB1242; 3-7 Octaves; L4

Praise Him with Cymbals and Drums; Hart Morris

Red River MRRHB0001; 3-5 Octaves; L5+

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers; Linda Boatright

From the Top MFM20451; 5-6 Octaves; L4

Thorncrown Chapel Portrait; Sondra Tucker

Casa MCSHB013; 3-6 Octaves; L3

Area 8 board members Chris Peck, Rick Richards, Sara Washington, and Sharon Schmidt met in Columbia for a Festival site visit.



# Festival Clinicians

Guest Conductors Stevie Berryman and Greig Ashurst are excited to travel north to Area 8 from Texas and Louisiana (respectively). They will be splitting all the conducting duties so that each ringing division will experience the expertise of both conductors.

**Stevie Berryman** can't whistle. But she makes fantastic pesto, and she can fold a fitted sheet. Likewise, her skills as music director and teacher have also been acquired through long hours of arduous and dedicated practice. For much of her career Stevie has directed seven or more ensembles each week, meaning she has 114 years of experience (in dog years). Her effusive energy and wild creativity found a perfect setting in 2013 when she became the Artistic Director of the Houston Chamber Ringers, which has let her smash together her love for music, laughter, and tacos in a truly remarkable way. She has a particular passion for teaching beginners how to ring, and her innovative, play-based methods have made her a sought-after educator and clinician at area and national handbell festivals. Stevie serves as the handbell director at First Congregational Church Houston, and loves helping other choirs as a private clinician or planning epic concerts for them as a creative consultant. She and her husband Paul are co-owners of Truly Horrible Things, a snarky card game company, even though her mother always told her that no one would ever pay her to be sarcastic.

For over thirty years, **Greig Ashurst** has developed an impressive conducting and teaching career in many facets of music, technology, and educational philosophy across the United States. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, he served as a music educator in Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas. Currently, Mr. Ashurst is director of bands and director of technology at Cathedral-Carmel School, where he was selected as the 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year, an honor for which he was selected twice previously in Louisiana and North Carolina. He is a published composer and arranger and has two lines of mallets that he designed specifically for playing on handbells. These mallets, sold by Schulmerich Bells, have changed the timbral landscape of handbell music throughout the world. He currently serves as president-elect of the Handbell Musicians of America and is an advocate for getting handbells into schools throughout the United States.



*Stevie Berryman*



*Greig Ashurst*



	Thursday, June 20
8am - 11:30am	Part 1: Creating More Effective Rehearsals. Led by Greig Ashurst and Stevie Berryman
11:30am - 12:30pm	Lunch on your own
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Part 2: Creating More Effective Rehearsals. Led by Greig Ashurst and Stevie Berryman
2:00pm - 3:10pm	Balls (Stevie) <b>OR</b> Mastering Mallet Technique (Greig)
3:20pm - 4:30pm	Balloons (Stevie) <b>OR</b> Can High Fructose Corn Syrup Improve Your Rhythm? (Greig)
4:40pm - 5:50pm	Class TBA (Stevie & Greig)
6:00pm - 7:00pm	Dinner on your own
7:00pm - 9:00pm	BronzeFest First Rehearsal
	Bonus "Warm-Up" Rehearsal

	Friday, June 21
Session A   8:00 - 9:00 am	Opening Bell, Massed Rehearsal
Session B   9:15 - 10:15 am	Blue Division Rehearsal
	Bronze Festival Ensemble
	Classes for Gold Division
	Reading Session
Session C   10:30 - 11:30 am	Gold Division Rehearsal
	Classes for Blue Division
	Reading Session
Session D   11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch/Shopping/Biennial meeting
Session E   1:15 - 2:15 pm	Blue Division Rehearsal
	Bronze Festival Ensemble
	Classes for Gold Division
	Reading Session
Session F   2:30 - 3:30 pm	Gold Division Rehearsal
	Classes for Blue Division
	Reading Session
Session G   3:45 - 4:30 pm	Showcase Concert
Session H   4:45 - 6:00 pm	Massed Rehearsal
	6:00 - 8:00 Dinner/Shopping
	8:00 - 9:30 Concert: River City Ringers

# Festival Schedule

	Saturday, June 22
Session I   8:00 - 9:00 am	Massed Rehearsal
Session J   9:15 - 10:15 am	Blue Division Rehearsal
	Bronze Festival Ensemble
	Classes for Gold Division
	Reading Session
Session K   10:30 - 11:30 am	Gold Division Rehearsal
	Classes for Blue Division
	Reading Session
Session L   11:45 am - 1:15 pm	Lunch & Rezound
Session M   1:30 - 2:30 pm	Blue Division Rehearsal
	Bronze Festival Ensemble
	Classes for Gold Division
	Reading Session
Session N   2:45 - 3:45 pm	Gold Division Rehearsal
	Classes for Blue Division
	Reading Session
Session O   4:00 - 4:45 pm	BronzeFest Concert
Session P   5:00 - 6:15 pm	Massed Rehearsal
	6:15 - 7:30 Dinner
	7:30 Area 8 Festival Concert

# Festival Teacher Applications



*Rick Richards*  
*Area 8 Education Chair*

Rick Richards, Education Chair for Area 8, is soliciting individuals to teach sessions at the Area 8 Festival in Columbia, Mo June 20-22, 2024. These sessions could cover a wide range of topics from handbell techniques (treble or bass techniques, malleting, stopped sounds, damping, etc.) to choir management (recruiting, retention, rehearsal techniques, funding, etc.), topics not directly related to handbells, but still important for ringers (mindfulness for musicians, being a healthy musician, group dynamics, etc.), or any other topic that you think you have helpful information to share with the festival participants. The QR code to the right will take you to an application (Google Doc) to teach a session. Please download the application and follow the instructions. The deadline to return completed applications is December 1, 2023. We hope to have a schedule of classes by mid-December.



