

Arkansas Bell Notes

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



The "Fall Brings Change" Issue

September 2015

From the Chair

Dear Friends,

I hope that your bell choirs are up and running and off to a great start. I don't know about you, but something about the timing of Labor Day threw us for a loop this year. I guess Congress didn't consult church musicians when they established the first Monday in September as a holiday!

I hope you have already set aside the key dates for our ringing year—new format for Handbell Olympics for our young ringers; our annual State Festival with Jason Krug in February and a new September event for ringers and directors looking to get their year off to a strong start. You will find dates and more details later in this newsletter.

I leave you with a few heartfelt "thank you's."

As my term of chair of our organization comes to an end, I'd like to thank the board for their hard work. You all know that a lot happens behind the scenes in any organization; this one is no exception. Also, to you all—a huge thank YOU for your dedication to handbells and to our state chapter of Handbell Musicians of America. It is your commitment and your support that help keep our art alive and visible. I hope you will continue to be a member of our state chapter and invite your fellow ringers to join you.

I will continue to serve on the board in the coming year but pass the handbell baton to your new chair, Holly Eaton-Bradfield. You will recognize Holly's name and face as a board member and our most recent treasurer. We are in great hands!

See you all in February,

Janet Gingerich

Chair, Arkansas Chapter

Handbell Musicians of America

Summer Seminar 2015

Larry De Dymott
Southwest Representative

The Arkansas Chapter of Handbell Musicians of America held their Summer Seminar on Friday evening August 7, and Saturday August 8, at Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock. As always, Kyle Blackburn and the church were most gracious and accommodating hosts. Our clinician was P.L. Grove from the San Francisco area. She is the president-elect of Handbell Musicians of America, and has a music degree in Handbells.

The Seminar began Friday evening with a Duo Concert sponsored by Lakewood UMC and the Arkansas Chapter of HMA. P.L. Grove, and her ringing partner, Joel Gingrich, presented an amazing concert of handbell duets and solos. Their precision and dexterity in ringing so many bells was amazing to behold. The repertoire included sacred works, and some popular music such as Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf Rag." The choreography was well designed and pragmatic. Tracy DePue, from St. James United Methodist Church, offered beautiful piano accompaniment for some numbers.

The classes on Saturday were set up in tracks to accommodate the different levels of ringing experience. This was an effort to let seminar participants find teaching that met their needs at their current level of experience. P.L. and Joel taught Track 3 (more advanced), and board members taught Tracks 1 and 2. State Festival and other selected music was presented in a ringing session at the end of the seminar. Music for Handbell Olympics, the state children's festival held in late January, was presented earlier in the day.

The State Board thanks everyone who participated in Summer Seminar this year for their support. There were 39 participants. These events are designed and presented to continue to promote handbell music and enrich the lives and musical abilities of ringers in Arkansas and beyond. We were happy to have some ringers from Tennessee for this event.

See you in February for State Festival at St. James United Methodist Church, Little Rock.

Directors: Why You Should Join the National Handbell Musicians of America

Besides staying informed of activities of bell ringers all across America, there is one really outstanding reason you should be a member of the Handbell Musicians of America: their *Overtones* journal. This journal is packed with articles to help you improve your ringing, your choir, and your directing, along with information on upcoming events in your area and nationwide. And here's the biggest benefit: every *Overtones* has a two or three page composition in it that is (ta-da!) reproducible! *Overtones* is published 6 times a year. That's a lot of free music! If your church will pay for your professional organization memberships, ask for it to become a member and designate you as the official contact.

State Festival 2016

If you missed Summer Seminar, you do not have to miss Festival! Our friends at Jeffers Handbell Supply would be happy to accommodate your order of Festival music so your choir can be prepared come February. The music list for this event is below. State Festival will be on February 27, 2016, in the wonderful facilities at St. James UMC in Little Rock, with lots of parking and easy access to the hall for loading and unloading bells.

Jason Krug, composer and conductor from Indianapolis, will be our guest clinician. We're sure you will like his arrangement of "Sweet Hour of Prayer."

Registrations will be taken online at www.arkansasbells.org beginning December 1, 2015, and via the form you can download on that website.

Reminder:

- If your whole choir is not able to attend, you may bring any number of ringers, knowing that all the missing parts will be covered by other choirs. Single ringers are also encouraged to register, and will be placed in a choir with an open position.



**Here is the list
of music for
State Festival!**

Sweet Hour of Prayer, arr. Jason W. Krug, for 3, 4, 5 or 6 octaves handbells with optional 3, 4 or 5 octaves handchimes. Published by Choristers Guild. CGB879. L3.

I Wonder As I Wander, John Jacob Niles/Arr. Peggy Bettcher. 3-5 octaves handbells. Agape Publishing, Code No. 2697. L2+.

Celebrate with Ringing, Michael Mazzatenta, for 3-5 Octaves handbells with optional 3 octaves handchimes. AGEHR Publishing. AG35326. L2+.

