



Area 8  
Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

# QUAVERS

AREA 8: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA  
MAY, 2012

## Captions from the Chair



**Meet Me in St. Louis** is a 1944 musical film produced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer which tells the story of an American family living in St. Louis at the time of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition World's Fair in 1904. It stars none other than Judy Garland, June Lockhart, and many other brand-named Hollywood stars. Now I will not attest to the fact that any of these stars will show up at the Missouri River Ring in St. Charles!

Could I adopt a new phrase—*Meet Me in St. Charles*? I hope that you have submitted your registrations for the Missouri River Ring, made your hotel reservations, and planned to spend a few extra days of vacation in St. Charles and St. Louis! By the time *Quavers* is delivered

to your inbox, your executive committee of the board will have met in St. Charles, finalized, tweaked, and put details to the Missouri River Ring! ***All things about this Festival are for you! We have your needs as our highest priority in our planning.***

Have you signed up for the Show Me Ensemble directed by PL Grove? There is still time to participate in this ensemble, acquire the music, practice on your own, and then fulfill the delight of ringing with new friends in this exemplary ensemble.

Let me strongly emphasize that if your excuses for not attending the Missouri River Ring are "I can't take that much vacation," or "it costs too much," or "I don't have time to learn the music." These are not "real excuses" because you can attend only one or two days which saves days of vacation and dollars. Now I do not want to be judgmental nor can I attempt to address all of the issues and why a ringer or director would not WANT to attend. I will simply state that you *should* attend one or more days to advance your handbell knowledge by ringing, attending classes, and listening to excellent concerts!

Elsewhere in this edition of *Quavers* you will see information from various writers about titles that should be in every handbell library! In the reading sessions, in the massed ringing, in the division ringing, and possibly in a class, you will find a handbell gem from the past or a new gem that should be in your library! I am looking forward to learning new music and being reminded of pieces that have stood the test of time for handbell ensembles.

So, look forward to Meeting Me in St. Charles—could we produce a new movie starring PL Grove, Nick Hanson, and David Weck?

*Dolan Bayless ~ Area 8 Chair*

www.area8iii.org



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# Bones of a Handbell Library

I've only directed bells at one church, and was blessed to start with a nice library and a decent, regular music budget, which we've spent every year. Here are the pieces that have stood me in good stead for the adult group over the years—the ones that I keep coming back to. My list started at 50 pieces, which I pared down to 20 to fit on the page. Email me if you'd like the rest of the list. I'm very curious to see what the other state chairs have selected!

These are my top selections based on:

- Flexibility—both number of ringers and use during the church year
- Touches heart, soul and spirit
- Comes together well and allows time to work on the details
- Adds joy to the ringing experience
- Introduction to something new (mixed meter, techniques, etc.)

1. ***As the Deer*** by Patricia Cota, Agape 2056, L3+/3.
2. ***Be Thou My Vision*** by Linda Lamb, Ringing Word RW8107, L3/2. Easy yet very different.
3. ***Blessed Assurance*** by Cynthia Dobrinski, Lake State HB90018, L3+/medium. Combined with *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring*.
4. ***Change Ring Prelude on "Divinum Mysterium"*** by Fred Gramann, Lorenz 201239L, L3+. Good intro to mixed meters.
5. ***Fantasy on "Immortal Invisible"*** by Douglas Smith, Agape 2346, L3+/2. Easy yet very different.
6. ***Grazioso*** by Arnold Sherman, Red River HB0042, L3+/2+. Original.
7. ***I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*** by John Behnke, Concordia 97-6611, L3+/2
8. ***I Wonder as I Wander*** by Fred Gramann, Schirmer ED-3924, L3+/2+. Ethereal, with *We Three Kings*.
9. ***Infant Holy*** by S. Rucker, Agape 1161, L3.
10. ***Meditation on Beautiful Savior*** by Cathy Moglebust, Choristers Guild CGB175, L3+/3.
11. ***O Jesus, I Have Promised*** by Valerie Stephenson, Agape 1894, L3+/3. Revised CGB404.
12. ***Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*** by Susan Nelson, AGEHR AG35118, L3+/3.
13. ***Pie Jesu*** by Douglas Wagner, Agape 1693, L3+. Haunting.
14. ***Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*** by Cynthia Dobrinski, Agape 1974, L3+/3.
15. ***Precious Lord, Take My Hand*** by Douglas Wagner, Agape 1610, L3+/easy. Gospel.
16. ***Sine Nomine*** by Douglas Wagner, Agape 1271, L3+/med.
17. ***The Strife is O'er*** by Arnold Sherman, Agape 1847, L3+/3.
18. ***Timbrel & Dance*** by Kevin McChesney, Choristers Guild cgb290, L3+/2+. Original. Mallets and fun!
19. ***Twelve Bells of Christmas*** by Patricia Cota, Agape 1717, L2/easy-med.
20. ***We Three Kings*** by Arnold Sherman, Red River hb0014, L3+/3. Hear the camels!

