

Arkansas Bell Notes

May, 2016

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

Isn't spring a glorious time of year? I just love the feeling that it's time for new beginnings, for new adventures, for fresh starts. This is my first newsletter as chairperson of the Arkansas chapter of the Handbell Musicians of America, so it's definitely a new beginning for me.

Your state board is constantly looking for ways to make things fresh and new for you, to try to meet your needs and encourage you to participate in statewide activities. We can all let the repetitiveness of the church year put us in a rut, but taking advantage of some of the state activities can help you out of that rut and onto new pathways to make your services fresh and meaningful. Some examples:

We've held an event called "Handbell Olympics" for several years now (see Larry's article in this newsletter about the most recent event), but as we've worked with it, we've seen that it could be better if we included a wider age range and divided it between those who are just beginning and some who've been ringing a while. Consequently, *X-treme Ring!* was developed for this fall. Please see Janet's article for more information on that new event.

For probably 30 years, we've held a Summer Seminar in August to introduce the clinician and music for the State Festival held each February. We're parting with tradition this year, and holding three area workshops around the state which we hope will

bring in more choirs, ones who either don't like to travel to Little Rock or don't have the means to get there easily. The Festival music will still be introduced, and there will be classes for directors and ringers alike. It just won't take all day and will cost only \$10 per ringer. See Sherri's article to learn more.

I am delighted to announce that our clinician for February's Festival is **Tammy Waldrop!** Many of you have asked that she be brought back, and we are thrilled to be able to do it. More on that and the music later in this newsletter.

And if you or someone you know is interested in having a set of chimes to work with in the coming school year, please check the last page of this newsletter for the application for our Chime Loan Program. It's a wonderful opportunity to add something new and interesting to a school or church music program.

I'm looking forward to this year of new beginnings, but want to thank Janet Gingerich for her excellent leadership for the past two years. She is a delight to

work with, and I'm very happy she is staying on the board as secretary/past-chair. Please use your state board as a resource for you and your choirs. We want to help, and hope to see many more of you participate in the events scheduled for this year.

Holly Eaton-Bradfield
Chair



Regional Workshops to Kick Off Your Year!

—Sherri Cothern

In place of our Summer Director/Ringer Seminar, Regional workshops will be offered this fall in Conway, Jonesboro, and Texarkana. The Arkansas Board opted to offer these workshops to “kick off” the fall rehearsals in your area and give an opportunity for you to attend something closer to home. Workshops will focus on different aspects of handbells and ringing techniques, rhythms, how to survive your ringing year, reading sessions with repertoire for our February 2017 State Festival, and best of all—fellowship with other ringers.

These workshops will be less than a half day and are scheduled to allow time to travel at convenient times. There will be classes for beginning ringers, so this will be a good chance to start new people off right. We also hope those of you who haven't been participating in our workshops will take this opportunity to check them out to see what you're missing! For more details please contact:

Janet Gingerich – Conway FUMC jgingerich@conwayfumc.org

(“Be There with Bells On!” Workshop scheduled for Sunday, August 28, 2-5 p.m.)

Sherri Cothern – FUMC Jonesboro sherri.cothern2@gmail.com

(“Bell of the Fall” Workshop scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2-5 p.m.)

Larry De Dymott – FUMC Texarkana Larrydd@cableone.net

(“Back to Ringing” Workshop scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Please check our website (www.arkansasbells.org) for additional information regarding regional workshops as the schedules are developed.



X-treme Ring! - coming soon for Young Ringers

—Janet Gingerich

- WHAT:** Our new event for ringers in grades 3-8.
- WHEN:** Saturday, November 5, 2016.
- WHERE:** Lakewood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock
- WHY:** This event will replace the “Handbell Olympics” which we have held for the last several years. We’re expanding the age range and dividing ringers into two levels. You can choose the appropriate level for your choir or split them on the day if your ringers cover a wide range of ages and/or experience. We hope this will bring in a whole new group of enthusiastic young ringers!

TELL ME MORE:

Our emphasis this year will be on “day of” learning and activities. Music will be marked, given to the ringers and taught to them by our clinician, Mary Ibis. Miss Mary did such an excellent job with January’s “Handbell Olympics” that we’ve already invited her back for this event. Music for the beginning level will be very easy and chime-choir accessible (we want you to bring even your very beginning ringers); while music for the older ringers will be a little more challenging.

Each group will independently rehearse their pieces, work on ringing skills, and break out into *X-treme Ring!* adventure sessions which will include activities such as playing a processional, drumming, Orff instruments and a scavenger hunt. The day will end with a “sharing” session at which family members and friends are invited to come see and hear what we’ve learned.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, November 5 - Plan now to bring your young ringers to our first ever *X-treme Ring!*

FESTIVAL 2017

TAMMY WALDROP CLINICIAN

Tammy Waldrop is a graduate of Baylor University with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Theory with an emphasis in Composition. Tammy has been writing and arranging for handbells and vocal choirs since 1980, placing over 350 publications with 19 publishers. She has held music editor positions at Word music, Ring Out! Press, and Alfred Music Publishing and has served numerous churches in various denominations. She is a frequent clinician/director for workshops, music weeks and festivals across the country. She is currently Musical Director for the Community Handbell Ensemble, Strikepoint of Texas as well as Sanctuary Bells of First Presbyterian, Kingwood, Texas.



