



Madison Area Concert Handbells

# Messenger

Spring  
2017

## Join us for our 20th year!

In celebration of Madison Area Concert Handbells' 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have assembled an extra-special program consisting of fourteen of our favorite pieces from the past 20 years, plus the world premiere of a new commissioned work by Jason Krug. We hope you'll enjoy this trip down memory lane as we present to you "Our Favorite Things."

Our musical journey begins with "All Aboard!" and we're off on the *Chattanooga Choo-Choo*, a lively rendition of this jazzy Glenn Miller favorite complete with an aural depiction of a locomotive accelerating up to top speed. We switch from train to gondola as we hear Margaret Tucker's *Barcarolle*, where the haunting melody suggests a gondolier's song from long ago. No collection of handbell favorites would be complete without a classic like Kevin McChesney's energetic rendition of the traditional French carol *Now the Green Blade Riseth*, which sets the familiar melody over a driving ostinato in the bass bells. Next come two selections from Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt*: the exotic and evocative *Anitra's Dance*, and the powerful and well-known *In the Hall of the Mountain King* where our hero is led into the mountain lair of a Troll king. William Payn's tour de force handbell composition *Visions* utilizes a constant stream of flowing eighth-notes as a backdrop for soaring melodies, resulting in an ethereal work that is as beautiful as it is difficult. Our musical travels bring us now to Peru, where we will hear Daniel Robles' *El Condor Pasa*, made popular in the United States by Simon & Garfunkel on the album *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. We close out the first half with *Plink, Plank, Plunk* from the 1950s television game show "I've Got a Secret."

After a brief intermission, the fun continues with the Beach Boys' classic *Good Vibrations*, featuring Caitlin Ristow on a part for solo handchimes imitating the unmistakable sound of the Electro-Theremin in the original. Switching from West Coast rock to East Coast cool jazz, the 1959 Dave Brubeck Quartet classic *Take Five* is known for its unusual 5/4 time signature, repeated ostinato figure, bluesy saxophone melody, and iconic drum solo. We will feature UW-Platteville percussion professor Keith Lienert as our stand-in Joe Morello. The first of several original works for handbells on our second half, Michael Helman's *Nocturne in C minor* is a strikingly beautiful example of the melodic and harmonic capabilities of a five-octave ensemble. Next, as a bit of a musical palate-cleanser, we present an arrangement of the theme from *Pirates of the Caribbean*; although short in duration, this piece gives us a swashbuckling opportunity to let loose! Our musical journey now takes an extraterrestrial turn; Jason Krug's *Escape Velocity* vividly depicts the space shuttle's voyage with quick tempos, odd time signatures, modern harmonies, and various extended techniques including a "singing bell" technique for a beautiful, otherworldly effect. Michael Helman's *By the Lakeside* was inspired by the Biblical tale of Jesus calming the storm and begins with a lilting 6/8 melody before a stormy *agitato* section that dissolves as quickly as it arrived into the opening material before fading away. We close our program with the world premiere of a new work for handbells commissioned from Jason Krug, *Shock Wave*. After an explosive introduction, this exuberant work features lively syncopated chords and a jubilant melody, leading to a thrilling finale. What a fitting way to end our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration!

## Our Favorite Things

Friday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m.

First Congregational UCC  
1609 University Avenue  
Madison, WI

Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Asbury Church  
6101 University Avenue  
Madison, WI

Advance: Adult \$12; Student (16 & under) / Senior \$9

At the door: Adult \$15; Student (16 & under) / Senior \$12

## Meet Our New Music Director Nick Bonaccio

Music Director and percussionist **Nick Bonaccio** joined the Madison Symphony Orchestra in September of 2015 at the age of 23 while pursuing a master's degree at DePaul University in Chicago. He has performed with the Madison Opera, Milwaukee Symphony, Rockford Symphony, Vermont Symphony, Broadway Across America, and the Clocks in Motion percussion quartet. During his first season with the MSO, Nick was also an associate member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago.

Nick is the Director of Handbell Ensembles at Bethany United Methodist Church in Madison, where he directs the talented ringers of the Bethany Carillons and Bethany Children's Bells. In January of 2017, he was appointed Music Director of the Madison Area Concert Handbells, just in time to celebrate its 20th Anniversary season.

Passionate about vintage percussion instrument restoration, Nick has worked for two of the most well-known names in the industry, Fall Creek Marimbas and Century Mallet Instrument Service, where he helped bring antique mallet instruments from a state of disrepair to concert-hall quality for clients worldwide. Nick completely restored his personal 1920's Deagan 870 xylophone from the golden age of vaudeville novelty music.

In addition to restoration projects, Nick produces a variety of percussion instruments and mallets of his own design used by musicians as far away as Amman, Jordan. His bronze symphonic triangles have been tested by members of the Cleveland Orchestra and Rochester Philharmonic and are featured in Drew Worden's triangle sextet "Escape." As a composer, his piece Variations on a Balkan Rhythm has sold copies throughout the United States and Europe, and has been recorded by Chicago percussion soloist Peter Ferry.



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## Your Support is Appreciated



*Thank you for your support!*

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 generous 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

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

## MACH Welcomes New Ringers



**Cara Argus** started regularly playing handbells in 2006 when her family switched to a new church with 2 handbell choirs. After playing for 6 years she took a break while attending UW-Madison to receive her bachelor's degree in microbiology while also being a member of the mellophone section in UW-Madison's marching band. Cara currently works as a

research specialist in DNA sequencing for the Thomson Lab at the Morgridge Institute for Research. When she isn't ringing Cara enjoys playing ice-hockey, playing ultimate frisbee, running, and helping take care of the goats, llama, sheep, dogs, and cats on her family's hobby farm. Cara is glad to be back ringing. Welcome, Cara!



**Ashley Crutcher** has always been musical, playing a variety of instruments. Her introduction to handbells was in high school when her school briefly added a choir to win more points in Solo & Ensemble. When not ringing, she's either at work as a UX Designer for InterVarsity, knitting with a cat on her lap, working out, or hanging out with her husband and their two dogs. Welcome, Ashley!

**Diane Kohrs** has been involved in music her whole life. She bluffed her way into her church handbell choir by pretending to already know how to play, and they let her stay. Eight years later she auditioned for the newly forming MACH and became one of the charter members. She



has been on hiatus for a few(!) years and is back for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Diane works at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where she also directs a middle school band, plays in a worship band as well as orchestra, brass and anywhere else they'll let her in. Welcome back, Diane!



## How We Chose “Our Favorite Things”

With 20 seasons of music from which to choose, you might wonder how we came up with the selections for “Our Favorite Things.” The simple answer is that we voted! We compiled a list of the roughly 180 pieces that we have played at our spring concerts. Several members of the group pitched in and found recordings of almost every piece online so that we could refresh our memories (20 years IS a long time). Once everything was in place, we invited our current members to choose the pieces they loved. When the smoke cleared, we found ourselves with a list of 14 pieces that we can't wait to share with you!

## Buy Tickets Online

We're excited to announce that you can buy tickets to “Our Favorite Things” online! Just go to our website at <http://www.madisonhandbells.org/perform.html> and look for the *Brown Paper Tickets* link. You can have the tickets mailed to you, pick them up at our will-call table, or even print them out at home.



## How to Contact Us:

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

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

Address Service Requested



## How to get concert tickets for “Our Favorite Things”

Tickets will be available in advance in late April at Orange Tree Imports, Ward-Brodt Music, Metcalfe’s Sentry-Hilldale and Cool Beans Coffee Café, or by ordering online 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