



Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

# QUAVERS

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

## Captions from the Chair

Summer can be a time of renewal, refreshing, relaxing, and recreation. Often our handbell groups do not rehearse throughout the summer and so by attending festivals (like Area 8), workshops, and reading sessions, we can REnew our enthusiasm for ringing. We can also REfresh our spirits and begin the fall season with fresh ideas and musical scores. Summer, hopefully, is a time of RELaxing with family and friends on vacation, at the lake house, or sitting on the deck. In the old Cat Stevens recording and in the hymn *Morning Has Broken*, the last phrase of the last verse says, “God’s recreation of the new day.” My preference is to sing REcreation rather than recreation as summer provides us the time for a new day coming with ringing. RE is a prefix meaning “let’s do it again!”

In REflecting upon our festival, you may have heard or said yourself one or more of the following:

- *Wow! Velocity is amazing—their choreography and their precision—what a concert!*
- *Finesse, precision, musicality, and a variety of music in the concert provided by The Agape Ringers.*
- *Oh my, there are so many classes to choose from, which should I omit!?*
- *It was so good to meet up with friends from my former church!*
- *The final concert was the best one I have ever participated in!*
- *The classes taught by Velocity and Agape were simply fabulous!*
- *I learned so much at the Missouri River Ring!*
- *The unloading and setting up in the massed ringing area was simple and easy. Thanks for all the help unloading!*

And the comments can go on and on and on and on! Comments are always nice to hear when ringers are enjoying the event. I also want to be very open in receiving those critiques that will help us as your Area 8 board to produce a better event in two years in Davenport, Iowa. So, I invite your comments and critiques to be emailed to me [chair@area8.handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair@area8.handbellmusicians.org) before our board meeting at the end of September.

And if you did not have the opportunity to attend the Missouri River Ring, please let us know what type of event would meet your ringing needs. The Area 8 board is committed to helping you excel as a ringer, teacher, or director. If you express your wants and needs, we can incorporate those ideas into our plans.

And now my comment, “Thank you Area 8 board members for working diligently to provide the highest quality Missouri River Ring. And thank you to the people of Area 8 for your participation!”



Dolan Bayless ~ Area 8 Chair

www.area8iii.org



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*The Raleigh Ringers*

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# Hymn Accompaniments

Hymn accompaniments can take several forms: use of handbells in lieu of keyboard, the addition of handbells to keyboard accompaniment, or a combination of the first two. The following is a far from exhaustive list of materials available for your use.

- From the Top Music ([www.fromthetopmusic.com](http://www.fromthetopmusic.com)) presents a wide range of hymn accompaniments for 2-5 octave groups in the same key as your hymnal! The music is sent to you as a PDF file with permission to copy.
- Lutheran Church of Prayer ([www.lcop.org/handbellsdownloads.html](http://www.lcop.org/handbellsdownloads.html)) offers a number of **free** versions of Lutheran hymns arranged for bells alone and bells and organ.
- *Festive Hymn Accompaniments for Handbells* by Bob Burroughs (Lorenz) was designed to allow ringers to take a uniquely active role in the worship experience. Each hymn tune includes an optional introduction, along with scorings to be played with congregation and organ on the first and last stanzas.
- Maggie Tucker and Choristers Guild have published *Harmonies for Hymns, Chords for Carols* and *Christmas Carol Accompaniments*. These contain easy chordal accompaniments plus melody lines for instruments or solo voice. These arrangements are also useful as accompaniments for congregational or other group singing, with or without organ or piano.
- Hope Publishing's works by Hal Hopson (*The Creative Use of Handbells in Worship—2* volumes and *More Creative Ways to Use the Choir, Organ, Handbells, and Other Instruments in Worship*) contain a wealth of options for many hymns covering one to many bells, including random rings.
- In *Flexible Hymn Accompaniments 1 & 2* from Morning Star Music, Sondra Tucker presents settings of five familiar hymns, arranged for organ and 3-5 octaves of handbells. Each tune contains an introduction or interlude, a traditional and an alternate harmonization. Instrumental duet and vocal descant parts are included as an added bonus.
- Phil Roberts' GIA series *Hymns for Handbells* encompasses three volumes, with each presenting multiple versions of 10 plus hymns. The versions vary in difficulty, and can be played by 2-5 octaves of handbells.
- Lloyd Larsen offers the Hymn Enhancement series *Hymns for \_\_\_\_\_* covering Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, and worship. The Lorenz series offers choral introits and/or codas to familiar hymns, and includes optional brass and handbell parts.
- *Easter Accompaniments, Peals, and Processionals* by David Sanders (World Library Publications) contains 14 arrangements of seven Easter hymns. Most settings are included in the 3 octave range. These pieces are not meant to be played alone, but are a good way to include bells in the Easter service without a great deal of preparation.
- Lee Afdahl has prepared *Hymn Accompaniments for Handbells Advent and Christmas* (Augsburg Fortress), a reproducible collection of 3-5 octave settings that make it easy to integrate handbells into worship during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Each hymn selection features an introduction to the hymn and a setting for the final stanza.

