



# Madison Area Concert Handbells

## *Messenger*

Spring 2010

Dear Friends,

As you may know, our Founding Director, Dr. Susan Udell, retired in December after twelve years of devotion to establishing the MACH organization in the Madison arts community. Susan was recognized at the Christmas concerts with gifts and the honorary title of Music Director Emeritus. I am pleased to have been named MACH's new Music Director, after having served previously as Associate Music Director. I look forward to building on the successes of the past with an eye toward developing new possibilities for an exciting future. Thank you for your support and encouragement as together we continue MACH's tradition of excellence in Madison and beyond!

And now for a word about our Spring concerts. The hit television show "Dancing with The Stars" has brought the joy of dancing to viewers across America—exciting choreography, great music, and outstanding showmanship have all been a big part of the show's success. Just like the show, our Spring Concerts, "*Ringing With the Stars*," will offer outstanding performances with a star-studded line-up of great music! And although we are not planning on any celebrity dancers or performance critiques, we would so enjoy having you attend as part of our concert audience. Please plan to join us!

"*Ringing With the Stars*" is a program celebrating stars--not just the twinkling stars in the sky (although, we will be visiting those too), but also the stars of Classical and Popular music.

Our Classical stars will include arrangements of music by such greats as Johann Pachelbel (*Canon in D*), George Frideric Handel, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (a transcription of his fanciful piano solo on the tune of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*), Ludwig Van Beethoven (a setting of *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*), and Gabriel Faure (*Berceuse*). All of these arrangements are by stars of handbell composition today including Janet Linker, Jane McFadden, William Mathis, Arnold Sherman, Kevin McChesney, and Mary Kay Parrish. Also included will be two original works by star handbell composers Sondra Tucker (*Paeon*) and Cynthia Dobrinski (*Festive Rondo*).

The second half of the program opens with a VERY unique original piece called "Andromeda" which recreates a travel experience to a distant galaxy. The stars of Popular music follow with handbell arrangements of well known selections including *The Best of John Williams* (*Olympic Fanfare*, *Star Wars Theme* and more), the Disney favorite *When You Wish Upon a Star*, a medley from *Phantom of the Opera*, the Josh Groban inspirational favorite *You Raise Me Up*, and closing with the ever popular *Stars & Stripes Forever* by John Philip Sousa.

We look forward to having you as our supporting stars in the audience...please join us for a fun-filled performance,

Mark Bloedow, Music Director

### **Ringing With the Stars!**

#### **Concerts**

**Sunday, May 2, 3:00pm**  
**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Monona**  
**Saturday, May 8, 7:00pm**  
**Asbury United Methodist Church, Madison**

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

## Building on Past Successes...On the Road!

MACH performed for an enthusiastic audience last December at Sinsinawa Mound Retreat Center, Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, in their beautiful Queen of the Holy Rosary Chapel. Arranged in early 2009, MACH looked forward to the concert for nearly a year. Conducted by Music Director Emeritus, Dr. Susan Udell, audience members were treated to a varied program of Christmas music. The audience enjoyed MACH's performance so much they quickly bought every available CD! In a recent e-mail inviting the group to return for another concert, Sheila Heim, Director of Outreach for the center, said "the Sisters and staff are still raving about last December's concert."

Last year also included an invitation from the Richland Center Concert Association for MACH to be a part of their 2010-2011 Season. MACH's new Music Director, Mark Bloedow, will conduct the MACH Ensemble in a concert, "Ringling With the Stars!," at the Town & Country Presbyterian Church in Richland Center on Sunday, April 18th at 2:00 p.m.

If you know of a concert venue that would like to hire MACH, please call Shawn Ray, Executive Director, at (608) 260-2456 or email [execdir@madisonhandbells.org](mailto:execdir@madisonhandbells.org).

## Check Us Out Online

### Facebook

MACH has stepped into the 21st century and created an account on Facebook. If you would like to become a friend of MACH, search for "Madison Area Concert Handbells" and join our group! If you join, you can ask your friends to join. If your friends have friends that join, MACH's fan-base can increase exponentially.

