



## *Two Months & Counting!*

by Chris Peck, Area 8 Chair

Area 8 Festival 2024 is TWO months away! Have you signed up yet? Your Area 8 Board hopes you decide to join us for “Connect•Create•Celebrate” Area 8 Handbell Festival in Columbia, Missouri, this June. Registration is open through Wednesday, June 12, and our block of hotel rooms is reserved until Monday, May 20.

### What's Inside

- 1 Festival 2024 Updates
- 3 Festival Classes
- 7 Festival Clinicians
- 8 Festival Concerts
- 9 Festival Schedule
- 10 Area 8 Elections & Slate
- 13 Chime Loan Program
- 14 Illinois: Join Us at Festival!
- 15 Handbells and Funerals
- 16 Scholarships & Silent Auction
- 18 A Spiritual Journey in Ringing
- 20 Area 8 State Committees
- 21 Upcoming Events

**Click Here  
to register  
Area 8 Festival  
Columbia, Missouri  
June 20-22, 2024**

### You won't want to miss:

- Stevie Berryman and Greig Ashurst leading us in creating new musical experiences for beginning, intermediate, and advanced ringers. You'll have the opportunity to ring a brand-new piece composed specifically for our Festival.
- Several special opportunities on Thursday for extra ringer and director sessions as well as an extra optional rehearsal to ring through many of the pieces.

### And there's more!

- Two fabulous Area 8 handbell ensemble concerts: Rezound! and River City Ringers.
- Showcase Concert: Sign up to ring a piece or two of music for 200 of your closest handbell friends in our showcase concert – soloists, small ensembles, and full groups are welcome.
- Silent auction: Come check out the items up for auction and bid high. This benefits our Festival Scholarship; you might consider contributing an item for this special cause. Two first-time Festival attendees are here because of this fundraiser at Festival 2022.
- Handbell Petting Zoo – Come check out some unique musical critters.
- Music Swap Meet: Bring music you haven't rung for 20 years, but you don't want to put in the recycle bin – bring it to our Swap Meet – maybe you'll find something to take home with you! Be prepared, though, to take home what is left from what you bring.
- Wide variety of classes and reading sessions. There will be something for everyone. Try a new class or learn a different way of teaching a concept to your ringers.

*Two Months & Counting, continued*

## Extra Thursday Options

### One session for Directors (\$100)

Creating More Effective Rehearsals (led by Greig and Stevie)

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

### Three sessions for ringers (\$25 each)

2:15-3:25

Balls (taught by Stevie)

OR Mastering Mallet Technique (taught by Greig)

3:35 - 4:45

Balloons (taught by Stevie)

OR Can High Fructose Corn Syrup Improve Your Rhythm? (taught by Greig)

4:55-6:00

Technique Throwdown (taught by Stevie & Greig)

### Bonus “Warm-up” Rehearsal (\$15)

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

## Area 8 Board

### CHAIR

Chris Peck

### CHAIR-ELECT

Lori Fenton

### SECRETARY

Sara Washington

### TREASURER

Tami Kofron

### PAST CHAIR

Sharon Schmidt

### COMMUNICATIONS

Amy Knudsen

### CHIMES CHAIR

Nancy Youngman

### FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Stephen Swanson

### 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



I hope you are looking forward to  
a time of being together to  
**connect, create, and celebrate!**

**Register today!**

# Area 8 2024 Festival Classes

Listed by Class Schedule

Friday Morning	Saturday Morning
<b>Session B   9:15am - 10:15am (Gold)</b>	<b>Session J   9:15am - 10:15am (Gold)</b>
History of Handbells	Handbells from the Inside Out
Stopped Sounds: Advanced	You've Just Heard the "M" word. Now What? - Memorization
Handbells With Other Instruments	Repeatable Changes
Ringin' 101	Score Marking
Grant-Writing Basics for Non-Profit Handbell Choirs	Resources for Handbells in Worship
Reading Session: 8- and 12-bell music	Overview of Music Theory
Reading Session: Advent/Christmas, L 3-6	Reading Session: Original Compositions, L 3-6
<b>Session C   10:30am - 11:30am (Blue)</b>	<b>Session K   10:30am - 11:30am (Blue)</b>
History of Handbells	Handbells from the Inside Out
Bell Tree: Beginning	You've Just Heard the "M" word. Now What? - Memorization
Handbells With Other Instruments	Catch Up With That Metronome!
Ringin' 101	Score Marking
Grant-Writing Basics for Non-Profit Handbell Choirs	Resources for Handbells in Worship
Reading Session: Advent/Christmas, L 1-2	Overview of Music Theory
	Reading Session: Original Compositions, L 1-2

Friday Afternoon	Saturday Afternoon
<b>Session E   1:15pm - 2:15pm (Gold)</b>	<b>Session M   1:30pm - 2:30pm (Gold)</b>
Weaving	Stem Direction Does Count!
Small Ensemble Techniques: Advanced	Processionals and Ostinatos
Handbells in Pop Culture	Techniques for Ringers and Directors
Tackling Tricky Terrain: Rhythms	Bass Bells: Advanced
Practicing Handbells at Home	Take a Break! Gentle Yoga & Sound Healing
Reading Session: Lent/Easter, L 3-6	Panel: National Events - How to Get Involved
Reading Session: 2-3 Octaves	Reading Session: Area 8 Composers: L 3-6
<b>Session F   2:30pm - 3:30pm (Blue)</b>	<b>Session N   2:45pm - 3:45pm (Blue)</b>
Weaving	Stem Direction Does Count!
Bass Bells: Beginning	Processionals and Ostinatos
Handbells in Pop Culture	Techniques for Ringers and Directors
Tackling Tricky Terrain (Rhythms)	Take a Break! Gentle Yoga & Sound Healing
Practicing Handbells at Home	Navigating New Music
Stopped Sounds: Beginning	Reading Session: Area 8 Composers: L 1-3
Reading Session: Lent/Easter, L1-2	

