



## Time Flies

by Lori Fenton, Area 8 Chair

The 2026 Area 8 “United We Ring” Festival is almost here! I’m very much looking forward to seeing many of you in La Vista, NE from June 17-20. The Area 8 Board has worked extremely hard to bring everything together and I’m hopeful you’ll all have an amazing time ringing, attending classes and reconnecting.

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As a reminder, we’ve made a few changes this year. Some things to highlight:

- **Classes.** You don’t need to pre-register for classes. A class schedule and class description will be available prior to arrival on the website as well as in the Festival Program book that you’ll receive upon checking in.
- **An opening dinner and concert.** We will open the festival on Thursday evening with a sit-down dinner and concert by the BronzeFest choir.
- **A free evening!** Friday night you’ll have the opportunity to leave the hotel and explore the surrounding area or simply stay in and relax.
- **Earlier concert time.** Our concert will be at 4:00 on Saturday afternoon. This gives many of you the opportunity to return home Saturday evening.

One of the things that happens each year during the festival is Area’s Bi-Annual member meeting, as required by our by-laws. During this meeting we will introduce the new members of our Executive Board – Chair-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary – as elected by YOU, our members. More information about the candidates and elections can be found later in this issue. These elections are a very important part of our governance process so please make sure to cast your vote!

Our new Executive team, to be led by Chair-Elect Nancy Blackwell, will take over effective October 1st. That means my time as Chair is almost done. I have been honored to serve in this position and look forward to supporting the new team through the upcoming transition.

If I don’t see you in La Vista, I hope you all have an wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you at another Area 8 handbell event soon!



# Area 8 Elections Held May 29-June 12, 2026

Chris Peck, Past Chair

The nominating committee, consisting of committee chair Chris Peck, Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal, Pat Latshaw, and Tracy Peterson, is 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 May 29th through June 12th. 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.



## Noah Hartsfield, Chair Elect

Noah began ringing handbells in 2nd grade at First United Methodist Church in Kirksville, Missouri and has been ringing ever since. Over the course of 30+ years of ringing, he has rung with multiple church choirs as well as with the Columbia Handbell Ensemble (CHE), a community handbell ensemble. In his 13-year career with CHE he performed with the ensemble at multiple high profile concert engagements including Area 8 in Topeka, Kansas; Area 1 in Amherst, Massachusetts; and the 2011 National Director's Seminar for the Handbell Musicians of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In addition to ringing with CHE, he served as the ensemble's business manager and treasurer for many years.

Noah is currently the Director of Handbells at First Baptist Church in Columbia, Missouri. In this role, he leads the Chancel Bell ensemble as well as drives initiatives to introduce new ringers of all ages to handbell music. He has organized ecumenical mass ring events with the Columbia community and worked with local non-profits on special events. Additionally, he has assisted local churches as a guest clinician and helped new ensembles organize and get started.

Noah is passionate about handbell music and is always looking for ways to introduce handbells to new audiences. He has experience as a large and small ensemble ringer, a handbell soloist, conductor, and is an aspiring composer. Noah has served as a faculty member for handbell festivals and conferences teaching classes on bass bell techniques as well as community ensemble management and organization. In 2024, Noah assisted the Area 8 Board by serving as the local liaison for the Festival Conference in Columbia, Missouri. Beyond handbells, Noah has served on the board and as an officer in non-profits around the Columbia area. Noah holds a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in Psychology, Sociology, and Music from the University of Missouri. In his "day job," Noah is an HR professional and currently works as an HR Recruitment Consultant for the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri.



## John Klopp, Chair Elect

I am honored to stand as a candidate for Chair of Area 8 Handbell Musicians of America. My journey with handbells began in the early 1970s at St. John's United Methodist Church in Davenport, Iowa, where I was first introduced to ringing by Mike Farrell. Since then, handbells have been a lifelong passion, and today I continue to serve as a ringer at St. John's, and the director of RiverBend Bronze.

