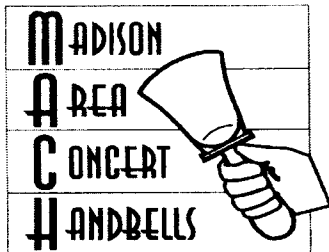


Madison Area Concert Handbells *Messenger*

Fall 2001



Fifth Annual *Bells of Christmas* Concert

Each year MACH's *Bells of Christmas*-Concerts present a new program of Christmas favorites performed on handbells and handchimes. This year's dates are:

- **Saturday, December 8 at 7:30 pm**, at Asbury United Methodist Church, 6101 University Avenue (near Allen Blvd.) Madison.
- **Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 pm** at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 2450 Atwood Avenue, Madison.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth under 16. Tickets are available at Borders Books in Madison or at the door.

This concert showcases six octaves of handbells, complemented by handchimes, harp, trombone, flute, percussion and clarinet. Our repertoire will include arrangements of some favorite Christmas carols as well as two pieces by Madison's own Jeanne Warzyn. Highlights will include:

- Two African-American spirituals: *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* incor-

porates malleting and other handbell techniques that provide a tantalizing rhythmic lilt. In *Go, Tell It On the Mountain*, the addition of a clarinet and trombone will help set your feet tapping and your hands clapping!

- *O Hanukkah* is a composition that recognizes the December celebration of the Jewish festival of lights. You'll find this medley of three traditional tunes has a distinctive Middle Eastern flavor that alternates sinuous tunes and hard-driving martellato.

- Our own ringer/harpist Patricia Thorngate will add the harp's graceful tones to the bells and chimes in *Ave Maria* and *A Christmas Triptych*, a compilation of carols from France and Poland.

- Guest vocalists, including a member of the Madison Boychoir, and the audience, too, will be able to join in singing Holiday songs.



Meet Composer Jeanne Warzyn

Jeanne Warzyn received her Master's Degree in Organ Performance in 1965. Later, as organist at Madison's Lake Edge United Church of Christ, she began arranging music to aid in introducing new hymns to the congregation. When the church purchased handbells, she began arranging music for them as well. After 'retiring' from church music and missing musical involvement, Jeanne formed a community handbell choir in the Hollandale, Wisconsin area. They performed two concerts per year and also

went on the road. That group included an accomplished clarinet player, so Jeanne began to arrange music to include her, as well as arranging unaccompanied handbell duets and more. In 1991, Jeanne was asked to resume her duties as director of the Lake Edge handbell choir, a position that she still holds. We are pleased to include two of Jeanne's arrangements, *Still, Still Still* and *Variations on a Polish Carol*, in our December concerts!



MACH Has New Handchimes

A hearty "Thank you" to the organizations whose generosity helped the Madison Area Concert Handbells purchase five octaves of handchimes this past September. A grant was received from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from the Overture Foundation. This was matched by the Norman Bassett Foundation. Our new handchimes can be heard at our upcoming winter concerts.

Handchimes, developed in the early 1980's, are lightweight aluminum tubes. Each has a clapper that provides a rich sound and accurate pitch. Ringing handchimes involves a forward movement that causes the clapper to strike the tube. In comparison to handbells, handchimes are relatively inexpensive, durable, and easy to handle, making them ideal for music education and therapy.

Using handbells in an educational setting allows for active participation by the students, promotes cooperation, and encourages children to develop musical techniques as they see, feel, and listen to the ringing of the chime. Musical therapy for individuals of all ages promotes physical, mental, and social development. Children and adults can improve eye-hand coordination, motor and memory skills, independence, and self-esteem. Handchimes provide a fun, affordable way to increase music participation in the schools and advance developmental skills through therapy. In addition, handchimes add a rich and fulfilling sound that augments the sound of handbells.

For more information on handchimes visit the following websites:

www.ringem.org/agehr/chime

www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk/chime

Meet a New Ringer

The newest member of the MACH is Beth Coppoc Gunshor, a speech/language therapist at New Glarus Elementary School. Beth began ringing handbells at age 13 at her church in Lafayette, Indiana. She continued playing handbells during her first years of college and has been a member of the First Baptist Church bell choir here in Madison for the last four years.

In addition, Madison Area Concert Handbells welcomes back Shannon Donnally who spent a semester doing graduate work in Russia, and Rachel Bain from maternity leave.

Auditions

If you are interested in auditioning for MACH, please contact MACH's Music Director at 271-3514 to set up an audition. The audition committee asks for a demonstration of handbell technique, sightreading ability, and general music knowledge.

Auditions will be held by appointment, the week of December 9.

If you want us to feature your choir in a future issue of our Messenger, please contact us!

How Do I Do That?

Since handbell ringing is a relatively new art, composers for handbell music are continually coming up with new and interesting techniques to show off the versatility of handbells and handchimes. One of these techniques is called vibrato. Vibrato can be done with both handbells and handchimes, though the method is different. Vibrato is usually notated in handbell music by the three letters "vib" over a long note. To use vibrato on handbells, the ringer simply rings the bell, and then, keeping the hand facing the same direction so the bell will not ring again,

tips the bell from side to side. This creates a Doppler effect similar to that produced by the tower swing. On handchimes, the vibrato is produced by ringing the chime and then extending the index finger to the vibrating part of the chime, lightly touching the fork of the chime in a rapid, rhythmical pattern. Watch for this technique in this year's Christmas concert!



