

Vol. 7 No.1  
January, 2020



Houston Bronze Ensemble  
*EXPECT EXCELLENCE*

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

**HOUSTON BRONZE  
2020 CONCERTS**

**Saturday, May 16, 2020 7:30 PM  
MATCH**

Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston  
3400 Main St. Houston, TX 77002  
Ticketed concert

**Sunday, May 17, 2020 4:00 PM**  
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

5201 Spring Cypress Rd. Spring, TX 77379

**Friday, December 4, 2020 7:00 PM**  
Tomball United Methodist Church  
1603 Baker Street Tomball, TX 77375

**Saturday, December 5, 2020 7:30 PM  
MATCH**

Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston  
3400 Main St. Houston, TX 77002  
Ticketed concert

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling  
events for 2020-2021

To schedule a concert, contact 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)**  
**[event\\_coordinator@houstonbronze.com](mailto:event_coordinator@houstonbronze.com)**



**Happy New Year!**

As we begin a new decade and a new year, Houston Bronze first looks back at 2019. It was a banner year for us in so many ways. We celebrated our 30th year with wonderful concerts and opportunities. We hope you will enjoy looking at the pictures from our fall season that are included in this newsletter. It was certainly a season to remember.

But now it is time to turn our eyes to the new year and new beginnings. We will soon start working on our music for the spring. As we take on an international theme, our music will depict many parts of the world. It will take you to Europe, Asia, and South America. Be sure to LIKE us on Facebook so you will get to learn more about the ringers of HBE as we find out "where in the world" they have rung bells.

We look forward to bringing you another great season as we continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. Get your passports ready and join us on our journey!



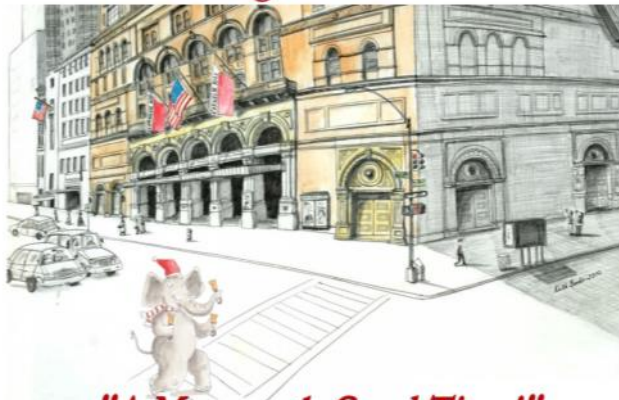
# The Great Christmas Ring!



In early December, seven members of HBE journeyed to New York City to play in Carnegie Hall. We each experienced our own NYC but I know for all of us, performing in Carnegie Hall was an experience we will never forget. Below are just a few pictures from our wonderful adventure.



## The Great Christmas Ring Carnegie Hall 2019



*"A Mammoth Good Time!"*





We performed two successful holiday concerts in December. Thanks to Michelle Shuman for her beautiful stage design. She continues to make each concert special with her touches. At our concert in Tomball, we had almost 200 in attendance and MATCH had a wonderful audience of almost 100 people. We thank those who were a part of our audience at these performances. We had a wonderful time and hope that you did as well.





# Christmas at the Villa



This season Houston Bronze was honored to perform as a guest artist in two concerts with the Houston Chamber Choir. This wonderful choral ensemble has been nominated for a Grammy Award. They are well deserving of that nomination and we hope that they will be selected as the winner. The concerts were held at the Villa de Matel. It is a little piece of heaven inside the craziness of Houston. This incredible experience was a wonderful way to close out 2019, our 30th anniversary year. We look forward to the exciting adventures that lay ahead in 2020 and the new decade.





# Christmas at the Villa



More pictures from Villa de Matel





Houston Bronze Ensemble  
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

**Build a Bell Workshop**

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



## BUILD A BELL WORKSHOP

In November we had the pleasure of presenting a Build a Bell Workshop for the ringers at Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church. Tennis balls and candy bars were involved as aids in practicing good handbell techniques and rhythms. Find out more about requesting a Build a Bell Workshop for your group.

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

### Comments from our workshops this fall:

- Ended so quickly. Not long enough.
- Liked the work on playing together.
- Learned proper malleting techniques.
- Liked dividing the techniques into sections.
- Enjoyed work on dynamics.
- I better understand malleting and thumb damping.
- I feel more confident.
- Enjoyed working with enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters.
- Liked the individual attention.
- Friendly, knowledgeable, positive approach.

**Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers**



Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers rang their first gig of the season for the "Keenagers" of Salem Lutheran Church. Celebration Ringers is a small group of HBE ringers which allows us to play in small spaces without tables. We enjoy ringing at parties and small gatherings throughout the city. We began this day with songs of America as we celebrated Veteran's Day this week. We then moved on to hymns and finally Christmas carols. We invited the members of the audience to ring with as we did a Ring and Sing Thanksgiving hymn and then carols. We enjoyed our time with them very much.

