

# Arkansas Bell Notes

A publication of the  
Arkansas Chapter of the  
Handbell Musicians of America



June 2015

## The Almost Summer Planning Issue

### From the President

So Memorial Day is over and gone and we can truly claim that summer is here. After our air conditioning went out this past weekend, I am convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt: summer IS here!

For many handbell choirs summer signals time for a break. After all, people are in and out of town so much that it's often hard to get enough people at any one time for a viable rehearsal. A rest can be a good thing. Enjoy these weeks of relative respite from the regular routine.

Before you relax completely though, I urge you to think ahead to the fall. (I know—I'm sorry!) By August you will be ready to gear up again, wondering whether you have gotten rusty over the break, or what you can add to your skill set to enhance your ringing experience in the next year. So I hope you will make your plans NOW to attend our state Summer Seminar for ringers and directors. Your board has been working hard, developing new tracks which will provide an opportunity for handbell enthusiasts of all levels to learn and improve. An added bonus to our seminar is a Friday evening concert by P.L. Grove and handbell duet partner Joel Gingrich. These two have wowed audiences all over the country. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear them in person. Bring your whole choir to enjoy the concert; I can promise you a marvelous and unforgettable evening. We are also offering scholarships to the Saturday seminar. Check out the article later in this newsletter for all the Seminar details, and please print the flyer on the page 4 of this newsletter and post to let others know about the concert.

Below you will also find a list of the dates for our other events throughout the year. We have some super clinicians lined up for you as well as a great event for our younger ringers. Let's not underestimate the importance of sharing our love of ringing with the next generation. If you don't have enough children or youth in your church to have an age level choir, consider inviting them in with your adults. One of my favorite hours of the week this past year was our "Bells of Grace" choir: 75% adult semi-beginners, 25% 8th graders in transition to youth bell choir. What a great blessing that was all round. It happened by accident, but I plan to continue it very intentionally. Help, respect and support flowed in all directions. Best "accident" ever! I'd be more than happy to share thoughts with anyone interested.

Summer it may be, but you still have better things to do than read volumes of my ramblings. I hope very much to see you in August and again in January and February. Ringers ring best in community. It's who we are. So I'll see you there!

*Janet Gingrich*

### Coming up:

Summer Seminar on August 8, 2015, with Velocity 2 concert August 7.  
Handbell Olympics (grades 2-7) on January 30, 2016, and  
State Festival on February 27, 2016

# Summer Seminar— Redesigned for You!

August 7, 2015—Velocity 2 Concert

August 8, 2015—Summer Seminar



Below is an outline of the new track-based Summer Seminar. In response to your evaluations from last year, we've created 3 distinct tracks. We encourage you to sign up for the one that best meets your needs. You may also travel between tracks if you choose. PL and Joel will mostly teach in the advanced track, but will also be present in other classes so we can all benefit from their expertise. Take a look!

## Track 1: RINGERS IN TRAINING

(Suggested Ringing Levels 1-2. Beginner/Refresher)

Four classes will be offered: **Theoretically Speaking...** (An introduction to the "what, how and why" of music theory, with practical ringing application), **Practically Speaking...** (The mechanics of ringing, basic techniques, building on what we learned in Class I), **Read, Mark and Inwardly Digest...** (marking your music, going beyond the notes, making sense of what your director says), and **Put it Together and What Have You Got?** (We put it all together and work on a piece of repertoire, using our accumulated knowledge and skills).

## Track 2: AIMING ABOVE AVERAGE

(Suggested ringing levels 2 & above. Intermediate)

Three classes (and an optional Handbell Olympics reading session) will encourage more experienced ringers to further develop their skills. **You've Got Rhythm...** (Work out the cobwebs with a slew of rhythmic rigors: syncopations, mixed meter, with techniques galore!), **Who Could Ask For Anything More?** (Your director ALWAYS can, right? Moving beyond the notes to make real music), and **The Seven (or more) Habits of Highly Successful Ringers** (What can YOU do to be the best ringer you can be? Practical tips for the high-achiever). This track will also feature a new and seasonal music reading session, including Festival 2016 music.

## Track 3: HANDBELLS IMPOSSIBLE—NOT!

(Suggested ringing levels 3 & above, Advanced)

This track is for the more advanced ringers who would like to stretch their skills (and arms) learning new techniques. **The Octopus** (multiple bells, not 4-in-hand), **(B)Ring 'em On!** (4-in-hand), and **The Team Player?** (Solo/Ensemble Ringing) will be offered, along with the optional reading session of Handbell Olympics music and the new and seasonal music reading session.

In an effort to keep costs down, lunch will *not* be included with the registration fee this year. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring a sack lunch to allow plenty of time for visiting Jeffers' store (another thing many of you commented on—that you wanted more time for shopping).

## Meet our Summer Seminar clinician... **P.L. Grove**



While **Pamela "P.L." Grove** has been making music for most of her life, she has spent the last 40 years at the forefront of handbell artistry in America. She has been a ringer and director in church and community groups throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and has directed, taught and adjudicated handbells at many local, national and international events. She is currently the driving force behind Velocity, an east Bay Area community handbell ensemble, and last year was voted national President-Elect of Handbell Musicians of America. She is a pioneer in the field of handbells, and is one of only a few people ever to receive a degree in handbell performance, and one of even fewer to receive her Bachelor's degree from a secular school (Mills College in Oakland, California).

