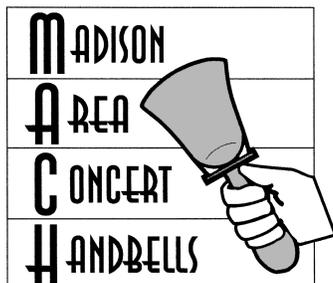


# Madison Area Concert Handbells *Messenger*

Fall 2007



[www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org)

## *Carols of the Bells*

Listen, watch, and enjoy the unique sounds and sights of gleaming bronze handbells as MACH's ringers perform an array of Christmas pieces designed for your holiday pleasure! *Carols of the Bells* will be presented:

Friday, December 7, AND Saturday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m. at:  
Asbury Methodist Church, 6101 University Avenue, Madison  
Sunday, December 9, at 3 p.m. at:

First Congregational Church, 1609 University Avenue, Madison

Our opening piece, *A Ringing Christmas*, skillfully combines the Ukrainian *Carol of the Bells* with a French tune, *Noel Nouvelet*. Barbara Roberts' flute will join the bells for this spirited arrangement. Variations on the Advent hymn, *People, Look East*, follow and include handchimes in a waltz-like passage. A 17<sup>th</sup> century French folk tune, with words we know as *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*, is then presented with modern harmonies, random ringing, mysterious chimes, and an enormous concluding section to be played "With fire". As a contrast, the next piece, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, by the 20<sup>th</sup> century composer, Gustav Holst, is a lovely, simple hymn for bells and voice; Madison's own Jeanne Warzyn created this setting. Staying with Wisconsin talent, John Behnke, a professor at Concordia College, arranged the following piece, *Angels We Have Heard On High*. It includes a hauntingly serene middle section where the chimes play the ancient chant *Hodie Christus Natus Est*. And, since we have a talented harpist among our ringers, we've substituted harp for some of the bell parts to add that special angelic feeling. The birth of the Baby is then cheerfully celebrated in an arrangement of several carols: *When Christ Our Lord Was Born*. Next, two ringers will be featured in a Czech carol, *Rocking*, another setting by Jeanne Warzyn. The first half of the concert closes with the rollicking *Shepherd's Carol*, an arrangement of a tune by William Billings, an early American composer.

The organ alternates with MACH's large assemblage of bells and chimes for a rousing *Nativity Antiphonal* to open the second half of our concert. It is then time for audience members to add their voices to this salute to the season by participating in *Christmas Carol Fest*, a medley of well-known carols. *O Holy Night*, combined with *Gesu Bambino*, follows, with an interplay of organ and bells as the flute's lovely timbre is featured. Our bass chimes (some are over five feet tall!) then add a solemn note to the English tune *Coventry Carol*; the addition of the harp at the end brings hope and healing. A sparkling arrangement of the *Sussex Carol*, called *On Christmas Night*, brings back the joyous spirit of the holidays, and is followed by a bit of fun in *The Toy Symphony*, a piece originally attributed to Franz Joseph Haydn. For a memorable concluding piece, we present variations on *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

Please post the  
enclosed notice.  
Thank you!

We invite you to join us for this festival of Christmas favorites. Advance tickets may be purchased at Borders Book Shops, Orange Tree Imports, or from our website: [www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org). Tickets are also available at the door.

Experience the unique sounds of one of America's finest handbell choirs!

## New Gift Card Fundraising Program

Help support MACH! We are beginning a new fundraising program - the Simplified SCRIP Program. SCRIP is a term used to describe gift cards or gift certificates that contribute a designated percentage to a school or organization. Amounts of contributions vary, depending on the merchant issuing the gift card. From gasoline or groceries to electronics or clothing, you will find SCRIP can be used to purchase almost anything. The holidays are just around the corner. What a convenient and easy way to start your holiday shopping!

Here's how it works: You can purchase Simplified SCRIP Cards to spend just like cash for yourself or use them as gifts. When these gift cards are purchased, a percentage of the amount spent is donated to MACH. You receive the full amount while also supporting MACH! There is a nominal cost for shipping of the gift cards - less than \$1 for up to 6 cards ordered.

There are over 100 merchants included in the SCRIP program. Some of the merchants who are currently participating include PDQ (3% goes to MACH), Copps and Woodmans Grocery stores (3% goes to MACH), Houlihans and TGI Fridays (5% goes to MACH), and Lands End (5% goes to MACH). Take a look at the enclosed order form or visit the website for a full listing of the participating merchants.

Along with the order form, a postage paid envelope is included so you can start ordering right away. Or, if you prefer, visit the Simplified SCRIP website and order online. Below is a link to the site where you can print additional order forms or place an order online: [www.schooltimesnet.com](http://www.schooltimesnet.com)

Thank you for supporting MACH and helping us continue to serve the community through high-quality performances of handbell music.

## Bringing Holiday Cheer to Others

Once again, our bells will help ring in the holidays for audience members who cannot venture out to concerts by themselves. With the help of generous grants from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission and the Bryant Foundation, MACH will perform for residents at Skaalen Sunset Home in Stoughton in early December. A few days later, we will perform at the UW Hospital, supported in part by a holiday grant from the hospital's Arts Fund. In addition to

*"We were overjoyed with the lovely 'sound of music' given by your bells. It truly was one of the loveliest sounds and talents that we have ever heard. What a great gift you have given to us." - audience member*

playing pieces that will reawaken memories and provide entertaining respite from daily health concerns, we teach willing members of the audiences a simple method for ringing handchimes. Ringing on a one-to-one basis with a MACH handbell ringer, these folks then

will accompany the rest of the audience as holiday songs are sung. This interactive part of our concerts has always been very popular and we're looking forward to another season of sharing our music with others.

