

## Houston Bronze Ensemble

Volume 4, No. 4  
October, 2017



*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](http://www.houstonbronze.com)

Email:  
[info@houstonbronze.com](mailto:info@houstonbronze.com)  
[event\\_coordinator@houstonbronze.com](mailto:event_coordinator@houstonbronze.com)

#### CALENDAR:

**500 Forward Festival**  
**Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 10:30 am**  
Performance in gymnasium of  
St. Mark Lutheran Church  
1515 Hillendahl Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77055

**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

**Trinity Klein Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, April 30, 2017 4:00 pm**  
Concert Series  
Free Concert  
5201 Spring Cypress Rd.  
Spring, TX

#### MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston  
**Saturday, May 5, 2018 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](http://www.houstonbronze.com)), and on Facebook. We hope you will enjoy them.*



Traditions create fond memories which bind us together and are worth repeating. Join us as we "Repeat the Sounding Joy" of favorite Christmas melodies that are sure to stir warm recollections of past Christmas celebrations and fill your heart with hopeful anticipation for new memorable moments. The concert will include selections from The Nutcracker, carols, and a world premiere of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" arranged by Houston composer, Bill Brusick. Join us as we ring in the holiday season!

**Tomball United Methodist Church**  
**Friday, Dec. 1, 2017 7:00 pm**  
1603 Baker Drive  
Tomball, TX 77375  
(free concert)

#### MATCH

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

Tickets available at <https://matchouston.org/events/repeat-sounding-joy>

# Where to find Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers this Holiday Season



## Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers to perform at The Alley Theatre

[The Alley Theatre](#) will be celebrating its grand reopening on Friday, November 24 with the Deck the Trees-Tree Lighting Celebration and a performance of *A Christmas Carol*. [Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers](#) will be providing music as part of this special event. They will be located on the stairway landing next to the big Holiday tree.

**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2017

**Time:** Houston Bronze will perform at 6:45 pm

**Place:** The Alley Theatre 615 Texas Avenue Houston, TX



## Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers to perform at The Empty Glass

**Date:** November 25, 2017

**Time:** 2:00 pm—5:00 pm

**Place:** [The Empty Glass](#)

104 Market Street  
Tomball, Tx



## LIGHTS IN THE HEIGHTS

December 9, 2017  
6-9 pm

Houston Bronze will once again be participating in this community event. We will have more information on where to find us on Facebook and on our website as we get closer to the day.

Join HBE at Lights in the Heights.

<https://365thingsinhouston.com/calendar/lights-in-the-heights-2017/>



## Meet Bill Brusick

One of the selections on our Christmas program this year will be a newly arranged version of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”. This was arranged by our own Bill Brusick. Bill joined the HBE Board of Directors in September of 2012. He has offered us good counsel over the last 5 years and we appreciate all he has done for us. He is a noted composer and arranger of both sacred and secular music with over 100 cataloged works for orchestra, band, chamber ensembles, solo instruments and chorus. In 2014 Houston Bronze commissioned his first handbell composition, ["Selah"](#) which premiered at HBE's 25th Anniversary Gala on May 3, 2014. It was also performed at Pinnacle, a national handbell conference, held in Dallas in the summer of 2015. <https://youtu.be/dFNlBqm89hk> This performance was recorded at our Pinnacle Send-Off Concert in July, 2015.

This music box sounding arrangement of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, to be premiered on December 1, 2017, was conceived on his way home from a HBE board meeting in July of this year. Bill Nave, HBE artistic director, had mentioned the need for a concert closer at the board meeting. All other selections for the concert were made. On Bill Brusick's way home from the board meeting, the music began playing in his head and once home he put it into Finale. It wasn't long before he sent this delightful arrangement to us.

Bill serves as the organist/pianist, choir director and overseer of music programs for [Trinity Lutheran Church and School](#) in Spring, TX. In 2007, Houston Bronze had the pleasure of ringing on the Trinity concert series for the first time. We have continued to play there each year and will be there again on April 15, 2018.

Thank you, Bill, for this delightful arrangement and for all you have done to support our ensemble over the past ten years. You are a true Friend of Houston Bronze.



