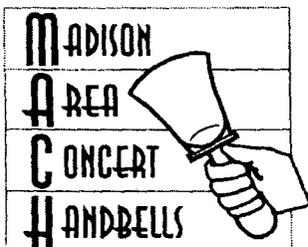


Madison Area Concert Handbells

FALL 2006



Look for us on these websites:

www.madisonhandbells.org
www.communities.madison.com
www.portal.wisconsin.org
www.danecountycharities.org
www.visitmadison.com



Please post the enclosed poster

The Best of Bells of Christmas!

Haul out the holly and mistletoe as our bells make merry music for the holidays! In recognition of our tenth anniversary year, we've added a third concert to our schedule. Concerts will be presented:

Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Asbury Methodist Church, 6101 University Avenue

Sunday, December 10, at 3 p.m. at First Congregational UCC, 1609 University Avenue

Our concerts begin with pieces heralding the coming of the Christ Child. *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* is a setting of the traditional Basque carol in Renaissance dance style. It's played with lots of verve and then is followed by a mystical setting of VENI EMMANUEL (*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*) originally arranged by Joel Raney. Bells malleted in the air provide a wonderful background for the melody on chimes, with the deep tones of our seventh octave of chimes adding to the mysterious quality of the piece. Windchimes and finger cymbals provide angelic embellishments for the next piece, the familiar *Greensleeves*. This is followed by MACH accompanying our ever-popular duo of Carrie and Joel Ingebritsen singing *Were You There on that Christmas Night?* by the well-known sacred music composer, Natalie Sleeth. Next, a lovely setting of *Away in a Manger* includes a part for flute played by Barbara Roberts. A contrast in size, sound, and complexity follows: *Te Deum*, a piece in mixed meters that utilizes the full range of MACH's forces. It presents the *Te Deum* chant and the hymns LEONI and MORNING SONG in a spectacular setting. Luther Memorial Church organist Bruce Bengtson joins us to close out the first half of the program with a Christmas carol fantasy entitled *Tidings!* that includes you, the audience, singing carols.

As we begin the second half of the program, Bruce Bengtson again performs with MACH in a medley featuring *Go Tell It On the Mountain* and *Troika* from Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kije Suite*. Johann Sebastian Bach's beautifully languid *Sheep May Safely Graze* follows, with a duo of ringers performing the solo melody on handchimes. The Latin rhythms of *Feliz Navidad*, three Spanish carols arranged by the contemporary composer Hart Morris, provide plenty of opportunity for percussive effects, led by percussionist Jason Roberts. And what Christmas program is complete without a bit of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*? Our *Sugarplum Fairy* fairly shimmers and the *Danse Russe Trepak* will give you visions of Cossack dancers kicking with great energy. Then comes another audience favorite: *Blue Christmas*. Two years ago, we had a special visitor — Elvis — perform with us and he's agreed to come from his heavenly cloud (or wherever) to sing it again! We'll close our concert with the ever popular arrangement of *Up on the Housetop*. One can hear the music box that little Nell would like, the hammer and tacks desired by little Bill, and, of course, Santa's descent down the chimney, landing with a thud! If you've ever wanted to hear music tell a story, this is it! Come with your whole family and enjoy one of MACH's three concerts!

Advance tickets are available at Borders Book Shops, Westside Antiques Mall and Orange Tree Imports: Adults \$12; Seniors (over 60) and Youth (through 16) \$9. Tickets will also be available at the door: Adults \$15; Seniors and Youth \$10.

These concerts are generously underwritten by Thompson Investment Management.

In Memoriam: Gordon B. Baldwin

MACH lost a staunch supporter in October when Gordon B. Baldwin died. A distinguished constitutional and foreign relations law scholar, Gordon had been on the UW Law School faculty for almost fifty years and taught in several other countries as a visiting professor and Fulbright scholar. An enthusiastic advocate for the arts, Gordon was on an opera trip to Italy with his wife, Helen, when he passed away.

We were honored to have Gordon serve on our Board of Directors since 2000 and we'll miss his suggestions, expertise, and witty comments. Our sympathy goes to his wife, family, and all who were privileged to know him.

Sharing Music During the Holidays

Patients at the UW Children's Hospital and residents of Oakwood Village West will be treated to holiday concerts by our handbells in early December. Our thanks go to the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, the UW Hospital and Clinics, and other donors to MACH for their support of these concerts!

How Did We Choose The Best of Bells of Christmas?

For each of the past nine years, MACH has presented Christmas programs that were made up of entirely new pieces. As we celebrate our tenth anniversary, we will perform your favorites from those past concerts. While it was difficult to choose from all the pieces you nominated, they fell into several categories: concert openers, original compositions, quieter pieces celebrating the birth of Jesus, spirited pieces celebrating the same, popular holiday music, programmatic music, audience sing-alongs, and zippy closing pieces! Consideration of style, meter, key, dynamic contrast, and variety of timbre helped determine the final repertoire. We're having a lot of fun revisiting these old friends (or in the case of our more recently auditioned members, learning them for the first time). We know that you will enjoy hearing and seeing MACH's talented ringers present the "brightest and best" since 1997! Please join us at one of our holiday concerts.

Television Coverage

For the past two years, and again this year, Channel 3 and R.W. Baird and Company have teamed up to give MACH's Christmas concerts coverage on TV. We are most appreciative to David Sanks of Channel 3 and Dana Corbett of R.W. Baird and Company for their efforts in this regard. Both are members of MACH's Board of Directors. Look for our ads on Channel 3 as the holiday season approaches and then join us for a concert!