Sharon Schmidt ~ Illinois State Chair

www.il-agehr.org



# Iowa Favorites

I'm going to talk about my FAVORITE handbell music. This is a problem as I only get one page, and probably don't have your full attention. If you want a longer list, or something specific for an event, a Guild level, a season, etc, please email me.

1. **Song of Hope** by John Behnke, AGEHR AG35200, L4. Published in 2002, this piece is always on my *favorites* list. It works well in many seasons of the liturgical year, and is a compelling concert work. The middle section which dialogues bass/battery chimes with treble bells is especially effective. This piece deserves the L4 rating, but is totally worth it for your ringers and your audience. I feel it works best if you have 5-octaves of bells and chimes, but the compelling nature of this piece works well with 3, 4, or 5 octaves.
2. **Valse Les Adieux** by Karen Buckwalter, AGEHR AG36013, L4+. Published in 1997, this piece is a longtime favorite among the community handbell ensembles in America. It reminds me of a Mendelssohn or Schumann character piece for piano, and has the detail to match. The thing that I love the most is that once your group has learned the notes and rhythms, there is no end to the musical detail that can be found.
3. **On This Day Earth Shall Ring** by Cathy Moklebust, Choristers' Guild cgb460/461, L3. This was the first piece I ever got to conduct at Symphony Hall in Boston, Massachusetts, with the Back Bay Ringers. Also, I chose this piece to be the closing selection for the 2009 AGEHR Area I Festival/Conference at Orono, Maine, featuring 30 percussionists, 700 ringers, and Monica McGowan as conductor. I always smile when I hear it, I always love to ring it, and enjoy how cheerfully it presents the ancient *Personent Hodie* melody. The ending is absolutely thrilling, and the rehearsal required to pull this piece off successfully is completely worth it.
4. **Christmas Joy** by Michael Helman, Lorenz 201059L, L2+. Published in 1997, this piece is a wonderful prelude for the Christmas season, effectively using bells and chimes, and blending two traditional tunes to great effect.
5. **Grazioso** by Arnold Sherman, Red River HB0042, L2+. Published in 2000, this piece is a perennial favorite for festivals, funerals, weddings, and every other possible event. The piece was inspired by the gracious life of Norma Taubert Brown, and the story will absolutely slay an audience or a group of ringers. From the *gracious* tune, to her illness, her death, and the hope of her eternal life, this is a wonderful piece of program music.
6. **Laudare** by Kathleen Wissinger, Chorister's Guild cgb599, L1+. This is a very user-friendly piece for beginning choirs, youth choirs, and festivals. Including a unison-ringing warm-up exercise, this piece uses lots of marts, and has great dynamics. This is just an example of many Wissinger pieces that I love to use as teaching pieces.

I hope some of these are also your favorites, or that you might enjoy them in the future. If you are stuck for a title, please give me a ring and we'll talk about some ideas. There is so much wonderful handbell music in print, that **it's out there**; the perfect piece for your great choir, for your next opportunity to play in concert and worship, for your Handbell Musicians. I look forward to seeing lots of you in St. Charles, and to performing some wonderful examples of great music for our awesome instrument.

Patrick Gagnon ~ Acting Iowa Chair



# Cherished Pieces

If you have an established handbell library then you may not think much of this article but I hope there may be a sentence or two to make it worth reading. If you are just starting your library I hope you will think about your bells/chimes, ringers and audience before you start acquiring music. I once rang in a beginning choir with a first time director who purchased all music based on having 5-octave of bells and enough ringers to fill the spaces. The choir only had 3-octave of bells and ringers. If you only have 3-octave there are definitely 3-5 octave pieces that work fine with only 3-octave., but don't forget to look at the 2-3 octave music as well.