## Houston Bronze College Ring-In Scholarship Program

The Houston Bronze Ensemble is happy to announce that we will once again be granting two scholarships to college students who are attending the [Handbell Musicians of America College Ring-In 2018](#) that is to be held at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey on January 3-6, 2018. Each scholarship will be for \$100.00, covering the cost of registration. Each scholarship will be granted in the form of a reimbursement once the event and requirements of the scholarship are met. All other expenses (music, lodging, meals, transportation to and from the festival site, sightseeing, etc.) are the responsibility of the recipient. Preference will be given to applicants from the greater Houston metropolitan area. Secondly, we will consider applicants from the entire state of Texas and beyond.

### Requirements:

- Be accepted by HMA into College Ring-In.
- Be a student at a college or university.
- Submit scholarship application to HBE by December 1, 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 College Ring-In with permission for HBE to use this information on our website and on our Facebook page.

The scholarship application can be found on our website, <http://houstonbronze.com/college-ring-in-scholarship-application.html>

**Application Deadline is December 1, 2017.** Please direct any questions you may have about the scholarship program to [scholarship@houstonbronze.com](mailto:scholarship@houstonbronze.com)



## Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers

The **Houston Bronze Ensemble** offers performances by the **Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers**, 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 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, <http://houstonbronze.com/houston-bronze-celebration-ringers.html>.

## Houston Bronze Members Attend Distinctly Bronze East

This month five members of Houston Bronze traveled to New Bern, North Carolina to attend an event sponsored by Handbell Musicians of America. Ringers from all over the U.S. and even some from other countries come to ring. The conductor this year was William Payne. We always have a great time seeing friends made in past years and ringing some great and challenging music.



Houston Bronze Ensemble has been invited to perform at the 500 Forward Reformation Festival on Saturday morning, October 28. We are looking forward to being a part of this day of celebration.

## Houston Bronze and the 500 Forward Festival

October 28, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Performance in the gymnasium of

St. Mark Lutheran Church

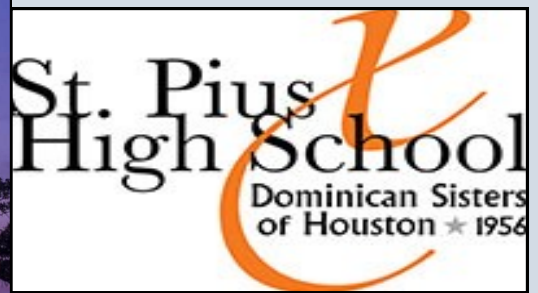
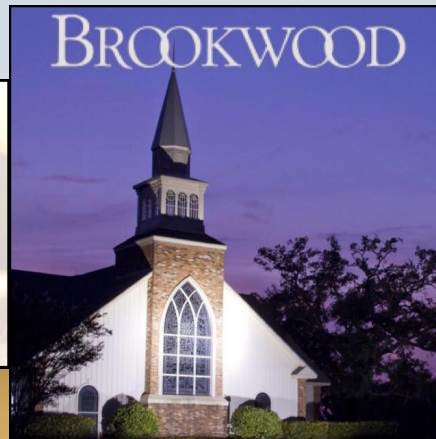
1515 Hillendahl

Houston, Texas 77055

For more information about the festival and the events of the weekend, please go to their website.

<https://www.500forward.org/>

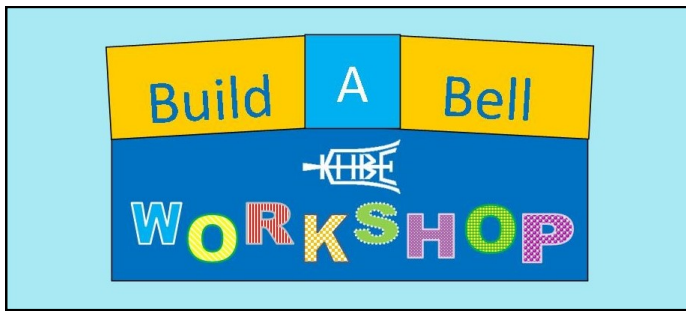
# A Day of Celebration!!