My musical foundation began in band as a trombonist, leading to a Bachelor of Music in Trombone Performance and Music Education from The University of Iowa and a Master of Arts in Music Education with an emphasis on conducting from Northwest Missouri State University (now Truman State University). Over the course of my career, I have taught band in three Iowa school districts, working with students from 5th through 12th grade. These years in education sharpened my skills in planning, rehearsal techniques, and leadership—skills that I now bring to the handbell community.

Since joining RiverBend Bronze in 2018, I have actively participated in the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar, the Area 8 Festival, and numerous area events. Although I have rung most of my life, RiverBend Bronze deepened my appreciation for the artistry of handbell ringing and inspired me to further develop my skills as both a ringer and conductor. I have even ventured into the realm of solo ringing, expanding my understanding of the instrument and its expressive possibilities.

As Chair, I would bring:

- Experience as both educator and performer, ensuring strong support for ringers and directors alike.
- Commitment to growth and engagement, encouraging participation across all levels of Area 8.
- Passion for collaboration, fostering connections between ensembles, festivals, and individual musicians.

Handbells have given me a lifetime of joy, community, and artistry. I am eager to serve Area 8 by supporting its members, strengthening its programs, and helping our art form continue to thrive.

*Elections for Area 8 chair elect, treasurer, and secretary will take place electronically from May 29 through June 12. More information about the voting process is forthcoming. Voting instructions will be sent to the email address listed on your HMA membership.*



## Laura Kastens, Secretary

Laura came to handbells as a young adult just out of college with a music ed degree (1979) from the University of Illinois in hand. The church she attended (Prospect Heights Community, 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 handbell director at Missouri United Methodist Church (Columbia, MO), and her current position at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church (Iowa City, IA) where she directs several ensembles, including an advanced women's ensemble and an advanced adult choir as well as pick-up small ensembles (duets, trios, quartets). She rang with St. Mark's United Methodist church in Bloomington, IN when she lived in that community and was recently a member of RiverBend Bronze based in the Quad Cities. She attended her first Area 8 festival in 2024 and loved the experience!

Since retiring from the University of Iowa she finds herself agreeing with her parents that retirement is busier than her working years. She is a member of the Chamber Singers of Iowa City, an auditioned vocal ensemble, and sings in her church choir at St Andrew Presbyterian Church. She is a long-time member of the international music fraternity Sigma Alpha Iota, and an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. As an active clarinetist she plays in the New Horizons band during the year and with the Cedar Rapids Municipal band during the summer. In her "free time" she takes Senior College classes at the University, ushers at various venues in the Iowa City area, and enjoys reading and walking.



## EmJ Jackle-Hugh, Secretary

EmJ began ringing handbells in high school in a church choir in Geneseo, Illinois, and has been ringing ever since. She currently enjoys ringing bass and low bass bells, although she can be talked into ringing upper bells for small group pieces.

EmJ currently plays with Bells In Motion based in Decatur IL and with the choir at Pana First United Methodist Church in Pana, Illinois. She also enjoys playing duets and trios with her family. In 2024, EmJ joined the Area 8 Illinois Committee and helped organize their first state festival post-Covid. EmJ has attended Area 8 Festivals several times and is looking forward to attending her first National Seminar in 2026.

In addition to playing handbells, EmJ plays bassoon, flute, and clarinet. She keeps a busy music schedule playing in several groups throughout central Illinois. EmJ lives in Pana, Illinois, with her spouse and child where she works part time for the local hospital wellness department. In early 2025, EmJ was appointed by the governor to serve on the Illinois Rare Disease Commission. She has over 25 years of experience with various non-profits. In her free time, EmJ enjoys reading and all things Star Trek. Her favorite food group is chocolate.



## Julia Cozad-Callighan, Treasurer

Julia 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 down 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 (Rock Island, IL). She also plays in Bells in Motion, based in Decatur, IL. In October of 2023, Julia participated in her first Distinctly Bronze West under the direction of Hart Morris. In August 2024 she attended the International Handbell Symposium in Hamamatsu, Japan.

Outside of handbells, Julia works at an NPR-affiliate radio station and enjoys board games, making costumes and weightlifting. She shares her home with her spouse named Shaun, two guinea pigs named Moose 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.



