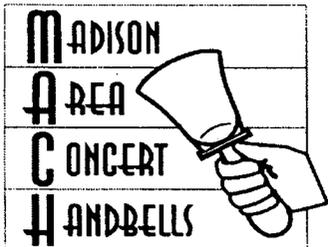


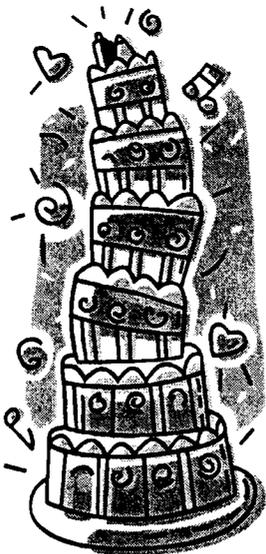
Madison Area Concert Handbells *Messenger*

Spring 2007



www.madisonhandbells.org

**It's MACH's
10th Anniversary**



Please post the
enclosed poster.
Thank you!

10th Anniversary Concert: Magical Memories

MACH's 10th anniversary will be celebrated with a wonderful program of musical favorites from past years, but first, we have a special piece to share. We will open the concert with the world premiere of a commissioned piece aptly titled *MACH TEN* by its composer, Hart Morris. We think you'll find this quite an exciting addition to our handbell repertoire!

The Disney favorite, *When You Wish Upon a Star*, follows with its more traditional type of magic. Next will be one of our all-time favorites, *Chattanooga Choo Choo*; accents and effects that can only be accomplished on handbells make this piece as much fun to watch as it is to hear. Then Bach's famous *Tocatta in D Minor* provides a Baroque note before we're back to high jinks in *The Ball* from *Children's Games* by Georges Bizet. Malletted throughout, *The Ball* bounces through many keys before ending with a *furioso* flourish. Next, *The Swan* from Camille Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* glides with lovely chiming tones over a tranquil sea of handbell arpeggios. Two vocalists then join us in reenacting a medley of tunes from *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan before Gliere's rollicking *Russian Sailors' Dance* closes the first half of our concert.

An interplay of chimes and handbells is featured in *Spring Sea*, a beautiful piece written and arranged by Japanese musicians. Aram Khachaturian's frenetic *Sabre Dance* provides a fast and familiar fortissimo contrast, and then Edvard Grieg's *In The Hall of the Mountain King* begins slowly and mysteriously, building to a great rush of final chords. A lively Viennese polka follows as the choir performs the *Tritsch-Tratsch Polka* by Johann Strauss, Sr. and then it's samba time with percussion enhancing the catchy tune entitled *Brazil*. *Pick a Winner*, a piece that's completely plucked, follows, and we'll close with John Philip Sousa's rousing *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

Chosen by audience and ringer surveys, most of the pieces in this concert are classics of music literature. Listeners will appreciate their nuances afresh when hearing them performed by our auditioned ringers and fine guest artists. This is a concert the whole family will enjoy; we invite you to join us! Both performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 12th, MATC's Mitby Theater on the Truax Campus, Madison
Saturday, May 19th, Asbury United Methodist Church, 6101 University Avenue

Tickets are available at Orange Tree Imports on Monroe Street and at Borders Book Shops.

Advance tickets: \$12 adults, \$9 youth (16 and under) and seniors.

At the door: \$15 adults, \$10 youth and seniors.

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

The Magical Commissioning of the 10th Anniversary Composition

Inquiries to several composers regarding such a commission made us think that we couldn't possibly afford this special frosting on our anniversary cake! However, one of our ringers, Sally Meredith, was not to be discouraged. She contacted former and present ringers and soon had promises of donations to help us toward our goal. As a final clincher, news of our commissioning dream reached the Madison Community Foundation, and the John A. Johnson Foundation made a generous donation that not only helped us meet commissioning costs, but also is helping fund the world premiere performance and allowing us to make a CD of the concert under studio conditions. This outpouring of support from the community was truly magical and we are very grateful. Thank you, one and all!

A Brief Bio of Our Commissioned Composer: Hart Morris

Over the years, MACH has performed several pieces that were either composed or arranged for bells by Hart Morris (e.g. *Zekiel's Got Shoes*, *Emma's Theme*, *Feliz Navidad*, and *Blue Christmas*). His *Brazil* with its catchy percussive effects will be included in our May concerts. Hart's work has always had a special appeal and we are pleased that he accepted our commissioning proposal.

Hart Morris has been Minister of Music at Asbury United Methodist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma since August 1992, having previously served in the same capacity for churches in Florida, Texas and Tennessee. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma (B.M., Church Music/Voice), and the University of Houston, Houston, Texas (M.M., Choral Conducting), with additional studies in percussion at Oklahoma City University and the University of Houston. He was named a Distinguished Alumni in 2004, and Distinguished Music Alumni, 2005, by Oklahoma Baptist University.