Sharon Schmidt ~ Illinois State Choir



# Psalms and Introits

For this article I have begged for help from my **awesome** Iowa committee. Many thanks to Laurie Stock, Yvonne Johnson, and MaryLee Parks!

**Laurie:**

The only Psalm piece we have used was *Psalm Nine* by Carl Wiltse (AG3053). It was a festival piece several years ago. I believe it's written in 3/4 time and has a haunting sound. When I researched "Psalm," I found:

"The word psalm comes from the Greek word, *psalmoi*, a song sung to a harp, originally derived from *psallein*, to play on a stringed instrument. The Book of Psalms consists of 150 of these lyrical poems. The main characteristic of this Hebrew poetic form is parallelism, a balanced thought usually presented in two parts. The first part states a thesis and the second part reflects the thesis, usually in one of three ways: repeating the idea, adding to the idea, or opposing the idea." <http://psalmspeak.wordpress.com/tag/psalmspeak/page/2/>

**Yvonne:**

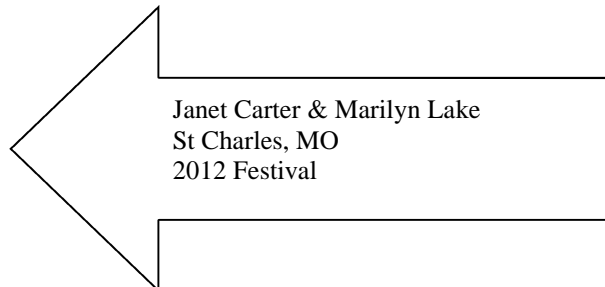
I have used some things from *After the Prelude—Handbell Resources to Enhance Worship* by William H. Mathis (CGB659, CGB586, CGB617). It is kind of expensive and is written for liturgical years A, B, and C. In Year A, he has *Advent Candle Song*, *Processional for Advent*, bell parts for *On Jordan's Bank* and *People, Look East*, Christmas Eve scripture: John 1:1-15, *Christmas Processional*, bell parts for *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, *Joy to the World*, *Once in Royal David's City*, and *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*. We enjoyed adding bells to Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32, the parable of the Prodigal Son. We have also used: *The Shepherd's Psalm* by J. Wayne Kerr (3-5 octaves, flute, narrator, CGB116). After lighting the Advent candle we have played *Come, Lord Jesus, We are Waiting*, Dorothy Christopherson (CGA592). I use *Vocal Descants for the Church Year* (ISBN 9780800679439) with my Recorder Consort, and think this would work well with bells.

**MaryLee:**

We don't!

This is, by far, my favorite response from my committee, as I also confess that my bell choir usually only plays the prelude. Folks, if this works for your church, IT'S OK! Part of your job as a music minister is to provide God's people with a decoration of God's word. If the best thing that works well is for your choir to ring the prelude, that's what they should be doing! Please consider the **wonderful** suggestions by my committee, but also know that what you are doing already is **important**. Great bell repertoire played really well makes a wonderful prelude for worship and provides wonderful decoration for the word. As William Mathis (mentioned above) says, "there are lots of ways to do this right!"

