

Vol. 9, No. 4
October, 2022



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

2022-23 Concerts and Performances

While we currently have venues and dates scheduled for the spring, please know that because of COVID this can change as we move through the season. Please watch our Facebook page and our website for the latest information.

Friday, December 2, 2022 7:00 pm
Tomball United Methodist Church
1603 Baker Dr. Tomball, TX 77375
Free concert

Saturday, December 3, 2022 7:30 pm
MATCH
3400 Main Street Houston, TX 77002
Ticketed concert

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

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for Fall, 2022 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)



Make your plans to join us for an evening of music, storytelling and song on December 2nd or 3rd to begin your holiday season.

We look forward to having you!



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



A Note From Sondra Tucker, Artistic Director, HBE

The ensemble is starting to settle in and adjust to new members and a new director. It has been exciting to prepare for our upcoming shows! The only thing we still need is an enthusiastic audience, so I hope you plan to attend one of our two presentations of "A Jazzy Little Christmas". You can find details about the locations and times elsewhere in this newsletter.

I do want to say that this show is going to be a treat both visually and aurally - with lots of fun surprises, and a wonderful guest singer, Nick Szoeki. Our music ranges from pop holiday standards to traditional music that has a jazzy twist. I guarantee you'll enjoy every minute of it!

We have the concerts posted as Facebook Events. It would be great if you'd sign up there to help generate interest, and let your friends know about it also!

As always, as you contemplate your end-of-year giving, I'd be remiss if I didn't remind you that Houston Bronze Ensemble is a 501C3 organization, and we do lots of teaching and sharing of our love of handbells throughout the community, year round. We would appreciate donations in any amount.



Since our last newsletter in July, we have held additional auditions and welcome more new members. New members joining the ensemble this fall are Jackson Hearn, Aaron Jackson, Dylen Penny, and Roger Tucker. The ensemble looks forward to bringing you some exciting music this year. Below is your Houston Bronze Ensemble.

Kathy Beaird

Linda Ellison

Sarah Killingsworth

Karen Ridgway

Jimmy Clark

J. Marvin Havard

Rachel Kortze

(on leave for fall)

Jerry Conry

Jackson Hearn*

Diana Montgomery

Michelle Shuman

DruEllen Duncan

Aaron Jackson*

Dylen Penny*

Roger Tucker*

Wilson Van Tine

*new member

THE HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

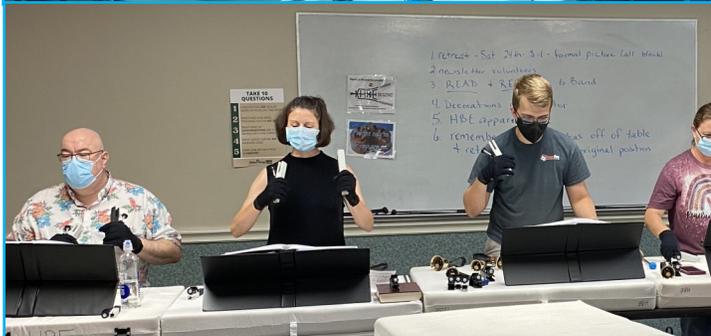
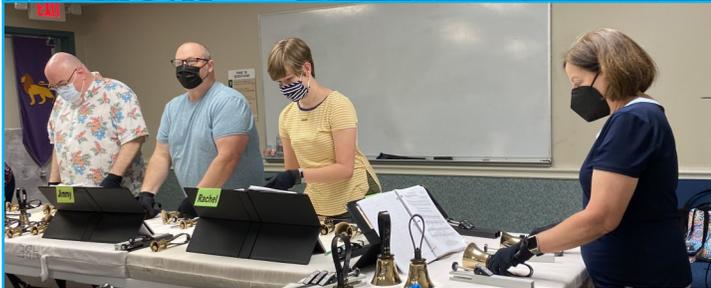
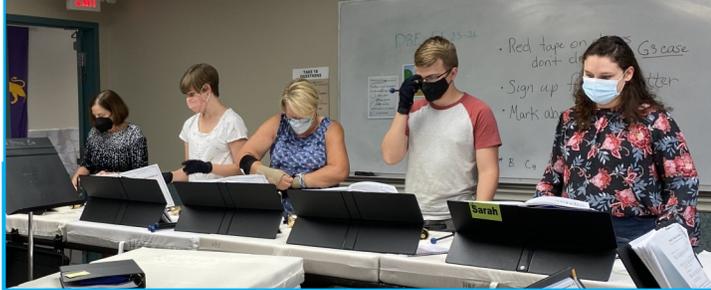
A JAZZY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

