



## Madison Area Concert Handbells

# Messenger

Spring  
2014

### Watch out for *MACH on the MOVE!*

I'm sure we are quite a sight about town on concert weekends: that procession of cars and vans filled to the roof with pads, tables, and cases making our way from one venue to the next, led by some sort of pied piper in an unmarked, windowless white panel van. Don't alert the neighborhood watch, though — that's just MACH on the move. We don't travel light and we don't travel fast, but after 17 years we sure have this moving thing down.

To commemorate the way we schlep, and in celebration of our move to a new rehearsal home at Oakwood Village, the Madison Area Concert Handbells and I are excited to present *MACH on the MOVE*.

The program begins with a nod to classic composers' takes on movement. Marches by Percy Granger and John Phillip Sousa, a hunting song by Felix Mendelssohn, a *Renaissance Dance* by Praetorius, and Kevin McChesney's fiery setting of *Lord of the Dance* augment the lush quietude and impressionist colors of a *Pavane* (slow dance) by Maurice Ravel and a *Berceuse* (rocking cradle song) by Gabriel Faure.

We continue our salute to movement by looking at two ways we move, by water and by air. *Wade in the Water* and a freshly minted setting of *The Water Is Wide* by Wisconsin composer Sandra Eithun will be featured. *Escape Velocity* is an exciting new piece by Jason Krug. Written as a tribute to the NASA Space Program, you will hear the quiet before a morning launch, followed by the Space Shuttle's majestic lift-off, orbit, and invigorating re-entry to Earth. Karen Lakey Buckwalter's setting of *In Bright Mansions Above* incorporates Magee's poem "High Flight" (made famous by Ronald Reagan's speech to the nation following the Challenger disaster) and features our own Nancy Evans on piano. We finish the program in the tropics, with Cuban composer Ernesto Leucona's saucy *The Breeze and I*.

It's a program sure to have you up and moving! We hope to see you in May for *MACH on the MOVE*.

*Brad*

### Meet our New Director



After a year-long search, we are thrilled to welcome **Brad Schultz** as our Music Director. Brad is on the faculty at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, teaching courses in sacred music, organ, and music major core classes. He also serves as a musician to the student congregation, leading worship in Luther's Center for Faith and Life. Brad holds a Master's of Sacred Music degree in Organ Performance from Emory University in Atlanta, where he studied organ with Timothy Albrecht. His undergraduate studies at Luther College encompassed tuba performance, vocal and instrumental music education and church music.

Brad has served as church musician to congregations in Iowa, Minnesota, Idaho and Georgia, and as a musician to the student congregation at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. He is also a frequent recitalist, conductor and educator, having recently appeared with the community Chorale of Waseca, Minnesota, his hometown, in addition to a wide spectrum of vocal, handbell and instrumental church ensembles of all ages.

## MACH on the Move (Really!)

Since 1997 when MACH was founded, our rehearsal space has been at Asbury Church on University Avenue in Madison. That is where we had all of our Monday evening and Saturday rehearsals. We don't travel lightly so we take up quite a bit of storage space—28 bell and chime cases, 4 music stands, 7 plastic totes, music risers, 2 bell trees, 10 tables, 10 table pads, a bass chime stand—and that's just part of it! Last fall Asbury Church notified us that they needed our storage space for the expansion of their activities, which meant it was time for us to find a new "home." After exploring several options, we found a new site at Oakwood Village University Woods on Mineral Point Road. They have provided us with a portion of a storage closet and rehearsal space in one of their activity rooms.

One of the bonuses of this location is that it comes with heated underground parking! We were especially grateful for that this past winter. Since this location is a retirement community, they keep the temperature nice and warm, which makes some of us cold-blooded people (Jackie, David, Kathie) very happy. The warm-blooded people (Rachel, Andy) are learning to come to rehearsal in t-shirts...

We're still settling in, but it seems to be a good fit for us. We've even had a few residents listening in on our rehearsals, and they seem to enjoy the music as much as we do.

We would like to thank Asbury Church for providing us with rehearsal and storage space for so many years and the staff and residents of Oakwood Village for making us feel welcome in our new "home"!

## "I AM A BELL RINGER"



We always get a kick out of seeing this on the aprons of the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign workers each Christmas season because we

are bell ringers all year long. So this past December, we decided to be both. And since we have the equipment, we thought how fun it would be to do more than just "ring a bell"! So eight members of MACH, with our handbells in hand, rang Christmas carols at the Salvation Army kettles at East Towne and West Towne malls.

