

How to contact us:



Madison Area Concert Handbells
PO Box 44056
Madison, WI 53744-4056



Music Director:
Mark Bloedow
musicdir@madisonhandbells.org

See and hear us on the web!
www.madisonhandbells.org
www.youtube.com/machandbells

Mark your calendar for

Americana Celebration!

Sunday, May 1, 2011
3:00 pm

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona

Saturday, May 7, 2011
7:00 pm

Asbury United Methodist Church
6101 University Avenue, Madison

Address Service Requested

Americana Celebration!

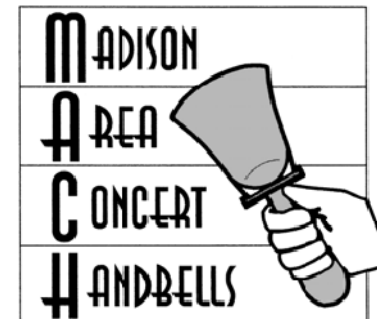
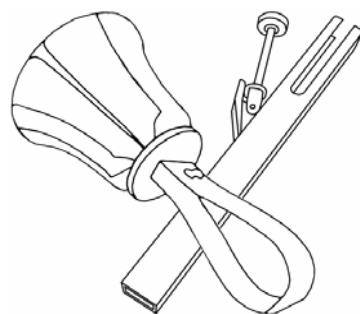
How to Get Concert Tickets

Tickets for our Spring concert, *Americana Celebration!*, are available in advance at Borders East, Orange Tree Imports, Metcalfe's Market, Ward-Brodts Music, and online at www.madisonhandbells.org.

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

Are you an experienced ringer? Come ring with us!

Does playing challenging and enjoyable music with a fun-loving group whet your appetite? Are you a director who would also like to do some ringing? Here's the opportunity you've been waiting for! To arrange an audition, contact Music Director Mark Bloedow at musicdir@madisonhandbells.org.



www.madisonhandbells.org

Madison Area Concert Handbells

Messenger

Spring 2011

Americana Celebration!

Dear Friends,

It's time for a celebration...and you're invited! Come ready to enjoy a grand old time reminiscing and enjoying some great American music. From folk songs, spirituals, and American hymn tunes to Broadway tunes, patriotic favorites, and sounds from the big band era...Americana Celebration has it all!

We open with "Festa," an exciting original work for handbells by well-known American handbell composer and arranger Arnold Sherman--you'll enjoy the sparkling bell tree fanfare! Two folk songs follow, "Fantasy on an American Folk Tune" (Shenandoah) and a light jazzy setting of the familiar Shaker song "Simple Gifts." We continue with African American spirituals including a creative setting of "Wade in the Water" (listen for the flowing water with the bass mallet rolls) and "Free At Last" by Wisconsin handbell arranger Jeffrey Honore. Part one closes with reflections on American hymn tunes including the timeless and beloved "Amazing Grace" and an exuberant close with Honore's "Dance Americana." Although it's not a dance piece per se, you'll be dancing all during intermission, especially after the rhythmic and very exciting ending...enjoy the bell fireworks!

After intermission we will visit the Broadway scene with a George Cohan medley including the memorable "Give My Regards to Broadway." Next we'll have some fun seeing how many American folk tunes and other songs you can name in Raymond Herbek's "Americana"—don't worry, this will be easy!

We continue with the jazz favorite "Take Five" and one of the Beach Boys' number one hits, the popular "Good Vibrations" (I won't give it away, but keep your eyes open for some added "moves" on this one!). No celebration of American music would be complete without including patriotic songs and a march—we have them both, including a handbell quartet playing a setting of "This Is My Country." Also included is "Salute to America," a medley with organ and handbells, and "The Liberty Bell March" by John Philip Sousa, arranged by American handbell composer and arranger extraordinaire Cathy Moglebust.

You might be wondering what more could there possibly be...the finale is a true American Classic from the big band era, "In the Mood"—did you ever think you would hear it on handbells?

We hope you will join us for a great time for all ages at our Americana Celebration!

Mark Bloedow
Music Director

Americana Celebration!

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3:00 pm

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Student / Senior \$9
At the door: Adult \$15
Student / Senior \$12

Please see back page for more ticket information.

MACH in the Community

MACH to Perform at Madison East Fine Arts Week

What do you call it when you put 70+ handbells and 400+ high school students in the same room? You call it Fine Arts Week at Madison East High School. Every spring Madison East celebrates the arts and invites groups and individuals from among the students, staff, and community to present art in many forms, from pottery to fashion to music. For the second time, MACH will be performing for an audience of hundreds of teenagers.



