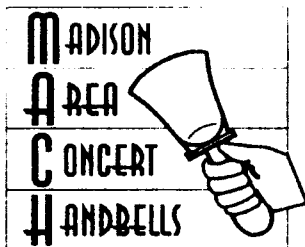


Madison Area Concert Handbells

FALL 2005



Look for us on these websites:

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



Please post the enclosed poster

Ninth Annual *The Bells of Christmas Concerts*

From the opening piece, a rousing *Wake, Awake*, through the final medley of carols enriched by the addition of organ, harp, trumpet, percussion and your voices, you'll experience the many moods of Christmas. In *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, treble bells malleted in the air provide an ostinato background reminiscent of twinkling stars for the main melody. This is followed by a stunningly beautiful new piece by one of the handbell world's finest composers, William Payn. Entitled *Visions*, we offer it as an expression of what the shepherds might have felt as they gazed heavenward on the first Christmas night. Joyous peals of the bells then accompany an arrangement of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* enhanced by our own harpist, Tricia Thorngate. The lovely floating tones of Bach's familiar *Pastorale* will provide new delight when heard played by bells and then the festive carol *Here We Come A-Caroling* is presented in a bright, energetic setting. You, the audience, will help close the first half of the program by singing *Adeste Fideles* accompanied by the bells, organ, trumpet and percussion.

The hauntingly beautiful Huron Indian carol *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*, opens the second half of the concert. The melody is first presented on chimes and later, throbbing sixteenth notes malleted by the bass bells recall the sound of Indian drums. Our vocal trio of Carrie and Joel Ingebritsen and Rachel Bain (one of our bass bell ringers) will perform the rhythmic *Calypso Christmas* accompanied by lightly mated and malleted bells. A light and bright setting of the carol *My Dancing Day* precedes two offerings from the famous *Nutcracker Ballet*--the *Overture* and *Dance of the Reed Flutes*. Leroy Anderson's well-known *Sleigh Ride* enhanced by jingle bells, temple blocks and slapstick will set your toes tapping and then the sing-along medley mentioned earlier concludes the concert. Please join us for exhilarating entertainment for the whole family!

Saturday, December 10th at 7:30 p.m. at Asbury Methodist Church (6101 University Avenue near Allen Blvd).

Sunday, December 11th at 3 p.m. at First Congregational Church UCC (corner of Breese Terrace and University Avenue).

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 Handbell Workshop: Get Back into the *Swing* of Things!

On October 2, MACH hosted our second handbell workshop, "Get Back into the *Swing* of Things." The MACH ringers, along with guest clinician Mark Bloedow from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Madison, provided instruction and tips for 18 ringers from southern Wisconsin. Six different sessions were offered, ranging from basic techniques for beginning ringers to more specialized instruction for treble and bass ringers and directors. MACH shared additional tips on how to add musicality to a performance during a mini-concert, and all ringers were able to interact in a more relaxed atmosphere during lunch and a reading session. All of the ringers from both sides of the table were very enthusiastic about the experience! Some comments include "Nice to see and hear what can be done with handbells" and "Excellent demonstration of how we should be ringing!"

Bells Will Peal

Madison Area Concert Handbells will be heard and seen in many places this holiday season. In addition to our ticketed concerts (See p. 1), our ringers will be bringing holiday cheer to residents of Meadowmere Assisted Living Apartments and the Meriter Retirement Community as well as audiences at the Monona Senior Center and the UW Children's Hospital and Clinics. Along with our concert pieces, we always include opportunities for these audiences to learn to ring chimes and then accompany singing by the rest of the group.

These concerts are supported in part by the Wisconsin Arts Board and the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from the Overture Foundation and the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation.

We also have an engagement in Spring Green. On the first evening (Dec. 2nd) of their annual Spring Green Country Christmas Weekend, MACH will present a concert in the Gard Theater at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available in advance at Spring Green's Chamber Office, The Flower Shop, The General Store & Changez Salon, LLC - Plain. An exciting variety of events is scheduled for the entire weekend and we are pleased to be a part of this celebration!

Teaching Children to Chime

Last year, a MACH team visited 29 fourth and fifth grade classrooms in Madison and taught the children how to play handchimes. That project was met with great enthusiasm and was funded by the American Girl Fund for Children. Materials were prepared for teachers to acquaint students with pieces that were then played at a concert by our full choir for these students. Additional funding was provided by the Alliant Energy Foundation to help support the concert. We plan to present a similar project this year--but have expanded it to 40 classes that will not only be in Madison but also Middleton and Waunakee schools. The Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission has made a fine contribution toward this project and we are hoping that contributions from other foundations, businesses and individuals will allow us to go forward with our plans. If you would like to help, contributions may be sent to MACH at P.O. Box 44056, Madison, WI 53744-4056.