Teamwork...collaboration....joint effort..... However you choose to say it, all handbell choirs rely on the cooperation and connection between individuals to produce their music. This same spirit of interrelated support exists in the affiliation between Houston Bronze and the [Brookwood Community](#) Handbell Ensemble that has been building over the past year. On Thursday, October 12, the partnership expanded to include the bell choir from St. Pius X High School under the direction of Marge Harris when they traveled to Brookwood to present a smart board and projector. These tools will bring Brookwood's music delivery system into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and eventually replace the handwritten scrolls they currently use. There are still more hurdles to maneuver but we are moving in the right direction thanks to this very generous gift from St. Pius. To celebrate this gift, members of all 3 groups joined together to enjoy cookies and ringing some pieces together. It truly was a "Day of Celebration!"

The next hurdle on this path to updating Brookwood's music delivery system is inputting all of their music into the smart board software. Many hours of data entry lie ahead! Ultimately, we would like to either find an existing program or someone to write a new program that would have the capability of converting a piece of sheet music into the format they use. If you or someone you know has expertise in this area, we would love to talk to you about the possibilities! Contact us by email at [education@houstonbronze.com](mailto:education@houstonbronze.com)





In August, Houston Bronze Ensemble began a new educational venture for the fall. Build A Bell Workshop allows directors to choose what they want taught in a custom made handbell workshop. Classes offered include malleting, four in hand, weaving, problem solving, rhythms, low bells, and healthy ringing. If you are interested in scheduling your own workshop, please contact us by filling out the contact form on our website.

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

Below are some comments and pictures from our fall workshops.

- *I loved the approach, the different assets they bring to bell playing. They convinced me it's possible for us to be much better.*
- *I liked being able to have one on one in addition to the group.*
- *I liked the explanations with demonstration and letting us try it with individual feedback.*
- *Instructors were positive and patient.*

In the spring, HBE plans to transition this program towards working in schools to help their choirs as they prepare for contest.



## 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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### Corporate Contributors

ExxonMobil      Phillips 66      Shell Oil  
Amazon              iGive

### Individual Contributors

Lloyd and Judy Clayton  
Sam and Linda Conner  
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Stephen Driver  
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Dean and Sherry Hunter  
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Ken and Lorna Noack  
Fay Pye  
Bob and Ruth Seiwel  
Diana Schmitt  
St. Peter's UMC, Katy, TX  
Christine and Joseph Theis  
Wilson Van Tine



Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel



## A Note From Our President

Lorna Noack

### Become a Friend of Houston Bronze

Like all non-profit organizations, we rely on the generosity of people like you to fund our mission. Out of all the causes that you could support, why choose Houston Bronze? I could try to convince you that our dedication to handbell excellence for the enjoyment of our listeners and for the education of ringers of all levels to ensure the future of handbells is worthy of your donation, but I believe that the words of those who have been impacted by our efforts say it best!

*Houston Bronze is teaches us proper, new, and different techniques, encourages us to do better, is generous and kind, and is proud of what we do. We look forward to seeing them every Wednesday. They're the highlight of our week.*

-The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble

*Your level of excellence impresses me... Professional, precise, and pure joy.... Handbells on steroids!... I didn't know handbells could sound like that.... We believe that you are doing very special and selfless work. We feel strongly that it should be supported.*

- Concert attendees

*Loved learning lots of techniques, helpful friendly instruction!*

- Summer Ring attendees

*I loved the approach, the different assets they bring to bell playing. They convinced me it's possible for us to be much better. -Build a Bell Workshop*

Whether you choose to donate money, tell your friends about us and bring them to a concert, like us on Facebook, watch our YouTube channel, or schedule a workshop with us, we greatly appreciate your support. Thank you for being one of our loyal fans!

LIKE us on [FACEBOOK](#)

Visit our website:

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



## 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](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: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Benefits of Being a Friend of HBE

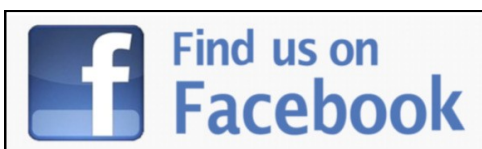
- Direct mailing of newsletter
- Your name listed in HBE programs and newsletter
- Advance notice of public concerts

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

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

LIKE us on [FACEBOOK](#)

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel



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