## Nancy Youngman, Treasurer

Nancy has been a handbell choir director since 1984, serving two churches since 1991. She is the founder/artistic director of Bell-issimo, Lincoln, Nebraska's auditioned Community Handbell Choir. Nancy has degrees in Instrumental Music and German, and is retired from Lincoln Public Schools where she taught both subjects. Since 1990, she has been a member of the Nebraska State Handbell Committee and has served 2 four-year terms as State Chair. She served on the Area 8 Board of HMA as Secretary from 1996 - 1998, and is currently the Area 8 Chimes Chair. Nancy has taught at workshops throughout Nebraska and neighboring states, as well as at Area 8 Festivals, and has served as guest clinician for several handbell workshops. This past summer, she was honored to be chosen to teach a class at Pinnacle and is also scheduled to teach this January during HMA's Virtual Winter Workshop. As a ringer, Nancy has taken part in several Area Bronze Fests and is a regular participant in the Bay View Week of Handbells. Nancy's adult children, daughter-in-law, and husband (who is a CPA and could be VERY helpful in the role of Treasurer!) are all handbell ringers.

# 2026 Silent Auction

This summer at the Area 8 Festival in La Vista, 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 to participate 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! Examples of past silent auction items are pictured *right*.

Some ideas include:

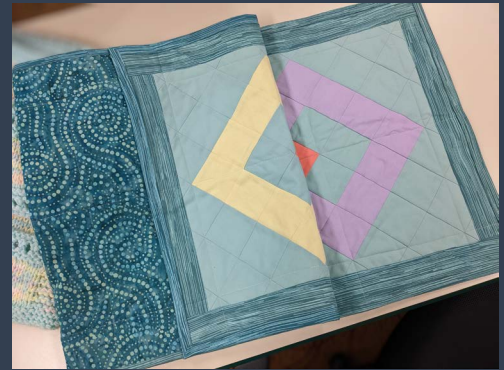
- A themed basket representing your state, city, or handbell ensemble
- A piece of handbell music signed by the composer
- A service or skill that would be valuable to handbell musicians
- Music or bell-themed ANYTHING

To submit items, fill out the form found on [this link](#) or look for the Silent Auction item submission button on the festival page [here](#). Please email one photo to be included on our Auction site to me at [communications.area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:communications.area8@handbellmusicians.org).

## Bid on and win items!

Bidding will begin on June 18 in the morning and will conclude on June 20 in the afternoon. Winning bidders can pick up their auction haul in person at the conclusion of bidding.

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



If you or someone you know needs financial assistance, they can apply for a scholarship. For more information about scholarships and the Silent Auction, Check out the [Festival Website!](#)



Area 8 Handbell Festival  
June 17-20, 2026

Area 8 Festival  
June 17-20



# *Back by Popular Demand: Handbell Petting Zoo*

Laurie Austin, Area 8 Historian

*We are working our way up to a veritable "Bellucopia." You will be able to see and potentially play:*

- Petit & Fritsen bells
- Maas-Rowe bells
- Tru-Sonic bells
- 19th century bells made by J. Shaw
- Whitechapel bells
- Jenco bells
- Suzuki chimes
- and an honest-to-goodness set of tuned cowbells!

Have you heard of Petit & Fritsen bells but never tried ringing them? Did you hear an unusual bell sound in a concert and wonder what made it? And what exactly are Maas-Rowe bells, anyway? At the Area 8 Festival this summer, you will have a chance to see, hear, and even try all sorts of different bells and bell-like instruments.

The Handbell Petting Zoo was so popular at the Columbia festival in 2024 that we are bringing it back this year. We would like to find as many examples of bells and other bell-like instruments as we can for the Handbell Petting Zoo.

But we would love to have more to offer! Can you please help us out? We would especially love to find David Workman and J.C. Deagan bells, as these were both Area 8 manufacturers. Also on our wish list: Schulmerich chimes, Belleplates, Golden bells, Silver Melody bells, Cymbells, Edward Street bells, and Rowland Mayland bells. We would also be thrilled to have bells from older English manufacturers. If you have a bell instrument that you would like to loan to the petting zoo, please email me at [Historian.Area8@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:Historian.Area8@handbellmusicians.org).

