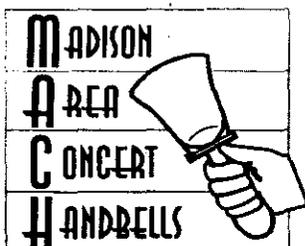


Madison Area Concert Handbells

FALL 2004



Look for us on these websites:

www.madisonhandbells.org
www.communities.madison.com
www.portalwisconsin.org
www.danecountycharities.org



Please post the enclosed poster

Eighth Annual *The Bells of Christmas* Concerts

MACH's December concert will present an array of wonderful pieces to enrich your enjoyment of the holidays. As customary, this is an entirely new program, devoted to music of the season. The concert will feature fourteen ringers on over six octaves of handbells and seven octaves of handchimes, conducted by Music Director Dr. Susan Udell.

The opening joyful shepherds' carol, *Noel, Noel*, is followed by a beautiful chime and bell arrangement of Bach's *Sheep May Safely Graze* and then a stunning combination of a 9th century plainsong and the chorale tune *O Morning Star, So Fair and Bright* as set by Fred Gramann in a piece called *Everlasting Light*.

Vocalists and flute join the bells for Neidlinger's *Birthday of a King* which is followed by variations on *Angels From the Realms of Glory*, and *Gloria*, an original composition for bells with a Taize-like chant that shimmers and glows within rapidly changing meters. A lovely, lilting *Jesu, Sleep in Heavenly Peace* intermixes *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* and *Silent Night* before organ, trumpet, soloists and audience close the first half of the concert with a stirring *Angels We Have Heard on High*.

Mesmerizing mallet work enhances *Sing We Now of Christmas* and then we're off to a *Christmas Fiesta*--a medley of carols with a Latin flavor complemented by percussion instruments. A showcase for voices follows in the already beloved piece composed in 1988: *This Christmastide (Jessye's Carol)*. *Silver Bells*, *Blue Christmas*, and *Holiday for Strings* will provide a popular flair before the audience and organ again join the bells and chimes for the grand finale of *O Tannenbaum*.

Our concerts are designed to entertain, uplift, and inspire. As always, be ready for some audience interaction and a few surprises. We look forward to seeing you at The Bells of Christmas 2004! Performances are:

Saturday, December 11th at 7:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church UCC (corner of Breese Terrace and University Avenue). See map on page 3 for parking suggestions.

Sunday, December 12th at 3 p.m. at Asbury Methodist Church (6101 University Avenue near Allen Blvd). Ample parking on site.

Advance tickets are available at Borders Book Shops and Orange Tree Imports: Adults \$12; Seniors (over 60) and Youth (through 16) \$9. Please visit our website for advance ticket prices for groups: www.madisonhandbells.org. Tickets will also be available at the door: Adults \$15; Seniors and Youth \$10.

Experience the uniquely beautiful music of one of America's finest handbell choirs!

The concerts are generously underwritten by Thompson Investment Management with additional support from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

MACH's First Handbell Workshop a Great Success

On October 16, MACH presented a handbell workshop called "Get into Shape for a Great Bell Season!" at Asbury United Methodist Church. Forty participants came from as far away as Waldo, WI (near Sheboygan), to brush up on their handbell techniques, learn some new ways to enhance their ringing skills and solve common problems. Other classes helped ringers develop a sense of internal rhythm and use handbells more effectively in worship. MACH members led each of the classes, presented a mini-concert showcasing methods of playing pieces more musically, and participated with the registrants in a reading session at the end of the day. Ward-Brodt Music was on hand with handbell music and gifts for sale, and generously provided the music for the reading session. A buffet lunch was served by Imperial Garden Chinese restaurant.

We were gratified by the comments registrants shared on their evaluations, such as: "Excellent techniques and knowledgeable instructors; Thank you!! Please do it again!; Problems highlighted were exactly what I needed addressed - very perceptive; Beyond highest expectations; Fun Day!!

It was a great experience for both the registrants and MACH!

The Opening Bell: MACH Participates in the Overture Center Opening

The opening week of the new Overture Center was a wonderful event for the arts in Madison, and for the community as a whole! MACH had been anticipating the event since its announcement in the spring of 2003. We were pleased to have been selected as one of the local performing groups scheduled to appear during the opening festivities. For us, it was also a wonderful opportunity to reach out to a wider audience in the community, particularly to people who were not already familiar with MACH.

So, on Sunday afternoon, September 26, we set up our equipment in the spectacular, sun-filled Overture lobby and presented a 45 minute program of selections from our spring "Excursions" program. The audience began gathering as soon as we began to set up, filling the second and third level balconies for a bird's eye view of ringing. Surprisingly, a large number stayed, standing, through the entire program. Others paused for a few moments to listen as they arrived for the afternoon's other events.

We were so excited to have been a part of the inauguration of this exceptionally beautiful facility. We'll be back in December to play with the Madison Symphony, and hope to play there many more times in the future.

MACH Holiday Concerts with the Madison Symphony

Again this year Madison Symphony Orchestra has invited MACH to join the orchestra, Symphony Chorus and Madison Children's choirs for their Holiday Concerts, December 3, 7:30 p.m., December 4, 8:00 p.m. and December 5, 2:30 p.m. MACH will play several selections including *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* (with orchestra), *The Shepherd's Mosaic* (with chorus and orchestra), and *O Tannenbaum* (with organ), all arranged by John Bartsch.

