

Vol. 7 No.4
October, 2020



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

2020-2021 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 stay with us and watch our Facebook page and our website for the latest information.

A MASKerade Christmas

Friday, December 4, 2020 7:00 PM

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

Saturday, December 5, 2020 7:30 PM
MATCH

Awaiting confirmation

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

Epiphany Services

Sunday, January 3, 2021 8:15 AM and 10:50 AM

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston Avenue
Houston, TX

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for
2020-2021

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

The Houston Bronze Ensemble



A Maskerade Christmas

You are invited to attend the Houston Bronze
Maskerade Christmas Ball!

A MASKerade Christmas

Friday, December 4, 2020 7:00 PM

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

Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Build a Bell Workshop

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



Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



Ringers Wanted!

Houston Bronze Ensemble
AUDITIONS

BUILD A BELL WORKSHOP

Book a workshop for the fall. We would love to come and work with your ensemble.

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

Comments from our workshops this fall:

- 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.

Auditions For 2021 Season

Houston Bronze is looking for some additional bell ringers to join us for the Spring 2021 Season. The tentative date for auditions is January 5, 2021. Auditions will be held at our rehearsal space which is Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church. For more information, please check out our website at <https://www.houstonbronze.com/become-a-member-of-houston-bronze---audition.html> or contact us at audition@houstonbronze.com. We hope you will consider joining us.














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ADVANTAGES OF WEARING A MASK!

You will see a new addition to our attire at our concerts this season. Yes, we will be wearing masks. There are many advantages to mask wearing for the bell ringer. Here are a few submitted by our members.

-  I am protecting you and me!
-  I don't have to worry about making a face when I make a mistake.
-  It will keep my face warm at those outside gigs in the park.
-  I can count moving my lips and no one will know.
-  No fake or real smile required.
-  I don't have to wear makeup.
-  No one knows I didn't trim my beard.
-  No one can see the zit on my chin.
-  No one knows if I have broccoli stuck in my teeth.
-  No one can hopefully smell those onions I had for dinner.
-  I have a new excuse for my mistakes. "My glasses got fogged over so I missed that note."

LET'S RING!!!

After almost 7 months of not ringing, HBE began rehearsals again on Sept. 15. Members picked up bells and music on Sept. 5 to take home and begin music study and practice. Rehearsal is done with social distancing and masks. We are also not changing positions this fall or sharing bells. We are lucky enough to have duplicates. We are excited to be making music together again.