Where to get started? The best place to start a search for music is [www.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.handbellmusicians.org). Being a member of the Guild affords you great resources for finding exactly what you are looking for. There is a tab right on the top of the page that says "Music and Resources." There are links to AGEHR music as well as other publishers and retailers. They allow you to look and listen to most of the music they have available, so you can see if it will work for your choir.

I'm not sure I have a true favorite piece of music and I'm not sure I have pieces that I don't ever want to see. For this reason I asked my trusted Kansas crew to see what they had to say. They all had favorites and I will list some of them but they suggested making sure you had all the types of music covered.

1. a processional or prelude: **Six Processionals** by Sandra Eithun, CGB581, 3-5 oct., L2.
2. a festive non-seasonal piece: **Let Us Rejoice** by Cynthia Dobrinski, HP2553, 2-6 oct., L2.
3. soft/meditative for use at communion or a special occasion service: **Grazioso** by Arnold Sherman, RRHB0042, 3-5 oct., L2+. (This is also available as a handbell solo); **The River** (includes *Shall We Gather at the River* and *Peace Like a River*) by Anna Laura Page, AL8655, 3-5 oct., L4.
4. seasonal music (Patriotic, Easter and Christmas): **Prelude on Herzliebster Jesu** by Fred Gramann, MAG47002, 4-7 oct., L5; **Carol of the Bells** by Arnold Sherman, HP2375, 3-5 oct., L3.
5. secular for community outreach: **Fantasy No. 2 in C Minor** by Arnold Sherman, HP1981, 3-5 oct., L4; **Timbrel & Dance** by Kevin McChesney, CGB290, 3-5 oct., L2+.

These are only a few suggestions of the thousands of pieces available to play but it might be enough to get you through for a year. Don't be afraid to work on a difficult piece or play something simple. You never know which one just might be your favorite. Thanks to Karla Denton, Carol Fleeger, Marilyn Lake, Kathy Leonard, and Shirley Myers for their input.

Cherryl Cox ~ Kansas State Chair

www.agehr-kans.org

## Show Me Ensemble

### Deadline Extended!

It is not too late to register for the opportunity to ring with P. L. Grove in the Show Me Ensemble in St. Charles in June. This six hour track is for those ringers and directors who want more ringing experience and desire the challenge of some advanced music under another conductor. Rehearsals will be held during regular class session times of the Missouri River Ring and the five pieces will be presented in a concert on Saturday, June 23. Each selected ringer must purchase and rehearse the music selections prior to the festival.

To apply for this ensemble go to the Area 8 website, click on Festival Information and the application and repertoire are there. Notification of acceptance will occur by **May 15**. Consider taking advantage of this opportunity to study some fine repertoire under a delightful conductor.



# Treasured Pieces

Over the years my favorite pieces have a definite Cynthia Dobrinski label. The processional hymn on Easter doesn't get any better than her classic ***Christ the Lord Is Risen Today***, Agape 1739. When the congregation finishes singing that hymn with organ, trumpet, and timpani, their faces are radiant! Similarly, on Palm Sunday the easily memorized ***Processional on All Glory, Laud, and Honor***, Agape 1230, with organ, trumpet, and congregation is my favorite vehicle for the procession of palms.

Other Dobrinski arrangements I use frequently in worship are ***He Leadeth Me***, a lovely offertory, ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***, always good for Thanksgiving or anytime, and ***Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah***, with organ and choir. All of these are Agape publications. Cynthia's arrangement of ***Blessed Assurance*** which weaves strains of *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* with the Fanny Crosby hymn, is great for worship or concert with its dynamic, sweeping phrases. It is a Lake State publication. The driving energy and challenging techniques of Cynthia's ***Rondo Passacaglia*** make this concert piece exciting and fun for ringers and listeners. Choir members who rang this piece 20 years ago still share memories of their joy on Facebook.

My favorite concert opener in December is Kevin McChesney's ***Now the Green Blade Riseth***, Agape 1892. Its driven malleted bass line and dynamic contrasts immediately establish the authority of your choir's musicianship.

My favorite 2-3 octave piece for junior bell ringers is Barbara Kinyon's ***A Joyful Ring***, Agape 1397. It is a good teaching piece for AABA form, and with its lilting melody is effectively rung by 2 octaves. The G4 ringer can easily take the C4 also and loves playing the "big bell."