MACH's solo piece will be *Sing We Now of Christmas* arranged for handbells by Kevin McChesney.

We are pleased to perform with the Symphony and thus to promote handbells to a larger musical audience and show how beautifully bells and handchimes can combine with other musical instruments and voices. With all these musical forces, these will be very festive concerts!

Grant Support for MACH Projects

Wow! In one day in October, MACH received notice of a grant award from the American Girl's Fund for Children AND notice of a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board's Challenge Initiative.

With the aid of the American Girl's Fund, we will present twenty-five hands-on classes in five elementary schools in Madison. The classes will acquaint 4th and 5th graders with handchimes/bells in order to increase the students' understanding of musical elements, to foster teamwork in making music, and to encourage an appreciation of various musical styles. After sharing additional information and instruction with their music teachers, on May 4th we will present a concert at the Barrymore Theater for these classes.

With some additional support from others, the American Girl's grant will enable us to provide all materials, instruction, and transportation for the classes so there is no cost at all to the schools. This is a new program that MACH is initiating to enhance music appreciation in the public schools.

The Challenge Grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board will be used to help underwrite our ticketed concerts and concerts for the elderly and hospitalized. We are truly appreciative of these generous grants. They will be instrumental in helping to support our service to the community.

MACH Plays Invitational Concert at Good Shepherd Lutheran

Following the 2004 Spring "Excursions" concert, MACH was invited to present the same concert at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in September. What fun to revisit all those exotic places highlighted in the music—Ireland, Japan, Africa and more! MACH was grateful for the opportunity to play in Good Shepherd's lovely sanctuary for a wonderful audience and to enjoy the beautifully prepared reception following the concert. Thank you, Mark Bloedow, music director at Good Shepherd, and the Music Ministry Team and Friends of Music Committee for your invitation and generous sponsorship.

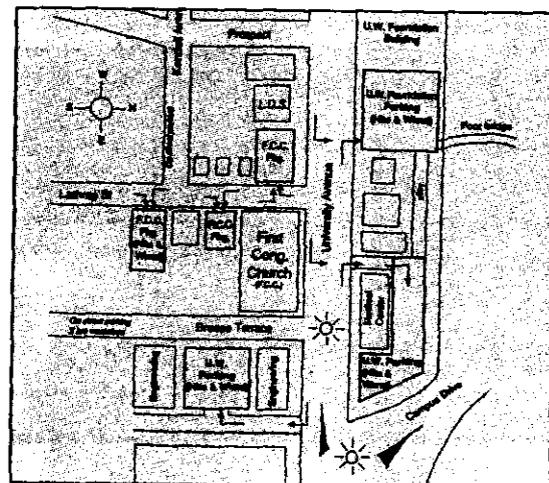
Madison Symphony Orchestra CD includes MACH

Within a few weeks, the Madison Symphony Orchestra will release a CD recording of highlights from past Christmas Spectacular concerts. Maestro DeMain has chosen some of the "brightest moments in music Madison has ever experienced" for this CD. The Madison Area Concert Handbells will be included in *Joyous Noel* featuring the orchestra, and bells, and also in our very popular solo piece from last year, *The Nutcracker Medley*. We are pleased to be part of this grand compilation of symphonic holiday music!

Meet a New Ringer - Elaine Kratochwil

Elaine Kratochwil began ringing handbells in 1992, when she was in fifth grade. She took a four-year break from handbells when she studied engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, so she is thrilled to get back to ringing. Now Elaine is a project manager at Epic Systems Corp. She enjoys hiking, canoeing, reading, and traveling in her spare time.

Parking at First Congregational UCC



Future Concert Dates:

MACH's 2005 Spring Concerts are:

Friday, May 13; 7:30 p.m., St. Dennis Catholic Church

Saturday, May 14; 7:30 p.m., Asbury United Methodist Church.

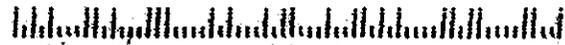
Please mark your calendars.

HOW TO CONTACT US

- ✉ Write to P.O. Box 14658,
Madison, WI 53714-0658
- ☎ Call our Director, Dr. Susan Udell, at
271-3514

We're on the Web!
www.madisonhandbells.org

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MACH Welcomes Two New Board Members

Dr. James Ebben is President Emeritus of Edgewood College, Madison, having led the college from 1987 to 2004. He has held leadership positions with United Way, Junior Achievement, Boy Scouts of America, the Madison Club, and the Rotary Club, and has received several awards for his community service. We are delighted to have him join the Board!

David Sanks is the Executive Vice President of Television Wisconsin, Inc., licensee of WISC-TV/UPN14 in Madison. He received a Bachelor and Masters degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. David has served on several area non-profit boards and is currently on the board of Downtown Madison Inc. and the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra. We welcome his expertise with the media and marketing!



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BENEFITING:

MADISON AREA CONCERT
HANDBELLS

Location:
7433 Mineral Point Road
Madison, Wisconsin

Date/Time:
Sunday, January 9, 2005
10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Present this voucher at the cash registers at the time of purchase. A percent of the net sale will be donated to the organization.

For Office Use Only:
Register #: _____ Transaction #: _____

Amount of sale before tax less purchase of Gift Cards, Membership Cards and café consumables:
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