# Featured Concerts

## Friday Evening Concert: River City Ringers of Omaha, Nebraska

River City Ringers of Omaha are a dedicated group of ringers who provide cultural enrichment by ringing music. The group provides a focused opportunity to present a wide range of sacred, secular and original handbell music through concerts and educational programs. The choir cooperates with the national community and professional handbell ensemble movement in raising the awareness and standards of English handbell ringing locally, regionally and nationally. They also assist in developing diverse ringing opportunities for those who ring handbells in the Omaha Metro area and foster fun and fellowship.

The choir musicians have been involved in the art of handbell ringing for many years. We are a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to fostering public interest in the art of handbell ringing. The choirs ring with a five octave set of Schulmerich handbells, a five-octave set of Malmark Choir Chimes, and a five octave set of Malmark bells.

Since 1988, the choir has rung for events in the Omaha Metropolitan area including concerts at the Holland Performing Arts Center, Durham Western Heritage Museum, Lauritzen Gardens, and Omaha Royals. The choir offers seasonal and spring concerts, with musical selections that include classical or contemporary, serious or zany, formal or casual, and sacred or secular.



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## Saturday Noon-time Concert: Rezound! of Kansas City, Missouri

Rezound! is dedicated to promoting the art and skill of handbell ringing in performance, serving the community through varied educational endeavors, and providing the highest quality and challenging outlet for skilled ringers.

Established in June 2001, the ensemble presents a lively sound blending the unique timbres of Schulmerich handbells, Petit & Fritsen bells, Malmark handchimes, Whitechapel bells and Maas-Rowe bells.

Rezound! has been creating and performing exceptional music since 2001. While our passion for handbell music is what connects us, our membership includes individuals with diverse interests and occupations: scientists, teachers, accountants, stained glass artist, landscape architect/urban designer, sign language interpreter, audiovisual archivist, individuals working at banks and universities as well as church musicians. We call the greater Kansas City area home, with members from Missouri and Kansas.



# What Do These Four People Have in Common?



They said “Yes!” when asked to run for an Area 8 office. And like all of the Area 8 board, they are passionate about handbells, enjoy having fun in the handbell community, are organized, like to communicate, seek out new ways of doing things, and are willing to be leaders.

Have you enjoyed reading the Quavers, meeting new handbell friends at an area festival or a state event, or watching one of the Fourth Friday Focus sessions? The Area 8 Board strives to present these opportunities and so much more to our members and we need your help to continue to do so in the future.

Every two years, members of the area elect officers for the next two years. In spring of 2024, we’ll elect a secretary, a treasurer, and a chair-elect (who will go on to serve as chair for a two-year term.) These officers plus the chair and the past-chair make up the Area 8 Executive Committee, which is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Area.

In the next six months, we’ll search for and contact individuals to share their talents on the Area 8 Board. Are you one of those people, or do you know someone who could be? If so, please contact me.

*Sharon Schmidt, Past Chair*  
[pastchair.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:pastchair.area8@handbellmusicians.org)

## Area 8 Board

### CHAIR

Chris Peck

### CHAIR-ELECT

Lori Fenton

### SECRETARY

Sara Washington

### TREASURER

Tami Kofron

### PAST CHAIR

Sharon Schmidt

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Amy Knudsen

### CHIMES CHAIR

Nancy Youngman

### FINANCIAL ADVISOR

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### MEMBERSHIP

Lori Fenton

### RESOURCE LIBRARIAN

Open - Contact Chris Peck

### WEB MASTER

Wendi Calkins-Levitt

### EDUCATION

Rick Richards

### QUAVERS EDITOR

Beth Ann Edwards

### HISTORIAN

Laurie Austin

### ILLINOIS CHAIR

Beth McFarland

### IOWA CHAIR

Dick Crusinberry

### KANSAS CO-CHAIRS

Julie Assel, Janelle Flory Schrock

### MISSOURI CHAIR

Trey Bures

### NEBRASKA CHAIR

Byron Jensen

# Area 8 Loses a Friend and Advocate

Kipp Kohler Willnauer, 74, passed away October 6, 2023 at Olathe Medical Center. Funeral Services were held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Gardner, Kansas. Condolences may be left at [www.brucefuneralhome.com](http://www.brucefuneralhome.com). Memorial Contributions may be made to the Kipp Willnauer Music Scholarship Fund.

Kipp was born September 30, 1949 in Hartford, Connecticut, to Thelma Elenore Adolphi and Peter Kohler Willnauer. He graduated from Pulaski High School in New Britain, Connecticut, where he was the Drum Major for Marching Band. A lifelong musician, he earned his Bachelor in Music Education from Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, and his Masters of Education Administration from UMKC. Kipp was Baker's Drum Major for the Marching Wildcats. Marching to the beat and right behind him was his soon to be wife, Debra Igoe. They moved to Gardner in 1979 and their daughter Sabrina was born in 1980. Kipp and Sabrina had a yearly tradition of attending Martin Luther King celebrations. Kipp and Deb recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary this past September 1st.

Mr. W started his teaching career at Nike Junior High School in Gardner. He taught vocal music and was an assistant band director for the GEHS Trailblazer Marching Band. During the summers he owned and operated Midwest Perma Coating Roofing Co. Kipp also taught music at Santa Fe Trail Junior High School in Olathe, Kansas, where he started a handbell choir. He returned to Gardner Edgerton School District, teaching vocal music at Wheatridge Middle School and GEHS. Kipp brought handbells to these classes and established The Blue Blazers, a select vocal ensemble, which played at many Dickens and Renaissance Festivals.

