

Houston Bronze Ensemble

Volume 4, No. 2
April, 2017



education

EXCELLENCE

enjoyment

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

Calendar of Events

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2017 and beyond.

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

CALENDAR:

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 30, 2017 4:00 pm

Guest Artists: Brookwood Handbell Ensemble
Concert Series
5201 Spring Cypress Rd.
Spring, TX

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston
Friday, May 5, 2017 7:30 pm
3400 Main St.
Houston, TX 77002

Tomball United Methodist Church

Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 7:00 pm

1603 Baker Drive
Tomball, TX 77375

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 7:30 pm
3400 Main St.
Houston, TX 77002

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!](#)

Newsletters will be issued in January, April, July, and October. Newsletters will be issued electronically through emails, on the website (www.houstonbronze.com), and on Facebook. We hope you will enjoy them.

Houston Bronze Ensemble

Escape

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

Guest Artists:

Brookwood Handbell Ensemble

5201 Spring Cypress Rd Spring, TX

Date: April 30, 2017 Time: 4:00 pm
Free Concert

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston

3400 Main Street Houston, TX

Date: May 5, 2017 Time: 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$15.00 Adult, \$10.00 Student



www.houstonbronze.com
LIKE us on Facebook!

Need a few moments to escape to the places of your dreams? Join the Houston Bronze Ensemble and let the music of handbells carry you back in time, to the beauty of Alaska, to the vastness of outer space, and to points in between. There are no limits to where the music may carry you. Come and ESCAPE with us! For more information check out our website at <http://houstonbronze.com/where-we-are-ringing.html>

We've been very busy in 2017! Enjoy the newsletter.

**Brookwood Handbell Ensemble,
Guest Artists
April 30, 2017 4:00 pm**



The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble will join Houston Bronze on April 30, 2017 at our concert at Trinity Klein Lutheran Church. We are excited that they will be able to be with us. We have had the privilege to work in an advisory capacity for this ensemble since November, 2016. The information below is taken from the website and describes the ensemble.

“People with disabilities can make beautiful music with handbells. Don’t believe that? Just listen to the Brookwood Handbell Choir!”

Located on a beautiful acreage west of Houston in

Brookshire, Texas, Brookwood is a God-centered, educational community, where adults with special needs have meaningful jobs and live life abundantly... without government funding.

The Brookwood Handbell Choir is composed of 16 citizens who have mastered playing music with colored scrolls and a set of 3-octave handbells. The system was adapted from the Handbell Musicians of America under the leadership of world renowned pianist, Linda McKechnie, in 2007.

The Brookwood Handbell Choir has played for numerous churches, senior groups, private luncheons, and the Houston Astros – where they rang the National Anthem! Their most recent performances include ringing for the Houston Grand Opera, the Houston Symphony, the Brookwood Spring Gala and the Brookwood Volunteer Benefit Luncheon. They also perform regularly at Brookwood for many special occasions.”

The choir is under the direction of Kevin Coleman. If you are unfamiliar with The Brookwood Community, you can learn more about them on their website

<http://www.brookwoodcommunity.org/community/handbell.php>



We are looking forward to sharing the concert stage with this ensemble in April.



Visit our website:

www.houstonbronze.com



Houston Bronze Auditions For 2017-2018 Season

On May 16, Houston Bronze will be holding auditions for Fall, 2017. If you feel that you are ready to play more advanced music and want to commit to an ensemble that is seeking EXCELLENCE, we hope that you will consider contacting us about how to become a part of the group. **ALL** positions are available. There is more information about the audition process on our website,

<http://houstonbronze.com/becoming-a-member-of-houston-bronze.html>

You may also contact our director, Bill Nave, by email at:

artisticdirector@houstonbronze.com



A Note From Our President

It's hard to believe that in just a few short weeks, the 2016-17 season of ringing will be completed. Looking back over the past year, there are so many

accomplishments I could write about – workshops, recording session, FebFest, Bronze-fest, Brookwood, and, of course, concerts. Each of these endeavors was done with the goal of excellence in mind, and due to the commitment, dedication, and talents of each ringer, we were highly successful in our goals of excellence in enjoyment and education!