I hope you'll be as excited to see and hear these bells as I am! Get ready to GEEK OUT at the Handbell Petting Zoo at the Area 8 Festival in La Vista, Nebraska.



Attendees at the 2024 Area 8 Festival "petting" a variety of bells on display

# 2026 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival

by Dick Crusinberry, Iowa Chair



Sandra Eithun, Clinician  
Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival

Mark your calendars! The 2026 Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival returns in Des Moines on October 9 and 10. We have a great weekend lined up, with an optional Friday night reading session, and a full day of ringing Saturday capped by a massed ringing concert Saturday afternoon.

This year's clinician is noted composer and conductor Sandra Eithun. Sandy brings more than 30 years of handbell directing experience and currently leads Fox Valley Bronze while serving on the faculty of Valley Troubadours in Wisconsin. She

is a prolific composer with over 650 published handbell pieces, plus sacred keyboard books and teaching collections. In 2020 she was honored with the Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award at the Week of Handbells in Bay View, Michigan. Her work has been featured on PBS and has been performed by groups around the country like The Raleigh Ringers and The Bells on Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

Friday night, October 9, Beer, Wine and Bells is back. Sandy will lead a relaxed reading session at Central Presbyterian Church with handbells, light refreshments, beer and wine, and a chance to socialize.

Saturday's event is at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church and includes rehearsals, lunch, time to connect with other ringers, and the massed ringing concert at 3:00 that afternoon.

The festival is open to all handbell organizations and ringers. Individuals, partial choirs, and full choirs are all welcome. Registration is \$45/ringer for HMA members and \$55/ringer for non-members, and includes lunch and the Friday evening session. If you're just interested in the Friday event, it is also available for \$10/ringer.

Questions? Feel free to reach out to me [here](#). We hope to see you in Des Moines this October!



Dick Crusinberry  
Iowa State Chair



## Mid-Iowa Massed Ringing Repertoire

- Joyous Spirit, Valerie Stephenson, L2+ (RRBL5019)
- Light Dawns on a Weary World, Sandra Eithun, L3 ( HB877)
- Moonrise, Brian Childers, L2 (RRBL5114)
- Shall We Gather at the River, Jason Krug, L3 (HB491)
- I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, Sandra Eithun, L3 (R03280)



Amy Knudsen  
Kansas State Chair

# Latest program at Leavenworth Correction Facility

Amy Knudsen, Kansas Chair

written by Bob Abbott, guest contributor

For the third year we were granted permission to bring handbells into the facility for weekly sessions culminating in a Christmas event on December 23. I remain grateful that Resurrection Brookside has let me use its bells for this activity. As I work with the incarcerated men, I tell them that there are those on the outside -- like my church -- who care and want them to be successful.

You may recall that East Hill Singers is a choir made up of men volunteers from the KC Metro and men incarcerated at LCF. The two groups rehearse separately and then combine at the end of each fall/spring term to give a public concert in a church on the "outside." The two groups meet early on the concert day for a combined rehearsal, and then after a break they give a public performance. The highlight of the afternoon for the LCF men is eating the host church's supper following the concert. I've heard inmates' comments: "This is one time when my family can see me not wearing prison clothes." "I want my family to see that I can do good." "I get to see and hold my kids." This year that concert was presented the Sunday afternoon prior to Thanksgiving. The choir does not meet again until the next semester's schedule begins.

During the break from singing rehearsals, I led four sessions of handbell instruction. I told the guys that learning to read and understand music notation will make them better choir participants. Besides, it's fun. During the prior two years, instruction was mostly by rote, but this year I focused almost entirely on reading notes on a printed page. Because of new KDOC regulation in response to drug-impregnated paper being introduced into prison facilities, no paper may be brought into the prison and given to inmates. Paper products must all be submitted early for examination and approval. In October I had submitted a crate of materials I anticipated using during December.

Fun for me was to observe the guys' encouragement of one another. To "Hey, give me a break! This is new for me." I heard, "You're doing great, man."

Wynn is a quiet, middle-aged man who usually sits in the last row of EHS basses. I've never actually heard any singing sound come from him. Usually, his responses to me use the least words possible. At the end of our fourth and final learning session, I was surprised when Wynn stated that he'd have the room arranged and supplies set up for the next week's performance.