Always dedicated to Church worship music, he started at age 14 playing the piano at a church in New Britain. Over the years, he has served as organist, choir director, handbell director, and music director for Indian Heights UMC, St. Mark's UMC, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, and King of Kings Lutheran Church. For 25 years he served as a director and board member of Heartland Presbyterian Intergenerational Handbell Camp near Weston, Missouri. He participated in many national musical events and frequently served as clinician and director.

In serving his Gardner community, Kipp also held the position of President of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the city of Gardner, Kansas, and served as a member of the USD 231 School Board.

Kipp was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife Deb, of the home; daughter Sabrina and husband Tim Williams, grandchildren Kaleb and Kendal all of Marietta, GA; brothers Korey and wife Beccie Willnauer and Kent and wife Kathy Willnauer; nephews Kody and wife Brittani Willnauer and children Kohl and Karaline and Kasey and Cassie Willnauer and children Ellie and Ezra.



*Kipp Willnauer*

## *Commissioned Work to Honor Kipp*

As many of you are aware, Area 8 lost a very special friend. Kipp Willnauer, a past Area 8 board member, died this past October. Everyone who knew him likely had their own Kipp story. He was a friend to everyone, an advocate of our handbell art, and an extreme Area 8 volunteer, having helped with countless workshops and festivals. The Area 8 board has decided to commission a work in Kipp's honor and include it in our Festival, but we need your help. Please consider donating to this effort. Please donate via the QR code below. Our Area 8 Treasurer, Tami Kofran, will also accept any checks sent or given to her. Donations can be sent to Tami at PO Box 15, Janesville, IA 50647.

Please donate using the QR code to the right.



# Ringer Spotlight: Greig Ashurst

**Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where do you ring? How long have you been ringing?**

I direct groups at Cathedral-Carmel School and at Asbury UMC in Lafayette, Louisiana.

I have been playing handbells for 37 years. I have been a conductor of handbell ensembles for 35 years. I have performed and conducted handbells in numerous ensembles throughout the US and Puerto Rico.

**What is your favorite handbell ringing position?**

D5, E5

**What is your favorite piece to ring?**

I really enjoy playing the finale from "Symphony #1" for Organ by Louis Vierne.

**Describe one of your most memorable handbell events or road trips.**

My most memorable was a train trip to a Directors' Seminar in Denver, Colorado, with my handbell quartet. We performed at the seminar and had an exciting travel experience. My favorite handbell events were the ones where I conducted in Puerto Rico. It was fun to meet new people, eat great food, and play some incredible music.

**Any additional information or stories you would you like to share with your Area 8 friends?**

I am truly grateful to be able to serve HMA as the President of the Board of Directors. I hope to make this organization truly come alive over the next three years. We have a wonderful board of directors and an incredible staff that truly cares about growing our art form and uniting people with the joy of handbells.

## Quick Quavers Eight:

1. Schullies or Malmarks?
2. Marts or mallets?
3. Gramann or Payn?
4. Clothespins or dogears?
5. Raleigh Ringers or Sonos?
6. Hard copy or tablet?
7. Polo shirt or anything but?
8. One assignment, or move around?



Greig Ashurst

*I am looking forward to conducting the Area 8 Handbell Festival next summer. I love the people of Area 8 and look forward to making new friends while I am there.*

## Spotlight your A8 Friends!

Nominate a ringer for our next Ringer Spotlight, or nominate yourself! For more information, visit the Area 8 home page [here](#), and click on the link for Ringer Spotlight. To access the form directly, [click here](#).

# Ringer Spotlight: Stevie Berryman

**Tell us a little bit about yourself. Where do you ring? How long have you been ringing?**

I direct Houston Chamber Ringers (Tomball, TX), Rocket Bells (Clear Lake, TX), and Decibells (Houston, TX). I've been ringing since high school, and directing since 2001. Most of my ringing now is in small ensembles of 2-6 ringers.

**What is your favorite handbell ringing position?**

Love me a great GA6 part. I don't know why it's so much more fun than EF6, but it absolutely is. Plain facts.

**What is your favorite piece to ring?**

This sounds so self-serving, and I'm cringing as I type this. But at HCR's concert last spring our Assistant Director Debbie Prihoda led the ensemble and I got to ring my own arrangement of Por Una Cabeza. Of course I assigned myself the GA6, and it's just a really fun part to ring! Who doesn't love a great tango?

**Describe one of your most memorable handbell events or road trips.**

Wow, too many to list! For me personally, the most memorable event was ringing with the Baton Rouge Symphony on their Christmas Pops concerts with the Red Stick Ringers, which I was directing. We rang during their Baton Rouge concert and traveled with them to Natchez, Mississippi, for a concert there as well.

**Any additional information or stories you would you like to share with your Area 8 friends?**

Always remember that even those of us who have been ringing for decades are still just figuring things out. Bells may be an ancient instrument, but a handbell choir is a relatively new invention. We need a couple of more centuries of experience, composition, and pedagogy behind us before any of us can say with confidence, "This is the only correct way." So if you are struggling with a technique or passage, give yourself some grace. We are all just doing the best we can until someone comes up with a way to do it better.

## Quick Quavers Eight:

1. Schullies or **Malmarks?**
2. **Marts** or mallets?
3. Gramann or **Payn?**
4. Clothespins or **dogears?**
5. Raleigh Ringers or **Sonos?**
6. Hard copy or **tablet?**
7. **Polo shirt** or anything but?
8. **One assignment,** or move around?