*Suanne Comfort ~ Missouri State Chair*

# Shopping

Vendors for the 2012 festival are pulling stock, packing boxes, and loading the trucks to bring you their best product lines in handbell music, supplies, apparel and gifts. Check out these festival specials from this year's vendors.

Dave Berry of **Handbell Services** says he is "bringing the whole store—all the products from our website" to St. Charles. This includes unique products and gifts crafted by American artists, and new pieces added to the jewelry lines. T-shirts, along with new ringwear for the fall will be available. HSI is also offering a 15% festival discount on its large selection of music for soloists, as well as ensembles written for two to six ringers. As an added service, Area 8 members may place a pre-festival order with Handbell Services and pick it up in St. Charles, saving postage charges.

**3rd Bell on the Right** will present its new selection of wine/oil bottle stoppers lathe-turned from native and exotic woods, along with hand-turned pens and pencils. "All of our wood items are hand-made by us in our workshop," says Wendi Levitt. They also hope to have engraving available at the festival for the pen and pencil sets. T-shirts can be printed on site, so customers can choose the size, color and design, which will then be heat pressed. They will also have embroidered polo shirts. As a new service, a professional photographer is available for your special group photo, which can be set up during the festival. Check out the photos at [www.bjohnsonphotography.com](http://www.bjohnsonphotography.com). Wendi also invites you to stop by the booth for a demonstration of the singing handbell dowels.

Jean Darby is retiring from teaching to concentrate on her handbell refurbishment and repair business. Drop by **Darby Handbell Services** and wish her a happy retirement! Book a refurbishment for 2012 and receive a 3% conference discount. If your bells have recently been refurbished, you can apply the

*(Continued on page 12)*



# Top Ten

Our assignment this month was to list our favorite handbell pieces; numbers that should be in every handbell choir library. In contemplating this assignment, it was like trying to name your favorite children or pets, when you had too many to choose from. Here are my top 10 for today as I write this.

1. **Grazioso** by Arnold Sherman, 3-5 oct., L2+. This is a great piece for general use, or for funerals / memorial services. Very powerful.
2. **Intermezzo** from Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*, arr. Kevin McChesney, 4-5 oct., L2+. This is a beautiful piece you may have heard from *The Raging Bull* movie, again a very powerful, melodic number, requires lots of musicianship.
3. **In Christ Alone** by Stu Townsend/Keith Getty, arr. Sandra Eithun. 3-5 oct., Optional chimes, L2+. Nice arrangement of a contemporary tune.
4. **Hymn of Promise** by Natalie Sleeth, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski, 3-6 oct., Optional chimes, L2+. The beautiful timeless Sleeth classic has been arranged by Dobrinski into a new, very listenable piece. Builds to a nice climactic conclusion.
5. **Lord of the Dance** by Sydney Carter, arr Kevin McChesney, 3-5 oct., L4-. This is one of my favorite pieces and Kevin's arrangement adds a vitality and excitement that truly makes this piece magical.
6. **Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace** by Kevin McChesney, 3-5 oct., CD accompaniment, L2+. This is a piece that was written as a memorial to those who died at the Columbine, Colorado, shooting, and in fact, monies earned from the sale of this piece go towards school anti-violence programs. This is a great piece that my choir plays along with a full orchestral accompaniment CD and always evokes a strong emotional response.
7. **The Prayer** by Sager & Foster, arr. Sandra Eithun, 3-6 oct., Optional chimes, L3. This is a beautiful arrangement of the piece made famous by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion. This melody translates wonderfully well to handbells and chimes.
8. **Over the Rainbow** arr. Tammy Waldrop 3-5, L3-. As a celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz*, Waldrop has arranged a very nice arrangement of this Judy Garland classic. This piece includes optional vocal solo or congregational song sheet with the arrangement.
9. **The Lord's Prayer** by Malotte, arr. Cynthia Dobrinski, 3-5 oct., L3. Dobrinski has taken the famous Malotte piece and set it to handbells. It is a truly moving arrangement for memorials, funerals and throughout the year.
10. **Rondo Passacaglia** by Cynthia Dobrinski, 4-5 oct., L3+. A very festive piece, typical of Dobrinski, with lots of excitement built into the number, which keeps the ringers busy and your listeners engaged.