December 2, 2022 7:00 pm
Tomball United Methodist Church
1603 Baker Dr. Tomball, TX 77375
free concert

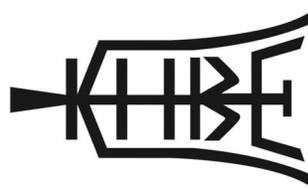
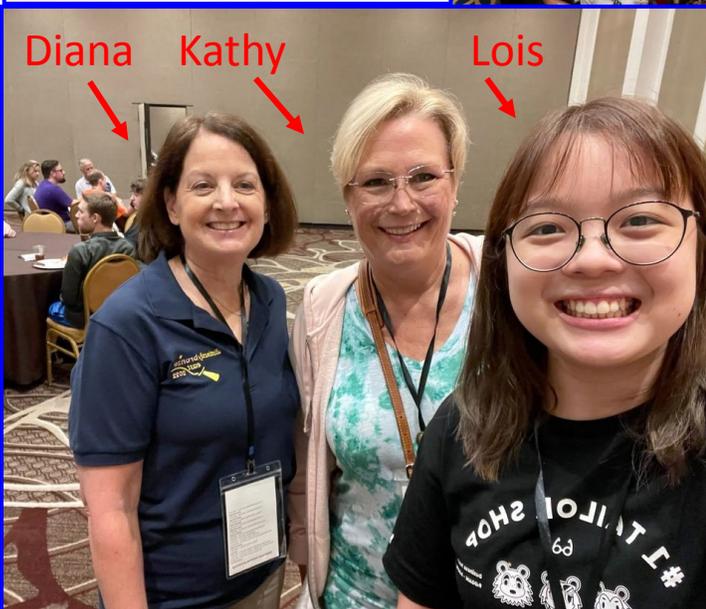
December 3, 2022 7:30 pm
MATCH
3400 Main Street Houston, TX 77002
Adult: \$15.00 Student: \$10.00



www.houstonbronze.com



REMEMBERS ALWAYS COME



Four members of HBE attended the **20th International Handbell Symposium** in Nashville, Tennessee in August, 2022. While there they rang and attended classes with people from around the world. They also met the recipient of the Houston Bronze College Ring-In Scholarship, Lois Leong from Hong Kong. For more information about the symposium be sure to check out Kathy Beard's article on the next page of this newsletter.



20th International Handbell Symposium

by Kathy Beaird

Flying to Nashville on July 30th, I was looking forward to a break from a very busy summer. I had signed up to arrive early for the Experience ... two days of classes presented by some of the top clinicians in the country. When you're a handbell geek, it's exciting to get to participate in classes presented by Michael Glasgow, David Harris, Jason Krug, and Ron Mallory, just to name drop a few. I focused my attention on classes in rhythm and counting. After the two days of the Experience, I realized although I might be getting a break from my job, I sure wasn't getting a break from working!

By Monday evening the four of us from HBE had all arrived, along with our friend Marge Harris, wife of retired member, Ben Harris. Diana had also come in early for the Experience, Jerry flew in that afternoon, and Wilson drove in with a car full of bells, chimes, mallets, singing bell sticks, and whatever else we would need for the rest of the week. Monday night kicked off the 20th International Symposium with the Opening Ceremonies and a wonderful concert presented by the participants of the College Ring-In, directed by Dr. William Payn and Dr. Toshikazu Yoshida from Japan. Fantastic! It's good to know there are still young people who love handbells!