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



# HOUSTON BRONZE AWARDS 6 COLLEGE RING-IN SCHOLARSHIPS

*We thank those who made this possible!*

Part of Houston Bronze Ensemble's mission is to provide excellent educational opportunities to ensure the future of handbells. One way we do this is by providing scholarships to College Ring-In. Our goal/plan was to provide three \$100 scholarships this year. We are pleased to announce that we were able to offer seven \$100.00 scholarships. Six of these scholarships were accepted.

Our sale of the beautiful poinsettias from Brookwood and donations from Build a Bell workshops this fall provided the funds for us to be able to assist these young ringers. Through these scholarships, we are investing in the future of our instrument by promoting and encouraging the development of young players. If you purchased one of the poinsettias this season or a donation was made for a workshop, we quickly put your donation to work with these scholarships. **THANK YOU!**

The scholarship winners are listed below.

Alexandra Evans from UT-Tyler

Hannah Wheaton From Grand Valley State University, Michigan

Laurie Lamendola from Magnolia, attending Lone Star College

Sophie Rodarte from University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

Gregory Hilliard from Texas State University

Avi UmaShankar from Tomball attending Lone Star College



We had a wonderful Christmas party with our friends at Brookwood. We played Jingle Bell Toss and Christmas Bingo and of course there was plenty of chocolate! We had a great time with them, including Diana Montgomery, their new director. We are looking forward to working with Diana and the ensemble at Brookwood throughout 2020.



**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!**





*Thank you!*

Houston Bronze Ensemble would like to thank our contributors for their donations during this past year. 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  
 2017 to present*

- |                               |   |                                      |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Anonymous                     | Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church Houston, TX | Fay Pye                              |
| Kathy Beaird                  | Amy Haller                                      | Ricky and Cindy Robinson             |
| Penny Brehany-Wellman         | Ben and Margaret Harris                         | L. Z. and V. M. Rodriguez            |
| Margaret Bremer               | Marvin J. Havard                                | Diana Schmitt                        |
| William and Jeanne Brusick    | Dean and Sherry Hunter                          | Bob and Ruth Seiwel                  |
| Frank Busch                   | Tommy and Pamela Kaiser                         | Michelle Shuman                      |
| Judy Clayton                  | Ronnie and Stacey Keener                        | St. John Lutheran Church Tomball, TX |
| Sam and Linda Conner          | Catherine Landry                                | St. Peter's UMC, Katy, TX            |
| Jerry Conry                   | Living Word Lutheran Church, The Woodlands, TX  | Barbara Szalkowski                   |
| Jimmy Clark and Matt Thompson | Alicia Monroe                                   | Ray and Flora Tacquard               |
| Cheryl Crawford               | Sarah Moore                                     | Margaret and Bob Tucker              |
| Tim and DruEllen Duncan       | Kenneth and Lorna Noack                         | Wilson Van Tine                      |
| Robert and Linda Ellison      | Meredith Overcast                               | Mary Voigt                           |
| Lolli Green                   |   |                                      |





## The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2019 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>



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Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel!



## 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 to Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church for providing us with rehearsal space and storage space. We are forever grateful to you.





# BE A FRIEND OF HOUSTON BRONZE



- Attend our concerts.
- Bring a friend to a concert
- Join our email list! You will then receive this newsletter in your email. You will also be placed on our list to be notified of future concerts and events. Join us by going to our [website](#).
- LIKE us on [FACEBOOK](#).
- Like Facebook entries and pictures.
- Share Facebook entries.
- Check out our website, [www.houstonbronze.com](http://www.houstonbronze.com)
- Volunteer to help at concerts—handing out programs, selling CD's, etc.
- Shop [Amazon Smile](#) and designate Houston Bronze Ensemble Inc. as your organization. Amazon will contribute to HBE when you shop!
- Donate to Houston Bronze Ensemble. All donations, large or small, are welcome!!

A 501(c)(3) Corporation—All donations to HBE are tax deductible.

## Contribute to Houston Bronze Ensemble

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(As it should appear in our programs and newsletters)

I wish my gift to be anonymous. Please do not list my name in programs or newsletters.

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Benefits of Being a Friend of HBE

- Direct mailing of newsletter
- Your name listed in HBE programs and newsletter
- Advance notice of public concerts

Please send donations to: Houston Bronze Ensemble P.O. Box 541741 Houston, TX 77254

You may also contact our treasurer at [info@houstonbronze.com](mailto:info@houstonbronze.com) to make arrangements to contribute via credit card.

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Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel

Visit our website:  
[www.houstonbronze.com](http://www.houstonbronze.com)