

Vol. 7 No.2
April, 2020



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

2020 CONCERTS

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 UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Ring Sessions
Learn to Ring and Reading Session
July 14, 2020 7 - 9 PM
Registration required.

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston AV

<https://houstonbronze.com/summer-ring.html>

Houston Bronze Audition Date
July 28, 2020 7 - 9 PM
Registration required.

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston AV

<https://houstonbronze.com/become-a-member-of-houston-bronze-audition.html>

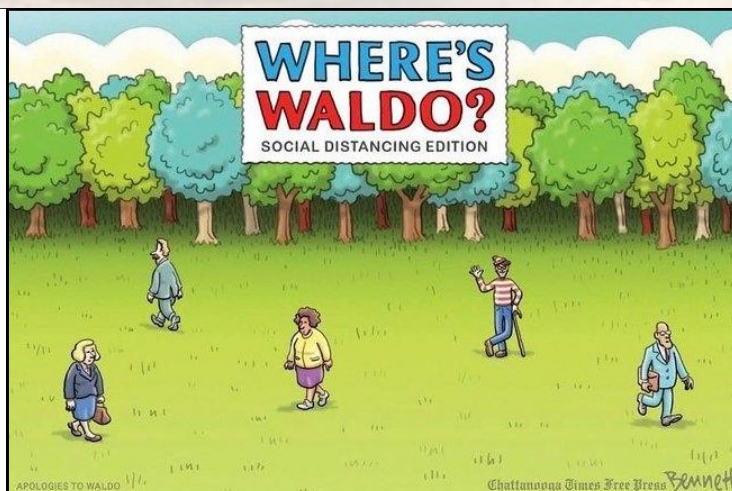
Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling
events for 2020-2021
To schedule a concert, contact us at:

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

www.houstonbronze.com

Email:

info@houstonbronze.com
event_coordinator@houstonbronze.com



**May, 2020
concerts
cancelled
due to
Covid-19!**

**Stay
Home!
Stay Safe!
We will be
back!**

Houston Bronze
Ensemble





From Our President *Lorna Noack*

After the cold and dreary months of winter when most living things lie dormant or hibernate, spring is a welcome arrival that bursts upon us with renewed, refreshed, and invigorated energy. The vibrant greens of new leaves, the rainbow display of

wildflowers, and the tiny chirps of baby birds are all signs that spring has returned to the Houston area. This spring, however, is very different for all of us. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a metaphorical winter seems to be holding on and forcing us to continue more months of hibernation and dormancy.

However, dormant periods are highly beneficial. These times of rest and conserving energy are essential for the well being of all living things. As we all remain dormant in our own homes, it is encouraging to see and hear about all the ways families and friends are staying connected. My own family enjoyed an afternoon of playing games on a Zoom meeting – something I hope we continue to do even after life returns to normal. Those “someday I’ll get to this” projects are actually being worked on. Yard work, cleaning out closets and garages, and the long list of other to-do tasks are being accomplished for the simple reason that overly busy schedules have been cleared of everything but the necessities.

Like everyone else, Houston Bronze is also experiencing this time of dormancy. On March 20, the board made the difficult decision to cancel the remainder of the season for the safety of our ringers and for the best interest of our organization. While we miss ringing and seeing each other, we are not completely hibernating. Bill has challenged each of us to improve our rhythmic abilities through helpful suggestions and drills. Searches for new music to add to our repertoire will result in amazing future concerts. This time of forced stillness will hopefully soon burst forth in new and improved song.

Just as the rhythm of the seasons continues on year after year, we have hope that this extended “winter” season of social distancing will come to an end and we will once again enjoy the vibrancy of spring’s renewal. We look forward to sharing our joy of ringing with you once again at our December concerts. In the meantime, please visit our YouTube channel:

(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCanLpcFA4sjAObmlgB1mmWQ>).

May these musical selections brighten your day and encourage you through this difficult time.