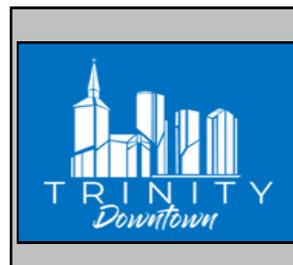
Tuesday morning started off with our first massed ring rehearsal with approximately 330 ringers. We got to meet the rest of the ringers who would be filling out our table. Jemma is from Australia and there were four friends who now make their homes in New Jersey but are originally from Taipei and Hong Kong; Alice, Sandy, Mei-Chen, and Anna. Rounding out our table were Debra from Roanoke, VA and Tracey from Milwaukee.

Almost 20 hours were put into massed ringing rehearsals prior to the concert on Saturday afternoon. That doesn't include the extra rehearsal time Wilson and Diana had as participants in the Symposium Choir. While they were rehearsing, the rest of us attended workshops or shopped in the Handbell Commons. Workshop selections included most anything from learning to play Hong Kong Mahjong, or Experience Iceland, to bell trees, conducting, or the creative use of handchimes.



Ringers and conductors came from all over the world. There were participants from the US, Canada, Iceland, Hungary, Great Britain, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, and Australia. I'm sure I have missed others. We rang Canadian folk songs and an arrangement of a pop song from Hong Kong ... arranged and directed by a Singaporean. Island Song was a piece about the beauty of Okinawa, written, arranged, and conducted by a Japanese. One of my favorite pieces was Luna, by Sierra Tse, from Hong Kong. And just as a side... I lived in Southeast Asia. I have a long abiding love for the people of Asia. I never knew handbells were so huge in many of the countries of Asia! I was told every church in South Korea has handbells. I wouldn't have learned of this had I not attended the International Symposium.

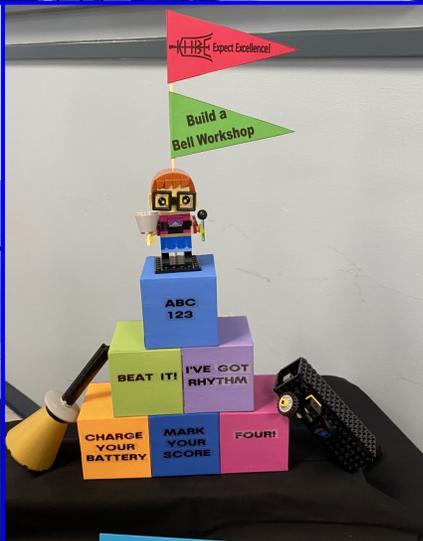
Trying to condense seven days of International Symposium into one newsletter article is almost impossible. But I'm going to end with this personal note ... back to being the handbell geek. My two favorite composers/arrangers of handbell music are Cathy Moklebus and Sandra Eithun. I slip into another place when ringing their music. Their music reaches into my soul. Diana made sure I got to meet both of them. I felt like a giddy teenager meeting a rock star. Well, they are rock stars to me!



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

AUGUST ADVENTURE

On August 27, seven members of Houston Bronze attended August Adventure, an event sponsored by The Greater Houston Handbell Association. This event is held for directors and ringers in the Houston area to have the opportunity to meet the clinician sight read the music for FebFest, another event sponsored by GHHA. Our own, Sondra Tucker, directed the ringers at this event and will meet them and their ensembles again in February after they have had time to prepare the music. In the afternoon, members of Houston Bronze presented classes on weaving and malleting from our Build a Bell Workshop program. Houston Bronze offers these classes to the Houston community free of charge. Another plus is that we come to you. No need to pack up your bells and travel. For more information on this program, go to <https://houstonbronze.com/build-a-bell-workshop.html>



Picture Day and Saturday Rehearsal

On Saturday, September 24, HBE began the day by meeting in downtown Houston to take a couple of photos of the ensemble. Gary Harris came to take the pictures and he and Kathy, an ensemble member, did some editing to make us look good. Afterwards we headed to the church for a morning of rehearsal. Lots was accomplished and we are on our way to an exciting concert.



Build a Bell Workshop

On Monday, September 26, we had the opportunity to present a mallet workshop for the handbell choir at Christ Church in Sugar Land. This ensemble is blessed with 20 great ringers. They asked many good questions and we had a great time working together. If you would like a workshop for your ensemble, please contact us.

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Build a Bell Workshop

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



The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2022 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!

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.

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January 2019—Present

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