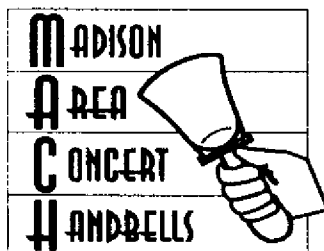


Madison Area Concert Handbells *Messenger*

Spring 2005



www.madisonhandbells.org



FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

Six octaves of handbells, seven octaves of handchimes and fourteen very accomplished musicians directed by Dr. Susan Udell will entertain and delight you in the May concerts of the Madison Area Concert Handbells.

As a take-off on a quote from John Donne, "Never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee", we've assembled an array of wonderful pieces that live on, known by their characters' names--or the names of their composers. Our concert bells will toll--or more exactly, ring--memorable and exciting melodies, some of which have existed for centuries and a few that were composed in recent times.

Beginning with the trumpet fanfares in the *Grand March from Aida* and continuing through the syncopated fun of songs from the popular movie *Aladdin*, the toe-tapping music of *Zekiel's Got Shoes*, and the thrilling *Overture to the Marriage of Figaro*, you will be amazed at how the handbells will convey the spirit and substance of these well-loved pieces. *Little David*, *Play On Your Harp* and *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho* will recall childhood favorites, and *When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again* will stir your soul.

Besides *Aida*, women will be represented by *Anitra's Dance* from Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite*, this could well have been written for handbells in its original form! *Emma's Theme*, a lullaby for the composer's granddaughter, and *Misty*, that amorphous piece made famous by Erroll Garner's piano technique, will give moments of repose in our otherwise rhythmically charged program.

Two medleys from popular composers, *The Best of John Williams* (inviting you back to the days of *Star Wars*) and *Cole Porter Gold* (with memorable songs from his musicals), will have you humming along. And two overtures to the Rossini operas, *Tancredi* and *William Tell*, will overwhelm you with familiar melodies. Last but by no means least, will be the famous march, *Barnum and Bailey's Favorite*, enhanced by piccolo finesse and colorful downs! Other guest artists will also join MACH in presenting these fun-filled, family-oriented concerts.

We invite you to attend our spring concerts:

Friday, May 13th, 7:30 p.m. at **St. Dennis Catholic Church**, 413 Dempsey Road on Madison's east side. Take Highway 51(Stoughton Road) to Cottage Grove Road. Drive west on Cottage Grove. The first street on the right is Dempsey. Follow Dempsey approximately 1/2 mile to the church on the right. There is ample parking.

Saturday, May 14th, 7:30 p.m. at **Asbury Methodist Church**, 6101 University Avenue on Madison's west side. Take University Avenue west. Asbury is on the left before you reach Highway Q (Allen Boulevard). Ample parking is available.

Advance tickets are available at Borders Book Shops and Orange Tree Imports: Adults \$12; Seniors (over 60) and Youth (through 16) \$9. Please visit our website for advance ticket prices for groups: www.madisonhandbells.org. Tickets will also be available at the door: Adults \$15; Seniors and Youth \$10.

Experience the UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL MUSIC of one of the nation's finest bell choirs!

MACH PRESENTS CLASSES AND CONCERT FOR SCHOOLS

In April, members of Madison Area Concert Handbells will teach 29 classes of 4th and 5th graders in six Madison Public Schools how to play the handchimes. In May, these classes (800 students and chaperones) will be bussed to the Barrymore Theater in Madison for a concert by the full choir. Memorable and well-loved music has been programmed to fulfill the successful educational principle of expanding cultural horizons by progressing from familiar to less well-known/unfamiliar--but exciting--pieces. Guest artists on flute, piccolo, vocals, trumpet, percussion and a tap dancer will join in this highly entertaining and educational concert. A brochure about the folksongs to be played to accompany singing in the classes, and extensive information (plus a tape recording) about the music to be performed at the concert have been sent to the music teachers to help them prepare their students for optimum learning experiences.

MACH's project, *Enhancing Music Appreciation Through Handbells and Handchimes*, is generously funded in part by the American Girl's Fund for Children. The Alliant Energy Foundation, as well as other businesses and individuals who support MACH through their contributions, are also helping fund the concert. The participating teachers are very enthusiastic about this project--and thrilled that there are no costs to any of the children, schools, or chaperones. All thanks go to MACH's generous supporters!

WHAT'S A MACH REHEARSAL LIKE?

We've often been asked about our MACH rehearsals -- how often we rehearse and what the rehearsals "look like". MACH prepares for two major concert series and various other engagements each year. For our "Bells of Christmas" concerts we rehearse from late August until the concerts in early December, and begin preparations for the Spring concerts in late January and rehearse until the concerts in mid May. Our regular rehearsals are on Monday evenings, 5:30 - 7:30. In addition, each semester we have several all-day-Saturday (9:30 - 3:30) rehearsals or Friday night rehearsals from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

At the beginning of each rehearsal we do some stretching, wrist exercises, knee bends, etc., to warm up and relax our bodies. Susan Udell, our director, has chosen a number of pieces for us to work on for each rehearsal. We tear each piece apart over and over in various ways until we get it right. Our time together is very intense; and we concentrate not only on the notes but also the choreography to be sure we look, as well as sound, good together.