As our new friend, Kevin Coleman (director of Brookwood Handbell Ensemble) likes to tell his ringers, “Musicians are never satisfied.” While we are pleased with the results of this past year, we are also looking ahead to making next year even better. Our pursuit of continued excellence for 2017 – 18 will begin with auditions on May 16. Every position is open and everyone hoping to ring with the ensemble must audition. Having everyone audition each year ensures that we have the best ringers available, motivates current members to continue improving their skills, and encourages prospective members to try out for this open group.

Have you ever considered auditioning for HBE? Do you know someone who would be an asset to the group? Does the mere thought of the audition process terrify you? Every current ringer certainly understands those feelings! They'll also tell you that the experience of being a member is definitely worth the brief audition. If you or someone you know is interested in ringing with us, please contact Bill Nave, artisticdirector@houstonbronze.com, to get more information. You won't regret being part of the exciting pursuit of excellence!



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Houston Bronze Ensemble Offers Distinctly Teen Scholarship

The Houston Bronze Ensemble is happy to announce that they will be granting one \$200.00 scholarship to a Houston area teen who is planning to attend the [Handbell Musicians of America Distinctly Teen](#) event that is to be held in Anaheim, California on July 13-16, 2017. Distinctly Teen is designed for individual ringers in grades 8-12 who wish to stretch their ringing skills and challenge their musicianship.

Requirements:

- Be accepted by HMA into Distinctly Teen.
- Reside in the Houston metropolitan area
- Submit scholarship application by May 31, 2017.
- Post on the Houston Bronze Ensemble Facebook page while attending the event.
- Recipients are expected to submit a brief follow-up report of their experience at Distinctly Teen with permission for HBE to use this information on our website and on our Facebook page.

The application for the scholarship may be found at

<http://houstonbronze.com/distinctly-teen-scholarship.html>

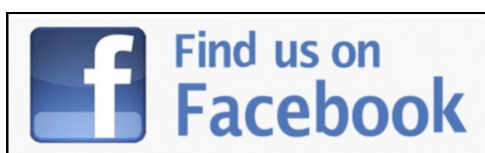
Application Deadline is May 31, 2017

The announcement of scholarship winners will be made by June 15, 2017.

Please share this information with anyone that may have a teenager who is interested in attending. If you would like to make a donation to the Houston Bronze Scholarship program you can do so on our website.

<http://houstonbronze.com/donate-friends-of-houston-bronze.html>

LIKE us on [FACEBOOK](#)



“Nightmare” on Bell Street

By Ruth Seiwel

Ringling in a handbell ensemble is sometimes a tricky thing! There are so many things to multi-task! One is supposed to watch the director above most things. However, if one does not watch the music and the notes on the page, watching the director really doesn't matter – if you are ringing nothing! THEN one must try to accomplish all the items the composer wants such as correct tempo, dynamics, ritardando, accelerandos, cessuras, and the list goes on and on. Also in handbell music are many special markings one must know in order to ring the music correctly. Symbols abound: martellato, mallets on the table, suspended mallets, thumb damps, singing bell, gyros, tolls, LV's, regular ring and damp. I'm tired just thinking about all the necessary knowledge. On top of all of the above, one must read Italian to unravel the mystery of how to ring in a certain manner. Does the composer want you to be sad, angry, happy, agitated, melancholy or dancing? All of these by the way are generally noted in Italian! In my educational journey, I took Spanish, Latin and German but NOT Italian. (I did however play piano for years, so I learned a lot before ringing handbells!)

I have decided without a single doubt that music is itself another language. In addition, handbells have an additional language to learn. When I consider my languages in this light, I know (or have learned somewhere along the way) English, Spanish, German, Latin, some Italian, music language and handbell language. However, I forgot one...I have also learned the language of the conductor, who uses body language and the language of the baton the conductor wields!

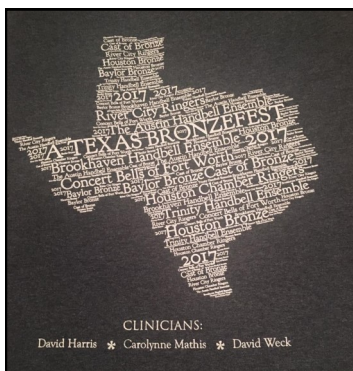
The tricky part ringing in a handbell ensemble goes far beyond all of the above. One must also be willing to work jointly with other members of the ensemble: share bells, be cordial, and be understanding of others.

To conclude, in order to ring in this tricky, complicated thing known as a handbell ensemble, I must know multiple languages AND work well with others! Despite the complications, ringing in a handbell ensemble is one of the most rewarding experiences I have encountered. I wish everyone were able to experience this joy.