# Festival Classes

Listed in alphabetical order with class title, teacher, and description

## **Bass Bells: Beginning** *Russell Joy*

Get to know the B3 and its buddies. There is a lot to consider before picking up these beasts at the bottom. Body basics, setup, techniques, teamwork, and taking care of equipment will be covered. Bass bell ringers need to be able to prepare and play in ways that serve the music but are safe.

## **Bass Bells: Advanced** *Noah Hartsfield*

This class will focus on ringing the low bass table of a traditional 5-octave ensemble (C3-C4). The class will explore how to ring quickly and effectively, techniques to aid in ringing, and ways to handle common challenges and difficulties of the low bass table. The class will focus on being hands-on and participants will have an opportunity to tackle difficult passages found in current music.

## **Bell Trees: Beginning** *Pat Latshaw*

If you are interested in adding bell trees to your handbell arsenal, this class will discuss how bell trees can be integrated into your performances, the basic equipment needed, and the introductory skills to start making music with handbell trees.

## **Bells With Other Instruments** *Nancy Youngman*

The students will be given a list of available music with other instruments, and these will be discussed. A variety of percussion pieces will also be included, and the student will be shown how to use these with their handbell choirs.

## **Catch up with that Metronome!** *Sharon Schmidt*

Do fast passages with lots of black on the page challenge you? Learn some tips and tricks for improving your skills to play rapid or rhythmic passages. As a bonus, you'll be improving your sight-reading skills.

## **Grant Writing Basics for Non-Profit Handbell Choirs** *Steve Jackson*

This session will address the availability of potential grant funds for bell choirs, both on the local and national level. Additionally, local and national foundations have funds available to arts organizations. Accessing these opportunities can enhance budgets and fund projects for your bell choir. If no grant writer is available, we will discuss avenues to identify free or low-cost grant writers.

## **Handbells from the Inside Out** *Nancy Blackwell*

This class will use handouts and hands on work with bells to discover how the musician's body is an integral part of playing the instrument of handbells. We will explore breathing and movement techniques to unleash your ensemble's musicianship and visual performance.

## **Handbells in Pop Culture** *Marshall Allen*

In recent years handbells have been popping up in a variety of new places. Take a break from ringing and relax in this class while enjoying a compilation of video clips from YouTube and other sources.

## **History of Handbells** *Laurie Austin*

The class will explore the origins of handbell ringing in the United States. The discussion will start with the bell bands and troupes that traveled throughout the country in the 19th century, playing for audiences, but not necessarily encouraging participation. It will continue with Margaret Shurcliff, the founder of the New England Guild of English Handbell Ringers, and how her enthusiasm for ringing started a movement across the country. We will also look at other aspects of handbell history, like music notation and publication, and handbell manufacturing.

**Navigating New Music** *Amy Knudsen*

Various processes for sight-reading music will be discussed as well as the pros and cons of each option.

**Overview of Music Theory** *Ron Mallory*

Ever wonder why some pieces have lots of sharps and flats, while others have none? Curious about why a composer chooses to write certain notes, and not others? This class will give a broad overview of scales, chords, key signatures, melody, harmony, rhythm, and more, as we take a look “under the hood” of some well-known handbell pieces to see how and why they work. We will also talk about why understanding these concepts is vital in your ensemble’s journey to better musicianship.

**Panel: National Events - How to Get Involved** *Tracy Peterson, Lori Fenton and more*

This session will include a panel of handbell musicians who have been involved in many national ringing events. The full realm of national events will be explained and discussed as well as how you can get involved. The panel will also share their personal experience ringing in national events. The session will also include a Q & A segment.

**Practicing Handbells at Home** *Ron Mallory*

You just finished rehearsing with your handbell group . . . and it will be another full week before you can touch the instrument again, so there is no way to practice on your own. It does not have to be this way! There are many ways handbell musicians can practice at home, even if you do not have your own personal set of bells. This class will be taught from the perspective of both the ringer (tools you can use to practice at home) and the director (resources you can give your ringers to practice from home).

**Processionals and Ostinatos** *Nancy Youngman*

Using examples from published sources, the class will practice a variety of processionals and ostinatos, as well as work on their own creation using a variety of ideas. This will be especially helpful with choirs who are working with fewer members or inexperienced ringers.

**Repeatable Changes** *Sharon Schmidt*

How do you play that tricky passage the same way every time? Once you have the basic skills (weaving, table damping, changes to chimes or mallets), the next step is to figure out when to do what, and how to mark your score so that you can repeat the change. In this hand-on class, we will solve multiple problems and explore marking techniques. Bring your mallets.