MACH ringers are a dedicated bunch. Over the years we have had members play under various disabling conditions--from the flu to injuries. One member recently had a pacemaker inserted and made the very next rehearsal. A couple years ago another ringer had one of the larger bell cases fall on and break her foot. She limped through the whole concert and then went to Immediate Care. We all know that just one person missing from a rehearsal affects the whole group adversely and we take that seriously. "All for One, and One for All" so to speak.

We work very hard and the rehearsals are exhausting and exhilarating but the rewards are great. In addition to putting together performances we can be proud of, we are forming lasting friendships with the other ringers. We celebrate one another's accomplishments (graduation, new jobs, weddings, birthdays) and are empathetic in illness and crisis situations. Our membership occasionally changes due to new babies, growing family concerns, or moves out of the community, but we still maintain the bond that brought us together in the first place -- and we welcome back former members when they are again able to commit their time to this unique band of folks who love to be of service to others by playing handbells!

We welcome new talents as well. If you are interested in auditioning for MACH, please call our Music Director at 271-3514.

MACH PARTICIPATES AT UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

In our ongoing effort to publicize MACH and handbells, and to earn a little money, WE plan to be working at the Memorial Day weekend Brat Fest. Because the Brat Fest has outgrown its traditional location in the Hilldale Shopping Center parking lot, it is being held this year in the Alliant Energy parking lot. So look for us in our Brat Fest t-shirts, slinging brats on Monday, May 30th.

And looking ahead, we will be wrapping gifts at Barnes and Noble between Thanksgiving and Christmas (exact dates still to be determined). Aren't there some folks on your Christmas list who would just love to get a gift of a book wrapped by a ringer? We'll let you know the date(s) in our fall Messenger.

GOOD SHEPHERD RINGER JOINS MACH

The newest member of MACH, Doug Grovergrys, comes to us from the Choral Bells Choir at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Good Shepherd has two bell choirs that rehearse weekly and perform approximately monthly for Sunday services. Choral Bells, directed by Mark Bloedow, consists of twelve members who play 4 octaves of bells and up to 2 octaves of chimes. Choral Bells often performs pieces together with the organ and/or the Celebration Choir. Amazing Gospbells, directed by Diane Madsen, has approximately 8 members and performs 2-3 octave pieces.

Both choirs have a mixture of experienced ringers and some relative newcomers to bell ringing. Many of the members also share their musical gifts in other ways, whether it be singing in the choir, playing flute, piano or organ, or directing other choirs (voice and bells).

This past fall, Director of Worship & Music Mark Bloedow and the music department invited MACH to perform a concert at Good Shepherd. The concert was followed by a reception hosted by the music department with cookies, coffee, and cider. This seems to have sparked more collaboration between GSLC and MACH, with two MACH members substituting in Choral Bells for a Thanksgiving Eve service and with Mark Bloedow substitute-directing for a MACH rehearsal in March.

Since learning that their fellow choir member Doug joined MACH for the spring semester, Choral Bells members have been excited to learn more about the group and see them in action again. In fact, the choir plans to go out to dinner as a group prior to the spring concert at Asbury and then go "cheer on Doug". This exemplifies the spirit of support and the interest in ringing of the bell choirs at Good Shepherd.

Doug Grovergrys began ringing chimes in 5th grade and handbells soon after. He continued to play in college at Gustavus Adolphus and through graduate school while living in Rochester, MN. Currently, Doug works as a physical therapist at the UW Rehab & Sports Performance Clinic. In his spare time, he enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, basketball, learning the bagpipes, and working on home improvement projects with his wife, Kate.

We also welcome back our two Tricias—Suess and Thorngate—who have both been on leave.

RINGERS' 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.

Future Concert Dates:

MACH's *Bells of Christmas* Concerts for 2005 are scheduled for Saturday, December 10 (7:30 p.m.) at Asbury Methodist Church and Sunday, December 11 (3:00 p.m.) at First Congregational Church.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



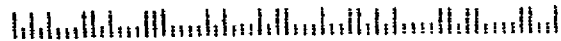
HOW TO CONTACT US

✉ P.O. Box 44056,
Madison, WI 53744-4056

☎ Call our Director, Dr. Susan Udell, at 271-3514
or Executive Director, Kristi Menninga, at 845-2476

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

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CHANNEL 3 AND R. W. BAIRD & CO. TEAM UP FOR MACH

Did you notice all those TV ads for the Madison Area Concert Handbells in late November and early December? Thanks to Channel 3 and a matching grant from R. W. Baird & Co., MACH was gifted with a total of sixty-four spots advertising our *Bells of Christmas* concerts during the morning and evening hours.

A photographer from Channel 3 worked with us at one of our rehearsals to get the footage he needed and then Channel 3 created the ad with the assent of R. W. Baird & Co. Rachel Bain, MACH President and bass bell ringer, and Susan Udell, Artistic Director, were invited to appear on one of Channel 3's early morning shows; and Live at Five closed its Thanksgiving Day program by playing one of our concert pieces.

We are very grateful for the generous and creative advertising and publicity we received, thanks to David Sanks, Vice President of Channel 3, and Dana Corbett, Manager of Baird's Madison office. Both David and Dana are members of MACH's Board of Directors and worked with their companies to achieve this fine level of support.