Tammy enjoys vegetable and herb gardening and writing children's fiction. She resides in New Caney, Texas with her husband, Emanuel Hollander and three Eskie canines –Gretel, Johann Sebastian Bark (aka Hanzie) and Lillie Belle.

State Festival will be **Saturday, February 25, 2017**, and will be held at the First Methodist Church in Benton, AR. Dr. Ron Hall has graciously agreed to host us in their lovely facility. There will be plenty of room, and easy access for unloading and loading bells, so plan now to bring your choirs. Although there will be no Summer Seminar this year, festival music will be introduced at the three area workshops being planned, and can always be found at the Jeffers "Handbell World" website, www.handbellworld.com. See the next page for this festival's selections.

Check out this great line-up of music for Festival!

The board has selected the following pieces for Festival 2017. You can preview all of them at www.handbellworld.com, and plan to attend one of the area workshops to see/ring them in person. Stock numbers listed are for HandbellWorld.com.

"Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal" arr. Edwards; 3-5 octaves, Level 3, MAP45224 (Mass)

"You Raise Me Up" arr. Raney; 3-5 octaves, Level 2+, MHP2592 (Mass)

"The Day of Resurrection" arr. Moglebust; 3-5 octaves, Level 3-, MCG930 (Mass)
(parts for instruments, voice, and organ also available)

"Fantasia on Ebenezer" Waldrop; 3-5 octaves, Level 2+, MLC201654L (Mass)

"In the Bleak Midwinter" Dobrinski; 3-5 octaves, Level 2, MHP2732 (Tins)

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" arr. Raney/Sherman, 3-6 octaves, Level 3, MHP2721 (Coppers)

Arkansas Chapter of Handbell Musicians of America State Board

Holly Eaton-Bradfield, Chair (HDEBradfield@att.net)

Sherri Cothorn, Vice-Chair (sherri.cothorn2@gmail.com)

Janet Gingerich, Past-Chair and Secretary (jgingerich@conwayfumc.org)

Amy Tate, Treasurer (amywtate@gmail.com)

Evy Lamb, Historian (LambEvy@yahoo.com)

Larry De Dymott, Chime Chair (Larrydd@cableone.net)

Maggie Ratliff, Southeast Representative (mratliff@uams.edu)

Judy Fraley, At-Large Member (shumcmusic-program@sbcglobal.net)

Felix and Martha Lynn Thompson, Honorary Members

Please feel free to contact any of the board members if you have questions or
if we can help in any way.



Handbell Olympics 2016

The Arkansas Chapter of the Handbell Musicians of America hosted their annual state children's festival, "Handbell Olympics," on Saturday January 30, 2016. The event was open to elementary school through middle school ringers.

Wonderful hospitality was extended to the group by Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Our clinician was Mary Ibis, who is the Associate Director of Music at Second Presbyterian Church. "Miss Mary" exhibited *excellent* skill in teaching and directing the age group present. Both the children and the attending directors learned a great deal from her.

The day was full with rehearsals and educational games. The festival concluded with a Handbell Olympics procession, concert, and awards.

The participating choirs and directors were as follows:

First United Church, Conway
Joyful Ringers/Mid Youth Ringers
Janet Gingerich, Director

Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock
Children's Bells
Linda Austin, Director

First United Methodist Church, Texarkana
Celebration Ringers
Larry De Dymott, Director

Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church, Sherwood
Joyful Noise Choir
Judy Fraley, Director

Lakewood United Methodist Church
North Little Rock
Wesley Ringers
Lisa Bryant, Director

Thank you to all who prepared diligently and made this a great festival! We also extend our sincere thanks to Evy Lamb who envisioned and instituted this event through the HMA-AR Board in 2009. The first "Handbell Olympics" was hosted by St. Paul United Methodist Church in Little Rock in February of 2010. Bob Bidewell was the Music Director there at that time, and he was also our first clinician. Thanks, Evy!

—Larry De Dymott



ARKANSAS HMA CHIME LOAN PROGRAM

Available to schools or churches for the academic year 2016-2017

The Arkansas Chapter of the Handbell Musicians of America offers a one-year scholarship for use in school or church. The Chapter will provide a 3-octave set of Malmark Handchimes, foam pads, and curriculum for the year.

Date _____
Educator/Director Name _____
School/Church Name _____
School/Church Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Work Phone _____ Personal Phone _____
Work FAX _____ Home FAX _____
Work email _____ Home email _____

1. Give a brief summary of the musical and educational experience of the teacher/director who will be implementing the program. List any handbell or chime experience (please use extra paper if needed for any of the following questions).
2. Describe the school, church or educational institution where the chimes will be utilized (grades, ages, special needs, etc.).
3. Describe how you hope to incorporate the chimes into your curriculum/music program in the coming academic year.

I hereby apply for the Arkansas HMA 3-octave set of chimes to be used in the above school/church from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Music Educator/Music Director Signature _____

Principal/Pastor Signature _____

Send completed application by May 30 to:

Larry De Dymott, CHIME CHAIR
Arkansas HMA
First United Methodist Church
400 E. 6th
Texarkana, AR 71854

-OR - scan and send to larrydd@cableone.net

If granted the use of the chimes, educator/director, along with the principal/pastor, will need to provide a proof of insurance before chimes will be delivered. Educator/director will need to use the chimes in at least two performance settings during the academic year, fill out an evaluation of the program, and write two articles for BELL NOTES, the Arkansas HMA newsletter (dates supplied later).