BONUS—in closing, as a Nebraskan, we are very proud of Chip Davis and his Mannheim Steamroller ensemble. He has taken a number of his tunes and arrangements, especially some of his Christmas arrangements and has had them arranged for handbells. At Christmas time, I have my choir play both **Christmas Lullaby** and **Stille Nacht**, which are both arranged by Paul McKlveen for 3-4 oct., L3, and I have even incorporated a synthesizer to add a number of the instruments and sounds Davis uses when these pieces are performed in concert. **Stille Nacht** is the perfect arrangement of the original Steamroller version and by adding a violin via the synthesizer or with a violin soloist, we always draw a lot of emotion and a few tears from the listeners.

Most of my Top 10 Favorites listed above are available at [www.handbellworld.com](http://www.handbellworld.com) where you can also hear them being performed in case you are unfamiliar with them. Handbell choirs can never have enough different music to stretch themselves, improve their abilities and increase the enjoyment of their audiences. If you are looking to try some new music, give some of these a go.

Michael Allen ~ Nebraska State Chair

www.agehr-ne.org



# In Loving Memory of Mary Kettlehut

## Past AGEHR President

June 8, 1915 – March 23, 2010

One of my first (and favorite) handbell mentors, Mary Kettelhut, passed away two years ago this past March. Mary was the first person to introduce me to the Guild as well as to the handbell world beyond my own church and choir. She had a really strong impact on me and encouraged me to strive to be a better director and to push my choir to be more than they thought they could be.

I remember Mary taking me under her wing at one of my first state workshops in 1994, tutoring me in such things as how to make homemade mallets, suggestions for using handbells in worship, and helping me to understand some complicated rhythm of some piece or another. She was a grand lady and was totally devoted to handbells and helping as many people, young or old, enjoy handbells to the max. She was especially keen on getting children to play handbells...what a legacy to leave behind!

Mary enjoyed her start with handbells in 1962 when someone showed her a handbell and suggested these handbells might be just the thing to help her work with the junior high boys in her church. She knew nothing about handbells, but that didn't stop her from learning more about them and soon they became "her" instrument of choice.

Few members have devoted so much of their life to the Guild. She poured herself into her involvement within the Guild, becoming the last unpaid registrar in 1975, serving until 1981. And remember this was before computers, and the Guild was experiencing a tremendous amount of growth, basically doubling in size during this time, so Mary spent many hours a day working on Guild business at her dining room table. In 1981, she was convinced to run for Guild President, which meant a six year presidential cycle, the first three years as president-elect and then serving as president from 1983-85. Mary was also one of the early solo handbell performers ringing at numerous area and national events.

She and her beloved husband of 64 years, Harry, spent their years together in Bennet, Nebraska where he farmed and Mary taught school and handbells. They were both permanent fixtures at all of our state committee meetings, state workshops, as well as at area and national events. Mary was the handbell director at her church for 36 years and was responsible for bringing her youth choirs to area and national events for 33 years...she really practiced what she preached!! One of my most sincere regrets was her not seeing me become state chair of the Nebraska Committee of the Guild, so she could see what she helped inspire. Mary, I really miss you, dear friend.

After Mary's passing, the Nebraska State committee of the Guild commissioned Cathy Moglebust to compose a handbell piece in memory of Mary. We wanted a piece that would be lovely to hear and playable by most choirs, no matter their skill level. Cathy did a marvelous job and the piece, **I Will Arise and Go to Jesus** (L2) will have its official public debut performance when The Agape Ringers present this number as part of their concert performance at the Missouri River Ring Festival in St. Charles, Missouri this June. We, in Nebraska, are most excited to have this piece presented to the world and when it is played, we hope to share a small bit of Mary Kettelhut with all who hear it.

A special thanks to David Weck, a good friend of Mary's, who graciously agreed to include our piece in Agape's performance.

*In Loving Memory of Mary,  
Dr. J. Michael Allen, Nebraska Chair  
Area 8 Handbell Musicians of America*



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# Festival FAQ

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ALL answers can be found at [www.areaviii.org/Festival\\_Info/Festival\\_Info.html](http://www.areaviii.org/Festival_Info/Festival_Info.html)—but here is a short and sweet variety of common FAQs!

**How much will it cost me to come to the Festival?**

You can still register for the full festival at \$305/person, or daily for \$80.00 on Thursday and \$100.00 on Friday and Saturday.