Stevie Berryman

*I find it nearly impossible to walk away from a dare. This is hugely advantageous when it comes to concert programming, and ridiculously stupid when it comes to bar bets.*

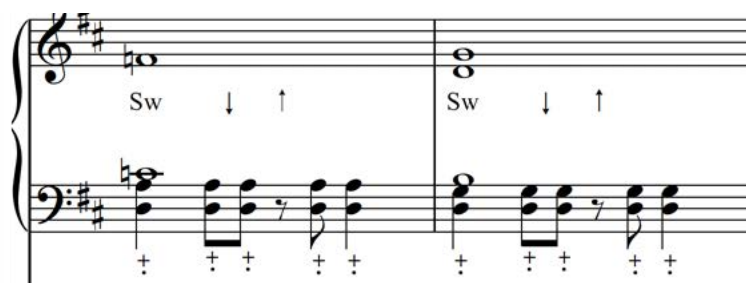
# Technique Class: Swing

by Professor Bell

Duke Ellington had it right---“It don’t mean a thing if it ain’t got that swing”! And, can we ever swing with handbells!! Or, at least we can perform the swing with them. Originally called the “tower swing”, this technique is used to bring the bell tone in and out when rung. Ring the bell normally, then swing the arm down with the mouth of the handbell pointing towards the floor. The bell is then brought back up to the ready to ring position.

Years ago, this was performed with a wide swing of the bell, back and forth. With space considerations and the problem of walls, pews, or about any other object behind the ringer, this was dangerous to do. Now it is taught to use your leg as a guide. Don’t ever go beyond your leg to prevent striking an object behind you.

The most important thing about the swing is the rhythm!! Doesn’t that make sense?! The swing is performed on notes of 3 beats or longer. The bell is rung on the beat, then arrows indicate when the bell should be swung down then back up again. Often, it is rung on beat 1, down on 2, and then back up on 3. But sometimes it will be brought down and up on later beats, especially with notes that are held for a long time. It is essential in order to get the full effect of the sound to move exactly on the beats indicated. For example: with a dotted half note, on beat 1 the chord will be written, on beat 2 there will be a down arrow with the #2, and on beat 3 there will be an up arrow with a #3. It is often better to take a step back from the table when performing a swing, so that the handbell will not hit the table as it is brought down.



With the large bass bells below the C4, the same effect can be accomplished by holding the bell up with both hands, ring on the beat, then exactly on the 2nd beat, rotate the bell sharply to the left, then sharply to the right on beat 3. This helps prevent the bell from hitting the table, plus it is safer and less stress on the ringer than swinging that weight down and up. The sound will be affected, just as swinging a smaller bell.

The swing is a very simple technique, but performed correctly together in the choir, it adds a new dimension to our ringing. And that means a lot!



Nancy Youngman  
(Professor Bell)

*Hello all. This is Professor Bell. You may have caught my lessons on handbell technique with my wonderful and eager student, Clapper on our Area 8 Fourth Friday online classes in 2021. Clapper was kind enough to ask me to share with all our ringers, as he learned so much!*



Janelle Flory Schrock

*I recently attended the advanced handbell workshop Distinctly Bronze West for the first time. While there I met another Kansas ringer who has participated in Distinctly Bronze events for nearly 20 years. Karen Blakeslee lives in Manhattan, Kansas and rings with the Rhapsody Ringers, First United Methodist Church, Manhattan, KS. Here are some things she had to share.*

# First-Hand Account of Attending DB West, a National Ringing Event

Janelle Flory Schrock, Kansas State Co-Chair



Karen Blakeslee, second from left, rings at 2023 Distinctly Bronze West

## **Karen, how has attending DB helped you grow as a handbell musician?**

Distinctly Bronze is an event for ringers with advanced ringing experience. It is an event to allow you to ring more advanced music that you may not get to ring in your home choir. Plus it is conducted by different well-known directors from around the world.

## **How many times have you attended Distinctly Bronze and in how many locations (East/West/Europe)?**

My first DB was in 2004 when it was just DB East only. I have attended all of the DB West events since those started and some DB East events. I also had the opportunity to travel with a small DB group to Europe in 2007. That was a great experience to ring in Scotland, England, and France under the direction of David Davidson.

## **Name one or two of your most memorable clinicians at DB and share what you enjoyed most about working with them?**

The founder of DB was the late David Davidson. He was simply the best. He pushed us to make the best music possible. Another clinician that was memorable was Toshikazu Yoshida. During a rehearsal of one song, he stood on the podium, did not direct us with his arms, and just moved with the music to direct us. It was magical!

## **How did DBW23 stand out/differ from past DBs?**

This year at DB West, Hart Morris was the clinician. He is delightful and fun! Every DB is different because of the director chosen to lead us. They bring their own "flavor" to the event.

### One or two favorite DB memories?

The best memories for me are from the 2007 DB Europe trip. We had the opportunity to ring under the dome at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and the best crowd was at the American Church in Paris, France. I'll never forget that whole trip!

### How do you think DB has impacted the world of handbells?

It has allowed DB participants to ring some unique repertoire and more secular music. With the development of the David Davidson composition fund, new music is written and commissioned for this event. Having a full set of almost all octaves of bells and chimes, that also enhances the musical experience.

### What would you say to a fellow ringer who is thinking about attending a DB event (or other advanced workshop) but may be hesitant?

You never know until you try. If you are still on the fence, DB East offers an opportunity for new attendees who may not be comfortable ringing in the larger group. There are scholarships available via the William H. Griffin Scholarship Fund to cover registration cost and up to \$500 in travel expenses.

### What advice would you give to a first-time DB attendee to get the most out of the experience?

Take a deep breath and have fun! All of us were first time attendees at some point. Practice and do the best you can!

### Do you have any photos from past DBs you'd like to include with the article?

This picture (shown at right) is from the DB Europe tour where we saw the Beverly Town Handbell Ringers who ring on White Chapel handbells and ring off the table. That's a lot of bells to manage! They ring on duplicate or triplicate sets of bells. This shows a triplicate setup. Learn more about them [here](#).