Patrick Gagnon ~ Acting Iowa Chair



www.agghehria.org



# Remembrance and All Saints

A ringing or tolling bell has long been a symbol of remembrance and celebration. Bells toll on Christmas morning. They ring at weddings and funerals and to signal the opening of the Olympic Games.

All Saints and other times of remembrance in the church and community setting are afforded a number of pieces including: *For All The Saints* (CGB356/357); *Resounding Alleluias* (CGB559); *Ring Around The Year* (CGB759); *Song of Remembrance* (Hope 1697).

Full scores of music are wonderful and emotional, but many times a single bell accompanying a prayer, poem or memory will imbue the perfect setting for a somber, reflecting service/celebration. The example that follows is taken from the *Jewish Prayer Book*.

### We Remember Them

- At the rising of the sun and at its going down—We remember them. (Ring G#4)*
- At the blowing of the wind and the chill of winter—We remember them. (Ring D#4)*
- At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring—We remember them. (Ring G#5)*
- At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer—We remember them. (Ring A#5)*
- At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn—We remember them. (Ring D#4)*
- At the beginning of the year and when it ends—We remember them. (Ring C#5)*
- When we are weary and in need of strength—We remember them. (Ring C#6)*
- When we are lost and sick at heart—We remember them. (Ring D#6)*
- When we have joys and celebrations we yearn to share—We remember them. (Ring A#4)*
- So long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us—We remember them.*

(possibly say a name before or after each bell is rung)

All bells random ring. At cue Re-Strike G#4 and let it fade.

This may also be done with special memories; state the memory, then the common statement (“Thanks be to God” or “We remember them” or “The Lord be with you”), then ring the bell.

These examples can all be done as simply as the same bell after each statement (D#4 has a very mellow tone) or even bells to make a chord (G, B, D). Experiment with bells to hear what sounds best for your service.

Please share your ideas for Remembrance with me and I will share them on the Kansas site: [ks@area8.handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ks@area8.handbellmusicians.org).

Thanks Kathy Leonard & Linda Maloney for your remembrance.

Cherryl Cox ~ Kansas State Chair

www.area8.org



Now what did I come over here for?

Will someone tell him to get his elbows off the table?





# Weddings

Handbell music for weddings always makes a memorable event. These are some of my favorite selections for weddings. Adding a solo instrument to many of these pieces provides another special touch.

## Preludes

AIR from Orchestral Suite NO. 3	Bach/Barrow	AGEHR	AG 35067
AIR from Third Orchestral Suite	Bach/Hopson	Agape	1410
Ave Maria	Bach-Gounod/Hartley	Thomas House	1H608828
Be Thou But Near	Bach/Kinyon	Beckenhorst	HB153
Canon in D	Pachelbel/Griffin	Hinshaw	HHB-41
Canon	Pachelbel/Hopson	Agape	1152
A Gaelic Blessing	Rutter/Parrish	Hinshaw	HHB-21
Grazioso	Sherman	Red River	RRHB0042
Hymn of Promise	Sleeth/Thompson	Agape	1519
Sharon's Song	Allured	AGEHR	9-4011
Siciliana	Bach/Callahan	AGEHR	AG 35017
Sinfonia to Cantata 156	Bach/Young	AGEHR	AG 45012
Soliloquy for Bells	Buckwalter	Flammer	HP-5175
Theme from "Ice Castles"	Arr. Wagner	CPP	2617THBX
Prayer	Sherman	Lorenz	20/1147L
The Prayer	Sager-Foster/Eithun	Alfred	27068

## Music in the Service

The Gift of Love	Arr. Hopson	Agape	1419
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	Shelley/Dobrinski	Lake State	HB93036
The Lord's Prayer	Malotte/Dobrinski	Agape	1465

## Processionals or Recessionals

Trumpet Tune	Purcell/Thompson	Agape	1196
Trumpet Voluntary	Clarke/Garee	Flammer	HP-5090
This score is compatible with the organ score; alternate organ and bells each eight measures for the attendants, and combine organ and bells for the bride; add a trumpet for a stunning processional.			
Festival Procession	Strauss/Wagner	Agape	1368
Marche En Rondeau	Charpentier/Sherman	Flammer	HP-5288