**What is included and not included in the registration fee?**

Your registration fee includes all concert admissions, class sessions, Thursday box lunch and Opening Banquet, Friday box lunch, Saturday box dinner and dessert reception, HIC exhibits and reading sessions. If you are registering for a daily rate, then you will also have access to all concerts and meals that are provided on that day.

**What is the hotel cost, and what does it include?**

The Embassy Suites St. Charles is our Festival hotel. Each room is \$139 for 1-4 people, plus tax. Breakfast is included every day—yippee! The rooms themselves are loaded with amenities to make you feel right at home. The overflow hotel for this festival is the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa St. Charles. It is located 1.5 miles from the Conference Center.

**Can we share a room? How many per room?**

Sure you can share a room. 1-4 folks...you decide!

**How and where do I register/check-in for the festival?**

You can register online or by mail. We now offer PayPal! When you arrive in St. Charles, you will unload your bells at the designated location (look for signs and ringers directing traffic!). Only one ringer or director need go to the registration table, which will be located where you are unloading (or quite near it) to gather the registration packet.

**Do I get tickets to events in my packet? Can I get/purchase tickets on site for events?**

You will and you can...at the registration table.

**Is there an overview of the Festival events/activities?**

The schedule is updated regularly online.

**What do I need to be sure to bring with me?**

Gloves, bells and chimes, books and stands, mallets, pencils, Band-Aids, water bottle and a SMILE! If you have carpet squares or something similar to cushion your feet while at the bell tables, you might find that more comfortable. Chairs are always provided. And if you care to swim, a swimsuit would be handy!

**I am coming by myself (orphan ringer), is there a place for me at the Festival?**

There sure is a place for you! We currently are filling up two different Orphan Ringer Choirs in both the Bronze and Gold Divisions. Contact Kristin Kalitowski-Kowal at [Treasurer@area8.handbellmusicians.org](mailto:Treasurer@area8.handbellmusicians.org) to get your name on the list!

**I heard there will be various vendors there. Is there a list of vendors?**

The vendor list will be posted online by the time this goes to press, but you can bet that we will have hand bell representatives from Malmark and Schulmerich, gift items specific to handbells from various vendors, and lots of music to peruse!

**What is the attire for the Festival? Do I need to bring more than just casual clothes?**

There was a time when the opening banquet was quite the formal occasion, but now we all dress for comfort: shorts, jeans, capris, your bell choir shirts. You will be glad to know that there is *no naked bell ringing!* Our facility is so convenient that you might not even need your walking shoes, but remember that you will be standing for long periods of time, so comfortable shoes are a must!

*(Continued on page 11)*



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# Festival FAQ

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## **Is there a list of terminology for first timers...things I should know or consider before I come to be better prepared?**

Unless you have been around festivals for some time you might not quite understand our lingo for the different groups: **Tins** are folks who ring typically L1-2 music, or maybe this is just their first time at a festival. **Silver** ringers ring L2-3 and in this case they are also ringing all hymns. **Gold** ringers would like a little bit of a challenge and they ring L3-4. **Bronze** ringers are the choirs who typically have all the toys and all the bells and all the equipment, and many have been ringing together for some time. They ring L3+ to 5. They are a fun group to watch!

## **As a non-ringer, what is the cost to participate in meals, concerts, etc?**

Chaperones and non-participating adults can register for \$95. They receive all meals and admissions to concerts.

## **What are the facility amenities?**

*Everything* is under one roof! We can have all kinds of wet weather and you won't even know it is storming outside! The Conference Center is only three years old, and with the attached Embassy Suites it is certainly the perfect location for our bell ringing.

## **What else is there to do in the area of St. Charles if I want to come early or stay over after the festival?**

Old Town St. Charles is simply charming and it is less than one mile from the Conference Center. Also consider visiting the St. Louis Zoo, take in a Cardinals ball game, take the tram up in the Arch, science center, Botanical Gardens, brewery tours—St. Charles and St. Louis have it all!

## **Is there information on the featured concerts?**

Our guest choirs for this Festival are Velocity and The Agape Ringers—both are quite different and varied in their approaches—and you will be *so inspired* by their ringing! More information about these choirs and their directors can be found online. We are also hosting Atrium Concerts throughout the festival, giving many of our local groups an opportunity to perform as well. Those times and locations will be listed in your Festival Program Booklet.