Guide Us, O God of Grace, Michael R. Keller, for 3-5 octaves handbells and optional keyboard or brass and timpani. AGEHR Publishing. AG35257. L3.

(Coppers) ***Gigue***, George F. Handel/Arr. by Ron Mallory for 3-5 octaves handbells with optional C instrument and cello. Choristers Guild Publishing. CGB885. L3+.

(Tins) ***A Celtic Ring***, arr. Susan E. Geschke, for 3-5 octaves handbells. Agape Publishing. Code No. 2706. L2.

A Big Thanks!

Evy Lamb Historian

Arkansas is fortunate to have had an active state chapter of Handbell Musicians of America (formerly American Guild of English Handbell Ringers) for over thirty years. Over those years many hard-working leaders have volunteered to help us plan, direct, advertise, and generally make handbells known throughout the state.

Would that they would continue sharing themselves with us forever! However, as much as we hate it, we know that can't happen. We want to take a moment to say a huge thank you to one of those always present, can-do-anything people: Bob Bidewell. He is now using his talents in other areas and has resigned as a member of the Arkansas HMA Board. He will be greatly missed. During the last fifteen years (yes, he has given us his expertise for that LONG!) Bob has served in the official capacities of Secretary, State Chair, Past Chair, and Chime Chair. He has also planned meals, ordered ringing tables, taken photos, been the festival director when the clinician didn't show up, hosted some of our state events, and kept everyone cheery and positive. Any Board member can add to that list, and it could go on and on.

We wish Bob all the best as he enjoys the next chapter of his life. We can be sure he will continue to share his gifts and graces in all he does.

Allan Pieroni has also resigned from the Board to pursue another career. In his two short years with us, he has managed to host a State Festival and turn our budding web page into a wonderful tool for our state to use. Also, Paige Majors spent the last two years as the board secretary but is leaving us now. Paige is hosting Handbell Olympics at her church in January. We will miss both of these people too!

What a blessing Bob and Allan and Paige have been to handbells in Arkansas! We are so thankful to them and for them. Now we are looking for new members who can lead us for the upcoming years. Would that be you?

**Arkansas Chapter of
Handbell Musicians of America
State Board effective October 1, 2015**

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)

Kyle Blackburn, Central Representative (kblackburn@lakewood-umc.org)

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

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

Felix and Martha Lynn Thompson, Honorary Members

Handbell Olympics

Beginning and intermediate ringers (grades 3-7) will enjoy the ringing and games planned for Handbell Olympics January 30, 2016, at the Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. Here's what you can expect from your H.O. experience:

Clinician for this workshop will be **Mary Ibis**, known as "Miss Mary" to the children in her choirs. Mary is the Associate Director for Music at Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock. She directs several bell choirs in her church along with community bell choirs and summer children's music programs. Mary has led Presbytery workshops on children's music for the Arkansas Presbytery, full music inclusion in the classrooms and choir by Universal Design for Central Arkansas Orff, and directed the children's choirs at Wildwood Center for the Arts camps in 2015. We are delighted to have such a skilled clinician who so enjoys working with children.



Repertoire

All choirs will work together on two pieces selected for the event (see below). While we will rehearse the music during the course of the day, some advance preparation is recommended. Both of these pieces may be found at Jeffers Handbellworld.com. (1-800-JHS-BELLS) Depending upon the age and experience of our registrants, an additional piece may be added that day (a reproducible one, so no cost to you) for more advanced ringers to work on during the event.

1. "Joyful, Joyful" (Stephenson), MCGB418:2 to 3 octaves; MCGB419:3 to 5 octaves
2. "Come, Christians, Praise the Lord" (Ryan), MSF201773SF:2 to 3 octaves

Directors are reminded that out of respect for copyright laws, if photocopies of music are used for marking purposes, the appropriate number of originals must also be present on the day of the event.

Handbell Olympics Games will be group activities. Children will be divided into teams upon arrival and participate in rhythm, notation, and bell ringing challenges. The children always have a good time with these games, and they provide time for the children to be active and interact with each other.

The day closes with an "Olympic Procession" and short concert, to which parents and friends are invited. Individual choirs may also choose to play a prepared selection as part of the concert (see registration form).

You do not have to bring a full bell or chime choir to this event; even one or two ringers are welcome. A registration form for Handbell Olympics is at the end of this newsletter and on our website: www.arkansasbells.org.



The Board is trying to find ways to make our chapter of the Handbell Musicians of America more useful to you, our members. First of all, we are hunting for new ideas of what you would like to see in our workshops. If you've ever said "I wish they'd offer _____!" then tell us! What would you like to see?

One idea we are considering is for individual board members to visit you and your choir to conduct a rehearsal. We're not saying we're all outstanding conductors, but sometimes it helps to have someone new work with your choir. They may say what you've been saying in a different way, who knows? Would that interest you?

The National Handbell Musicians of America is offering a "Get Back to Bells" program that would assist churches with handbells but no program to re-start their handbell choirs. We'd like to offer that if you think it would help.