## What Keeps MACH Ringing?

Have you ever wondered where MACH's income comes from? We earn some of it through ticketed concerts, paid performances, and CD and advertising sales. We also receive grants and support from corporations and foundations. But the largest source of our income is individuals like you, who make contributions to MACH. We mail out a letter of request for support just once each year, and greatly appreciate the response we receive. If it weren't for the generosity of so many kind individuals, MACH could not continue to provide its fine handbell music and educational services to Madison and other communities throughout Wisconsin. If you've already given us a contribution this year, we thank you again for your generosity. If you haven't given, we ask you to please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to MACH today. →

On the flip side, you may be wondering where MACH's money goes! Don't look at the members of the choir; they donate their time and talents without compensation. Many other personal services are donated as well, such as the activities of our Board of Directors and the preparation of grant applications by our Music Director. But we have many major expenses including necessary advertising and publicity, printing, personnel, rehearsal and performance space, music, CD production, guest musicians, insurance, and transportation of all the equipment to performance sites. It takes a lot of money, and work, to keep this organization ringing! That is why we need your support. Thank you!

### **Why I Love being a Cuckoo** by Karen Paschke

This year we are playing a piece called Toy Symphony. I was one of two people who were assigned "percussion" parts. Susan told the two of us that there were about six different percussion parts and that we could choose which ones we wanted and to try to cover as many as possible. There was a part for a rattle and a triangle and maybe something else rather ordinary. And then there was a flock of bird parts--a Nightingale, a Quail, and most notably the part of a Cuckoo. I immediately claimed this particular part. There have been the rather predictable jokes about both my mental stability (Karen's Cuckoo today) and my mental ability (Karen's a bit birdbrained, but what did you expect), but I have continued to smile throughout all of it.

When I was a little girl my Grandparents had a Cuckoo Clock. I loved watching that little birdie stick its head out of the door. I remember sitting cross-legged on the floor, just waiting for the next hour, especially if that next hour was noon. I believe that my Grandpa probably reset the clock from time to time so that I could see it Cuckoo. I never caught him doing so, but he was a very sweet man and that type of thing would be within his character. So every time we practice the piece I am reminded of my dear Grandpa who was so thoughtful in so many quiet ways.

### **School Visits In the Planning Stage**

Thanks to grants from the Alliant Energy Foundation and the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, MACH is again planning to present a project in the schools of Madison and Middleton. This effort will involve teaching 850 fourth and fifth graders in 38 classes to ring handchimes and then treating them, their teachers, and chaperones to a concert at the Middleton Performing Arts Center. We still need the help of other grants in order to present the full project, but we are very grateful to the aforementioned grantors who have enabled us to begin contacting schools, setting up visits with the teachers, and scheduling some of the classes.

Rehearsals will begin in mid-January, classes will take place in March and April, and then the concert by our full choir will be held at the end of April. We intend that there be NO COST to any of the audience members and we'll even provide busses for them. Over the past three years, MACH has taught over 2200 youngsters to play handchimes, and the project, culminating with the concert, has been enthusiastically received by both students and teachers alike. One teacher told us that some of her students said, "This is the most fun we've ever had in music class!" In recent years, instruction in playing handchimes and handbells has been recognized for providing a very accessible and valuable complement to school music programs. Musical, mental, physical, and social benefits for children have been documented and praised. Our Board of Directors feels that presenting these class informances and concert performances for students as well as presenting interactive concerts for patients and the elderly are very important parts of MACH's mission to serve the community.

*"I believe that you people, with your talents and dedication, touch the community in ways that you are not even aware of."* - audience member comment

### **Are you an experienced ringer? Come ring with us!**

Play challenging and enjoyable music with this fun-loving group.

To arrange an audition, phone Music Director Susan Udell at 608-271-3514.

*Future Concerts*

## ***Clapper Classics***

Guest Director Mark Bloedow

Saturday, April 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
6101 University Avenue, Madison

Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.  
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona

### How to Contact Us



PO Box 44056  
Madison, WI 53744-4056



Music Director Dr. Susan Udell  
608-271-3514



Executive Director Kristi Menninga  
608-845-2476

See & hear us on the Web!  
[www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org)

### **Bell Soundings**

-- Susan Udell

One Tuesday in September, a message on my answering machine said:

“Hello, my name is Kathy Cheatum and I'm looking for a piece of music to play at my mother's funeral this Friday.....” Then my machine had cut her off and the piece's name and how Kathy could be reached were not recorded. Feeling terrible about this, I looked in the phone book; she wasn't listed. I called Asbury Church to see if there were a funeral on Friday; there was none. It seemed to be a lost opportunity to respond to another's need.

A couple of hours later, the phone rang again— it was Kathy and she was calling to say that she'd connected with Kristi, our Executive Director, who would send the music electronically in time for the funeral. I apologized for my wayward machine and as we chatted, I learned that she lived in California and had wanted to find some music that meant something to her mother. When she was a child, one of their family's favorite songs was *The Green Cathedral* and when Kathy looked it up online, she found that we had recorded it on our Spring 2005 CD, *Picnic in the Park*. She listened to the first 45 seconds that our website allows for each piece, thought it was wonderful, and proceeded to contact us. She said our recording meant even more since her mother had been a handbell ringer and this would help preserve her memory, as Kathy and her sisters would each purchase a CD. What a special privilege it was for MACH's music to touch the hearts of these new friends in California. --And our thanks go to Carrie Ingebritsen for singing so beautifully as we played *The Green Cathedral*.