**Resources for Handbells in Worship** *Beth Ann Edwards*

HMA is working on resources for handbells in worship that can be available on the HMA website. This round-table discussion will review resources that are now available and resources that would be helpful and useful if they were available to handbell directors. Participants can ring and work through resources such as descants, singing bells, processionals, etc.

**Ringings 101** *Sharon Schmidt*

New to handbells? This session will get you started with the basic skills of ringing and damping with proper, healthy technique. It is also a great refresher, or a time for directors to learn how to teach new ringers.

**Score Marking** *Lori Fenton*

The use of effective and consistent score markings enables handbell ringers to be better prepared from “bells up” to the final cut off. This class will discuss the importance of standard notation for marking bell music as well as offering a review of the standard (and maybe not so standard) notations used.



**Small Ensemble Techniques: Advanced** *Pat Latshaw*

The standard techniques used with ringing as part of the handbell choir will be expanded upon in this class. Topics covered would include table layout, score notation, sharing bells, bell displacement and recovery, traveling 4-in-hand, and learning to dance together. The class will focus on teams of two practicing these techniques, but the skills learned can be applied to small ensembles of any size.

**Stem Direction Does Count!** *Sharon Schmidt*

How do you figure out who does what in handbell music? How would you study a piece of music away from the table? We will walk through several pieces of music to explore the mysteries of stem direction. On the way, we will review all the information presented in the music, including the bells used chart, brackets and parentheses, plus tricks for finding the melody.

**Stopped Sounds: Beginning** *Nancy Youngman*

Each student will be given a packet of excerpts from music showing a variety of stopped sounds. From instructor explanations and demonstrations, the student will be able to work on perfecting each technique. A fun final exercise will let the students use their skills.

**Stopped Sounds: Advanced** *Pat Latshaw*

Prerequisite: Knowledge of basic stopped sound techniques. Briefly review the stopped sound techniques and then put them into practice using examples from published music. Stopped sounds are often used in combination with each other. Learn the art of playing multiple techniques in a piece with emphasis on the preparation needed to play musically.

**Tackling Tricky Terrain: Rhythm** *Jill Endaya-Allen*

With greater understanding of familiar rhythm components, you will encounter fewer rhythms that trick you. This class will include tips for breaking down difficult passages and allow time for hands-on practice.

**Take a Break! Gentle Yoga & Sound Healing** *Tricia Fuelling/Janelle Flory Schrock*

As the Schuyler sisters told Hamilton, “take a break!” In this class we will spend some time stretching all those well used bell ringing muscles through gentle yoga for every level. Take some time to slow down, stretch, and refocus. Exercises will be enhanced by a healing “sound bath” using handbells and other instruments. Everyone is welcome! No need for a yoga mat – just bring yourself!

**Techniques for Ringers and Directors** *Ron Mallory*

Good technique provides a foundation for good musicianship. This class will explore a “grab-bag” of techniques that are important for both ringers and conductors, including: challenges unique to bass, treble, and battery bells as well as conducting patterns and hand independence, reading ahead, communicating as an ensemble, movement, and eye contact, and more. Along the way ringers and conductors will better understand the other’s role in making great music. Aimed at beginning to intermediate ringers and conductors, but with helpful material for more advanced musicians as well.

**Weaving** *Lisa Mills*

Does playing three notes in a row kind of stress you out? How about four? And what about those accidentals? This class will give you confidence about playing those types of passages in your music. Weaving is a skill needed by all ringers so let’s learn the proper technique to make your ringing look graceful.

**You’ve Just Heard the “M” Word. Now What? - Memorization** *Tracy Peterson*

Wait, what? You want me to memorize? This session will explore the use of memorization for the handbell musician. We will discuss strategies and tools for memorization and experience the process of memorizing to be able to ring a few short excerpts by the end of the session. Attendees need to bring a standup binder and the music for the massed ringing track.

# Festival Clinicians

Stevie Berryman and Greig Ashurst will be splitting all the conducting duties so that each ringing division will get to experience the expertise and the passion 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 of the Handbell Musicians of America and is an advocate for getting handbells into schools throughout the United States.



*Stevie Berryman*



*Greig Ashurst*



**Click Here  
to register**

**Area 8 Festival  
Columbia, Missouri  
June 20-22, 2024**

# 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 Choirchimes, 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.



---

## 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 Choirchimes, 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.



\*Extra tickets for Festival non-participants may be purchased for \$10 at the registration desk prior to the concert.



# Festival Schedule

	Thursday, June 20
Session 1   8am - 11:30am	Part 1: Creating More Effective Rehearsals. Led by Greig Ashurst and Stevie Berryman
Lunch   11:30am - 12:30pm	Lunch on your own
Session 2   12:30pm - 2:00pm	Part 2: Creating More Effective Rehearsals. Led by Greig Ashurst and Stevie Berryman
Session 3   2:15pm - 3:25pm	Balls (Stevie) <b>OR</b> Mastering Mallet Technique (Greig)
Session 4   3:35pm - 4:45pm	Balloons (Stevie) <b>OR</b> Can High Fructose Corn Syrup Improve Your Rhythm? (Greig)
Session 5   4:55pm - 6:00pm	Technique Throwdown! (Stevie & Greig)
Registration   4:00pm - 7:30pm	Registration & Massed Ring Set up
Dinner 5:15pm - 7:00pm	Dinner on your own
Session 6   7:00pm - 9:30pm	BronzeFest First Rehearsal
	Bonus "Warm-Up" Rehearsal



