



Madison Area Concert Handbells

Messenger

Fall
2013

Join us for *The Twelve Days of Christmas*

MACH presents our holiday concerts in a program that parallels the centuries old "Twelve Days of Christmas" carol, chronicling each day and gift in song.

The program begins with Sondra Tucker's *Christmas Carillon*, a collage of familiar carols, followed by Kevin McChesney's setting of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, a rhythmic and tonal tour de force, full of interesting twists and turns. The program continues through each of the days of the poem, featuring many guest musicians in addition to the fourteen ringers of MACH. A Partridge in a Pear Tree, or *The Lone, Wild Bird (The Hills are Bare at Bethlehem)* by Wisconsin composer Paul McKlveen features clarinetist Kim Robey. Local organist Alex Ford joins the choir on Three French Hens, Linda McKechnie's setting of *We Three Kings*, and Handel's familiar *Allegro and Hornpipe (Eleven Pipers Piping)* set by David Keller. Percussionist Justin Bain will join the choir on *Twelve Drummers Drumming*, or *Carol of the Drum*, a new work from the pen of Michael Glasgow, a rising talent in handbell composition.

We hope that you will join us for this unique and festive program!

MACH Welcomes Brad Schultz



As part of our search for a new director, we welcome **Brad Schultz** as our Interim Director for our Fall 2013 concert season. Brad is on the faculty at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, teaching courses in sacred music, organ, and music major core classes. He also serves as a musician to the student congregation, leading worship in Luther's Center for Faith and Life. Brad holds a Master's of Sacred Music degree in Organ Performance from Emory University in Atlanta, where he studied organ with Timothy Albrecht. His undergraduate studies at Luther College encompassed tuba performance, vocal and instrumental music education and church music.

Brad has served as church musician to congregations in Iowa, Minnesota, Idaho and Georgia, and as a musician to the student congregation at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He is also a frequent recitalist, conductor and educator, having recently appeared with the community Chorale of Waseca, Minnesota, his hometown, in addition to a wide spectrum of vocal, handbell and instrumental church ensembles of all ages.

Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Covenant Presbyterian Church
326 S Segoe Road
Madison, WI

Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
5700 Pheasant Hill Road
Monona, WI

Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Luther Memorial Church
1021 University Avenue
Madison, WI

Advance: Adult \$12; Student (16 & under) /
Senior \$9

At the door: Adult \$15; Student (16 &
under) / Senior \$12

Advance tickets will be available in
December at Cool Beans Coffee Café,
Ward-Brodts Music, Metcalfe's Market at
Hilldale, and Orange Tree Imports.

Shiny and New!

Just as a car should have its oil changed and tires rotated every so often, handbells also have a recommended maintenance schedule. Depending on how heavily they are used, handbells should be refurbished every 10 years or so. For a community group like MACH, who use our bells more extensively than most church groups, this is especially important and we were long overdue. While we do replace parts as they break, having a full refurbishing done at the factory guarantees the continuance of the Lifetime Warranty coverage on our bells.

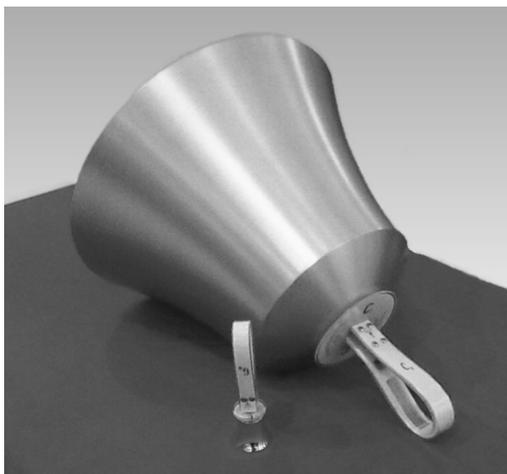
Our manufacturer, Malmark, has a 55-step program to refurbish their handbells. They provide all the packaging material to ship the bells, in their cases, back to the factory in Pennsylvania. We had a packing party to box them up for shipping out, and to unpack them when they got back. Our thanks go out to the staff at Asbury Church for their assistance in these logistics and allowing us to clutter up their narthex for a couple of evenings!

The refurbishing included completely disassembling the bells and inspecting, cleaning and replacing handles, clapper heads, yokes, couplers, bearings, bushings, springs --- who knew handbells were so complex! Some things were updated, such as replacing brass parts with lighter nylon. Everything was cleaned, buffed, polished inside and out, and replaced if necessary. We got two new castings that were considered inadequate by the refurbishing staff, all included. They even vacuumed out our cases! The bells were reassembled, being certain to get rid of any extraneous clapper noise. Although the audience may not be able to hear such things, it can drive us crazy!

So we are now preparing a shining performance for you on our shiny, renewed handbells!

How Small/Big ARE the Bells?

While there are many handbell choirs in the Madison area, one of the things that makes MACH unique is the large number and range of bells that we use. We have 75 bells ranging from C₂ (the third C below middle C) to G₈ (the G above the fourth C above middle C). Not surprisingly, these bells are VERY different in size and weight. G₈ is under 2" in diameter and weighs about 9 ounces. C₂ is huge in comparison, coming in at just over 9.5 pounds and 19" in diameter. It is a little lighter than our heaviest bell, F₂, which is almost 10.5 pounds! It and our other lowest bells are made out of aluminum rather than bell bronze, which increases the size of the casting but decreases the overall weight.



Thank you for your support!