A MACH Workshop

MACH held its third handbell workshop, titled "Get a Handle on Your Ringing: A Workshop for Handbell Ringers and Directors", on Saturday, October 7. Twenty-four participants from Wisconsin and Illinois spent the day at Asbury United Methodist Church learning techniques from basic ringing to more specialized variations such as advanced treble, bass, and solo/small ensemble techniques. Classes in problem solving and conducting also were offered. After a catered lunch from Kitchen Hearth Catering, MACH used a mini-concert format to share tips on adding musicality to a performance. The workshop wrapped up with a reading session, with MACH ringers and workshop participants sight-reading new music available for handbell choirs. At the end of the day, participants commented on the sessions they attended, with one person saying, "That was the best explanation of how to do a weave that I've ever heard!" Others were similarly pleased with what they'd learned.

Enjoy a Spring Ring on St. Patrick's Day!

Madison Area Concert Handbells is sponsoring a festival for massed choirs on Saturday, March 17, 2007 at the west campus of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Entitled "Spring Ring", this day-long event will allow up to 12 handbell choirs to meet together for camaraderie and enrichment of skills while putting the finishing touches on six pieces during the morning rehearsals. After a catered lunch, individual choirs can rehearse if they've chosen to ring a solo piece. Other activities are planned for those not rehearsing, followed by a final review of the massed choir pieces. At a 3 p.m. public concert (free-will offering) all of the massed and solo pieces will be presented. A limited number of individual ringers can participate if their entire choir cannot attend.

The massed pieces are for 3-5 octaves. Any or all of them may be played..

Fanfare on O Worship the King

I Will Arise and Go to Jesus

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The Old Ship of Zion

*Psalms 17 (Keep Me as the Apple
of the Eye)*

When In Our Music God is Glorified

arr. Sandra Eithun

arr. Dan R. Edwards

arr. Joel Raney/Arnold Sherman

arr. Anna Laura Page

arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

arr. Hart Morris

It's not often that handbell enthusiasts get to meet, rehearse, and perform in such a large choir. Please let us know if you wish to be part of this fun event. Register by December 1 and pay just \$18 per registrant. After that, the cost will be \$20 per registrant. The price includes lunch. The deadline for registration is February 1, 2007. If you have questions or wish to register your choir or as an individual, please call MACH's Executive Director, Kristi Menninga, at (608) 845-2476. Our website has further details: www.madisonhandbells.org.

The festival is supported in part by the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

School Project to be Larger Than Ever!

For the third year in a row, MACH members will present a program to enhance music appreciation in the public schools in the Spring. This year's project will teach 840 4th and 5th graders in Madison, Middleton, and Waunakee how to play the handchimes. The students, chaperones, and teachers will then be bussed to a concert by the full MACH choir at the Middleton Performing Arts Center. There will be no cost to the students or schools for these activities thanks to support from individuals who contribute to MACH and from the following grantors: Waunakee Rotary Club, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, Alliant Energy, the UW-Madison Retirement Association and the American Girl Fund for Children. We're looking forward to sharing the beautiful sounds of our chimes and bells with the students!

On Going to Heaven--or Was That Salzburg?

What does a bell fanatic think is the perfect vacation? To Sally Meredith, playing Mozart (on bells) in Salzburg during the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth was close to that perfection.

The 2006 European Handbell Festival, led by Larry Smith, professor of music at the University of Southern Mississippi, and Fred Gramann, music director at the American Church in Paris, toured Switzerland and Austria for nine days in July. There was rehearsal time and one performance in the Swiss Alps, and a second performance in Salzburg. There was time to tour Mozart's birthplace and the special exhibit for his 250th anniversary. There was a balalaika and accordion quartet playing the *William Tell Overture* in Mozartplatz. Other sites in Switzerland and Austria, plus Bavaria and Liechtenstein were also on the itinerary. It was a terrific time of music, beautiful scenery, good food, new places, and 35 new ringing friends, all rolled into one.

Future Concert Dates:

MACH's 2007 Spring Concerts,
Magical Memories, are:

Saturday, May 12, 2007; Mitby Theater at
MATC; 3550 Anderson Street

Saturday, May 19, 2007; Asbury Methodist
Church; 6101 University Avenue

Please mark your calendars.

How to Contact Us

- ✉ P.O. Box 44056
Madison, WI 53744-4056.
- ☎ Call our Director, Dr. Susan Udell,
(608) 271-3514
- ☎ Call our Executive Director, Kristi
Menninga, (608) 845-2476

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

Why I Ring Handbells...

It all started back in Junior High
At a church lock-in there were bells they let us try
From there I was hooked and we had a good choir
All the way through high school, I played without tire

At college I was able to control my addiction
But as soon as I got married, I resurrected my affliction
Every time we moved we looked for a church
Having a bell choir was a requirement of the search

In Eau Claire, Janesville and Stoughton
I joined the bell choirs and cases I was happily totin'
I even got my husband to join me
Then we moved again and the best was yet to be

In frustration I searched in vain
For a church that we liked with a Bell Choir to gain
I had attended MACH concerts and wondered if I could
So with nothing to lose, I decided, audition--I should!

So nerve-racking it was--my knees even shook
I could barely stand to look at the book!
A big commitment of time they warn
No problem I say--see you in the morn'

Why do you do it people ask?
To me it does not seem like such a big task
It's beautiful music, challenging and fun
The friends that you gain are always number one

Sometimes when we are practicing hour after hour
I question my sanity and my thoughts turn sour
But then we pull it together and it sounds great
And I realize with a smile--this is my fate.

— Jackie Hansen