**Click Here  
to register  
Area 8 Festival  
Columbia, Missouri  
June 20-22, 2024**

	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 on your own/Shopping
	8:00 - 9:30 Concert: River City Ringers
	9:30 - 10:30 Unpublished Reading Session

Saturday, June 22
Massed Rehearsal
Blue Division rehearsal Bronze Festival Ensemble Classes for Gold Division Reading Session
Gold Division Rehearsal Classes for Blue Division Reading Session
Lunch & Rezound! Concert
Blue Division Rehearsal Bronze Festival Ensemble Classes for Gold Division Reading Session
Gold Division rehearsal Classes for Blue Division Reading Session
BronzeFest Concert
Massed Rehearsal
6:15 - 7:30 Dinner
<b>7:30 Area 8 Festival Concert</b>

# Area 8 Elections Held May 31-June 14, 2024

The nominating committee, consisting of Sharon Schmidt, committee chair, KC Congdon, and Pat Latshaw are excited to present the Area 8 slate of officers. Our bylaws require that each office includes two candidates, and with this slate, we know that Area 8 will be in good hands for the next two years. Elections for Area 8 chair elect, treasurer, and secretary will take place electronically from June 1 through June 15. More information about the voting process is forthcoming. Voting instructions will be sent to the email address listed on your HMA membership. If your membership has expired, renew [here](#). Please review information about the candidates before the election.



## Nancy Blackwell, Chair Elect

Nancy Blackwell has been involved in handbells for 25 years – starting with her involvement with the Thanksgiving! Church bell choir, Joyful Noise. She later earned a spot in the Omaha community choir, River City Ringers. Throughout the years she attended every Area VIII handbell festival taking classes and performing in Bronzefest. Her enthusiasm for the art form has recently led her to embrace events like Distinctly Bronze West (2022 and 2023) and the upcoming Bay View Week of Handbells this summer.

Within River City Ringers, Nancy's commitment extended beyond performances. Serving on the board from 2013 to 2019, she assumed the role of secretary and helped develop the organization's bylaws and ringer handbook. Returning to the board in 2022, she is currently serving as board president.

Nancy also dedicates her time to a board position in an international organization focused on providing faith-based support to individuals grappling with mental health challenges and their families. As well as the board position, she has been serving as a group co-facilitator for a decade.

When Nancy is not ringing, she thrives in her role as a computer programmer at an insurance company. She finds joy in quilting, reading, and cherishing precious moments with her family, especially her new grandson, whom she delights in spoiling.



## Laura Olsen, Chair Elect

Laura Olsen lives in the Chicago area and has been ringing handbells for 22 years. She rings with Chicago Bronze, directs bell choirs at 2 local churches, and has been tuning pianos for 40 years to support her bell habit. Andrea Handley, the director of Chicago Bronze says she's a bell nut and Laura thinks she's right, saying "I love the community of ringers. I've been to 4 DBEs and I'm going to Bay View this summer. If there's anything better than music, I haven't found it."



## Laura Kastens, Secretary

Laura Kastens is a retired University of Iowa administrative assistant who lives in Tiffin, Iowa. She came to handbells as a young adult just out of college with a music ed degree from the University of Illinois in hand. The church she attended (Prospect Heights Community in Prospect Heights, IL) wanted to start a handbell choir so she volunteered to learn as much as she could about the instrument and set about recruiting ringers. That was more than 40 years ago. Since then, she has served as director at Missouri United Methodist Church in Columbia, MO, and in her current position at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Iowa City, IA, she directs four ensembles, including an adult beginners group, an advanced women's ensemble, an intergenerational family group, and an advanced adult choir. She also rang with St. Mark's United Methodist church in Bloomington, IN when she lived in that community. Currently she is a member of RiverBend Bronze based in the Quad Cities.

Since retiring she finds herself agreeing with her parents that retirement is busier than her working years! An active clarinetist, she fills her days playing in the New Horizons band during the year and with the Cedar Rapids Municipal band during the summer, playing pickleball, taking Senior College classes at the University, ushering at various venues, reading, and walking.



## Julie Murphy , Secretary

Julie Murphy recently retired from Principal Financial Group where she worked as a Paralegal Analyst in the areas of benefit plan operations and governance, intellectual property, and human resources. In addition to her paralegal studies, Julie has degrees in music education, music performance (clarinet) and theory pedagogy, and public administration. Julie has performed with, and directed, numerous community and semi-professional organizations in both Illinois and Iowa. These include bands, orchestras, big bands, pit orchestras, choruses, and small ensembles. She is a founding member and co-director of the Des Moines Concert Handbells. She learned to ring in junior high and picked it back up for good about 40 years ago. She holds Sharon Schmidt, Beth Ann Edwards, and Lori Fenton responsible for dragging her into this crazy bell ringing community.

*Elections for Area 8 chair elect, treasurer, and secretary will take place electronically from May 31 through June 14. More information about the voting process is forthcoming. Voting instructions will be sent to the email address listed on your HMA membership.*



## Julia Cozad-Callighan, Treasurer



Julia Cozad-Callighan has been a bell player since the age of 8 and began ringing in a church choir in her hometown of Bettendorf, IA with her mother. She was immediately drawn to the low bass and has pretty much stayed there ever since, though she will play smaller bells if you ask nicely.