Karen Paschke, MACH member and mathematics teacher at East, prides herself with never, ever giving her students a "free day." They don't even ask anymore. To ensure that this day could not be interpreted as such, Karen teaches them a bit of the physics of bells, explaining how the Doppler Effect is the cause of the fluctuating tone of the tower swing. (If you are curious, come to our concerts on May 1 or May 7 and ask.)

Do seventeen-year-olds actually like handbell music? Yes, they do! They were a very attentive and excited audience to play for. Karen became a bit of a celebrity last time MACH played at Fine Arts Week. Students and staff approached her for days asking questions about bells and expressing surprise

at the number of different sounds that bells could make. Three of her students even painted their faces with M-A-C-H, something that is exceedingly rare at MACH's regular concerts.

Your Support is Appreciated!

MACH has grown throughout the years by offering seasonal concerts, educational workshops, and festivals in the community, region, and state. Although our ringers volunteer hundreds of hours of rehearsal and performance time, there are many costs associated with producing concerts and events. Some of these include music, rehearsal and performance space, concert advertising, postage and printing, compensation for guest artists, technical assistance, and artistic and administrative staff expenses.

Whether you are a long-time supporter or new friend, we invite you to consider helping us continue to make a positive impact on the artistic and cultural life in our community by making a financial contribution. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your contribution to MACH is fully tax-deductible as your individual tax situation allows. Please mail your gift to:

Madison Area Concert Handbells
P. O. Box 44056
Madison, WI, 53744-4056

*Thank you for your support –
it is greatly appreciated!*



Farewell to Sally Meredith

Sally Meredith, one of MACH's four remaining charter members, will be retiring this summer and leaving MACH at the end of this season. She has been a very dedicated part of the team--we will miss her special charm and wit, her cooking and seamstress skills, and of course, her handbell artistry. We will miss you Sally and hope you keep on ringing in your new home! Enjoy reading below Sally's reflections on her time with MACH:

I'm finishing my fourteenth season with MACH, which, sadly, will be my last, as I plan to move nearer my daughter and grandchildren as I retire this summer. MACH has been a wonderful opportunity for me, allowing for group music making, travel, and knowing about 50 people I would not otherwise have met. You likely have no idea what a wonderful, accepting, intelligent, funny, coherent group of folks this is. Our friendships span differences in age, gender, height, weight, culture, religion, talent, sexual orientation and politics. It's the kind of group we need more of in this world.

I remember:

- my first MACH function, a potluck at Kristi's house, July, 1997. (I missed the very first organizing meeting because of vacation.)
- many wonderful potlucks since
- Dalcroze, those rhythm-teaching exercises music teachers swear by and students swear at. I fell on one of the turns, stepped aside, and others skipped by saying "I should have thought of that...."
- playing on the roof at Monona Terrace, wearing sunglasses for the glare off the lake
- playing next to Melodie at Olbrich after she had fractured her foot by dropping a bell case on it during set-up. I knew she was in pain because of her ragged breathing. It distracted me, but she played as accurately as ever.
- introducing Virginia Highlands Suite during the spring, 2000 concert. I prepared remarks by doing research on the internet, then Alice interrupted my spiel with "You made that up!" Hilarious.
- the reverberation of that first martellato at St. Bernard's
- how excited we were the first time we played with the Madison Symphony
- trying to ignore clowns, jugglers, dancers, and Elvis
- Jon galloping around the sanctuary on a stick horse during Bells-A-Poppin'
- Rachel's cheesecakes
- that crazy exercise Susan had us do while singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic"
- "the train" method of moving big bell cases
- Jackie's stories
- more than one pregnancy planned around performance schedules
- hawking little Bucky cow bells outside Camp Randall Stadium on football Saturdays
- playing slapstick on Sleigh Ride



MACH Welcomes New Ringer Jaime Henderson

Jaime Henderson began playing handbells in junior high in Victoria, Texas. Since then she has played in various choirs, most recently in Houston, Texas. Her musical background also includes piano, French horn and singing in church choirs. Jaime is the Director of Content Development at Web Courseworks here in Madison, where she oversees development of web-based training programs. She recently relocated with her husband and four-year-old son to Madison, where her husband is pursuing his PhD. In her down time she is currently enjoying exploring her new home state, especially after surviving her first real winter!