

Vol. 11, No. 3  
July, 2024



Houston Bronze Ensemble  
**EXPECT EXCELLENCE**

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

## HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE 2024 Christmas Concerts

**Houston  
Bronze  
Ensemble**

Friday, Dec. 6 7:30  
MATCH  
Matchbox 2  
3400 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77002

Saturday, Dec. 7 7:00 pm  
Tomball Methodist Church  
1603 Baker Street  
Tomball, TX 77375

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently  
Scheduling events for 2024 and beyond.  
To schedule a concert, or music for your  
holiday party contact us at:

**Email:**

info@houstonbronze.org  
event@houstonbronze.org

www.houstonbronze.org  
P.O. Box 541741

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



## Christmas in July

**Music for your  
holiday party**



If you are having a holiday party, please consider adding the sparkle of some bell music to your celebration. Our **Celebration**

**Ringers** will be the perfect addition to your festivities. Learn more at [houstonbronze.org/book-a-performance/celebration-ringers/](http://houstonbronze.org/book-a-performance/celebration-ringers/)

## Kyle Maninantan, HBE Member, Competes in International Choral Competition



The 2024 International Convention of the [Barbershop Harmony Society](#) was held in Cleveland, Ohio earlier this month. Houston Bronze member, Kyle Maninantan, attended the convention to compete with the [Space City Sound Ensemble](#), a nonprofit a cappella chorus based in Houston. The competition was attended by choruses from the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Quartets from the US, Australia, Sweden, and New Zealand also attended the competition. We want to congratulate Kyle and the Space City Sound Ensemble; they placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the International Competition.

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## Three Members of HBE Attend National Seminar



Three members of the Houston Bronze Ensemble traveled to Hartford, Connecticut to attend National Seminar during the month of July where Handbell Musicians of America celebrated their 70th Anniversary. Classes on everything handbells were offered as well as ringing tracks to join, concerts to attend, and vendor exhibits to browse.

**Kathy Beard** attended classes while at National Seminar. Her visit to the event was cut short and she had to miss a day of classes she had hoped to attend. After ringing for 36 years, she felt it was time for her **“100,000 Measure Tune-up”** with Michèle Sharik to review the ergonomic techniques to help survive ringing her next 100,000 measures without pain or soreness. She also attended the **“Plink, Plank, Plunk”** malleting session with Damien Lim, founder and music director of Ministry of Bellz in Singapore. When not attending classes, Kathy attended concerts and shopped in the exhibit hall.

**Wilson Van Tine** began his journey to Hartford early to attend a masterclass in solo ringing led by Linda Krantz. The session concluded with a private showcase where Wilson Van Tine began his journey to Hartford early to attend a masterclass in solo ringing led by Linda Krantz. The session concluded with a private showcase where members of the class performed their pieces with piano accompaniment. Once the convention began, Wilson attended both the intermediate and advanced ringing tracks. He stayed busy doing what he loves to do—RING!!

If you watched any of the concerts via live stream, Wilson generously made this possible throughout the seminar. Thank you, Wilson!

**Diana Montgomery** taught two sessions at the seminar on adaptive notation. She introduced the PowerPoint based system to class participants which she uses as the director of the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble. This PowerPoint system began at Brookwood when members of Houston Bronze were serving as mentors and believed there must be another way other than the cumbersome scrolls. Diana has taken that initial digital system to another level. When not teaching, she rang in the advanced ringing track, attended classes, enjoyed the concerts offered, and did some shopping in the exhibits.

# Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers



## Greet your guests with the sounds of Christmas!

The Houston Bronze Ensemble offers performances by the **Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers**. This is a small group of Houston Bronze Handbell Ensemble members. Because we are an ensemble of only 5-6 members, **Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers** is the perfect entertainment addition to your holiday gathering, neighborhood caroling party, corporate event, holiday bazaar, religious celebration or intimate dinner party! Our size allows us to be tucked into a corner of a room or on a front porch or patio. Our minimum rate is \$300 for one hour.

If you are interested in having us come ring at your holiday celebration, please contact our event coordinator by filling out the form on our website, [houstonbronze.org/book-a-performance/celebration-ringers/](http://houstonbronze.org/book-a-performance/celebration-ringers/).



We hope to see you during the holidays!

Houston Bronze Ensemble is a 501(c)(3) organization.



# TIME TO SCHEDULE YOUR AUTUMN WORKSHOP

**Build a Bell Workshop**

Work on your music  
4 in Hand  
Bass Bell Techniques  
Mallets and stopped sounds  
Bell Basics  
Problem Solving  
Rhythm Basics  
Bell Maintenance  
Charge your battery!

**HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE**  
*EXPECT EXCELLENCE*

<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! Our workshops are offered free of charge. For more information and to request a workshop:

[houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/](http://houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/)

**A SPECIAL EVENT COMING YOUR WAY!!**

**Check it out!!**

*Presented by*

**Greater Houston Handbell Association**



## *August Adventure*

**DATE: August 17, 2024 TIME: 8:30-Noon**

**PLACE: Chapelwood United Methodist Church**

**CONDUCTOR/CLINICIAN: Bob Avant**

**\$20.00 plus 3% credit card fee**



### **Meet our RING HOUSTON! 2025 Conductor**

BOB AVANT, co-founder and Director of Austin Handbell Ensemble and director of The Baylor Bronze Handbell Ensemble, received his education at the University of Texas at Austin.

Bob is a long time member of the Handbell Musicians of America and has served as Area Chair. He is active as a clinician and presenter at national and area events. Bob is also an arranger with several published pieces for advanced handbell groups. He recently became a published author of the book, *Advancing Towards Excellence in Handbell Ensembles: or "Let's Be Frank"*. This book looks at the many aspects related to the development of skills and techniques in handbell ringers and ensembles. It is available on Amazon.

For more information about this event and to register, follow this link: [August Adventure 2024 \(regfox.com\)](https://regfox.com)

For more information about this event or to be placed on their email list, please contact them at [ghhatexas@gmail.com](mailto:ghhatexas@gmail.com)

May, 2024



HBE

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS  
DAVID YORK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ready?  
Set.

Ring!

HOUSTON'S PREMIER HANDBELL CHOIR



Thank you for joining us  
in May. See you in  
December!!



## 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](http://www.houstonbronze.org)

Email:  
[info@houstonbronze.com](mailto:info@houstonbronze.com)  
[event@houstonbronze.org](mailto: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/](http://houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/)

### DONATE TO HOUSTON BRONZE TODAY!

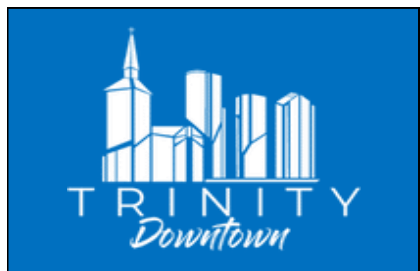
Houston Bronze Ensemble is a 501 (c)(3) organization. We rely on your donations to continue to maintain and purchase our instruments, purchase music, print programs, truck rental, provide a stipend for our artistic director, and so much more. To make your donation, please go to our website and click the donate button at the top of the page.



[www.houstonbronze.org](http://www.houstonbronze.org)

### 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.



## 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](http://www.houstonbronze.org) for more information about our group and what we offer. Feel free to contact us at [info@houstonbronze.org](mailto:info@houstonbronze.org) with any questions or requests. We look forward to working with you to provide handbell excellence to meet your needs!