Julia currently plays in Riverbend Bronze, a community group based in the Quad Cities, where she resides (in Rock Island, IL). She also plays in Bells in Motion, formerly of Springfield, IL, now located in Decatur, IL. In October of 2023, Julia participated in her first Distinctly Bronze West under the direction of Hart Morris. This August she will attend the International Handbell Symposium in Japan.

Outside of handbells, Julia enjoys board games, baking (she runs a small home bakery), costuming and weightlifting. She shares her home with her

spouse named Shaun, two guinea pigs named Panda and Bear, and a crested gecko named Gecko.

Julia is excited about the opportunity to be more involved in Area 8. She currently serves as treasurer for a small local organization and welcomes the chance to stretch her skills further.

## Tami Kofron, Treasurer



Tami Kofron was introduced to handbells when her son was about 2 years old. That was a bit more than 30 years ago, and she enjoys ringing today as much as she did then!

Tami has lived in Cedar Falls most of her life and she graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1984 with a BA in Administrative Management. She is currently the Business Manager for Modern Builders, Inc. in Janesville, Iowa, and has been employed there for over thirty years.

When asked about ringing and Area 8, she said “I started ringing handbells around 1990 with my home church. I absolutely LOVE solo ringing and have had the privilege of duet ringing with Carolyn Jensen (also from Cedar Falls) since about 2008. I’m a member of the handbell choir at St. John Lutheran Church here in Cedar Falls. I also have the privilege of directing the handbell

choir at my home church, First Christian Church Disciples of Christ. I’ve had the great honor of sharing my love for handbells with both congregations both during worship and for the occasional special event.

In addition to attending various local bell events and our Area VIII handbell festivals, I’ve participated in several national events such as HMA National Seminar, Distinctly Bronze East and West, and SEE (Solo and Ensemble Extravaganza). One of my favorite annual events is the Mid-Iowa Festival held in the Des Moines area each fall!

In 2022, the membership of Area VIII elected me to serve as treasurer. I’ve learned so much about Area VIII and gotten to know so many more members through my participation. It’s been humbling to really understand all the effort your leadership puts into organizing festivals and all the other activities that are supported by Area VIII.”

When she’s not ringing, Tami enjoys living in rural Cedar Falls with her husband, Brad, their dog, Kenzie, and somehow three (and a half) cats. Playing the piano or crocheting relaxes her in the evenings, and on pretty days, she enjoys riding her bike and being outside taking care of the acreage.





Nancy Youngman  
Chime Chair

## State Chime Chairs

### Illinois

Patti Mangis

### Iowa

Patrick Gagnon

### Kansas

Amy Knudsen

### Missouri

Christie White

### Nebraska

Nancy Youngman

# Chime Loan Program

Nancy Youngman, Area 8 Chime Chair

*Educators: Do we ever have a deal for you!! FREE!!!*

For one year, you will have the use of a 3-octave set of Malmark hand chimes. How can you beat that? Well, we DO beat that!! Besides the use of the chimes, you will get a set of materials to help with your planning and ideas, along with a year's membership to the Handbell Musicians of America. This is an offer that is valid in every state!

I had the opportunity to use the chimes twice in my career. Once it was for a 6th Grade specials class. The focus was on singing and basic theory, and the chimes were instrumental (pun intended!) in teaching both. I started with chord progressions, then we applied those to the vocal music in the curriculum, then the students progressed to ringing and singing at the same time. It was so successful that the principal decided to buy a set of chimes for constant use in the school. And, several of those students became interested in playing with their church choirs.

When I taught middle school band, I augmented some of the pieces with the chimes. If you've ever taught Middle School, you know that the percussionists MUST be kept busy. These were perfect for them, as they are percussion instruments. They were great for teaching note reading to the young drummers, plus added interest to the pieces. Probably the one they liked the best was using them in a concert with the melody of *Carol of the Bells*. I had three students playing them front and center, and they absolutely loved it.

Now is the time to be preparing for the fall semester. The application forms are found on our website: Area 8 Handbell Musicians of America. You can either go to the Chime Loan Program, which is under "Resources" or to the site for the state where you reside. Each state has a Chimes Chair, so you can contact them or me. This is a decision that will greatly create interest in your lessons. So, do it now as you're thinking about your curriculum for the coming year!



# Join us at the Area 8 Festival in Columbia, Missouri

By Beth McFarland, Illinois State Chair

Calling all handbell ringers! The wonderful sounds of handbells will soon fill the halls of the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri, as we are gearing up for our Area 8 festival. This festival holds something special for all of us. Celebrating the artistry, the camaraderie and sharing the joy of handbell ringing with fellow ringers. Whether you're a seasoned ringer or just starting out, this event promises to be an awesome experience.

So, you ask, why should I attend?

## Community Connection

The Area 8 Festival is more than just a gathering of musicians, it's a coming together to share our passions of handbells. Connect with fellow ringers, directors, and all who share the love for handbells and it is so fun.

## Skill Development

Attend classes, sight reading sessions, and massed ringing sessions. Whether you're looking to hone your ringing techniques, learn new repertoire, or explore advanced concepts, there's something for all ringers.

## Inspiring Performances

Be ready for wonderful performances from River City Ringers and Rezound! during the festival.