### YouTube

MACH also has an account set up on YouTube for you to view videos of past concerts. If you would like to view this webpage, please visit [www.youtube.com/machandbells](http://www.youtube.com/machandbells).

## Giftcard Fundraising Program Changes

There has been a change to our gift card fundraising program. Simplified Scrip, the company we have been using for fundraising, has ceased operations and will no longer be accepting orders. MACH will continue our fundraising program at a more local level, with City-Scrip. City-Scrip is a community-focused enterprise that assists schools and other not-for-profit organizations in fundraising activities. As a customer, you can purchase discounted gift certificates for local businesses in the Madison area.

Using City-Scrip is easy. You shop by category, save 50% on everything you find, and when you check out, 20% of your purchase is donated to MACH courtesy of the participating merchants.

Visit <http://www.city-scrip.com/> to see a list of businesses, register for free, and begin shopping. **Be sure to select Madison Area Concert Handbells as your group to support.**

## MACH in the Community

### Edgewood High School Fine Arts Festival

*What do you get when you combine an early-morning snowy day on a February Tuesday in Madison and several vans FULL of bells, chimes, and equipment? The MACH Team taking the show on the road!*

We were so pleased to be invited by Ann Nelson, of the Music Department at Edgewood High School, to be a part of their Fine Arts Festival. Our 7:50am concert received great appreciation from the students and staff attending, and we so enjoyed sharing our music with them. The students especially enjoyed "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid" and the 1950's favorite "Rock Around the Clock." Although past seasons have also included handchime teaching and a concert for fourth and fifth graders from area schools, we were unable to offer it this year due to lack of sufficient funding.

### Retirement Concerts Receive Grant Support



For a number of years now, MACH has been privileged to receive grant support from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission (DCCAC) to host concerts at retirement communities in the county. We are pleased to have received grant support again, and will offer concerts this year at Meadowmere Assisted Living (April 9), Coventry Village (April 11), and Attic Angel Place (April 12). In addition to playing selected pieces from our Spring Concerts, the audience members are invited to learn to play handchimes while others sing along to a mix of familiar songs. It's great fun for the MACH Team and residents.

These concerts provide a wonderful opportunity to adults that are unable to attend our regular concerts. The concerts are funded with partial support from the DCCAC grant, honorariums from the facilities, and other corporate and individual donations given by people like you. Thank you everyone for your help! If you would like to support this community service program, or attend one of the 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).

## Meet Mark Bloedow, MACH's New Music Director

After receiving enthusiastic support from Dr. Susan Udell, Music Director Emeritus, MACH Board Members, and our audience members, Mark Bloedow, has returned to MACH in 2010 as their Music Director. He previously served as MACH's Associate Music Director. In addition to directing the choir year-round, Mark is also the Director of Worship & Music, principal organist, and director of Chancel Choir and Choral Bells 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 Executive Director of Handbell Week, a four-day intensive handbell performance workshop featuring a guest clinician. He has published works for handbells and organ with leading music publishers including Concordia Publishing House and MorningStar Music Publishers.



### **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 Shawn Ray, MACH's Executive Director, at (608) 260-2456.

How to Contact Us:



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Madison, WI 53744-4056



Music Director:  
Mark Bloedow  
musicdir@madisonhandbells.org



Executive Director:  
Shawn Ray  
(608) 260-2456

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

*Mark Your Calendars!*

**Sunday, May 2, 2010** at 3:00 p.m.  
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
5700 Pheasant Hill Rd., Monona

**Saturday, May 8, 2010** at 7:00 p.m.  
Asbury United Methodist Church  
6101 University Ave., Madison



## Free Admission!

**We need your help to spread the word:** All children 16 & under will receive free admission starting with our May concerts, Ringing with the Stars! MACH is looking forward to expanding our audience to include more children and youth by reaching out in this unique way.

By offering free admission, we hope to increase our audience size, ticket sales, and more importantly welcome more children, youth, and families to our concerts to experience the joy and excitement of a live handbell concert. Please let your friends and neighbors know about our upcoming concerts on May 2nd and May 8th.

## How to Get Concert Tickets

Tickets for our Spring concert, Ringing with the Stars, are 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 seniors and students (over 16 years old). Tickets at the door are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.