

Vol. 11, No. 1
January, 2024



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Dedicated to HandBell Excellence
Ensuring the future of handbells for ringers and listeners

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

Upcoming Concerts and Performances

2024

Saturday, May 11, 2024 7:30 pm
MATCH

Sunday, May 19, 2024 4:00 pm
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2024 and beyond.

To schedule a concert, contact us at:

Email:

info@houstonbronze.org
event@houstonbronze.org

www.houstonbronze.org
P.O. Box 541741
Houston, TX 77254
Phone: 1-866-908-RING (7464)



NEW WEBSITE:
www.houstonbronze.org



Meet Your Spring, 2024 Houston Bronze Ensemble

David York, Artistic Director

Kathy Beard
Wade Brokmeyer*
Laura Bush
Jerry Conry
DruEllen Duncan
Alex Erhardt
Linda Ellison
J. Marvin Havard
Matt Hawley
Sarah Killingsworth
Kyle Maninantan*
Diana Montgomery
Michelle Shuman
Megan Staley
Elizabeth Taylor
Wilson Van Tine

*new members

On December 9, 2023 HBE held auditions for the Spring 2024 concert season. We welcome two new members.

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



Ready? Set. Go!

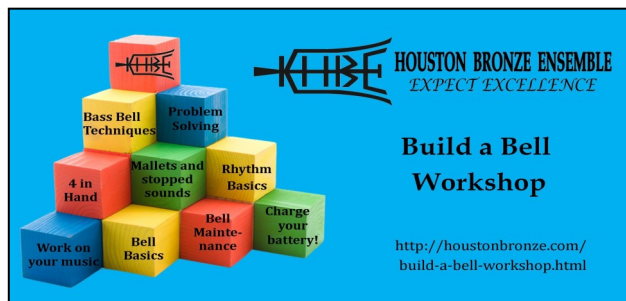
On January 9, HBE began rehearsals of music for our spring concerts entitled **Ready? Set. Go!** It is going to be a wonderful program featuring a past member of Houston Bronze. Cloud Wang will join us on the marimba. We hope you will be able to attend one of these concerts. Following is the repertoire for our spring concerts:



- “Allegro” from the Concerto in A Minor—arr. Fred Gramann
- Fancye by Timothy H. Waugh
- Minimal Rondeau by Thomas E. Parsons
- Out of the Silent Planet by Alex Guebort
- Pizzicati from the ballet Sylvia—arr. William Griffin
- Pizzicato Polka by Johann Strauss—arr. by Robert Ivey (not pictured)
- Rhythmic Rip! By John Behnke
- Rondo Alla Turca by Mozart—arr. Catherine McMichael
- Synergy by Kevin McChesney
- Tarantella—arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
- Toccata Ritmica by Michael Joy



Build a Bell Workshop



Schedule a Workshop

Houston Bronze Ensemble is available to you for workshops throughout the year. You may pick the topics from a list of classes. If you don't see what you need, please ask. The best part is there is no need to pack your bells and travel. We come to you! This is offered without a fee. For more information and to request a workshop:

houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/

We hope you will make your plans to attend one of these concerts!

Saturday, May 11, 2024 7:30 pm

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston
3400 Main Street
Houston, Tx

Houston Bronze in the Community

Sunday, May 19, 2024 4:00 pm

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

5201 Spring Cypress Rd
Spring, TX

www.houstonbronze.org

College Ring-In 2024

The Houston Bronze Ensemble has been granting scholarships to young adult handbell ringers who are attending the Handbell Musicians of America College Ring-In since 2017. To date, we have granted a total of 16 scholarships to this event. Each year we hope to grant 3 scholarships for \$100.00 to cover the cost of registration. This year we awarded 4 scholarships and three were accepted. Congratulations to Caleb Onstead, Linnea Lea French, and Aaron Kess. Below are some pictures and comments from our scholarship winners. We wish them all the very best as they continue their ringing adventures.

From Aaron

Ringing with the other ringers in PA was a blast! I wanted to try this "College Ring-In" because Concordia's handbell choir plays music accessible to anyone who wants to try it out. After getting some experience with bells, I wanted to try something a bit more challenging.

... I always tell people that handbells is really one instrument, not many. I'm sure I'm not the first to think this, but it feels totally true to me. Really, we are all pieces of one big keyboard-esque instrument. We all have to put our work together to create music. We all are responsible for our one part, though we can ask for or lend assistance when necessary.

Some of my favorite parts of this weekend experience were the evening dinners out in Hershey and Hummelstown. Simply having conversations about our "handbell origin stories" or compositional endeavors was exciting! To see how people came to love this instrument in different ways was fascinating and a lot of fun.

From Linnea

College Ring-in was an inspiring thing to be a part of. I come from a small town with a singular 2 octave handbell choir that plays at three churches every Sunday. Needless to say, this was a whole different ball game when it came to handbell music. The music was difficult, but it was so rewarding to be able to perform it with so many talented musicians. Although my time at College Ring-In was short, the people I met will leave a lasting impression, and as a bonus, I got to expand my knowledge of Handbells and techniques.