## Creative Collaboration

Join with fellow ringers and choirs to participate in massed ringing sessions. The awesome feeling of making music together as one large ensemble under the guidance of our conductors Stevie Berryman and Greig Ashurst just can't be beat.

So don't miss out on this great opportunity to be a part of this wonderful festival. I can't wait to be a part of another great festival and look forward to seeing you all there.



*Beth McFarland*  
*Illinois State Chair*



**Click Here  
to register**  
**Area 8 Festival**  
**Columbia, Missouri**  
**June 20-22, 2024**



Dick Crusinberry  
Iowa State Chair

# Handbells and Funerals

Dick Crusinberry, Iowa Chair

I had the privilege of participating in a handbell choir at my old church in Nebraska, playing during the funeral of a beloved long-time member of the group. Occasionally, handbell directors are asked to provide a choir to ring at the funeral of a recently departed ringer or another church member who loved handbells. This task can be quite challenging due to the limited time to prepare, and because the choir must be assembled from available ringers because of schedule conflicts. The difficulty lies in finding something meaningful that can be easily prepared at short notice, often by a short-handed choir.

Yet for all the difficulties involved, the presence of handbells at a funeral can evoke poignant emotions for everyone involved. For example, the family of one elderly ringer asked that her former choir perform, leaving her position open except for some flowers where she used to stand. The symbolism of this was very beautiful and moving, not only for the attendees at her funeral but especially for her fellow ringers.

Here are some pieces of music that might be suitable for such occasions (with thanks to Nancy Youngman for her help compiling this list):

1. *I'll Fly Away* (arr. Waldrop, Level 2+, 3-5 octaves): A joyful and uplifting piece that celebrates the idea of eternal life and freedom.
2. *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (arr. Linker/McFadden, Level 4-, 3-5 octaves with keyboard): A spirited arrangement that reflects hope and spiritual renewal.
3. *Give Me Jesus* (arr. Waldrop, Level 2+, 3-5 octaves, with vocal solo): A simple yet profound hymn expressing a deep longing for a personal connection with God.
4. *In the Garden* (arr. Dobrinski, Level 2, 3-5 octaves): A peaceful and reflective piece that speaks of finding solace in communion with the Divine.
5. *It is Well with My Soul* (arr. Moglebust, Level 3, 3-5 octaves, with flute or violin): A classic hymn that conveys trust and peace even in the face of adversity.
6. *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (arr. Greer, Level 3, 3-5 octaves, with jazz clarinet): A soulful arrangement that invites listeners to draw closer to their faith.
7. *The Lord's Prayer* (arr. Dobrinski, NR, 3-5 octaves): A timeless prayer set to music, offering comfort and reassurance.
8. *When the Saints Go Marching In* (arr. Helman, Level 4, 3-5 octaves): A celebratory tune that celebrates the journey to heaven.
9. *As the Deer* (arr. Geschke, Level 2+, 3-5 octaves): A gentle and contemplative piece inspired by Psalm 42.
10. *Amazing Grace*: There are various arrangements of this beloved hymn, each capturing the grace and hope found in redemption.

*Undoubtedly there are many more pieces that would be appropriate. If the deceased person is a former choir member, they may have a favorite piece that is already in the choir's repertoire. In addition, anything contemplative, solemn, or even sometimes joyful might be appropriate.*





*Janelle Flory Schrock  
Kansas State Co-Chair*

# *Festival Scholarship Silent Auction*

Janelle Flory Schrock, Kansas Co-Chair

## **Festival Scholarship**

As a result of our silent auction and 'Ring a Bell' game fundraising efforts at our last festival, two very deserving and highly motivated individuals have received support from our Festival Scholarship Fund to attend their first Area 8 Festival this June: Rob Morrow of Omaha, Nebraska, and Kyle Jackle-Hugh, a youth member of Bells in Motion of Decatur, Illinois.

When asked what they plan to gain from Festival 2024 and how they plan to use what they learn in your local community, they answered:

"I wish to learn more about mostly everything; from malleting, weaving, shelleying, and four-in-handing. Although my mom has taught me a lot I want to learn from other people, too.

K.C. Congdon recently taught me the basics on shelleying and four-in-handing so that is my weakest area. I wish to become a better ringer since I am in a professional group. Overall, I am very excited to go and participate in it!" - Kyle

"I'm hoping to take in as many sessions as I can and learn as much as I can. I'd like to take the knowledge I learn and apply it to children's choirs at churches that don't currently have bells or chimes, potentially lead some music sessions at summer vacation bible schools." - Rob

*Silent Auction information continued on next page*





## 2024 Silent Auction

This summer in Columbia, we will once again have an opportunity to participate in raising scholarship funds. Our goal is to raise \$2,000 during this year's auction. You will have two ways of participating in this fundraiser:

Donate items! To have a successful auction, we need items to auction off. That's where your creativity and generosity come in!