Winter Performances

In December, MACH ringers will be providing dinner entertainment for the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) Winter Party. They will include selections from their *Bells of Christmas* concert, ensemble selections, and pieces that encourage the WARFians' participation.

It is MACH's privilege to be able to give a concert in the Atrium of the University Hospital for patients and their families. MACH will also perform for residents and neighbors of Independent Living on Segoe Road. Both performances are supported in part by the Dane County Cultural Commission with additional funds from the Madison Community foundation and Overture foundation

A seven-member ensemble from MACH will entertain after the Holiday Craft Fair and Luncheon at the Blackhawk Country Club.

Spring Things

MACH has several interesting events in the works for Spring. Grant applications have been written, phone calls made, and events penciled in on calendars. Here are a few of our plans:

- Educational Programs for school-age children at community centers in Dane County.
- Participation in *Kids in the Crossroads*, a variety of art experiences for children at the Madison Civic Center, May 18.
- *Crossroads on the Road*. (Traveling art groups performing for children statewide.) We've been listed as a participating group, with scheduling at the discretion of local leaders.
- Play at the now-under-construction Wilson Center for Performing Arts in Brookfield, also tentatively May 18.

Meet an Area Choir

The Bethany United Methodist Church handbell choir held its first rehearsal during the winter of 1983 with a borrowed set of bells. The group received their own 3-octave handbell set just prior to playing in church for the first time in May of that year. Generous individual donations provided funding for the original three octaves and have continued over the years, allowing the Bethany Carillons to purchase additional equipment. Today, the group rings a full 5-octave set of Schulmerich bells plus a low G2 bell. They also use a 3-octave set of Suzuki handchimes. The Bethany Carillons provide music for worship services several times from September through May. With the

children's handbell choir from Bethany, the Angelus Bells, they also perform a mid-May concert at the church. Five dedicated charter ringers from 1983, including director Beverly Payne, continue their involvement in the choir today. MACH ringer David Crowcroft joined the Bethany Carillons in 1998.



Ringer's Confession

Almighty and most merciful Conductor
 We have erred and strayed from thy beat
 like lost sheep.
 We have followed too much the accidentals
 and tempi of our own hearts.
 We have offended against thy holy dynamic markings.
 We have left unringed those notes which we
 ought to have rung,
 And we have rung those notes which we
 ought not to have rung,
 And there is no damping in us.

But, Thou, O Conductor, have mercy
 upon us miserable ringers.
 Succor the key signature challenged.
 Restore thou them that need help turning their pages.
 Spare thou them that have no pencils.
 Pardon our mistakes, and have faith that hereafter
 We will follow Thy direction
 And ring together in perfect harmony.

Spring Concert Dates:

Spring Concerts are scheduled for Friday, May 3rd at Covenant Presbyterian Church and Saturday, May 4th at Asbury United Methodist Church.

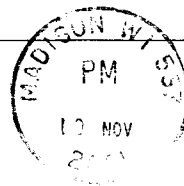
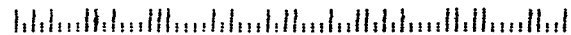
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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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We've Come a Long Way!

Five years ago, MACH gave its first Bells of Christmas concert — to a standing-room-only audience in Asbury Methodist Church's former sanctuary. Since that time, we've presented an average of fifteen concerts a year, entertaining at such diverse places as on the Capitol Square for Wisconsin's Sesquicentennial celebration, the Elvehjem Museum of Art, Jonathan Overby's WHA radio show, *Higher Ground*, and the Civic Center with the Madison Symphony Orchestra.

MACH began as an idea — that some ringers might enjoy playing more challenging music than is generally possible in church bell choirs. The latter usually have a wide range of talents, ideally suited for their purpose of worship. With an auditioned community choir, not only could music include advanced levels of notation and technology, it also could include wonderful secular pieces that have been composed or arranged for handbells. In addition, such a choir could contribute to the community by playing at various events and for special audiences that might not have other opportunities for musical enrichment.

In May 1997, an invitation to help form MACH was issued by Asbury's music director (now retired) Susan Udell. Julie Gray, Susan Horein and Tricia Kalus responded. That summer, they mapped out organizational procedures, wrote by-laws, incorporated, and applied for non-profit status. Advertisements brought many ringers to auditions and fifteen charter members were chosen. Over time, changes in occupations and family demands have caused changes in our ringers, but loyalty has remained strong for the camaraderie and challenges that MACH membership affords. You'll find many past members in the audience, cheering us on as they know the intensive rehearsals that have taken place in preparation for full concerts.

We now invite you to attend and enjoy the entertainment that the Madison Area Concert Handbells will present at its fifth annual Bells of Christmas Concerts, December 8th and 9th.