*For more  
information  
about Distinctly  
Bronze events,  
visit the national  
[HMA Website.](http://area8.handbellmusicians.org)*



Dick Crusinberry

*There are at least five collegiate handbell ensembles in Iowa now—at Luther College, Wartburg College, Coe College, Central College, and Iowa Lakes Community College. It's important that we actively support and encourage these groups, recognizing them as the future of this activity.*

# Collegiate Handbells: A Link to the Future

Dick Crusinberry, Iowa Chair

The Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival recently finished in Des Moines with Jessica Kite as our clinician. Jessica is the director of the Concordia University Handbell Choir in Nebraska and is an energetic and enthusiastic teacher and clinician. Given her proximity to the event, this year we elected to do something a little different on Friday night. While in the past we have held a reading session on Friday, this year, we invited the handbell choir from Concordia University to perform. This shift in approach was motivated by our desire to support young ringers so that they will feel encouraged to continue ringing or possibly to begin directing a handbell choir after graduation. We also want to encourage directors of these young musicians, and we believe that Jessica values inclusiveness and fosters an organization that welcomes new ringers. Many of us are beginning to age out, and we believe young ringers are vital to the continued growth of this activity.

Collegiate handbell choirs serve a valuable function, not only in the handbell community, but in the broader community. They offer an opportunity for young people who were introduced to handbells in their hometowns to continue to ring, and they give these young musicians the opportunity to expand their repertoire beyond sacred music to other genres such as show tunes, popular music, and rock. These groups not only perform locally but also embark on tours, serving as a valuable recruiting tool for the school and the ensemble. In addition, as advanced handbell choirs composed entirely of young people, they may inspire younger musicians to consider playing handbells. Finally, collegiate handbell choirs can push creative boundaries, as exemplified by St. Olaf's handbell choir, which incorporates a composition by one of its members that uses a lumatone, an electronic instrument capable of microtones, into their performances, creating a unique fusion of handbells and technology.



Ringers from Concordia University-Nebraska participate in Mid-Iowa Festival October 2023

# AI Meets Handbells

## Byron Jensen, Nebraska Chair

I asked Area 8 Nebraska Committee members if they had ideas regarding a topic for me to elucidate upon for Quavers. I am not out of ideas (at least just yet), but I thought if there was something going on among our group to bring forth to our community, I would bring that to the forefront. I jokingly wrote: If I hear nothing, I'll go to artificial intelligence (AI) ChatGPT and type in the following prompts: handbells, polishing, midnight, and mirage.

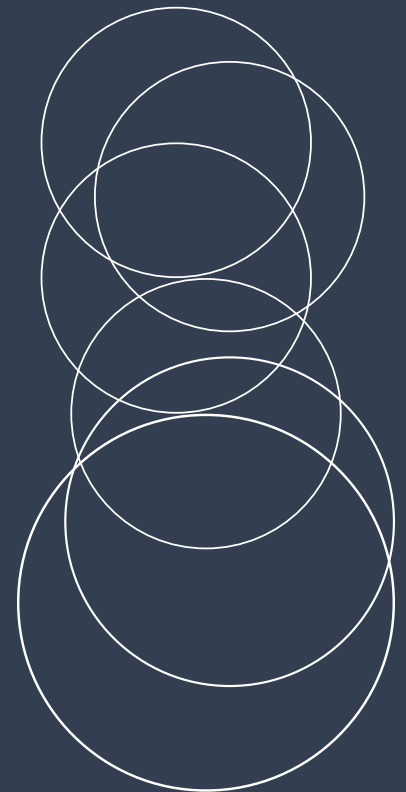
Among the ten creatives on the Nebraska Committee, one submitted an AI "masterpiece" regarding handbells and pumpkin spice. The introduction reads: "As the leaves turn vibrant shades of orange and the air grows crisper, there's a familiar sensation that sweeps over us – the arrival of autumn. This season brings with it a beloved craze that has captured the hearts of many: the Pumpkin Spice Craze. In this article, we'll explore the delightful intersection of fall's pumpkin spice obsession and the art of handbell ringing. Just as the changing leaves create a beautiful tapestry, handbell ringing techniques can infuse music with the warmth and spice that characterizes this season" (ChatGPT). From there, the article explores the elements of music, all with an autumnal sniff of spice and crunchy leaves. My favorite section is "Bell Techniques –Layers of Flavor."

At this point, I am intrigued (or perhaps brave) enough to have ChatGPT waft philosophically over me with the chatty prompt I listed above. The final paragraph reads: "As the last bell was lovingly polished to perfection, the handbell enthusiast couldn't help but smile, satisfied with the beauty they had uncovered in the midnight hour. The mirage of their own reflection in the polished brass served as a reminder of the dedication and passion that went into this art form." (Chat GPT)

Okay, so we can get some lovely prose from a few short phrases. What about something real in life? I created a prompt: McChesney. Timbrel and Dance. Mallet. Technique. The AI response was priceless: "I'm not aware of a specific composition by McChesney called "Timbrel and Dance" related to handbells and mallet technique in my knowledge up to September 2021. McChesney is indeed known for his contributions...." (ChatGPT). Yes! I stumped ChatGPT only because it only has knowledge up to September 2021. WHAT? That was two years ago!