MACH to Celebrate Its 10th Year in 2006-2007

The years have flown by and we're now making plans for our tenth anniversary. You can be a part of it by letting us know your favorite pieces from this year and years past! Perhaps you've heard them in our concerts--or perhaps you've heard them on our CDs and would like to experience them in a regular concert. We'll compile lists of all the suggestions and take the top choices into consideration when planning our concerts both for Christmas and in the Spring.

Let us hear from you! Email, phone, or send your suggestions to Kristi via our website, by phone at 845-2476, or P. O. Box 44056, Madison, WI 53744-4056. Thank you in advance for your input; we aim to please!

Why I Ring Handbells—MACH Ringers Speak Out

I enjoy the sounds of handbells and chimes.

I enjoy rehearsing challenging music with experienced ringers and director.

I enjoy performing the scores musically for various audiences throughout the community.

In addition, there are a lot of interesting activities throughout the year that advance the cause of MACH and handbells in general.

MACH is a team effort!

By Jane Sulzer

I enjoy ringing in MACH because it challenges my brain and my body. Most of the pieces we play are fun, but difficult. Therein lies the challenge. Sight reading is not one of my strengths, but each semester we play 10+ new songs, and so I am forced to practice this aspect. Also, I am surrounded by high caliber and experienced bell ringers, and there is a certain expectation and pressure to keep up with the group. This plays to my inner competitiveness and reminds me of something I learned playing sports: you don't get better unless you play with/against someone better than you.

MACH is challenging to my body as well. I tend to play the bigger bells for the majority of our pieces. While it is rare that any one particular passage or song will leave me tired or sore, an entire concert (or one of our day-long practice sessions) can certainly take it out of my hands, arms, shoulders, and back. This, of course, is also part of why I play. There's an element of mystery to every song as we pass bell people look it over and decide what is going to be possible to play, and what sections are not. This often leads to "well, I'll TRY it" to see if it will work (often in several different combinations of arrangements of bells, hands, and footwork). Then it's just a matter of repetition and trying to keep up with the ever-increasing tempo of the group.

The irony of all this challenging of my brain and my body is that I play bells as a stress reliever, to get away from the daily grind. For those couple hours we are rehearsing or playing, I am totally focused on the music and not worried about anything else. The opportunity to share this with an audience—whether to brighten their day, inspire them to sing or play, or just to enjoy great music—is just icing on the cake.

By Doug Grovergrys

I ring for lots of reasons:

- 1) I read music well, but can't sing.
- 2) Ringing integrates cognitive and motor skills and may help prevent dementia. (I can always hope, can't I?)
- 3) It's cheaper than other forms of therapy!
- 4) Helps distract me from my Sudoku addiction.
- 5) It's a fun intergenerational activity.
- 6) Ringers are my kind of folks.

By Sally Meredith

Future Concert Dates:

MACH's 2006 Spring Concerts are:

Friday, May 12; 7:30 p.m., Christ
Presbyterian Church

Saturday, May 13; 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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Why I Ring Handbells...

'Twas the night before rehearsal and all through my flat
Not a creature was stirring, not even my cat.
My papers were graded, put away in my pack
And I had finally hit the sack.

In my flannel pajamas decorated with a cow
I was not thinking of music just now.
When suddenly, in the midst of my slumbers
A vision of *Visions* through my head lumbers.

I ring five bells and six handchimes
And it changes keys one dozen times! (Yes, I counted.)
It has weaves, it has accidentals, it has sixteenth notes,
It has places where it has gotten my goat.

I can mark the music, I can dog-ear the pages,
I can practice page seven for what seems like ages.
There are two problems to be solved,
two mountains to overcome,
The first is to make those sixteenth notes run.

Inertia is real, those bells have weight
And sixteenths are twice as fast as eighths.
But they do not overpower me, I work out now and then.
The problem I must overcome is "When."

When the sixteenth notes up and down the scale run
The thirteen of us must sound like one.
And so my notes do not stick out
I may need to find a new way to count.

The problem's not solved, but I have something to try
In order to make those bells really fly.
I continue to sleep and my dreams shift
To my next problem two pages after the fifth.

My problem here is of a different kind—
I'm constantly changing from bells to chimes.
And added to the problem is the fact
That G-sharp is the same as A-flat.

But there is a solution that just might work
Without driving me berserk.
With chimes always in the left hand and bells
in the right
Maybe everything will come out all right.

The time is now twenty to six
And hopefully my problems I've fixed.
I can stop dreaming of music, for rehearsal I'm ready
And now I can dream about my upcoming trip to the Serengeti.

By Karen Paschke