The Dane County Salvation Army Kettle Campaign funds support local programs for at-risk youth, and offer shelter, food, and counseling to homeless families and single women. Of the over half-a-million dollars raised by the 2013 Red Kettle campaign, MACH brought in nearly \$400 during the times we volunteered (based on an hourly average).

We had a lot of fun and were well-received by passersby. We look forward to making this a yearly tradition and continuing to support a great local cause!



## 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, performance space, concert advertising, postage and printing, compensation for guest artists, technical assistance, and artistic 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

## MACH Welcomes New Ringer Kezia Weigel-Sterr

**Kezia Weigel-Sterr** is a senior at Monona Grove High School. She has been ringing handbells since fifth grade when she began ringing with the handbell choir at St. Bernard Catholic Church. She also has played clarinet since sixth grade.



Next year she will be attending UW-Madison to major in Sports Medicine. She enjoys running, playing sports, reading, and being artistic. She also has a job as a lifeguard and swim instructor.

Welcome, Kezia!

## Joint Concert with Luther Ringers

# LUTHER COLLEGE

MACH will join forces with the Luther Ringers, the handbell choir of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa for a joint concert on **Saturday, May 3** at 4:00pm at Asbury Church, 6101 University Avenue in Madison. The concert is free and open to the public. Each choir will present pieces from their respective spring programs before combining to present two massed-ring pieces together.

The Luther Ringers are an auditioned ensemble of 13 students drawn from all classes and all majors and conducted by Dr. Gregory Peterson, who also serves as College Organist and Chair of the Music Department. The ensemble currently rings five octaves of Schulmerich handbells and six octaves of Malmark handchimes. In addition to chapel and community performances, the Luther Ringers prepare their own concert in the spring semester and take part in the annual "Christmas at Luther" concerts each December.

## You know you're a BELL GEEK when...

- ... you drive (at least) 400 miles (at least) once a month to ring bells – in addition to your home town group.
- ... you save up your vacation time to go to "bell camp."
- ... you have the composers autograph copies of your music.
- ... you wonder how every song you hear on the radio might sound on bells.
- ... your motto is "more bells = more fun."
- ... you plan pregnancies around the performance schedule.
- ... the pieces you rehearsed yesterday become today's mental soundtrack.
- ... you have a favorite handbell brand.
- ... you have a different perspective on the use of garden gloves.
- ... you've patiently explained to friends, relatives, coworkers, etc. that no, you don't play handball.
- ... you bought your spouse a t-shirt that says "A ding-a-ling loves me."
- ... you have handbell tchotchkes all over your house/car/windows/keychains/Christmas tree/curio cabinet.
- ... you have a collection of bell earrings, sorted into "Christmas" and "not Christmas."
- ... you have a collection of bell cookie cutters.
- ... you'd love to go to Moscow just to see that really big bell with the chapel inside.
- ... you don't bat an eye at a 6-hour Saturday bell rehearsal.
- ... you have gloves/music/random percussion instruments (castanets) in your purse/car/bag.
- ... at the gym you realize that you have a couple of seemingly random muscles that are freakishly strong; when questioned you say, "Well, I have this hobby..."
- ... you have your standard explanation of handbells mastered: "Think of the Salvation Army bell. Now pretend that that's actually a high quality instrument..."
- ... you save socks to hold extra bells.
- ... "learning to ring 6-in-hand" is on your bucket list.



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

**How to Contact Us:**

Madison Area Concert Handbells  
PO Box 44056  
Madison, WI 53744-4056  
608-620-1997  
info@madisonhandbells.org

Mark your calendar for

***MACH on the MOVE***

**Friday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
326 S Segoe Road, Madison

**Saturday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Christ Presbyterian Church  
944 E Gorham Street, Madison

Advance Tickets: \$12 / \$9\*  
At the Door: \$15 / \$12\*  
\*Student/Senior price

Group tickets available; info at  
[www.madisonhandbells.org/perform.html](http://www.madisonhandbells.org/perform.html)

Address Service Requested



***MACH***



*on the MOVE*



How to get concert tickets

Tickets will be available in advance in April at Orange Tree Imports, Ward-Brodt Music, Metcalfe's Sentry-Hilldale and Cool Beans Coffee Café, or by sending in the order form at [www.madisonhandbells.org/perform.html](http://www.madisonhandbells.org/perform.html). Tickets are also available at the door.

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 us at [info@madisonhandbells.org](mailto:info@madisonhandbells.org) or by phone at 608-620-1997.

See and hear us on the web!

[www.madisonhandbells.org](http://www.madisonhandbells.org)  
[www.youtube.com/machandbells](http://www.youtube.com/machandbells)

or Like us on Facebook