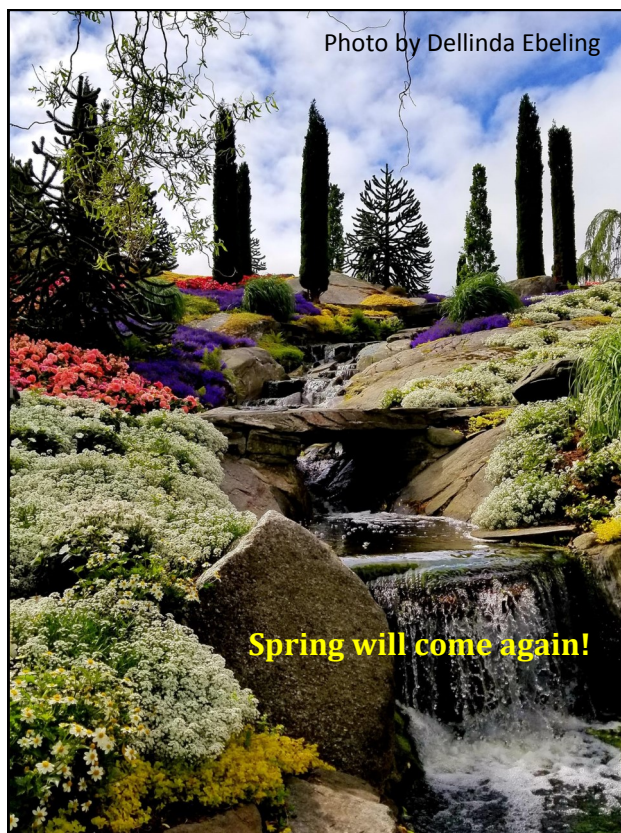


Photo by Dellinda Ebeling

Spring will come again!





Ringers Wanted!

Houston Bronze Ensemble AUDITIONS

Auditions for Houston Bronze Ensemble
2020 - 2021 Season

Date: July 28, 2020

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Place: Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston Av. Houston, TX

The Houston Bronze Ensemble is an auditioned community group made up of ringers from all over the Houston area. Currently our ringers come from as far north as Tomball and The Woodlands, as far south as Clear Lake, as far west as Alief, and all points in between. If you are looking to play with a group that looks forward to sharing their passion for all things bells, playing challenging music, and sharing that passion and music with the Houston community and beyond, Houston Bronze Ensemble is the group for you. We strive for EXCELLENCE in all aspects of our organization. If you have the desire to be a part of that, we hope you will consider auditioning to become a member. We hold auditions each year for all people who wish to perform with us in the next season. **All positions are available.** To register for your audition, please go to <https://houstonbronze.com/become-a-member-of-houston-bronze---audition.html>. If you have further questions, please contact us at audition@houstonbronze.com.



Distinctly Bronze East Returns to New Bern!

Four members of Houston Bronze Ensemble returned to New Bern, North Carolina to attend DBE. The event was held there annually in October but because of hurricanes damaging the city, we had not been there since 2017. The event has also been moved to February to avoid the hurricane season in the future. The ensemble was made up of about 100 ringers from across the US, Puerto Rico and Canada. The ensemble was directed by Stephanie Rhoades who is from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. We enjoyed our time in New Bern once again and look forward to returning.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!



Summer Ring!



Houston Bronze Ensemble
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There is a chair waiting for you!!

Because of COVID-19's effect on everyone we have made changes to our summer ring program for this year. We will still have two classes, one for beginning ringers and one for more experienced ringers. If you have always wanted to learn how to ring handbells but have never had a place to give it a try, please join us for our Learn to Ring Session. If you are anxious to put bells back in your hands after an extra long ringing hiatus due to COVID 19, you should join us for our reading session. Both sessions will be held on the same night, July 14. If you have already signed up for our Learn to Ring Session which was to be held in June, we will be in touch with you. Hopefully the new date will work for you as well. The Reading Session date remains the same as it was before. We do request that you register as both will be limited to the number of ringers we can accept due to space and bells available. Please go to <http://houstonbronze.com/summer-ring.html> to register for the event.

LEARN TO RING

For the person with minimal or no bell experience

Limited to 10 Ringers

July 14, 2020
7 pm — 9 pm

Trinity Downtown Lutheran
Church
800 Houston Av.