The prison visitation room where rehearsals happen is just slightly larger than the Brookside choir loft area. Wynn had arranged performers' chairs and music stands (which he'd borrowed from the prison chapel program) along one wall. In the center of that row, he'd placed a Christmas tree that was mostly lit. I'd seen the tree the week before leaning forlornly in a corner. He'd secured new white towels



Area 8 Festival  
June 17-20

Visit the

[Festival Website!](#)

## *Leavenworth Program, continued*

that he placed alongside each ringer's chair on which to rest bells. (There are no tables and foam pads as are usual for a bell ensemble.)

We considered what to wear to distinguish performers from audience. I told them that I'd gathered leftover red plaid neck scarves from last year's Brookside Christmas choir that they could use. They showed up in their white t-shirts, their good jeans, and prison-issued red knit beanies. They draped scarves around their necks. They looked like an ensemble that belonged together.

The last session, December 23, began with the group reviewing their program in a final run-through. By 6:00 an audience of about 45 from the prison showed up. We opened by creating a ringing atmosphere starting with a bass bell tolling and then successively adding ostinato layers until the whole group was ringing. The program included a (very) simplified version of Pachelbel's Canon, Jingle Bells (with a repeat of the verse and refrain to make it seem longer) — both played from printed music — and their favorite, a setting of Carol of the Bells coded out on a long strip of computer paper.

Next all in the room were invited to take a handchime. After a brief instruction they rang examples of change ringing using this quilted banner



as a guide. Following the first time playing down the banner, there was a spontaneous eruption of cheers and clapping — a release of concentration and the joy of final resolution and surprise accomplishment!

The men then joined to ring and sing carols together. Each handchime is coded to a booklet of carols, so the chimes make chordal accompaniment to support the singing. The quality of singing might not have been beautiful, but the sight was beautiful to witness. I observed one man, who I thought could not read, singing Silent Night from memory with his eyes closed. "Wow! I've never done anything like this before. That was fun!" another told me.

The evening included distribution of cookies and glasses of milk brought in by the Arts in Prison director. Lucky were the guys who stuck around for teardown and cleanup; they received the leftovers.

Previously, incarcerated guys have expressed how holidays are real downer times when they are separated from all those meaningful to them. This year the Tuesday meeting night was perfectly close to December 25. For an hour the 40+ audience guys experienced a bit of Christmas diversion. The ringers felt good by learning, demonstrating and sharing their new skills.

For Ruth and me, our hearts felt full. We are grateful these guys are part of our lives. Resurrection Brookside church makes that possible.

## Area 8 Board

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Byron Jensen



Byron Jensen  
Nebraska State Chair

# Commissioning Handbell Music

by Byron W. Jensen, Nebraska Chair

During my nearly two decades directing the Hastings College Handbell Choir (HCHC), I commissioned works from several composers on the college's behalf. My financial support was unusual for a professor in that I had an honorary secondary yearly stipend (in addition to my regular professional development funds) to spend on anything I wanted, whether that be attending conferences, conducting additional research, or buying books. About three years into this special fund (which started in 2010), I decided to commission a handbell piece every two years. The journey was incredible as I interacted with composers whose names abound in our handbell libraries, and for my college ringers, who delighted in premiering a piece created for them. Four of the five pieces I commissioned are in print.

What I quickly learned is that if you commission a piece, you need to set parameters for the composer to follow. This may sound rigid to the artistic muse of a composer, but they need to know what you hope to accomplish with the piece you are commissioning. For me, it included:

## 1. To whom or to what entity will the work be dedicated?

Along with this is determining musical style. If the work commemorates a church's 100th anniversary, it seems appropriate to have celebratory music. If the piece is in memoriam to a music director, perhaps the musical style should be more reflective of that person's life and contributions.

## 2. Is there a specific hymn or song you want to have arranged?

Are you open to the composer suggesting or choosing the music? Or do you want a new, original composition?

Remember, if the music is not in the public domain, copyright law prohibits arranging it without first obtaining the publisher's permission.

