

MADISON

AREA

CONCERT

HANDBELLS



www.madisonhandbells.org

## Madison Area Concert Handbells

# Messenger

Spring 2009

Dear MACH Friends,

This Spring we are off on an exciting musical voyage—and we hope you will join us! Our **Baroque & Beyond** Spring concerts will be presented at **St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Monona on Sunday, May 3rd at 3:00pm** and at **Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison on Saturday, May 9th at 7:30pm**. Our preferred travel for this musical excursion will be on water, specifically sailing—not only sailing through musical time, but sailing to various countries and experiencing various musical styles.

As we get ready to set sail, we will enjoy a festive send off with Arnold Sherman's original handbell composition entitled *Festa*—a joyful musical celebration with organ and brass, too! Our first destination is music of the Baroque period with Jean Joseph Mouret's *Rondeau* (the theme from television's Masterpiece Theater) and J. S. Bach's *Little Fugue in G Minor* (originally written for organ and transcribed for handbells by Michael Kastner).

Next on our itinerary is the Classical period—with *Serenade* by Joseph Haydn and Beethoven's beloved *Fur Elise*. From there we sail on to the Romantic period with *Hungarian Dance No. 5* by Brahms (one of music's three Bs—the other two being Bach and Beethoven). Our visit to the Twentieth Century musical period brings us back to America with George Gershwin's *Prelude*. Reflecting on our *Baroque & Beyond* theme, and remembering our visit to the Baroque period, we'll close Part I with Handel's joyous *Allegro Maestoso* from *Water Music*!

After intermission, our voyage will take a few twists and turns with a variety of music reflecting various water themes and musical styles from various countries. *Sail Away (Orinoco Flow)* by Enya will start things off as we leave port. Along the way we will hear *El Condor Pasa* by Jorge Milchberg & Daniel Robles (later recorded by Simon and Garfunkel), and the Disney favorite *Under the Sea*, from *The Little Mermaid* by Academy Award winning composer Alan Menken.

As our time together on this pleasant trip nears its end, will be treated to a “blast from the past” with the fifties favorite, *Rock Around the Clock*, by Max Freeman, Jimmy DeKnight, and arranged by John Edmondson. We will wrap things up with a quick, festive visit to the Caribbean featuring *Jamaican Rumba* by Arthur Benjamin and arranged by Philip Lang. After completing our busy schedule of musical visits, we will take some time to relax on the beach—with a Beach Boys favorite—*Good Vibrations*!

I hope you will join us for a celebration of great music from the Baroque...and beyond!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark".

Mark Bloedow, Associate Director

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

## **MACH Continues Outreach Programs, In Spite of the Weak Economy**

Like most organizations, MACH has been financially impacted by the current recession. Since the middle of 2008, donations have been down by 39%. Nevertheless, it is important for us to remain as visible and active as possible. To that end we are happy to report that MACH has made extraordinary efforts to continue its community outreach programs in 2009.

For the fifth year in a row, MACH will enhance music programs in the public schools. This Spring, Dr. Susan Udell and Kristi Menninga will lead handchime classes for 4th and 5th graders in Cambridge, McFarland, DeForest, and Waunakee. Our full choir will treat the participating students to a concert on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Middleton Performing Arts Center directed by MACH's Associate Director, Mark Bloedow. MACH's school outreach project has received positive evaluations in the past, so we have worked hard to obtain grants to support this project, since it is not included in MACH's regular budget. We are grateful for the support of the Alliant Energy Foundation, Courtier Foundation, Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, Evjue Foundation, and Wisconsin Arts Board to make this project possible.

Also this spring, MACH will continue its performances at area retirement communities, which will also be directed by Mark Bloedow. Our concerts provide uplifting and interactive educational experiences for residents and have been very well received in the past. It is a privilege to share our music with folks who cannot otherwise attend or participate in cultural events.

Finally, on March 30th, Mark Bloedow and the MACH team will treat students of Madison East High School to a special performance as part of their Fine Arts Week. This is an excellent opportunity for MACH to share the joy and excitement of a live handbell performance. We are grateful to the MACH ringers and their employers for adjusting work schedules to make this possible, and to Karen Paschke, teacher at Madison East High School and MACH ringer, for inviting us and making the arrangements at the school.

Our thanks go to all of MACH's contributors. It is their generosity that funds these outreach concerts for the students, elderly and infirm.

### **What are MACH's Expenses?**

MACH could not exist without the dedication and commitment of our ringers who volunteer their time and talent for rehearsals and performances. These exceptional musicians give a minimum of four or more hours of their time every week, for about 40 weeks of the year. Additionally, MACH benefits from an all-volunteer Board of Directors, which works to ensure that the organization runs as smoothly as possible.

