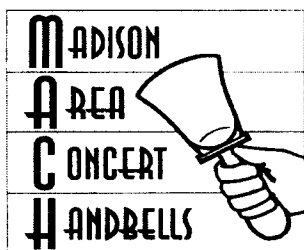


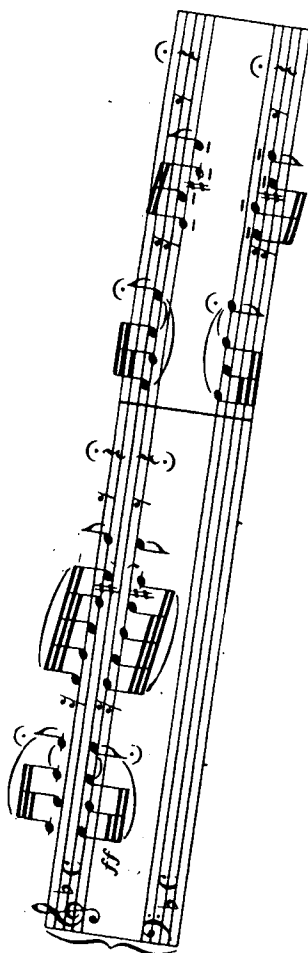
Madison Area Concert Handbells

Messenger

Spring 2003



www.madisonhandbells.org



Recognize this music?
Find the answer some-
where in this newsletter!

Coming Soon—To a Theater Near You: **SHOWTIME!**

Are you looking for a concert that will provide razzle-dazzle music from beginning to end? Look no further, for SHOWTIME!, the Madison Concert Handbells' presentation of well-loved themes from movies, musicals and operas will do just that!

Opening with "Give My Regards to Broadway" and other favorite tunes by George M. Cohan, the program continues with "Shall We Dance?" from *The King and I*, a medley of tunes from *Star Wars*, and songs that lift one's spirits from the films of *Pinochio*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Pink Panther* and *The Lion King* — and that's just the first half of the program! The flair and finesse exhibited by the six octaves of gleaming bronze bells as they flash through the air and create a panoply of diverse dynamic and musical articulations will make these pieces appeal to all ages.

J. S. Bach's magnificent *Tocatta in D Minor* opens the second half of the concert. The grandeur of this music is retained in the handbell arrangement and will be enhanced by handchimes ranging in size from six inches to six feet. Next are two selections from Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!*, that purely American celebration of the pioneer spirit. Moving on in the field of more classically-gearred compositions, we have a medley from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, the exciting *Overture* from Rossini's *Barber of Seville*, a group of operatic themes entitled *Night at the Opera*, and the stirringly rhythmic *Procession of the Nobles* from Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *Madama Butterfly*. Throughout the program, the handbells and handchimes will be enriched by members and outside guest artists playing flute, piano and a variety of percussion instruments. And all this entertainment is available for a low priced ticket!

Performances will be given:

Friday, May 16, at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Madison
(203 Wisconsin Avenue)

Saturday, May 17, at Asbury United Methodist Church in far west Madison
(6101 University Avenue).

Both performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and will last approximately one and one-half hours. Tickets (Adults: \$10, Youth through age 16: \$5) are available at the door or at Borders Book Shops in Madison. We hope to see YOU when it's SHOWTIME!

The concert is generously underwritten by the Norman Bassett Foundation.

On the Road

On Friday, May 9th, our seventeen MACH ringers and music director will travel to Portage, Wisconsin to present SHOWTIME! at 7:30 p.m. in the Zona Gale Theater, 301 E. Cook Street (Highway 33). The theater is named for Zona Gale Breese, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and author. Born and raised in Portage, she often referred to it as Friendship Village in the many stories she wrote about her hometown and its residents. Seating 270, the theater will provide an intimate setting that allows the audience to be "up close and involved" in the performance. Tickets (Adults: \$10, Youth through age 16: \$5) can be purchased at the theater before or at the time of the concert. We look forward to sharing this exciting concert with our neighbors to the north!

How Do I Do That? - Four-in-hand

Four-in-hand is a method of holding two bells in each hand and having individual control over the ringing of each bell. Using this technique allows fewer people to handle more bells, which is handy for smaller groups or for the music played by more advanced groups. It allows ringers playing in the octave designated "6s", for example, to pick up and play the "7s" together or separately when needed. Its main use is to play more bells in sequence than would otherwise be possible.

To form the four-in-hand, hold one bell in the standard ringing grip. Rotate the wrist until the bell is horizontal facing left or right (inward) and rotate the handle until you're looking through it. Place that handle at a 90° angle over the handle of the other bell you wish to ring. Spread the index and middle fingers and grasp the handle of the second bell as close to the collar as possible. Pick up the two bells.