From Caleb

"It felt so good to ring again :-)
Right now I find myself in the unfortunate position of not having a group of my own to play with so events (preferably advanced events) are the only opportunity I get to play. And the playing at CRi was excellent! Our conductor, Brian Seemann, expertly led us through some challenging repertoire with very limited time and much technical precision. I truly believe the recorded concert speaks for itself. In particular, "Out of the Silent Planet" (by Alex Guebert) was a highlight for me. Working with highly responsive, young musicians, under a very capable director was a real treat. Another bonus for me personally was having a piece of mine played at the unpublished reading session (The 4th Movement from my upcoming 9 Movement Suite entitled, "The Color Wheel"). It really affirmed the validity of that project and the ensemble read the piece exceptionally well. College Ring-In will be a priority event for me moving forward. My sincerest thanks and love go out to The Houston Bronze Ensemble for giving me some much needed assistance in a very challenging time in my life. Words alone don't express my gratitude in full, but the ongoing friendship between myself and Houston Bronze will be a testimony to that gratitude."



HAPPY TOGETHER



Pictures from 2023



ROAD TRIP!!



We're going to National Seminar!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING
Ring it in!



The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2024 and beyond. If you are interested in hosting the entire ensemble or perhaps just a small group for a full concert, party or wedding, please get in touch with us at:

P.O. Box 541741
Houston, TX 77254

Phone: 1-866-908-RING (7464)
www.houstonbronze.org

Email:
info@houstonbronze.com
event@houstonbronze.org

Houston Bronze Ensemble also loves conducting workshops for handbell organizations throughout the Houston area. We would love to do one for your group. houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church for providing HBE with rehearsal and storage space for all of our equipment. We are forever grateful to you.



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!](#)

About the Houston Bronze Ensemble

The Houston Bronze Ensemble is a professional, auditioned, handbell ensemble made up of musicians from the greater Houston area. Known as Houston's premier handbell choir, the ensemble performs regular concerts in the winter and spring as well as at community events, regional and national handbell events, weddings, and private parties. In 2014 HBE had the honor of performing with the Houston Symphony. The group plays a wide variety of musical genres, always with the goal of EXCELLENCE.

Founded in 1988, Houston Bronze Ensemble was started as an avenue for Houston area handbell directors to have a place to ring. A lunchtime meeting with Jeff Weiss, Christine Anderson and Hart Morris in attendance and with only a napkin to write the names on of those who might be interested is what started it all. The rest, as they say, is history. In the fall of 1988, Hart Morris became the first director of Houston Bronze. After Hart moved to Tennessee, the ensemble rang under the direction of Margaret R. Tucker. In the 1995 season, the group rang ensemble style with various ringers, including G.W. Shepherd, Andrew Bowen, and David VanderMeer, directing the ensemble. Artistic Directors since then have included David VanderMeer, Dolan Bayless, Ben Harris, Ruth Seiwel, James Roberts, Bill Nave, and Sondra Tucker. David York was appointed the artistic director in July 2023.

Houston Bronze recognizes the importance of investing in the future of handbell ringing. We offer a variety of educational opportunities designed to meet the unique needs of churches and schools who wish to build or improve their handbell program. Workshops designed to meet the specific needs of a choir, mini concerts, and handbell petting zoos are a sample of what we provide to the Houston area handbell community. Houston Bronze also offers scholarships to students wishing to attend College Ring-In, an event sponsored by Handbell Musicians of America.

Whether it is through a concert, playing at your wedding, party, private or community event, conducting a workshop for your ensemble, or presenting an educational program for your school, we would love to share our art with you! Please look at our website, www.houstonbronze.org for more information about our group and what we offer. Feel free to contact us at info@houstonbronze.org with any questions or requests. We look forward to working with you to provide handbell excellence to meet your needs!



Thank you!

Houston Bronze Ensemble would like to thank our contributors for their donations during this past year. In the past you have helped us to send our director to a national handbell event, purchase new music and equipment, offer scholarships to students to attend College Ring-In, and so much more. It is because of you that we are able to continue to bring you our dedication to

EXCELLENCE.

Corporate Contributors

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| ExxonMobil | HP Inc. | Phillips 66 | Shell Oil |
| | Amazon Smile | iGive | |

Individual Contributors

January 2019—Present

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Stephen Ashurst | Robert and Linda Ellison | Ken and Lorna Noack |
| Leslie Bartlett | Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, TX | Sarah and Steven Schlacks |
| Penny Brehany-Wellman | Ben and Margaret Harris | Michelle Shuman |
| Judy Clayton | J. Marvin Havard | St. John's Lutheran Church Cypress, TX |
| Sam and Linda Conner | Phil and Marylyn Hodges | Barbara Szalkowski |
| Jerry Conry | Dean and Sherry Hunter | Margaret and Bob Tucker |
| Jimmy Clark | Alicia Monroe | Wilson Van Tine |
| Cheryl Cranford (Bells of Hope) | Diana and Mike Montgomery | Mary Voigt |
| Paul and Betty Dorn | | |
| Tim and DruEllen Duncan | | |