In order to make our Christmas and Spring concerts possible, and in order to fund the community outreach activities that make our group unique, MACH must find funding for various expenses. These include rental of rehearsal and performance space, purchase of music, insurance, advertising, and transportation for MACH's instruments and equipment. Further expenses include CD production and copyright licenses, guest musicians, printing, and personnel. Keeping MACH ringing comes at considerable cost, but we think it's well worth it!

MACH does its best to keep costs down, but we rely heavily on contributions from grantors, corporations, and individuals. If you have not yet had an opportunity to contribute to MACH, there is still time to make a difference. Your contribution, no matter what size, helps MACH continue to provide services to the community.

## On The Road Again!

In February, the MACH ringers were invited to perform with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras (WYSO) Percussion Ensemble for their eighth annual Percussion Extravaganza (titled *Tintinnabulation*) under the direction of Vicki Peterson Jenks. MACH was a featured ensemble, presented several solo selections directed by Mark Bloedow, and enjoyed collaborating on several selections with some of the area's most talented young percussionists under the direction of Vicki Jenks.

Other concerts that fall under the Community Service arm of MACH include several concerts in our Retirement Community Concert Series in April and May and a special School Concert at the end of April. All of these concerts will feature the full MACH choir and various guests artists under the direction of Mark Bloedow.

If you are interested in learning more about our community service activities or would like to attend one of our extra concerts to experience the value these programs have in the community, please contact Shawn Ray, MACH's Executive Director, at (608) 260-2456 or at [execdir@madisonhandbells.org](mailto:execdir@madisonhandbells.org).

## MACH's Newest Additions

Welcome back, Catherine Faley! **Catherine Faley** has been playing handbells since 1989. Her ringing career began at Edgewood High School and continued throughout college in a church choir in Oshkosh, WI. Catherine joined MACH in the fall of 2000. She was a learning disabilities teacher in Waunakee for many years before she had children.

**Marsha Steffen** began her handbell career in 1991 at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. She has an extensive musical background beginning with piano at age 8 and including pipe organ (church organist), and flute throughout high school and college. She recently retired from the UW University Health Service as a nurse clinician. Her husband, Bob, and three grown children all have piano backgrounds, as well as experience with saxophone, percussion and organ. She enjoys traveling to the Oregon coast, ushering at the Overture Center, reading, and of course, music. She joined MACH this year.



After receiving enthusiastic support from Dr. Susan Udell and the MACH Board Members, Mark Bloedow has returned to MACH as their Associate Music Director. In addition, Mark is the Director of Worship & Music, principal organist, and director of Chancel Choir, Choral Bells, and the Men's Ensemble at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison. At Good Shepherd, he manages a staff of full-time and part-time music directors in leading a variety of music programs for all ages at both of the church's campuses (Central Campus, Madison; West Campus, Verona). He is also Artistic & Executive Director of Maestro Productions, Inc., the non-profit ecumenical arts organization he founded in 1989.

## 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 Dr. Susan Udell, MACH's Music Director, at (608) 271-3514

## Many Thanks to Our Spring Concerts Underwriter

*Our Spring concerts, Baroque & Beyond, have been generously underwritten by Irwin and Robert Goodman. MACH appreciates having this support in these challenging times.*

*Of course, our concerts would also not be possible without individuals like you, who serve a very important function by contributing to MACH and being our audience members!*

*Mark Your Calendars!*

## ***Baroque & Beyond***

*Associate Director: Mark Bloedow*

**Sunday, May 3, 2009** at 3:00 p.m.  
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
5700 Pheasant Hill Rd., Monona

**Saturday, May 9, 2009** at 7:30 p.m.  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
6101 University Ave., Madison

Address Service Requested

### How to Contact Us:



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See and hear us on the Web!  
[www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org)

## **Fundraising Program to Help MACH**

You can help to support MACH through the Simplified SCRIP Program. SCRIP is a term used to describe gift cards or gift certificates that contribute a designated percentage to a school or organization. Amounts of contributions vary, depending on the merchant issuing the gift card. From gasoline or groceries to electronics or clothing, you will find SCRIP can be used to purchase almost anything.

Here's how it works: You can purchase Simplified SCRIP Cards to spend just like cash for yourself or use them as gifts. When these gift cards are purchased, a percentage of the amount spent is donated to MACH. You receive the full amount while also supporting MACH! There is a nominal cost for shipping the gift cards – less than \$1 for up to six cards.

There are over 100 Madison area merchants included in the SCRIP program. Visit the Simplified Scrip website, [www.schooltimesnet.com](http://www.schooltimesnet.com), where you can print order forms and see a full listing of the participating merchants.

## **How to Get Concert Tickets**

Tickets for our Spring concert, Baroque & Beyond, will be available in advance at Borders East and West, Orange Tree Imports, and online at [www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org).

Tickets will also be available at the door. Advance ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$9 for students. Tickets at the door are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students.