Byron Jensen



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## Nebraska handbell ensembles invite you to their concerts

### Concordia Univ. Handbell Choir

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:00 PM  
Borland Center for Music and Theater, Seward, NE

### Bell-issimo with Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra

Sunday, Dec. 3 at 2:00 and 6:00  
Lied Center for Performing Arts

Thursday, Dec. 14, Eastmont Village, Lincoln, Nebraska  
(inaugural concert)

### River City Ringers of Omaha

Friday, December 8 at 7:00 pm  
St. Andrews Episcopal  
925 S. 84th St., Omaha

Saturday, Dec. 9 at 2:00 pm  
First Presbyterian, Bellevue  
1220 Bellevue Blvd South

Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7:00 pm  
Pres. Church of the Master  
10710 Corby Cir., Omaha

Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:00 pm  
Augustana Lutheran Church  
3547 Lafayette Avenue, Omaha

Saturday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 pm  
UNO Campus – Strauss PAC  
6395 University Dr. N., Omaha

### Ring the Bells of Christmas

Kearney Handbell Choirs from:  
First Lutheran Church  
First Presbyterian Church  
First United Methodist Church  
December 3, 2023, 7:00 pm  
Merryman Performing Arts Center, Kearney, Nebraska

## AI Meets Handbells, continued

A search for program notes on “The Awakening” by Brenda Austin pointed to her being a successful clinician and composer, as well as another work I commissioned from Jason Krug. Surprisingly, I got closer to program notes for Cynthia Dobrinski’s “Rondo—Passacaglia” from 1986. [No, I didn’t commission the piece.] AI had this to say: “[Rondo—Passacaglia] combines elements of both a rondo and passacaglia, two distinct musical forms....” (ChatGPT). I admit to being a bit on the “duh” side at this point. Personally, I liked my program notes better from 2017 that read in part: “...Dobrinski’s inventiveness is heard as she blends two forms of music, the rondo (in this case ABA’BA’’) that juxtaposes two distinct themes. The first theme (the A section) is a passacaglia supported by a descending bass line (C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, G3, C4—if you want to follow along). The intervening episode (B section) shifts dramatically from C major to A-flat major and exudes a confident contrast. In Renaissance fashion, each passacaglia returns as a set of melodic variations and is harmonically secured to the descending bass line. Each variation incorporates bell techniques that have become commonplace in handbell literature since the 1980s: martellato, thumb damp, and plucking. The work is fun and challenging to perform.”

When it comes to understanding and explaining music, I will take my own insights and experiences over any type of artificial intelligence. Perhaps ChatGPT can provide an idea—such as kindling for this article, but from there, we should let SI (self-intelligence) be the guiding principle in how we approach our music and lives.

Byron Jensen (aka, not a ChatGPT)  
Nebraska Chapter Chair



Rezound!, Kansas City's auditioned community handbell ensemble, is currently seeking a new Artistic Director.

The ensemble celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2021 and we are excited to continue our tradition of musical excellence as the organization continues into its next decade.

Our new Artistic Director will be a key team member as we build on our achievements and look to the future.

Additional information and an application form can be found at: [rezound.org/artistic-director/](http://rezound.org/artistic-director/)



## *The Past is Prologue:*

St. Louis Takes the Spotlight

Laurie Austin, Area 8 Historian

### Coming into the 1960s

In the last edition of *Quavers*, we discussed the first national handbell festivals organized by the fledgling American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR, now operating as Handbell Musicians of America). Those festivals were quite naturally held in eastern Massachusetts, where many of the organization's early leaders lived. After six years of national festivals in Ipswich, Massachusetts, and the passing of Margaret Shurcliff, the organization regrouped before presenting its next national festival. They chose instead to focus on regional events, and in 1960 divided the country into Areas. The first national division saw Illinois in Area V; Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas were in Area VI. Robert Morrison of Ohio served as the first Area V chairperson, and Frances Keck of Iowa served as the first Area VI chairperson.

Many groups from our area participated in regional events, including the Southwest Festivals of the 1950s

and 1960. Our archives includes the program from the Fourth Southwest Festival, held in Tulsa, OK, in June, 1960. It shows that Dr. Istvan Gladics brought two groups, the Village Church Bell Choir and the Village Bells of Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS. Both groups played several pieces, all arranged by Gladics: *Were You There*, *Air Suisse*, *Chopin's Prelude*, *Merry Widow Waltz*, *When I Grow Too Old to Dream*, *Small March*, and *Polly-Wolly-Doodle*. Howard Lefever brought both his Senior High and his Junior High Bell Choirs from Westminster United Presbyterian Church in Des Moines, IA. The Senior High group played *Gavotte* and *Fairest Lord Jesus*; the Junior High group played *German Folk Song* and *The Chimes*. John Van Aiken brought two groups from the Spring Valley Baptist Church in Grandview, MO. They played *Evening Star*, arranged by F.L. Whittlesey and a Bach piece. Mrs. D.W. Ferris brought the handbell choir from the Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, MO. They



The local committee for the St. Louis festival were former and current members of the Blue Bells, pictured here in Florence Marlow's living room. Left to right: Annalou Raffels, Florence Marlow, Corinne Knebel, Estell Ehrhardt, Freda Wilkinson, Gussi Berg, and Emily Baker.

played two of her arrangements, Scarlet Ribbons and Traumerei. \_G. Underwood brought a group from the Butler Presbyterian Church of Butler, MO. They played two Underwood arrangements, Waiting for the Sunrise and One Foundation. And to round out our area's representation there, Paul Lefever brought a group from First Methodist Church in Manhattan, KS. They played four songs, three of which were arranged by

Lefever. There were also combined choir performances throughout the festival. About 325 directors and ringers took part in the 1960 Tulsa festival.

In this June 1960 program is the announcement that makes it clear that participatory handbell ringing was indeed coming westward: "Meet me in St. Louis in June 1961 at the National Festival of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers."