## **Is there a list of classes to be offered? What is being offered at the Festival?**

You know that I'm going to say to go to the website. It was also posted in the March 2012 *Quavers*. There are *lots* of different and challenging classes being taught this year. Classes are designed to be hands-on and very active. There will be many chances to take treble techniques, bass techniques, sight-reading tricks, rhythms and percussion, bell trees, composition, stopped sounds, weaving, music theory, rehearsal techniques, working with young ringers, chimes in education, solo and ensemble ringing, change ringing, handbells in worship, Maori Sticks and even a class on Guild information and resources! Whew!

## **Where can I find what the music is that will be played?**

Listed online and in the September 2011 *Quavers*! Complete with title, composer, level, publisher, and code number.

## **Must we all fill out the Emergency Medical Forms?**

We have always used this form for our Young Ringers, but one of the adult groups that came to the festival in Topeka had their ringers fill out the form, too, since they would be traveling a long distance and they wanted to be able to take care of their ringers in an emergency. GREAT IDEA! It can also be found on the website. You will need to fill these out and have them with you at the festival.

## **Chaperone information and concerns.**

There will be a chaperone meeting during the very first rehearsal, not only with the Young Ringers, but also for the main festival as well.

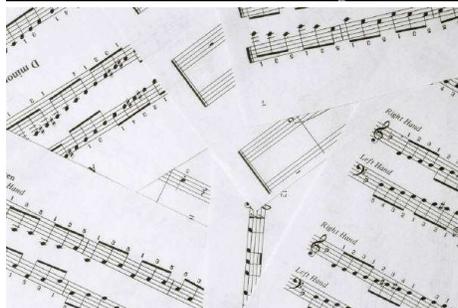
There is a wealth of information to be had at the website listed above, so don't be shy about visiting and discovering what awaits you at the Missouri River Ring Festival this summer! We hope to see you there!!!




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## Unpublished Reading Session

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### Calling All Composers (and Handbell Music Enthusiasts!)

Area 8 will be offering our first Unpublished Music Reading Session at this year's festival. This is a great opportunity for handbell composers and arrangers of any level or expertise to bring an unpublished piece of music to be sight-read on bells by handbell enthusiasts. The information gained from hearing the music interpreted by a real choir and the constructive feedback

from fellow ringers is invaluable. This session will also be a fun experience for anyone who would like to listen or play in one of the demonstration choirs.

The Unpublished Music Reading Session will be held on Friday evening, June 22, following the concert by The Agape Ringers. Composers and arrangers wishing to submit a piece, must submit a special registration form for this session by June 1. This form and more information about the session are available on the Area 8 website ([http://www.areaviii.org/Festival\\_Info/Festival\\_Info.html](http://www.areaviii.org/Festival_Info/Festival_Info.html)).

Help spread the word about this year's Unpublished Music Reading Session. Whether you are a composer or you know someone who is, this is an opportunity not to miss. Plan to join us after The Agape Ringers' concert to witness the "world premier" of some new handbell pieces!

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## Shopping

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*(Continued from page 7)*

3% discount to an annual maintenance. As a special offer, send your bells home with Jean for refurbishment and save a trip. Contact her early, as there is room for only one set of bells.

Directors, this is your chance to find your fall and holiday pieces. **Jeffers Handbell Supply** is bringing tons of music for you to see—more than 2,000 titles on site—including the latest releases for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. The new Christmas Essentials collection features eight sparkling arrangements from Linda Lamb and Bill Ingram, making it a "go to" resource year after year. Ringers, come see the new I Love Handbells products: t-shirts, water bottles, notebook pouches, and key chains. Jeffers has all your festival essentials to show how much you love ringing handbells.

**Shattinger Music Company**, the premier supplier of handbell music in the St. Louis area, will have a huge selection of handbell music for any occasion or season. Nancy Helmich says to "check for special half-price items." Raleigh Ringers tie-dyed gloves will be available for those who want to put a fun look in their ringing. Shattinger is also providing the music packets for all the conference reading sessions. Music from each of the sessions will be available for sale following the last session the packet is used.

Pat Dorn of **Schulmerich Bells** will be on hand to answer your questions about their product lines, as well as handbell refurbishment and maintenance. Do you have a bell that doesn't sound right or ring properly? Bring it to Pat for an assessment and repair. You can also order replacement parts for your Schulmerich bells.