Hart has served as a clinician for the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers' National Seminars and Festivals, and has led numerous AGEHR Conferences and workshops; he has twice served as AGEHR conductor for International Handbell Symposia. He is a published composer/arranger of handbell and choral music, and a co-founder of Red River Music, Inc., Tyler, Texas.

Hart and his wife, Marty, are the parents of two grown children, and the proud grandparents of Emma, Harper, Abby, Riley, Hope, Miles and Sutton.

Reflections on the 2006 Christmas Season

Getting the word out about our concerts has always been a challenge, but this year we were helped immensely by a collaboration of TV Channel 3 and the R. W. Baird and Company who joined forces to fund TV advertising for us. Our thanks to Channel 3's David Sanks and R. W. Baird's Dana Corbett for supporting this advertising.

In addition, Channel 3 invited MACH to appear on their early morning show. All ringers and the director set up our bells and equipment at 5:30 a.m. on a snowy December morning and we played for the 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. show. Backstage at the TV studio was an eye-opening experience (pun intended) and was really a lot of fun!

We performed three ticketed concerts in December, reaching our largest audiences to date, and also performed for audiences at the UW Children's Hospital and Oakwood Village West's Retirement Community.

Many Thanks to Our Concert Underwriters!

Our Magical Memories concerts are being presented with the support of the Norman Bassett Foundation of Madison and the Wahlin Foundation on behalf of Stoughton Trailers in Stoughton, Wisconsin. We sincerely appreciate their generous support!

A big "Thank you" also goes to Thompson Investment Management for having underwritten our Best of Bells of Christmas concerts!

Spring Ring -- A Real Fling-Ding!

If you've ever attended one of MACH's concerts, you know the beauty of seeing those gleaming bronze bells circling like dancers in unison, especially on final notes, and you've heard the crispness of strongly accented notes (martellatos) played in tandem by our 14 ringers. Now picture four long rows of bell ringers, 90 ringers in all, beautifully in sync whether raising high their bells or striking those martellatos on the table—It was a thrill to see and hear them at the Spring Ring festival of massed choirs on Saturday, March 17th.

Eight choirs participated in this full day of rehearsals and the concert that followed. For those unfamiliar with massed ringing, all of the participating choirs had received their music early in the Fall and rehearsed their pieces when they weren't busy preparing other music for their own programs. Their directors had prepared them well, for when we met for the first time at 9 a.m. on March 17th, the rehearsal went very smoothly, with only occasional refining touches needed to achieve massed musicality. After a catered lunch, our guest artists rehearsed with us: Carrie Ingebritsen, soprano; Randy Roisum, trumpet; and Jason Roberts, timpani and other percussion. A brief break allowed all to change into concert dress and then the concert began at 3 p.m. Our audience members filled every available chair and were most enthusiastic in their applause. In addition to the six pieces performed by all the choirs, four of the choirs played solos: Bethany United Methodist Church, First Congregational UCC, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Madison Area Concert Handbells. Other ringers participating were from Bethel Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church of Rockford, Illinois, a second choir from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church of Mayville, Wisconsin, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church from Arlington, Wisconsin. Jared Stellmacher played a piano solo during the free will offering.

The Spring Ring was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's west campus on Highway PD, Verona. Our thanks go to Mark Bloedow, Director of Worship and Music at Good Shepherd Lutheran's central church, for his help with arrangements, to his church's Friends of Music Committee for providing breakfast goodies, to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Monona for loaning their timpani, and to all who helped make this event such a success. The festival was sponsored in part by the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin.

Soar with the Eagles—Eagle School, that is!

Two years ago, when MACH conducted its program in the Madison schools, Ken Stancer was one of the cooperating music teachers. Now, also teaching at the private Eagle School in Madison, Ken invited MACH to teach classes in chime and bell ringing and then give a concert. In February, Susan Udell and Kristi Menninga taught twelve classes of grades 1-8; and the following week, MACH's ringers performed a short concert for all the students. A generous grant from the Powers-Woolf Family Trust at Eagle School helped support this project. It was wonderful to work with such enthusiastic and highly motivated students!

Future Concert Dates:

MACH's *Bells of Christmas* Concerts for 2007 are scheduled for:

Friday, December 7, 2007; Asbury Methodist Church; 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 8, 2007; Asbury Methodist Church; 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 9, 2007; First Congregational Church; 3:00 p.m.

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

See & hear us on the Web!
www.madisonhandbells.org

Madison, Middleton, and Waunakee are next.....

In April, the MACH team will again teach in the public schools, this time in Middleton and Waunakee as well as in Madison. We will work with 840 students in 34 classes. On May 2nd, the full MACH choir will present *Bellissimo!*, a concert for all participating students at the Middleton Performing Arts Center. There is no cost to the students or schools thanks to generous support from the American Girl Fund for Children, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, Alliant Energy, the UW-Madison Retirement Association, the Waunakee Rotary Club, and individual contributors to MACH.

CALLING ALL EXPERIENCED RINGERS

If you'd like to ring challenging and enjoyable music with a focused, fun-loving group, please call our Music Director (271-3514) and schedule an audition.