TEXAS BRONZEFEST

March 31-April 1, 2017

Baylor University, Waco, TX



On Friday March 31, 2017, members of Houston Bronze journeyed to Waco to participate in the Texas BronzeFest. This event was held 5 years ago and we have been anxiously

waiting to go again. I think that most of us would say that this is one of the best handbell events we attend. The event was sponsored by the Austin Handbell Ensemble and Baylor Bronze. Community and college handbell ensembles from across the state of Texas were in attendance. We performed two pieces with the other community choirs and one piece with community and college ensembles combined. Beyond these pieces, each group performed individually. Houston Bronze performed "Escape Velocity" by Jason Krug. Minimal time was spent in mass rehearsal, allowing the remainder of the time to be spent rehearsing our spring concert music. We had the opportunity to work with David Harris who directs the Raleigh Ringers, David Weck who directs Agape Ringers, Carolynne Mathis from Concordia College, Bonnie Riddle from Brookhaven College, Stephanie Rhoades from Concert Bells of Fort Worth, Chris Nabors from Cast of Bronze, and Diane Persellin from Trinity University. We also had the opportunity to meet and have dinner with our two college scholarship ringers from Baylor. We enjoyed our time with all of our bell friends and we look forward to the next BronzeFest.

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.

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Ken and Lorna Noack
Bob and Ruth Seiwel
Christine and Joseph Theis
Wilson Van Tine



Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel



Texas Bronzefest, 2017





FebFest Friday Workshop

On February 24, Houston Bronze presented a workshop for the Greater Houston Handbell Association at their annual February workshop held each year prior to FebFest. This year’s clinician was John Behnke. The class was given by Bill Nave, Ben Harris, and Jimmy Clark. Handbell techniques were reviewed as the terms and symbols were disclosed as a part of a Handbell Jeopardy game played by workshop participants. Members of the winning team were awarded prizes of a Houston Bronze cd. We hope you will enjoy it.

HBE Records for JEFFERS

In January, Houston Bronze had the honor and privilege of recording once again some of the new publications for Jeffers. This was our 4th time to record for them. These recordings appear on the sample cd’s they send to directors to preview new music. This year we met at University Baptist in Clear Lake for the recording session. They were so kind to provide the space to us. We always enjoy working with Bob Avant and Bill Ingram.



FebFest



The other half of Feb-Friday is FebFest. Over 300 bell ringers from the Houston area and as far away as Bryan met at the Stafford Center for a day of rehearsal and then performance. The clinician

this year was John Behnke. He is a fabulous clinician. The music chosen this year by [GHHA](#) was perfect for the mass ringing genre. HBE played a solo performance of “Wizards in Winter”, arranged by Hart Morris. We had a great time being with all the bell ringers. Thanks GHHA for a great event.!





Bill serves as the game show host.



Jimmy serves as the producer. He also did the tech "stuff" to make the game work the way we wanted it to.



Ben demonstrates singing bell.



FebFest Workshop

FEBFEST

The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2017 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.



About The Houston Bronze Ensemble

The **Houston Bronze Ensemble** is a professional, auditioned, handbell ensemble made up of musicians from the greater Houston area. The founders of HBE, Jeff Weiss, Christine Anderson, and Hart Morris, met for lunch one day in 1988 looking for a way for Houston area handbell directors to have a place to play. They began by writing on a napkin the names of the people who might want to be a part of this ensemble. This was our beginning. In the fall of 1988 Hart Morris became the first director of Houston Bronze. After Hart moved to Memphis, Tennessee, the ensemble rang under the musical direction of arranger and composer Margaret (Maggi) R. Tucker until 1994. During the 1995 season, the group rang ensemble style with various ringers, including G.W. 'Dub' 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.

The ensemble celebrated its 25th Anniversary year in 2014. In December 2014, Houston Bronze Ensemble was honored with an invitation to perform with the Houston Symphony as a part of their Family Concert Series. In July 2015, the ensemble was invited to and performed at Pinnacle 2015 held in Dallas, TX.

The ensemble rehearses every Tuesday evening with a focus on excellence in precision and expression. The ensemble plays a variety of genres of music but always with the goal of excellence.

Houston Bronze Ensemble holds a 501(c)(3) non-profit status.



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.

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Benefits of Being a Friend of HBE

- Direct mailing of newsletter
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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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