The "top" bell is rung with the standard ringing motion. To ring the "bottom" bell, rotate the wrist inward again and make a motion as if you were knocking lightly on a door.

Special Thanks to the Madison Community Foundation

In 2002, the Madison Community Foundation awarded MACH a major Capacity Building Grant. Extending over a three year period, this grant enabled us to expand our service to the community by providing funds to help hire a part-time Executive Director and part-time Development Director. With the assistance of our new staff members, MACH hopes to increase both the number of its ringers and performances. The grant provides \$15,000 for the first year, \$10,000 for the second and \$5,000 for the third year. We are very grateful for this support.

Another Opportunity to Hear Handbells

The Westminster Concert Bell Choir will perform on Monday, May 19 at 7:30 PM at First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave. The group was founded in 1979 as the first program in handbell ringing at an institution of higher learning, to teach the art of handbell ringing to church musicians. It originates from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ. Now under the direction of Kathleen Ebling-Thorne, the group performs on seven octaves of bells and six octaves of handchimes. There will be a free will offering.

MACH's New Ringers

Karen Baumann has recently returned to her home state after nearly 40 years in suburban Chicago where she played steel drums and handbells in the Harper College music program for several years and, more recently, was a founding member of Chicago Bronze handbell ensemble. Karen also plays piano and hammered dulcimer. A graduate of UW and a retired medical laboratory technician, she currently volunteers at Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital, in the gardens of Taliesin, and with the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society. She is the mother of two sons and a daughter and the grandmother of three who spend time in the 40 acres of woods and prairie she and her husband are restoring in rural Spring Green, with the assistance of several nature conservancy groups in which they are active.

Thomas Engle started ringing bells in junior high with the handbell choir at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Saint Louis, MO. He continued ringing with the Saint Olaf Handbell Choir while in college. Tom was happy to find MACH when he moved to Madison, where he is currently a computer sciences graduate student at the UW. In his spare time, Tom enjoys drawing, playing soccer, and fiddling with computers.

Please welcome Karen and Tom as they perform in their first MACH concerts this May!

New MACH CDs For Purchase

Dancing Bells, MACH's CD of its concert last spring, is still available for your listening pleasure. A unique compilation of dance styles, Dancing Bells includes a stately *Allemande*, an energetic *Bell Boogie*, a free flowing *Pizzicato Polka* and a rousing *Sabre Dance!* These tunes were performed at our 2002 Spring concerts. MACH cd's can be purchased at MACH concerts, Border's Book Shops, Ward-Brodt Music Mall or from our web-site: www.madisonhandbells.org

Our latest release, also recorded under studio conditions, is a CD from The Bells of Christmas 2002. It will be available at SHOWTIME! and then placed in our selling outlets. You may recall the lovely Ave Maria with chimes and harp, the Change Ring Prelude on 'Divinum Mysterium', the ethereal Greensleeves, and the spirited Nutcracker Medley. The entire concert will brighten your holiday spirits, come next December!

MACH Welcomes New Development Director

Madison Area Concert Handbells is pleased to introduce John Fischer, the new Development Director. He joins Kristi Menninga, the Executive Director, and Dr. Susan Udell, the Music Director on the MACH staff. A Wisconsin native, John presently resides with his wife in Sun Prairie. Before moving to the Madison area, John taught English and coached both football and basketball. John is currently attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue a doctoral degree in educational administration and also works as an Outreach Program Manager at UW-Extension.

As the Development Director, John will work closely with both Kristi and Susan to increase awareness of MACH in the surrounding communities. Specifically, John's responsibilities include finding and applying for grant opportunities that will cover the bell choir's expenses, so it is able to share the wonderful gift of music with many different communities. Past grants have provided the funds for MACH to play for independent living residence homes and hospitals, as well as to purchase chimes to be used interactively at these concerts. In addition, John is responsible for the fall mail solicitation campaign.

Given John's full schedule, it is hard to imagine having any free time. However, John does enjoy camping, cycling and golf. Any other spare time is spent working on their newly purchased home. We are delighted to have John as part of the MACH community.

Future Concert Dates:

MACH's *Bells of Christmas* Concerts for 2003 are scheduled for Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14.

MACH will be performing with the Madison Symphony, Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7.

Tocata in D minor...J.S. Bach

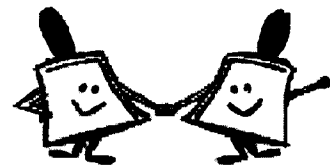
HOW TO CONTACT US

- ✉ 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

Life is Like a Bell

If we play a bell all by itself,
 We might just as well leave it on the shelf.
But if with others we let it ring,
 A song is played for others to sing.
Life is quite often like that bell on the shelf,
 For it one lives and thinks only of himself,
He is only sad and discontent,
 But if he thinks of others, happy times can be spent.
So love and honor your fellow man,
 And in every way help him if you can.



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