## Postludes

The Rejoicing	Handel/Thompson	Flammer	HP-5297
Sinfonia from <i>Solomon</i>	Handel/Thompson	Flammer	HP-5267
Joyous Spirit	Stephenson	Red River	BL5019
Allegro from <i>Solomon</i>	Handel/Griffin	Beckenhorst	HB270
Allegro Giocoso from <i>The Water Music</i>	Handel/McChesney	Agape	1522
Carillon	H. Dean Wagner	Agape	1846
Fanfare	Lemmens/Thompson	Crescendo	CP-9-45006
Hymn to Joy	Beethoven/Keller	Agape	1458
In Jubilation!	Arr. Artman	Agape	1333

Suanne Comfort ~ Missouri State Chair

www.agedhr-mo.org



# In Memoriam

From my own experience, our initial 2-octave set of handbells was a result of a purchase using memorial funds following the death of my mother. And when my father passed away, four years later, my sisters and I decided to include a handbell number in his funeral. He had always been a huge fan of the venerable hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy*. We didn't have the piece in our handbell music library, so I did a handbell arrangement of the hymn that we could put together quickly for his funeral. Despite the probably less than professional arrangement I put together, the piece was a success primarily because of the setting and the wishes of my father.

Since that time, I have come across a number of pieces that are appropriate for use in funerals and memorial services, such as:

- *I Will Arise and Go To Jesus* – L 2, for 2-5 octaves with optional handchimes and percussion. A memorial piece composed by Cathy Moglebust in memory of past Guild president and American handbell pioneer, Nebraska's Mary Kettelhut. A beautiful and accessible piece for all choirs and ideal for any funeral. The piece creates a feeling of joy for the listeners and portrays a sense of loved ones going to meet Jesus. [www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=14675](http://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=14675)
- *Make Me An Instrument* – Composed by Kevin McChesney, L 2+, 3-5 octaves with optional keyboard, brass ensemble and C instrument. This is a remarkable piece commissioned in memory of the school shootings at Columbine High School and a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this music goes to help combat school violence. A very powerful piece guaranteed to elicit an emotional response. [www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=8738](http://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=8738)
- *Grazioso* – An original piece by Arnold Sherman that evokes a strong feeling of life, illness, death and resurrection. L 2+, for 3-5 octaves. This is a classic handbell composition and never fails to rouse a feeling of awe and reverence from the listeners. [www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=8587](http://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=8587)
- *Hymn Of Promise* – by Natalie Sleeth / arr. Cynthia Dobrinski, L 2+, 3-6 octaves handbells and optional handchimes. The metaphorical text of this piece makes reference to our resurrection, so it is a wonderful piece for any memorial or funeral service. [www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=13989](http://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=13989)
- *As The Deer* – Nystrom / arr. Susan Geschke L 2+, for 3-5 octaves and 3-octaves of chimes. This is a new arrangement of the classic song arranged as a memorial to a young soldier who gave his life to his country while serving in Iraq. A very nice piece for any funeral or memorial service. [www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=12725](http://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=12725)
- *The Lord's Prayer* – A. Malotte / arr. by Cynthia Dobrinski, Medium difficulty for 3-5 octaves of handbells. This is a full arrangement of the immortal Malotte piece which is a memorable number for any funeral or memorial service. [www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=809](http://www.handbellworld.com/music/MusicPiece.cfm?piece=809)

These pieces represent only the tip of the iceberg of available music appropriate for funerals and memorial services. Without a doubt, handbells and handchimes provide a nice alternative or addition to the more traditional instrumentation for funerals or memorial services, so consider their inclusion into the services when families discuss music options for services for their loved ones. They will be surprisingly pleased by the welcome sounds these instruments will provide.