## 3. What playing level do you want the music?

Even though HCHC was capable of playing some Level 5 or 6 pieces—and rarely did we do so—I insisted that the commissioned piece be at a Level 3-4 so that it would be attractive to a publisher and, hopefully, sellable.

## 4. How much money are you willing to spend?

I will not divulge how much composers were paid for my commissioned works, but more recently, contractual agreements have become more common, rather than a few emails and an internet handshake. That being said, I think you'd be amazed to find that a commissioned handbell piece will not break the bank. Furthermore, once you know the cost, getting a few people to help cover it will be worthwhile.

Area 8 Handbell Festival  
June 17-20, 2026

Visit the  
[Festival Website!](http://area8.handbellmusicians.org)

**5. You also need to work with the composer on other aspects specific to your program.**

How many octaves of handbells do you have? Do you have extra bass bells? I think most composers will work with three to five octaves in mind, but if you have only two octaves, they need to know that. It is also good to let the composer know what brand of handbells you have. Petit-Fritsen have a wonderful sound, but they are limited to certain techniques, like martellato.

Speaking of techniques, do you want mallets, martellato, singing bell, etc.? Again, if you're willing to let the composer make those choices, that's fine. If you see something that doesn't work when you receive the first draft, you can then work those concerns out with the composer.

Do you have handchimes, how many octaves, and do you want them included in the arrangement?

Do you want an additional instrument included, like a flute or cello? If you indicate that you want a keyboard instrument and handbells, because the former is new or was recently refurbished, make sure everything is tuned to the same pitch. (My church's organ is tuned at about A = 436, whereas the handbells are at A = 440. That's just enough difference to not jive well harmonically.)

**6. What is your timeline?**

Some composers are two or three years out from being able to arrange something, so plan ahead.

**7. How do you write a dedication line?**

In the end, you need to work with your circle of friends or ensemble on what the dedication line will read on the first page. The composer will make sure this dedication is printed on the music.

The composers I've worked with always sent me the first draft, which I could review and offer changes (if necessary). Then a second draft was sent. Your commissioned piece should reflect what you intend. I admit feeling intimidated about suggesting small changes to the composers, but they were always very accommodating and grateful that I saw something they hadn't considered.

Commissioning handbell music can be a very rewarding venture. It places new music out there in the "belliverse," and brings appreciation to you and your organization for supporting such causes. I hope you will consider reaching out to composers for such opportunities.



Area 8 Handbell Festival  
June 17-20, 2026

Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

**Area 8 Festival**  
**June 17-20**

Visit the  
**Festival Website!**



**BELLS OF THE CASCADES**  
**Bells In Paradise**  
**CRUISE XVII**  
JANUARY 17-24, 2027  
Greetings!

**Announcing BOC Cruise XVII**

Exciting News! BOC's next fun-filled handbell cruise is now available for registration. We'll be sailing from Fort Lauderdale, FL on a 7-day cruise of the beautiful Eastern Caribbean. We set sail on January 17th, 2027 with exploring ports of call in Nassau, Bahamas; Half Moon Cay; Grand Turks; and Amber Cove, Dominican Republic before returning to Fort Lauderdale.

For more information about the cruise, and to register, visit our cruise webpage.

Hope to see you on board in 2027!  
Best wishes,  
BOC Cruise Committee

For questions: [cruise-info@bellsofthecascades.org](mailto:cruise-info@bellsofthecascades.org)

To view our website:  
<https://www.bellsofthecascades.org/cruise/nextcruise>



**Bells of the Cascades**  
P.O. Box 151  
Tualatin, OR 97062



Cruise Clinician  
Brenda Austin

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Patti Mangis

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### Treasurer

Karla Denton

### Secretary

OPEN - Contact  
Amy Knudsen

### Chimes Chair

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 2026

**May 1:** 7:00 pm River City Ringers, America at 250: A Musical Journey  
All Saints Episcopal Church, Omaha, Nebraska

**May 1:** 7:00 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir: Don't Worry Be Happy!  
Grace Episcopal Church, Topeka, Kansas

**May 2:** 7:00 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir: Don't Worry Be Happy!  
Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, Topeka, Kansas