Some ideas include:

- A themed basket representing your state, city, or handbell ensemble
- A piece of handbell music signed by the composer
- A service or skill that would be valuable to handbell musicians
- Music or bell-themed ANYTHING

In 2022, the item that raised the most funds was a Custom Handbell Arrangement by our own Area 8 Chairperson, Chris Peck. The items that generated the most active bidding were a 3D LED Music Notes Lamp and two porcelain Hummel bells. Another popular item was a Past Festival Tshirt Quilt. For inspiration on items to donate, you can view the 2022 auction items and what they went for at

<https://32auctions.com/kansascityhereicome>

To submit items, look for the Silent Auction item submission button on the festival page at [area8.handbellmusicians.org/2024-connect-create-celebrate/](https://area8.handbellmusicians.org/2024-connect-create-celebrate/). Please email one photo to be included on our Auction site to me.

Bid on and win items! Bidding will begin on June 20 in the morning and will conclude on June 22 in the afternoon. Winning bidders can pick up their auction haul in person at the conclusion of bidding. To preview the items that will be available, visit [www.32auctions.com/area-8-festival-2024](https://www.32auctions.com/area-8-festival-2024)

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Kansas Co-Chair Janelle Flory Schrock at [ks.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ks.area8@handbellmusicians.org)

**Click Here  
to register**

**Area 8 Festival  
Columbia, Missouri  
June 20-22, 2024**

*The Raleigh Ringers*

**STAY UP TO DATE WITH US!**



[www.rr.org](http://www.rr.org)



[/RaleighRingers](https://www.facebook.com/RaleighRingers)



[@RaleighRingers](https://twitter.com/RaleighRingers)



[@RaleighRingers](https://www.instagram.com/RaleighRingers)



**HANDBELL  
SERVICES, INC.**

of Detroit, Michigan • since 1991



Quality supplies, including gloves,  
binders and table padding

Unique gifts for ringers and directors  
handmade in the USA

**[www.handbellservices.com](http://www.handbellservices.com)**



Byron Jensen  
Nebraska State Chair

# *Connect, Create, Celebrate:* *A Spiritual Journey in Ringing*

Byron W. Jensen, Nebraska Chair

The first Area 8 Handbell Festival I attended was in Topeka in June 2010. (How could that have been fourteen years ago?) Family circumstances necessitated that I take the family dog with me to Topeka where a friend took Jett to a farm for a few days. Jett JoJo Jensen, a Schnauzer, was one of the coolest and smartest dogs I ever knew, and I know he looked forward to spending a couple of weeks exploring the farm he was very familiar with.

On the other hand, I was unfamiliar with attending large handbell festivals. Topeka was somewhat familiar, but not in a comfortable manner. My hotel check-in went smoothly, and the presence of unfamiliar people (many wearing matching shirts!) informed me that the festival would be a vibrant event. As a novice not paying attention to pre-registration information, I was thankful for an on-the-spot opportunity to play in the select Festival Ringers—especially since I had already purchased the music. Placement auditions for the Festival Ringers surprised me, but what a thrill to play in an advanced group of ringers! And then came the mass ringing sessions in the Kansas Expocentre. Previously, I had rung in groups of maybe eighty ringers, but nothing like 300! The sound was glorious, especially when notes, rhythms, and tempi came together. As an “orphan ringer,” I was welcomed by ringers from Omaha, all of whom I still **Connect** with at times...and probably will this June in Columbia, MO.

Personally, the results of attending my first Handbell Festival were significant:

1. Joining the Nebraska Handbell Committee.
2. Meeting and making new friends.
3. Unintended conducting lessons from playing in the Festival Ringers that impacted my own interpretation of music and conducting gestures.
4. Connecting with composers/arrangers and ringers.
5. I don't recall who the teacher/composer was for a session on writing for handbells, but she planted an important lesson: “Everyone has a song to be written.” I took that to heart to **Create** a handbell arrangement of a piece I composed in fourth grade.
6. And finally, coming home with more than a half-dozen new titles to share with my church and college handbell choirs. It was like I had already done the score study and was ready to go when September arrived.

### *Spiritual Journey, continued*

Fourteen years later and I am attending “Connect, Create, Celebrate”—the Area 8 Handbell Festival in Columbia, Missouri. My role is different as I join my Area 8 colleagues who serve on the Board. Our collective energies will schlep tables and instruments, set up classrooms and rehearsal spaces, organize check-in and registration services, make new acquaintances, greet old friends, and assure that we all **Celebrate** the art of handbells throughout the festival. My handbell career has always had a “spiritual flow” as an educator, conductor, committee member, and now an Area 8 Board member. Together—meaning the totality of everyone involved, we will all rejoice in having a successful and educational Festival experience in June 2024!

Please join us in Columbia from June 20th to 22nd for “Connect, Create, Celebrate”. If you’re an “orphan ringer,” you will be welcomed. If you do not have a full ensemble, you will be welcomed. Join us to find inspiration in our featured conductors, classroom instructors, professional ensembles, and incredible music. “Connect, Create, Celebrate” can be one more rung in your own spiritual journey ringing handbells!

## *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 this 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. If anything of yours remains in the designated area, it will be yours to collect at the close of Festival.

