

Vol. 10, No. 1  
January, 2023



Houston Bronze Ensemble  
**EXPECT EXCELLENCE**

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

## HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

### 2023-24 Concerts and Performances

**Sunday, January 8, 2023 9:00 am**  
Epiphany Service

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church

**Friday, May 12, 2023 Time: TBA**  
St. Martin's Episcopal Church

**Saturday, May 20, 2023 7:30 pm**  
MATCH  
Ticketed Concert

**Sunday, May 21, 2023 4:00 pm**  
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church  
Free concert

**Thursday, July 13, 2023**  
Time: TBA  
Handbell Musicians of America  
National Seminar  
Irving, Texas

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for Fall, 2023 and beyond.

To schedule a concert, contact us at:

**Email:**

info@houstonbronze.com  
eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com

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



We are excited to begin work on our Spring concert when we resume rehearsals again in January. Houston Bronze Ensemble is thrilled to announce that our ensemble will be performing at National Seminar on Thursday, July 13, 2023, to be held in Irving, TX. We were chosen by Handbell Musicians of America to perform at their national event. It is an honor to be included amongst the other ensembles chosen to ring. More information about this event appears on the next page of this newsletter.

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.

HANDBELL MUSICIANS  
*master series*



Handbell Musicians of America  
**NATIONAL SEMINAR**  
 IRVING, TEXAS • 2023

Houston Bronze will be well represented at Handbell Musicians of America national events this summer in Irving, Texas. The first event held July 9-11, is the Handbell Musicians Master Series. HBE artistic director, Sondra Tucker, will lead the Master Series composition workshop. The following week National Seminar will begin. Sondra will again be busy teaching one of the classes being offered. Her class is entitled "Performance." Diana Montgomery, an HBE ensemble member, will be teaching a class along with Linda McKechnie entitled "Handbells for Special Populations," sharing the method of reading that is used with an ensemble very dear to us, The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble. Brookwood will be performing a noon concert on Thursday, July 13, followed that evening by the Houston Bronze Ensemble performing their Spring concert, "Happy Together." And yes, you will hear the song made popular in 1967 by the Turtles and now arranged for Houston Bronze by Nick Hanson. There will also be transcriptions and arrangements by Sondra Tucker and original handbell pieces by Jason Krug, Stephanie Berryman, Alice Ralston, Robert Riker and Alex Guebert.

We are going to be very busy this spring learning this very challenging music. We look forward to being a part of this event and seeing you there.



THANK YOU!!!

Houston Bronze Ensemble would like to thank all of you who attended one of our concerts or watched the live stream. We had wonderful audiences at both Tomball UMC and at MATCH. It was so much fun! We hope to see you all again in the spring. Check out the picture collage from the concerts later in this newsletter.

**HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE**  
 EXPECT EXCELLENCE

**Build a Bell Workshop**

<http://houstonbronze.com/build-a-bell-workshop.html>

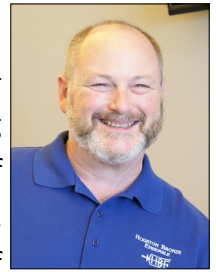


Houston Bronze Ensemble is available to you for workshops throughout the year. You may pick the topics from a list of classes. If you don't see what you need, please ask. The best part is there is no need to pack your bells and travel. We come to you! This is offered without a fee. For more information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





### Welcome our New HBE President of the Board



We would like to welcome Kathy Beard who has agreed to take on the leadership of the ensemble as President of the Board. We have already been working with Kathy these past few years as member at large and then vice president. Of course, welcoming Kathy also means we bid farewell to our current president, Jimmy Clark. Jimmy has made the decision to move from the outdoor sauna of

Houston to the deserts of California. We thank him for his 6.5 years of ringing and the time he served on the board both as member at large and then as president. He will be missed. We wish him the very best as he follows a new path in life.



We want to welcome Alex Erhardt to Houston Bronze. The ensemble looks forward to bringing you some exciting music this spring. Below is your Houston Bronze Ensemble for the spring and summer of 2023. We also welcome our new board president, Kathy Beard.

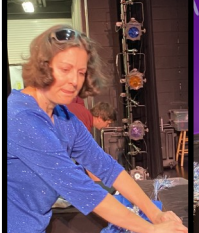
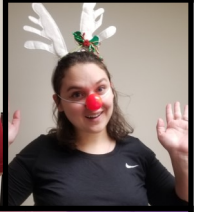
- |                 |                  |                     |                 |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Kathy Beard     | Alex Erhardt*    | Sarah Killingsworth | Michelle Shuman |
| Jerry Conry     | J. Marvin Havard | Rachel Kortze       | Roger Tucker    |
| DruEllen Duncan | Jackson Hearn    | Diana Montgomery    | Wilson Van Tine |
| Linda Ellison   | Aaron Jackson    | Dylen Penny         | *new member     |

### HBE PERFORMS AT TRINITY DOWNTOWN

Each year, HBE performs at the Epiphany Service at Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church. This is the church that so graciously provides us with rehearsal space and storage space for our large instrument. There is no way we can thank them enough for their generosity to our organization. Thank you Trinity for all you do for us. We really could not do what we do with you. Here are some pictures from our set up and performance.









## The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2023 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.com](http://www.houstonbronze.com)

Email:  
[info@houstonbronze.com](mailto:info@houstonbronze.com)  
[eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com](mailto:eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com)

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



**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 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. Conductors since then have included David VanderMeer, Dolan Bayless, Ben Harris, Ruth Seiwel and James Roberts. Bill Nave was appointed the artistic director in August, 2014.

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 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.com](http://www.houstonbronze.com) for more information about our group and what we offer. Feel free to contact us at [info@houstonbronze.com](mailto:info@houstonbronze.com) 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*

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January 2019—Present

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