**May 2:** 7:00 pm River City Ringers, America at 250: A Musical Journey  
St. Timothys Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska

**May 2:** 7:00 pm Bells in Motion Presents: Rock Around the Clock  
Faith Lutheran Church, O'Fallon, Illinois

**May 3:** 3:00 pm Lawrence Community Handbell Choir: Don't Worry Be Happy!  
Eudora United Methodist Church, Eudora,, Kansas

**May 3:** 3:00 pm Gateway Ringers Spring Concert: Celebrating 30 Years of Ringing  
St. John UCC, Saint Charles, Missouri

**May 3:** 4:00 pm Bells in Motion Presents: Rock Around the Clock  
St. James Lutheran Church, Vandalia, Illinois

**May 3:** 4:00 pm River City Ringers, America at 250: A Musical Journey  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska

**May 3:** 4:00 pm Chicago Bronze Concert: The Spirit of Chicago  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge, Illinois

**May 11:** 7:00 pm ReBbellion Handbell Ensemble Concert: To Everything a Season  
Autumn View Gardens, St. Louis, Missouri

**May 11:** 7:00 pm ReBbellion Handbell Ensemble Concert: To Everything, a Season  
Autumn View Gardens, St. Louis, Missouri

**May 16:** 4:00 pm ReBbellion Handbell Ensemble Concert: To Everything, a Season  
Timothy Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri

**May 17:** 4:00 pm ReBbellion Handbell Ensemble Concert: To Everything, a Season  
Salem United Methodist Church, St. Louis, Missouri

**May 17:** 4:00 pm The Agape Ringers Concert  
Spring Creek United Church of Christ, Rockford, Illinois

**May 29:** 7:00 pm Des Moines Concert Handbells Spring Concert  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale, Iowa

**May 30:** 7:00 pm Des Moines Concert Handbells Spring Concert  
Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines, Iowa

*Continued on next page*

## 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

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## Events & Concerts

must be submitted by the  
25th of January, April, July,  
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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)

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

## Upcoming Events, continued

### June 2026

**June 6:** 6:00 pm ReZound! 25th Anniversary Concert ([tickets required](#))  
The Auditorium at Woodneath Library Center  
8900 NE Flintlock Road, Kansas City, MO, 64157

**June 15:** 4:00 pm The Raleigh Ringers in Concert  
Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, Pittsburg, Kansas

**June 17-20:** Area 8 Festival, including ringing, seminars, classes, and concerts  
La Vista Conference Center, La Vista, Nebraska

### September 2026

**September 27:** 4:00 pm The Agape Ringers Concert  
Central Christian Church, Decatur, Illinois

### October 2026

**October 4:** 4:00 pm The Agape Ringers Concert  
United Protestant Church of Grayslake, Grayslake, Illinois

**October 9-10:** Mid-Iowa Handbell Festival, Des Moines, Iowa  
Friday, Oct. 9, 6:00 pm: Reading Session with Sandra Eithun  
Saturday, Oct. 10, 8 am: Handbell Festival and Massed Ring with Sandra Eithun

## National Events

Visit <https://handbellmusicians.org/events/> for more information

### July 9-11, 2026

Conducting Masterclass, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Composing Masterclass, Cincinnati, Ohio

### July 14-18, 2026

National Seminar, Sharonville, Ohio

### August 3-11, 2026

International Handbell Symposium, Aberdeen, Scotland

### August 17-19, 2026

Solo Ringing Masterclass, Charlotte, North Carolina

### August 20-22, 2026

Into the Forest, Charlotte, North Carolina

### October 15-18, 2026

Distinctly Bronze West, Vancouver, Washington

### February 25-28, 2027

Distinctly Bronze East, New Bern, North Carolina

### February 26-28, 2027

Crescendo, New Bern, North Carolina

## Learn more about our Festival Clinicians!



**Carlos E. Rivera Aponte**  
Chair-Elect, Area 4



**Kathryn Jurado**  
President-Elect,  
Handbell Musicians of America

Visit the  
**[Festival Website!](#)**



**Area 8 Festival**  
**June 17-20**