READING SESSION

Reading music selections appropriate for use throughout the year
For the more experienced ringer

Limited 15 Ringers

July 14, 2020
7 pm — 9 pm

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston Av.



Trinity Downtown Lutheran's Carillon

It has become a tradition of HBE to provide music for the Epiphany service at Trinity. They are so generous to us providing rehearsal space and storage space. We know that we can never repay them for this wonderful gift. This year, after playing, the organist, Carla Barrows, took us up into the bell tower to see the bells and how they work. Marvin, a member of HBE, got the chance to literally pound the keys and play a song!

From their website: "Trinity Lutheran Church (downtown) is home to one of only three traditional carillons (bell towers) in Houston (16 in Texas and 171 in US). A traditional carillon has at least 23 bells played from a "keyboard" of batons or clavier; fewer bells are known as a "chime of bells." In 1954, Trinity dedicated the original 12 bells. Then in 1957, 13 more bells were added to make the existing 25-bell carillon. In 2015, a major refurbishment of the bells and its framework was done, as well as the installation of a state of the art digital automated bell-ringing equipment and a master control system. This affords incredible versatility including playing songs from a catalog of more than 200 pre-programmed music selections, recording new songs and chiming the quarter hour!" To learn more about the carillon at Trinity, go to <https://www.trinitydt.org/music/>





HOUSTON BRONZE AWARDS 6 COLLEGE RING-IN 2020

*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. Below are some pictures and remarks from the 6 recipients.

College Ring-In has taught me how to embrace every aspect of any instrument. There is more to a piece of music than rhythm and notes. By ringing with people I hardly know, I have learned that it is okay to make a mistake and by making that mistake you are already on your way to becoming a better musician. - Sophie

College Ring-In was a delightful experience to be able to ring with people my age and meet other ringers from all over the United States. I really enjoyed being able to ring under Stevie Berryman. I always learn something from different directors and she was no exception. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to ring with new people and to be able to grow as a ringer. Thank you for your support of me, and the College Ring-In. - Hannah

It was a fantastic experience meeting (and becoming friends with) other ringers around my age from around the country who are on fire for handbells. With the positive experiences I had for those three days, you have made me fall in love with handbells all over again! - Gregory

As I'm continuing to grow and learn, I am very glad to have this experience with advanced music like that. I am also a solo ringer, and I am currently starting to plan for my first solo concert, so it was really helpful to have the experience of going through a full concert with handbells. Now I have a better idea of what that is like, and I feel a little more prepared to face whatever lies ahead of me in the future. - Nikki

The coolest things I learned were new techniques: how important the "up" is to being together on the ring, how to ring in a huge group, thinking of dynamics in terms of firetrucks, leaning into louder dynamics with our bodies, and leaning out of softer dynamics, how important breathing is when playing a fast piece, and most importantly how to give the audience a great show, rather than trying to just play every note without caring how it sounds. -Laurie

Going into the College Ring-In, I was a little nervous. I hadn't done anything quite like it before and I felt slightly overwhelmed by how much music we were attempting to accomplish in just 3 days. This feeling was very quickly lifted as soon as our first rehearsal started. I loved every moment of the College Ring-In -Avi



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Build a Bell Workshop

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



BUILD A BELL WORKSHOP

In January we had the pleasure of presenting a Build a Bell Workshop for the ringers at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. Time was spent reviewing some techniques and then working on music for the upcoming FebFest. 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:

- Great skills training with knowledgeable and kind teachers.
- Working out of comfort zone, that's a good thing
- 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.
- Wasn't long enough
- Liked the individual attention.
- Friendly, knowledgeable, positive approach.



With the cancellation of our spring concerts for 2020, we are turning our thoughts to the next time we can be together. Bill, our artistic director, already has a working list of possible songs for the Christmas season. We can't wait to be with you again.

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



Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



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
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*Individual Contributors
 2017 to present*

- | | | |
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The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2020 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

Email:
info@houstonbronze.com
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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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 for more information about our group and what we offer. Feel free to contact us at 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
- 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: _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

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 to make arrangements to contribute via credit card.

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www.houstonbronze.com