# Upcoming Concerts

2012	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
May 5 7:00p	Bells in Motion	Wesley UMC 1203 W Green St, Urbana, IL	Angi Chase www.bellsinmotion.org
May 6 3:00p	Annual Spring Ring Concert	Manchester UMC 129 Woods Mill Rd, Manchester, MO	Sherry Boland bolandse@aol.com
May 6 4:00p	Bells in Motion	Kirkwood UMC 201 W Adams, St Louis, MO	Angi Chase www.bellsinmotion.org
May 6 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	1st UMC 155 S Main St, Lombard, IL	www.agaperingers.org
May 6 6:00p	Chicago Bronze	Immanuel Lutheran Church 1225 E 2nd St, Belvidere, IL	Martha Swanson www.chicagobronze.com
May 8 7:30p	Hastings College Bell Choir	Hastings College Chapel 800 Turner Ave, Hastings, NE	Byron Jensen bjensen@hastings.edu
May 19 7:00p	Spring Ring XX Handbell Concert	1st UMC 1032 Maple Ave, Downers Grove, IL	Pattie Barnes bellhog@juno.com
May 20 4:00p	Handbell Concert <i>Asbury, Christ &amp; St John's UMC</i>	St John's UMC 1411 Brady St, Davenport, IA	Jim Bawden 563.381.3611
Jun 8 7:30p	Rezound! Handbell Ensemble	Lee's Summit UMC 114 SE Douglas St, Lee's Summit, MO	Pat Latshaw www.rezound.org
Jun 9 7:00p	Rezound! Handbell Ensemble	Grace Lutheran 2225 Washington St, Lincoln, NE	Pat Latshaw www.rezound.org
Jun 10 3:00p	Rezound! Handbell Ensemble	1st Presbyterian 301 N 7th St, St Joseph, MO	Pat Latshaw www.rezound.org
Jun 10 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	Grace Lutheran 200 N Catherine, LaGrange, IL	www.agaperingers.org
Jun 21	Rezound! Handbell Ensemble <i>Area 8 Atrium Concert</i>	St Charles Convention Center St Charles, MO	Pat Latshaw www.rezound.org
Jun 22 8:00p	The Agape Ringers <i>Area 8 Festival</i>	St Charles Convention Center St Charles, MO	www.area8.org http://areaviii.org/
Jun 23 7:00p	Bells in Motion	1st Presbyterian Church 116 E Franklin, Taylorville, IL	Angi Chase www.bellsinmotion.org
Jun 24 4:00p	Bells in Motion	St John's Lutheran Church 2477 W Washington, Springfield, IL	Angi Chase www.bellsinmotion.org
Jun 25 7:00p	The Agape Ringers	St Mark's UMC 6422 Sante Fe Dr, Overland Park, KS	www.agaperingers.org
Jun 26 7:00p	The Agape Ringers	St Paul's Lutheran Church 13271 Millard Ave, Omaha, NE	www.agaperingers.org
Jul 12 7:00p	Intergenerational Handbell Camp Concert	Heartland Center Parkland, MO	www.handbellcamp.org



# Upcoming Events

2012	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jun 20-23	Area 8 Festival <i>Missouri River Ring</i> P.L. Grove, Nick Hanson, David Weck	St Charles Convention Center St Charles, MO	<a href="http://www.arcaviii.org/Festival_Information/festival_information.htm">www.arcaviii.org/ Festival_Information/ festival_information.htm</a>
Jul 8-12	Intergenerational Handbell Camp	Heartland Presbyterian Center Parkville, MO	Kipp Willnauer <a href="http://www.handbellcamp.org">www.handbellcamp.org</a>
Jul 13 9a-3p	KC Rings! Reading Session	Heartland Presbyterian Center Parkville, MO	Kipp Willnauer willnauk@gmail.com
Jul 18-21	National Seminar	Duke Energy Convention Center Cincinnati, OH	<a href="http://www.handbellmusicians.org">www.handbellmusicians.org</a>
Jul 31- Aug 4	International Symposium	BT Convention Center and Echo Arena Liverpool, England	<a href="http://www.symposium.hrgb.org.uk/">www.symposium.hrgb.org. uk/</a>
Sep 21-22	Flint Hills Handbell Festival	Camp Woods Elmdale, KS	<a href="http://www.handbellcamp.org">www.handbellcamp.org</a>