# Upcoming Concerts

2012	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sep 23 4:00p	The Agape Ringers • Tickets required	Edison Park Lutheran Church 6624 N Oliphant Ave Chicago, IL	Phyllis Doyle 847.612.9197 www.edisonparklutheran.org
Oct 7 3:30p	Gateway Ringers <i>Concert for the Emmaus House</i>	St Peter's UCC 20 E 5th St Washington, MO	Andrew Eversole info@gatewayringers.org
Oct 14 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church 149 W Brush Hill Elmhurst, IL	www.agaperingers.org
Dec 1 7:00p	Bells in Motion • Tickets required	United Presbyterian 2550 Rock Hill Rd Wood River, IL	www.bellsinmotion.org elyhelen@hotmail.com
Dec 2 4:00p	Bells in Motion • Tickets required	First Congregational 2100 S Bates Springfield, IL	www.bellsinmotion.org elyhelen@hotmail.com
Dec 15 4:00p	The Agape Ringers <i>Sounds of the Season</i> • Tickets required	Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church 149 W Brush Hill Elmhurst, IL	www.agaperingers.org

We need ideas for our newsletter.  
 We'd like to make our letter better.  
 While you can't make water wetter,  
 Or make red redder,  
 You can make a letter better.  
 We have no problem with our letter-header  
 Or with our automated type-setter,  
 It's **topics** we need to make our letter better.  
 If you have any article ideas for worsor or for better,  
 Don't put your stories or poems in the paper shredder,  
 Mail them in, be a go-getter.  
 Send that stuff to our editor.

**HEAR YE HEAR YE!!**  
**CONGRATULATIONS GO TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**  
**TREASURER: KRISTIN KALITOWSKI-KOWAL**  
**SECRETARY: KATHY LEONARD**

The Handbell Musicians of America Music Sampler project is complete. Each drive includes 34 tracks of handbell music performed and recorded by handbell musicians from all over the United States. This is a true sampler showcasing the best in handbells including a variety of musical genres and performers from all elements of Guild membership – church choirs, community choirs, university choirs, handbell soloists, small ensembles, adults, and youth.

In addition to the three CDs worth of music included on the drive, you will also see our brand new guide to Handbell Musicians of America – *Discovering Your Membership*. This is a 1GB flash drive with over half of the available space left open so you can use it for your own personal, portable storage.

Order yours online now at [www.handbellmusicians.org](http://www.handbellmusicians.org)



# Upcoming Events

2012	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sep 21-22	Flint Hills Handbell Festival	Camp Woods YMCA Elmdale, KS	www.handbellcamp.org
Oct 6 9:00a- 3:00p	Fall TuneUp	Kingsway UMC 2401 S Lone Pine Springfield, MO	Cheryl.Abney@att.net
Oct 13	Fall Skill Building Workshop Iowa State Committee	Memorial Lutheran Church 701 11th St Nevada, IA	http://www.agehr-ia.org/ Events/Events.htm
Oct 13 8:45a- 12:30p	Chimes Festival Amy Pierce Elizabeth Mulkey	Holy Trinity Catholic Church 13600 W 92nd Lenexa, KS	Marilyn Lake bklake@smsd.org 913-302-1010
Nov 17 9a-6p	Illinois Fall Festival David Weck	Elgin Community College 1700 Spartan Dr, Elgin, IL	http://www.il-agehr.org/ events.html
Feb 2, 2013 9a-3:15p	Young Ringer's Mini-Festival Monica McGowan & KC Congdon	Grace Lutheran Church & School River Forest, IL	http://www.il-agehr.org/ events.html

## KANSAS BRONZE

is a new community handbell ensemble for the Greater Kansas City Area—South. Kansas Bronze will rehearse weekly each Tuesday from 6:00 - 7:30pm at 306 E Madison, Gardner, KS. If you are interested in ringing in this new ensemble, please contact Kipp Willnauer at [913.884.6935](tel:913.884.6935) or [willnauk@hotmail.com](mailto:willnauk@hotmail.com)

**Virtual Handbell Ensemble** is an exciting new project of the Handbell Musicians of America, in which you will have the opportunity to perform a new work of music via video uploads.

*Misterium*, by James Meredith, consists of 135 musical segments to be recorded separately by individuals and small groups of players from around the world over a seven month period and uploaded to the web. All of the segments will be assembled by the editing videographer and the composer into the final work to be premiered online in July, 2013.

For a video introduction by Mr. Meredith and all the information you need to participate, please visit the project website at [virtual.HandbellMusicians.org](http://virtual.HandbellMusicians.org).