Your Support is Appreciated

MACH has grown throughout the years by offering seasonal concerts, educational workshops, and festivals in the community, region, and state. Although our ringers volunteer hundreds of hours of rehearsal and performance time, there are many costs associated with producing concerts and events. Some of these include music, rehearsal and performance space, concert advertising, postage and printing, compensation for guest artists, technical assistance, and artistic staff expenses.

Whether you are a long-time supporter or new friend, we invite you to consider helping us continue to make a positive impact on the artistic and cultural life in our community by making a financial contribution. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your contribution to MACH is fully tax-deductible as your individual tax situation allows. Please mail your gift to:

Madison Area Concert Handbells
P. O. Box 44056
Madison, WI, 53744-4056

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

The True Story of the History of Handbells* by Karen Paschke (HS math teacher)

Once upon a time, long time ago, in Merry Olde England, there was a tower. One day the people of the town decided to put bells into the tower. They started with three bells and one day someone decided to play all of the permutations of these bells: ABC, ACB, CAB, CBA, BCA, BAC. Six permutations, eighteen “dings.” At a peppy sort of pace it took a mere 4.5 seconds to ring the bells. The people of the town enjoyed hearing these permutations every morning (they were a very mathematical group of people). Over time the town bought more bells. When they had four bells there were 24 permutations and 96 dings. 24 seconds. When there were five bells there were 120 permutations and 600 dings. This took 2 minutes 30 seconds to play. Eventually the town had a full octave of bells—eight of them. There were 40,320 permutations or 322,560 dings. At the same speed this would take 22 hours 24 minutes to play. The towns-people grew very tired of hearing these bells ringing. They found themselves a Big Bad Wolf and threatened to blow down the tower if the ringers didn’t stop. **



So the bell ringers moved out of the tower. They were very tired for they had been ringing the tower bells for more than 22 hours a day. They slept a deep and dreamless sleep. When they awoke they realized how much they missed the sound of the bells. But they also feared the Wolf. So they sat in sadness until one of their members decided to make some much smaller bells. Some transportable bells. Some bells that could be rung by hand. Some *handbells*. They quickly made eight of these smaller bells and once again spent 22 hours 24 minutes a day playing all of the permutations of these bells.

Everyone was happy. Everyone, that is, but the princess who lived next door to where they were playing. She slept on a pile of 23 mattresses and was still unable to sleep. There have been theories that she was unable to sleep because of a small pea placed under the mattresses. Obviously this is a ridiculous idea. The real reason that she could not sleep was because of the bells. She went to them and asked if they could just play a lullaby. This startled the ringers. They had never considered playing anything besides mathematical permutations. But they decided to try playing songs. They enjoyed this immensely. And from that day handbell concerts became the social events of choice. And this continues until this very day. And the prince married the princess and everyone lived happily ever after.

* Minor literary liberties have been taken. ** It is extremely rare for wolves to successfully blow down towers.

Fun Facts about MACH Members

- While a graduate student, David happened to arrive at the Denver International Airport around the same time as a Nobel Laureate in physics. They were headed to the same physics conference, so they shared an airport shuttle ride all the way to Estes Park, Colorado, with no other passengers in the van. They talked the whole way – an opportunity David will never forget!
- Jackie's favorite food is grits (Dad and his side of the family are from Mississippi).
- Sara wanted to experience the open road now that her children are a little older (3 boys: 18, 16 & 12). Earlier this year she obtained her motorcycle license and has been riding every moment that she can. She has two bikes, a smaller bike (Buell) and a large cruiser (Harley Heritage Softail).
- Maggie is a 3rd degree black belt in Taekwondo.
- Karen has a cat who plays fetch.
- Jane enjoys growing roses in her spare time.
- Caitlin can read 100+ pages per hour, which meant she was able to read all 250 books in the Star Wars expanded universe in about a year and a half.
- When Kristi's kids were 13, 10, and 8, they all climbed 91 steps to the top of Chichen Itza in Mexico, something that's no longer allowed.

Are you an experienced ringer? Come ring with us!

Does playing challenging and enjoyable music with a fun-loving group whet your appetite? To arrange an audition, contact us at info@madisonhandbells.org or by phone at 608-620-1997.

How to Contact Us:

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Madison, WI 53744-4056
608-620-1997
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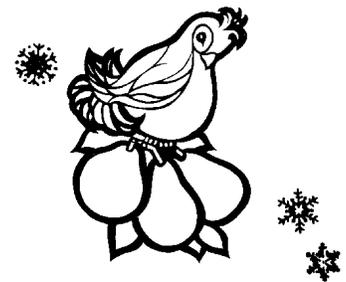
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Luther Memorial Church
1021 University Avenue, Madison

Advance Tickets: \$12 / \$9*
At the Door: \$15 / \$12*
*Student/Senior price

Group tickets available; info at
www.madisonhandbells.org/perform.html

Address Service Requested

The Twelve Days of Christmas



How to Get Concert Tickets

Tickets will be available in advance in December at Orange Tree Imports, Ward-Brodt Music, Metcalf's Sentry-Hilldale and Cool Beans Coffee Café, and or by sending in the order form at www.madisonhandbells.org/perform.html. Tickets are also available at the door.



MACH's new CD, *A Festive Christmas!*, will be available on December 13. You can purchase one (or more — they make great Christmas gifts!) at our concerts or using the order form found on our website at www.madisonhandbells.org.

See and hear us on the web!

www.madisonhandbells.org
www.youtube.com/machandbells

or Like us on Facebook