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## The National Scene

Robert Hieber of Battle Creek, Michigan, took over the presidency of the AGEHR in 1959, and importantly for this story, Midwesterner and Blue Bells founder Florence Marlow was elected the secretary of AGEHR. Issues of the AGEHR's newsletter, *Overtones*, tell us that there was an increased focus on promoting handbells in education and youth programs. During this era, Mary C. Kopf became AGEHR's first paid employee. She served the role of Corresponding Secretary, part time, for \$100/month. Other major expenses were for leadership meetings, committee meetings, *Overtones*, board meetings, and the festival. At this point, yearly membership dues doubled (now they were \$10 for groups and \$5 for individuals), and a new category of Associate Member (\$1) was initiated. To cut down on expenses and to allow the Areas to blossom, National festivals were relegated to every two years, and the local Area festivals would be held in the off- years. Because the next national festival was scheduled for 1961, National Festivals were determined at this time to be held in odd numbered years.

Besides festival registrations and membership dues, the AGEHR was experimenting with other sources of income. They sold advertising space in *Overtones* to music arrangers, choir robe companies, music staff paper suppliers, record companies, and bell repair people promising to heal sick bells. They also sold AGEHR-specific items, such as the hand-in-bell insignia, stationery, official seals, neckties with bells, an AGEHR patch, and two publications by AGEHR's early leaders Isabel Meldrum and Margaret Shurcliff.

The growing pains of the 1950s were beginning to show. One big topic that was getting a lot of ink in *Overtones* was the problem of handbell music publication. As the art form was spreading across the country, a great need existed for wide, varied, and creative publications of bell music. Unfortunately, there were not that many

handbell composers producing original works during this era. Most directors and arrangers were taking other work and adapting them to handbells. The problem, of course, was copyright. In the beginning, these arrangers felt their little attempts at writing for handbells were so insignificant that seeking permission seemed unnecessary. But as the concept of re-arranging copyrighted music spread across the country, handbell musicians who were also involved in music publishing began to raise the alarm that this practice was illegal. If folks wanted to arrange copyrighted music for bells, they needed to seek permission first. Otherwise, this practice was infringing on the rights of other composers and arrangers. At first, as in a 1958 article, it was presented as a friendly reminder. Corrections, reminders, and apologies continued in *Overtones* throughout the 1960s. It wasn't until the 1970s, as AGEHR itself became the publisher of handbell music, there was a hard rule for arrangers to secure copyright permission before the music could be published or performed at a National event.

As for the bells themselves, after the pent-up demand of the 1950s, handbell manufacturers were finally flooding the country with handbells. The Dutch bell manufacturer, Petit and Fritsen, began manufacturing handbells in 1955, and had supplied 130 sets of handbells to the US between 1958 and 1960. By the time of the St. Louis festival, there were primarily two types of handbells in general use, Whitechapels and Petits. But two other manufacturers were hitting the scene, both American. David Workman set up his shop in Kansas City in 1954 and was producing his Bells of David during this time, although his output was much smaller than the larger foundries. Also in 1960, Bernard Mason started to manufacture Tru-Sonic bells in southern California.

## Meet Me in St. Louis – Finally, National is also Local

The St. Louis national handbell festival in 1961 was a big departure from the previous festivals at Castle Hill in tiny, charming, seaside Ipswich, MA. It was the first festival held in a city. Buses took participants to festival locations not on campus. A notable feature was the riverboat cruise with a floating handbell concert. Participants were housed on a college campus and in hotels, and were treated to an opera performance. Good or bad, it felt more social and less about ringing and learning about bells. Because of its 600+ registrants, it also gained a considerable profit of \$3,275.18. Accounting for inflation, it would be the equivalent of a \$33,518 profit in today's dollars.

The people behind the festival included many regional leaders, most particularly current and former members of St. Louis' community bell band, the Blue Bells. Florence Marlow and Gladys Walker served as the festival co-chairs and Martin Reeher serviced as the program chairperson. Richard Litterst organized the concerts, giving as many ringing opportunities as possible to interested groups. Corinne Knebel and Freda Wilkinson organized the entertainment. Emily Balser and Estell Ehrhardt arranged all bus and car connections for festival activities. Annalou Raffels was in charge of registrations, assisted by Gussi Berg and Irene Gerdleman. Ruth Bartel arranged accommodations for 220 people at Washington University, and the remaining attendees stayed at nearby hotels.

The festival was three days long, starting on Wednesday afternoon, June 14, with registration and reception at Wohl Hall, Washington University. That evening, after dinner, attendees saw the St. Louis Opera company's production of *Calamity Jane*.

Thursday, June 15, was dedicated to a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River aboard the *Admiral*, a modern air conditioned ship that was the largest river passenger steamer in America at 375 feet.

Festival attendees boarded the *Admiral* at 10 am to attend a concert, followed by some combination of informal ringing sessions, dancing, roaming the decks, and sunbathing. Meanwhile, AGEHR leaders and area chairpersons attended meetings aboard the ship to plan the upcoming regional festivals. A formal panel dedicated to Music in Church Worship was convened at 2:30. The *Admiral* was back at the dock at 4PM,

and attendees were whisked away to their 4:30 final concert rehearsal at Washington University. The busy day continued with dinner at Wohl Hall and an 8:00 pm concert.

Friday, June 16, sent youth participants and adult participants in different directions. Youth ringers were guided to a morning-long free ringing period overseen by F.L. Whittlesey and Robert Morrison. After lunch, the youth contingent visited the St. Louis Zoo. The adults could attend one of two early morning presentations, Publicity and Promotion for Youth Handbell Groups, or Beginner Bells. Later in the morning, there were three possible sessions, Change Ringing, Bells with Instruments and Voices, and Ringing Techniques. After lunch, there were two back-to-back sessions for all adults, Scott Parry's Arranging Music for Handbells, and an address by carillonneur and author, Arthur Bigelow. The day ended with a dinner, a full assembly, a concert, and at what seems like a very late hour for a meeting, the 10PM meeting of the new AGEHR board.