Please reply to the email that brought you this newsletter with your thoughts (please *don't* "reply to all") . Thanks!

Directing a Musical Family

(Editor's note: Veritas Academy in Texarkana was the recipient of the Arkansas Chapter of the Handbell Musicians of America's chime loan program this year.)

Stephanie House

"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another." Rom. 12:4-5

Working at a Christian school, I have the blessing of combining my love of music education with the joy of serving Christ and giving my students a glimpse of the larger picture of Christ and His kingdom.

The reflection of Christ's Kingdom is all around us, in science, in the structure of math, in the ordering of words in a sentence, in the events in history. Music encompasses all of these subjects and brings them together. We see this in the universal language that is used in a music score. Many people who play the bells/handchimes, no matter where they may be from, will understand this common language. We see it in the science of the chimes, how many vibrations are used to form a particular sound wave, or in the mathematical equations used to make the chime itself. Then there is the history of the chimes and their uses. All of these are worthy subjects, but the one I want to touch on in this article is that of the family of God.



Being a music educator, I see the constant working out of God's plan in the "family." When a group of students comes together to learn the handchimes, they have just become a family. They have one director, as there is one God, guiding the students along in how they should act and react to the music, keeping them all together with one steady and constant beat. When one is lost or confused or feeling isolated, the director pulls this one back into the family, sometimes with a single glance and sometimes by stopping everything to give instruction and guidance. All this to bring about peace and harmony within the family.

Working with the handchimes, the students have many opportunities to learn about patience, kindness, and cooperation. The family should work as one body, but with each member equally and individually important to the whole. As many of you know, this sounds so beautiful on paper, but doesn't always look like that in the classroom. As a group begins learning a new piece, there are times when it sounds and feels like utter chaos. Some become frustrated, some become uninterested in the music, and some may even become angry. As music educators/worship leaders, we have the blessing of taking these stressful and tough situations and turning them into opportunities to learn about what God's word says about how important each member is to the whole body. It is an opportunity for forgiveness and encouragement.

There is nothing more frustrating as working hard on a piece only for it to come completely apart, and nothing so satisfying as seeing your choir come together rendering a splendid performance. Whether the performance is perfect or less than what you had hoped for, in the end, what should last for years is the satisfaction of knowing that your choir has learned to play, perform, and worship as a part of the family of God.

A decorative border of musical notes surrounds the text. The notes are black and white, and the text is in red.

**If you are a Facebook devotee, remember to "like" our page
(Arkansas HMA) to get updates on our events!**

FOR SALE:

Chime Magic Curricula

Area 6 of the Handbell Musicians of America is selling their sets of Chime Magic Curriculum. What is Chime Magic Curriculum? It's a packaged set of materials used to teach handchimes to children in kindergarten through grade 8, or higher.

It comes with a 300-page teacher's text book, a supplement, two books of music charts, rhythm cards, 2 CDs, vocabulary words, music symbol cards, 7 short story-books, and a few other things to enable handchime education. All of this comes in a strong case which has both a shoulder strap and a carrying handle.

Retail price for the set is \$450. These sets have been used, but are still in good condition. The individual parts of the set can be ordered from Jeffers Handbell Supply. Area 6 will sell the sets for \$100 each.

Contact Evy Lamb if you are interested. (lambevy@yahoo.com)



ARKANSAS HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA
HANDBELL OLYMPICS 2016
for ringers in grades 3-7.
Both handbell and handchime choirs are welcome.



Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 (snow date: Saturday, February 6, 2016)
Location: Second Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive, Little Rock, AR
Time: Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The final concert is at 2:30 p.m.
Fee: \$20 per ringer includes lunch and T-shirt. Accompanying adults: \$7 for lunch
Music: “Joyful, Joyful” (Stephenson), MCGB418:2 to 3 octaves; MCGB419:3 to 5 octaves
“Come, Christians, Praise the Lord” (Ryan), MSF201773SF:2 to 3 octaves
Both pieces may be heard at www.handbellworld.com

Safe Sanctuary practice requires at least two adults to be present with each choir

Handbell Olympics Registration Form
Registration deadline is Friday, January 15, 2016

Choir Name: _____
Church Name: _____
Director’s Name: _____
Email: _____
Church Mailing Address: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
How many feet of table length do you need for your choir? _____
How many advanced ringers (comfortable with *easy* L2 music) will you have? _____
Will your choir ring a solo number at our concert? If yes, please give the title/composer/arranger _____
Please mark how many T-shirts of each size you are ordering:
Child Size: S _____ M _____ L _____ Adult Size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____
Fees: _____ (# of children) X \$20 per ringer = \$ _____
Directors, chaperoning adults - \$7.00 for lunch (or \$20 if you want a T-shirt) _____ X \$7 = \$ _____
Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to **AR HMA** and mail to:
Amy Tate, AR HMA Treasurer
First United Methodist Church
304 N. Main St.
Searcy, AR 72143

Original published music must be in
each folder at every HMA event.

**Remember, you can easily register for any event online at:
www.arkansasbells.org**