As a founding ringer with the critically acclaimed Sonos Handbell Ensemble, P.L.'s more notable performances include those with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the San Francisco Girls Chorus, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, the San Francisco Choral Artists, the Kronos Quartet, Frederica von Stade, twice on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, and two tours of Japan.

As a teacher and clinician at festivals and workshops, she encourages ringers and directors to think outside of the box and be creative in order to make music.

Prior to handbells, P.L. played piano and sang, performing in over a dozen community theater musicals and singing and playing at over 100 weddings. While she still finds some time to sing at her church, most of her spare time is spent on handbells. She currently works as a Public Information Officer for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and also volunteers as a board member for several non-profit organizations.

## And her duet partner...

### **Joel Gingrich**

**Joel Gingrich** currently works as a financial report analyst for a law firm in San Francisco. However, his Bachelor of Arts degree in music is much more useful in assisting with Velocity's background records and adding his own compositions and arrangements to the Velocity repertoire. With over 30 years of experience as a handbell ringer, Joel's most exciting performances have been as a graduate student with the Westminster College Choir Handbell Choir – including television appearances on QVC; as a member of Sonos' 2005 and 2009 tours to Japan; and since 2004 as a member of Velocity. Joel's unique arrangements for handbells are showcased in his published solo pieces, in Velocity's concert programming, and on the second half of Velocity's *Vintage and Vogue* CD.

THE ARKANSAS CHAPTER OF THE  
HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA WELCOMES

***VELOCITY 2!!***



**You've never seen anything like it!**

**Friday, August 7, 2015**

**Lakewood United Methodist Church**

**1922 Topf Road, North Little Rock, AR**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Free admission**



# Handbell Olympics 2015

Arkansas Handbell Musicians of America annual Handbell Olympics was held on January 31<sup>st</sup> at First United Methodist Church in Conway. The clinician for this event was André Duvall. André is currently Music Associate at Mullins UMC in Memphis where he directs the children's chime choir and adult handbells. He is the former director of the Rainbow Ringers children's chime choir at FUMC in North Little Rock. Over 30 ringers rehearsed two pieces throughout the day: *Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head* (Moklebust) and *Bound for Glory* (Waldrop). "Olympic" games were played between rehearsals that ranged from a Quiz Bowl to a Floor Staff Race and a Ringing Relay. Parents and friends attended the program at the end of the day which began with an "Olympic Procession" followed by the concert.



FESTIVAL!

Clinician Kath Wissinger, all the way from West Virginia, wowed the festival ringers this year! "Energetic and patient, Miss Kath was great." "Great job! Awesome voice and presentation and pointers." "Loved how patient she was with us; very calm and ready to improve us." "BEST EVER CLINICIAN!" These were our ringers' evaluation comments, and we agree! Thanks, Kath!



In celebration of our **30th** state festival, Kathy Borecky of the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Little Rock provided these special bell-embellished desserts! Many, many thanks!! They were delicious!!



# Summer Seminar Registration Form

August 8, 2015

Lakewood United Methodist Church

1922 Topf Road, N. Little Rock



Please note: if you are registering only for yourself and not a group, just mark which track you'll join, and give us your name and email on the "Name of Director" line.

I will be bringing \_\_\_\_\_ ringers to Summer Seminar, including myself. We intend to participate in the following tracks (please indicate number of ringers for each track):

\_\_\_\_\_ in "Ringers in Training" (for ringers comfortable in L1 & 2)

\_\_\_\_\_ in "Aiming Above Average" (for experienced ringers L2 up)

\_\_\_\_\_ in "Handbells Impossible—Not!" (advanced ringers)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

## Cost and Deadlines

Early registration (\$40) must be postmarked on or before July 24.

Regular registration (\$50) must be postmarked by July 31.

If registering online, registrations must be entered and checks mailed by the above postmark dates. Registrations after July 31 accepted on a space available basis.

## Lunch

Please note that lunch will **not** be included. You are encouraged to bring a sack lunch. Drinks will be furnished.

No microwave will be provided.

## Registration Fees

Registration @ \$40/ringer (prior to July 24):           \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration @ \$50/ringer (July 25-July 31):           \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration and check (made payable to **Arkansas HMA**) to:

Holly Eaton-Bradfield

2925 Marble Cove

Sherwood, AR 72120

**APPLICATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP  
TO  
ARKANSAS HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA  
SUMMER SEMINAR  
August 8, 2015**

The Arkansas Chapter of the Handbell Musicians of America will award up to four (4) \$25 scholarships for first-time attendees or for those who need the assistance in order to attend.

Applications must be received by July 10, 2015.

Applicants will be notified of the results by July 20, 2015.

*Please type or print clearly. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (night): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church/School/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization address: \_\_\_\_\_

Music Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Handbell/Handchime Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

What are your handbell goals? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you foresee this scholarship helping you reach these goals? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your attendance at this event dependant on scholarship aid? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make a copy of this form for your records.*

Mail or Scan/Email completed form to:

Allan Pieroni  
1501 Calgary Cove  
Little Rock, AR 72211  
allan.pieroni@gmail.com