### **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!**

## Illinois Committee

### Illinois State Chair

Beth McFarland

### Western IL Rep

Don Wood

### Secretary

Beth McFarland

### Registrar

Open

### Events

Open

### Music Librarian

Beth McFarland

### Handbell Services Rep

Debi Robey

### Hand Chime Loan

### Program Coordinator

Open

### Hand Chime Loan

### Program Mentor

Open - please contact

Beth McFarland

### Food Coordinator

Open

## Iowa Committee

### Iowa State Chair

Dick Crusinberry

### Treasurer

Mary Lee Park

### Secretary

Donna Sprague

### Chimes Chair

Patrick Gagnon

### Historian

Christina "Tina"

Elwood Gehrke

### Western Representative

Yvonne Johnson

### Eastern Representative

Cat Walker

## Missouri Committee

### Missouri State Chair

Trey Bures

### Past Chair

Suanne Comfort

### Treasurer

Suanne Comfort

### Membership

Sherry Boland

### Chime Chair

Christie White

## Nebraska Committee

### Nebraska State Chair

Byron Jensen

### Secretary

Natalie Radcliffe

### Treasurer/Registrar

Linda Ashely

### Chimes

Nancy Youngman

### Scholarship

Janet Chiocchi

### Members

Michael Allen

Jessica Kite

Deann Nicolaus

Brian Lew

Angela Wright

Nancy Youngman

## Kansas Committee

Julie Assel &

Janelle Flory Schrock

### Treasurer

Karla Denton

### Secretary

OPEN - Contact

Julie or Janelle

### Chimes

Amy Knudsen

## 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
- one-year membership to Handbell Musicians of America.

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

## May 2024

### May 4, 2024

7:00 pm Bells in Motion presents: May the Fourth Be With You & Revenge of the Fifth  
First Presbyterian Church, Decatur, Illinois

### May 5, 2024

4:00 pm Bells in Motion presents: May the Fourth Be With You & Revenge of the Fifth  
Faith Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Illinois

6:30 pm Gateway Ringers Spring Concert: "Favorites Old & New"  
Kirkwood Baptist Church, St. Louis, Missouri

4:00 pm, Chicago Bronze 25th Anniversary Concert  
First Presbyterian Church of Deerfield, Deerfield, Illinois

### May 13, 2024

7:10 pm Rebellion Handbell Ensemble Concert: "Sing, Dance, Dream!"  
Aberden Heights, Kirkwood, Missouri

### May 17, 2024

7:00 pm Rebellion Handbell Ensemble Concert: "Sing, Dance, Dream!"  
Kirkwood United Methodist Church, Kirkwood, Missouri

7:00 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir Concert: Music from the Pale Blue Dot  
Susanna Wesley UMC, Topeka, Kansas

### May 18, 2024

2:00 pm Rebellion Handbell Ensemble Concert: "Sing, Dance, Dream!"  
Woodlawn Chapel Presbyterian Church, Ballwin, Missouri

7:00 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir Concert: Music from the Pale Blue Dot  
Lawrence First Church of the Nazarene, Lawrence, Kansas

### May 19, 2024

3:00 pm Gateway Ringers Spring Concert: "Favorites Old & New"  
Green Trails United Methodist Church, Chesterfield, Missouri

3:00 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir Concert: Music from the Pale Blue Dot  
First UMC, Lawrence, Kansas

### May 31, 2024

7:00 pm Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Concert  
Grace Covenant Church, Overland Park, Kansas

## June 2024

### June 1, 2024

7:00 pm Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Concert  
Christ United Methodist Church, Independence, Missouri

### June 2, 2024

3:00 pm Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Concert  
Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, Kansas

### Friday, June 7, 2024

7:00 pm Des Moines Concert Handbells: Around the World in 80-ish Minutes  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

7:00 pm River City Ringers Sounds of Celebration - 35 Years of Musical Memories  
Presbyterian Church of the Master, Omaha, Nebraska

*More events listed on page 22*

## Publishing in Quavers

4 publications per year,  
published once each season.

## Articles

Articles are due on the  
10th day of January, April,  
July, and October.

## 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 January, April, July,  
and October 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](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](#).*

## *Calendar Events, continued*

### **Saturday, June 8, 2024**

3:00 pm Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Concert

First Christian Church, Independence, Missouri

6:00 pm River City Ringers Sounds of Celebration - 35 Years of Musical Memories

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska

7:00 pm Des Moines Concert Handbells: Around the World in 80-ish Minutes

Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines, Iowa

### **June 9, 2024**

3:00 pm River City Ringers Sounds of Celebration - 35 Years of Musical Memories

Augustana Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska

3:00 pm Rezound! Handbell Ensemble Concert

Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Kansas City, Missouri

### **June 20-22, 2024**

Area 8 Festival

Columbia, Missouri

### **June 24, 2024**

7:30 pm The Agape Ringers Concert

First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa

### **June 25, 2024**

7:30 pm The Agape Ringers Concert

All Saints Episcopal Church, Omaha, Nebraska

### **June 27, 2024**

7:30 pm The Agape Ringers Concert

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

### **June 29, 2024**

7:30 pm The Agape Ringers Concert

Christ United Methodist Church, Rochester, Minnesota

### **September 29, 2024**

4:00 pm The Agape Ringers Concert

Christ Lutheran Church of Clarendon Hills, Clarendon Hills, Illinois

### **October 19, 2024**

2024 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival, Jason Krug, Clinician

Windsor Heights Lutheran Church, Windsor Heights, Iowa

## **Upcoming National HMA Events**

Click here for more information

### **July 9-13, 2024**

Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar, Hartford, Connecticut

Including Master Series and Distinctly Teen

### **August 12-17, 2024**

21st International Handbell

Symposium, Hamamatsu, Japan

### **October 10-13, 2024**

Distinctly Bronze West

