

Vol. 8, No. 4
October, 2021



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

2021 Concerts and Performances

While we currently have venues and dates scheduled for the fall, 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.

HBE Christmas Concerts

Friday, December 3, 2021 7:00 PM

Tomball United Methodist Church
1603 Baker Dr. Tomball, TX 77375
Free concert

Saturday, December 4, 2021 7:30 PM
MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston
3400 Main St. Houston, TX 77002
Ticketed Event

Epiphany Services

Sunday, January 9, 2022 9:00 AM

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston Avenue Houston, TX

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2021– 2022 and beyond
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
eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com



Houston Bronze presents *“Christmas Light”*

"Light can be gentle, dangerous, dreamlike, bare, living, dead, misty, clear, hot, dark, violet, spring-like, falling, straight, sensual, limited, poisonous, calm and soft." (Sven Nykvist)

What is the light guiding you in your life today? Join us as we share the light of the season with you through music and words. We hope you will take that light with you when you leave to share with those you touch.



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Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



A Note from our President, Jimmy Clark

I am thrilled to serve as president of the Houston Bronze Ensemble board of directors for the 2021-2022 season. I thank Bill Nave, our artistic director, and the ensemble members for their support as I settle into my new role. I'd also like to thank Lorna Noack for her support during this transition period and gratefully acknowledge her hard work and dedication as past board president. I see great things happening for the ensemble and can feel the excitement from everyone on the board as we steer HBE out of the pandemic and a return to normal.

The entire handbell community is slowly starting to return to normal evidenced by the National Seminar held in person this past July in Phoenix. HBE is slowly returning to normal as well as we begin rehearsal for our upcoming Christmas program. We are back to changing positions, sharing equipment, and working in some of our other bells kept in their cases this past year. I think we have a great program this year and am excited to share our upcoming program entitled Christmas Light. Details about our concerts are in this newsletter, and available on our website and Facebook page.

Also, in this newsletter we have an exciting membership update to share with you as we welcome new ringers into the HBE family. If you want to know more about what happens at the National Seminar you will want to check out the article by one of our ringers, Jerry Conry. Don't forget to check out our many educational opportunities available to ringers throughout the Houston area. We at HBE want to help handbell ringers learn new skills or improve skills which might not have been used this past year. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming concerts.

Your Houston Bronze Ensemble

In late July, a valued member of HBE received an offer for her dream job but it would require her to move. Fortunately, we were able to invite another ringer to step in and join us. We welcomed three new members this fall. Below is your 2021-2022 Houston Bronze Ensemble.

Kathy Beard, Jimmy Clark, Jerry Conry, Rachel Kortze, DruEllen Duncan, Linda Ellison, Ben Harris, Marvin Havard, Sarah Killingsworth, Diana Montgomery, Karen Ridgway, Wilson Van Tine

Our newest HBE members



Houston Bronze Poinsettia Sale

Help us to "deck our concert halls" by purchasing a 6 inch pot of poinsettias. These beautiful plants are 12-15 inches in height and are grown by our friends at The Brookwood Community. Because of COVID precautions we have missed being with our friends but this is one small way we can continue to show our support. This year Brookwood planted over 50,000 poinsettias to be sold in the Houston area and beyond. The plants will be used at our concerts and if you purchase one, you may take it home with you following the concert you attend, December 3rd in Tomball or December 4th at MATCH. We have only reserved 40 plants and these will be sold on a first come first serve basis.





Jerry in bell maintenance class at National Seminar

National Seminar 2021—JUST THE TICKET!

by Jerry Conry

I was desperate to be around handbells again and National Seminar in Phoenix this summer was just the ticket. There were loads of classes and concerts. Attendance was down significantly due to COVID but I found it made for a less hectic, more relaxed event than usual and I enjoyed it. It was wonderful to reconnect with friends and acquaintances I haven't seen in nearly two years.

Four members of HBE attended in July—myself, Diana, Jimmy and Wilson. The others put much of their energy into ringing tracks and performed several entertaining concerts on the last day. I focused on education and attended classes on handbell recording, bell assignments, contracting for clinicians and compositions, ringing in quartets, four-in-hand techniques and Schulmerich bell maintenance, to name a few. So much useful information was on tap and really well presented.

Then there were the concerts. Hearing live handbell music again and enjoying the visual experience was amazing. Wow! It's always a treat to hear music you love and know well played by other ensembles and to also get to enjoy new repertoire, including some world premieres. My favorite concert was when the Bells of the Cascades and Cathedral Bells joined forces on the final evening. The enthusiasm of the young conductors was rewarded by the excellent preparation and musicianship of the performers resulting in a most memorable concert and the grand finale left not a dry eye in the house.

One of the best reasons to attend National Seminar is for the connections. Can you imagine being at an event with Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Stravinsky and others in attendance? And being able to chat with them and ask questions? Well that's what National seminar is like for handbell musicians because so many of our composers are present and they're so approachable. Also part of the fun is attending concerts where their compositions are performed and later being able to discuss their works.

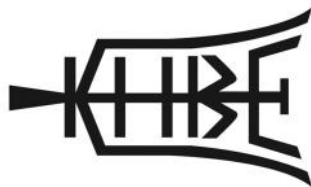
So next year the seminar is in Nashville and I'm already making plans to attend. Maybe I'll see you there?



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Build a Bell Workshop

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



Due to Covid restrictions, it has been decided to not hold our Summer Ring program this summer. It is our sincere hope that by summer, 2022, we can return to hosting this event. It has become one of our favorites.

Build a Bell Workshop

Is your ensemble going to begin ringing again this fall after a long break from ringing due to COVID? If so, you may want to consider building a workshop for your ensemble. There is no need to pack up your bells and travel because we come to you. Plan a longer Saturday workshop or even just a regular rehearsal time workshop. Choose from topics such as malleting, four in hand, battery bells, rhythms, bell maintenance, problem solving, marking your music, and weaving. Houston Bronze offers these workshops free of charge. If you are interested in talking to us about a workshop for your ensemble, please contact us at <http://houstonbronze.com/build-a-bell-workshop.html>

Comments from past workshops:

- 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.

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



The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2021 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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- Donate to Houston Bronze Ensemble. All donations, large or small, are welcome!!

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Benefits of Being a Friend of HBE

- Direct mailing of newsletter
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You may also contact our treasurer at info@houstonbronze.com to make arrangements to contribute via credit card.

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