There was at least one note in a subsequent *Overtones* that gently criticized the fun-to-learning ratio of this festival. Certainly it had moved in different direction than the Castle Hill gatherings, and the conversation was ongoing about how much of the festival should be strictly devoted to bells, listening to them, playing them, and learning about them. But the organizers of this festival certainly proved that they could attract an eager crowd, and were up to the logistical challenge of hosting the first national group away from AGEHR's New England roots.



The *Admiral* pictured on a 1961 postcard.  
Credit: Colourpicture publishers.

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## Does Your School Qualify?

Area 8 offers a handchime loan program to schools in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. *Qualifying schools will receive:*

- 3-octave set of handchimes for one semester (approx. 4 months) with teaching materials
- support network and/or mentor
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To check availability of handchimes for loan or to submit an application, please contact Nancy Youngman, Area 8 Chimes Chair.

*To learn more about the Chime Loan Program, visit the [Area 8 website](#).*

*A video featuring Nancy Youngman describes in detail the Area 8 chime loan program and can be found [here](#).*

# Upcoming Area 8 Events

## December 2023

### December 1, 2023

- 7:00 pm RiverBend Bronze Christmas Concert  
St. John's United Methodist Church, Davenport, Iowa
- 6:30 pm Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble Holiday Concert 2023  
Prairie Lights at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, Kansas
- 7:30 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir in Concert  
DeSoto United Methodist Church, DeSoto, Kansas

### December 2, 2023

- 2:00 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir in Concert  
First Presbyterian Church of Topeka, Topeka, Kansas
- 3:30 pm RiverBend Bronze Christmas Concert  
St. John's United Methodist Church, Davenport, Iowa
- 4:00 pm Chicago Bronze Holiday Concert  
Barrington United Methodist Church, Barrington, Illinois
- 6:30 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir in Concert  
Fairlawn Nazarene Church, Topeka, Kansas
- 7:00 pm Bells in Motion presents: A Ringing Christmas  
First Presbyterian Church, Taylorville, Illinois

### December 3, 2003

- 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm Bell-issimo Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra Deck the Halls Concert  
Lied Center for Performing Arts, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 2:30 pm Chicago Bronze Holiday Concert  
Ela Public Library, Lake Zurich, Illinois
- 3:00 pm Prairie Bronze Handbell Ensemble Holiday Concert 2023  
First Presbyterian Church of Newton, Newton, Kansas
- 3:00 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir in Concert  
Central United Methodist Church, Lawrence, Kansas
- 4:00 pm Bells in Motion presents: A Ringing Christmas  
Third Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Illinois
- 4:00 pm Chicago Bronze Holiday Concert  
Barrington United Methodist Church, Barrington, Illinois
- 7:00 pm Kearney Handbell Choirs Ring the Bells of Christmas  
Merryman Performing Arts Center, Kearney, Nebraska

### December 4, 2023

- 7:00 pm Chicago Bronze Holiday Concert  
Friendship Village of Shaumburg, Shaumburg, Illinois

### December 8, 2023

- 7:00 pm Rezound! Holiday Concert  
Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, Overland Park, Kansas
- 7:00 pm River City Ringers of Omaha concert: Once Upon a December  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Omaha, Nebraska

*More events listed on page 25*

## Publishing in Quavers

4 publications per year,  
published once each season.

## Articles

Articles are due on the  
10th day of January, April,  
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## Events & Concerts

must be submitted by the  
25th of January, April, July,  
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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:  
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handbellmusicians.org](mailto:newslettereditor.area8@handbellmusicians.org)

*Find the most up-to-date  
calendar and details  
about events on the  
[A8 website](#).*

Please check websites for the  
most up-to-date calendar and  
event information.

*Are you or someone you know looking for a college that has handbells? Click [here](#) for a list of college handbell programs found on the national Handbell Musicians website.*

*Find the most up-to-date calendar and details about events on the [A8 website](#).*

#### December 9, 2023

2:00 pm RiverBend Bronze Christmas Concert

Location To Be Determined

2:00 pm River City Ringers of Omaha concert: Once Upon a December  
First Presbyterian church, Bellevue, Nebraska

3:00 pm Rezound! Holiday Concert  
First Christian Church, Independence, Missouri

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

7:00 pm River City Ringers of Omaha concert: Once Upon a December  
Presbyterian Church of the Master, Omaha, Nebraska

#### December 10, 2023

2:30 pm Church of the Good Shepherd Brass Handbell Choir Season of Celebrating  
Church of the Good Shepherd, Chicago, Illinois

2:30 pm Chicago Bronze Holiday Concert  
Timothy Christian School, Elmhurst, Illinois

3:00 pm Rezound! Holiday Concert  
First Presbyterian Church, Lee's Summit, Missouri

3:00 pm River City Ringers of Omaha concert: Once Upon a December  
Augustana Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska

3:00 pm Plymouth Church Sounds of the Season Handbell Concert  
Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines, Iowa

#### December 15, 2023

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

#### December 16, 2023

11:00 am RiverBend Bronze, The Great Christmas Ring!  
North Park Mall Davenport, Davenport, Iowa

3:30 pm Des Moines Concert Handbells Christmas Concert  
Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines, Iowa

7:00 pm Rezound! Holiday Concert  
Chillicothe United Methodist Church, Chillicothe, Missouri

#### December 17, 2023

3:00 pm Rezound! Holiday Concert  
Lenexa United Methodist Church, Lenexa, Kansas

### April 2024

#### April 12 & 13, 2024

6:00 - 8:00 pm Friday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday  
Iowa City Handbell Choir Festival  
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Iowa City, Iowa

### June 2024

June 20-22,  
Area 8 Festival  
Columbia, Missouri