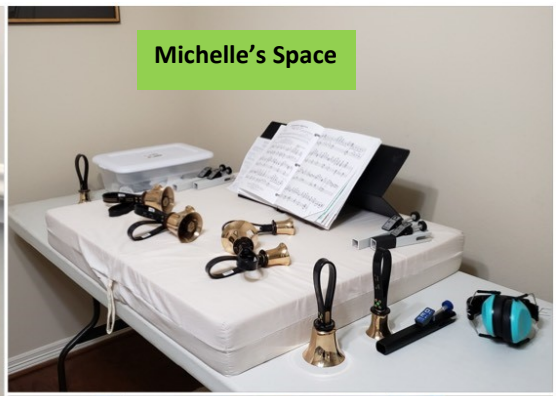
Bell Pick up on September 5, 2020



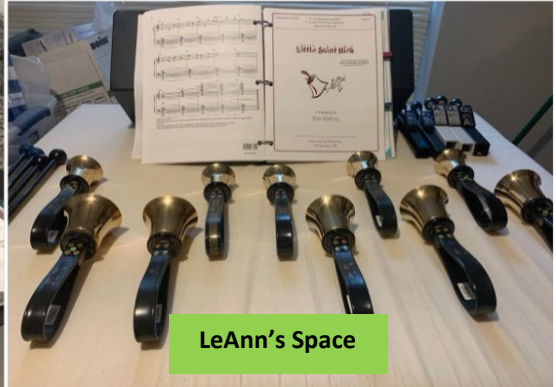
HBE Home Practice Space



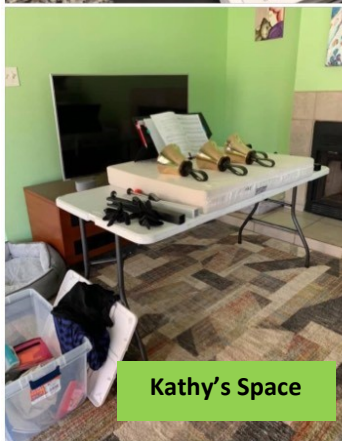
Bill's Space



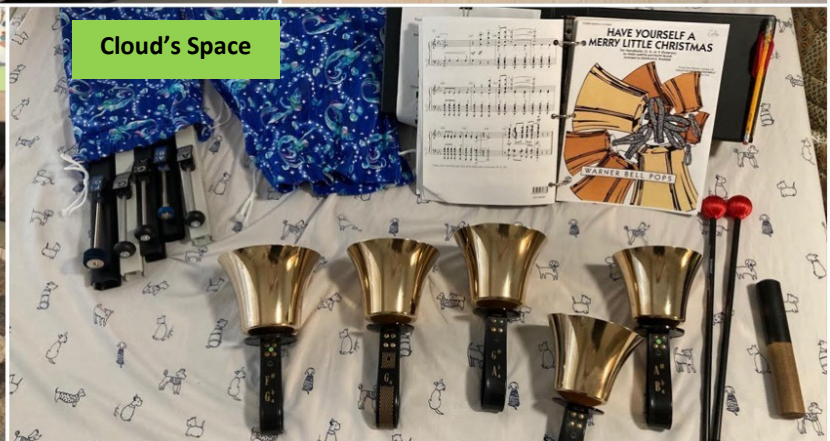
Michelle's Space



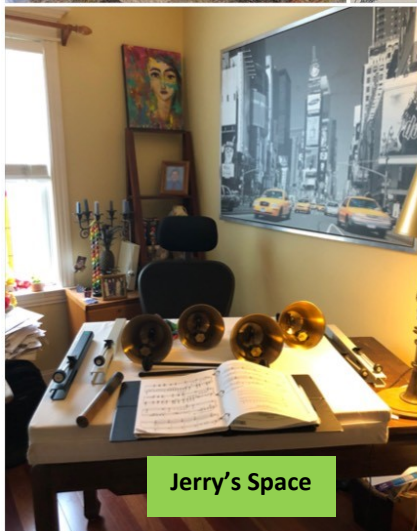
LeAnn's Space



Kathy's Space



Cloud's Space



Jerry's Space



Jimmy's Space

In order to make up for lost time in rehearsal, members have taken their assigned bells home with them so they can better prepare for our upcoming concert. Above are pictures of some of their rehearsal areas.

Collage by Kathy Beard.



Welcome to the Board!

Houston Bronze welcomes Ben Harris to the board. Ben will be filling the position left by Amy Hal-ler due to her move to Colorado. Ben has served HBE in many capaci-ties in the past. He brings with him

his attention to detail which will help in our pursuit of excellence. We look forward to working with him.



NATIONAL SEMINAR

HMA held its FIRST-EVER Virtual National Seminar on July 16-19, 2020. It was a new and different expe-rience, but certainly a fun and educational one that put no one at risk. The classes held throughout the seminar were great and the concerts were fabulous. It was so nice to hear and see ringing again and to think “all things bell” for a week. Below are some comments from three of the Houston Bronze mem-bers who attended the online seminar.

Lorna writes: *Thanks to the virtual format, I was able to "attend" National Seminar for the first time this summer. Being able to watch as many classes as I wanted on my own schedule allowed me to learn a number of new rehearsal tips, business/board related ideas, techniques to improve my ringing, and connect with friends from all over the country. I hope that the virtual option will continue to be offered in the future.*

Linda writes: *I loved having the opportunity to attend national seminar from my own living room. The classes were great. Having the capability of watching them a second time or watching later was fantastic. Instruc-tors did a great job and the people who were in charge of the technical support were ready to help. I loved the format of the concerts. Meeting the members of the ensembles as they announced the pieces, often with a personal story, made it feel like you were sitting down and talking to them. One of the concerts even took us into the performers living room with his dogs listening. So although they were all done online, the entire event felt very intimate and personal to me. I did not expect that. Well done. Thank you!!*

Cloud writes: *It is my second time to attend National Handbell Seminar. The difference this year was all classes and concerts were virtual. After the seminar, participants were allowed one more week to look at class videos, providing more flexibility. In addition the registration fee was much less expensive. As a regular HMA member, I spent the member price for taking 19 classes but could view all 40 classes and down-loaded all handouts!*

I enjoyed the week at handbell heaven. Although it was challenging to look at the computer screen for four whole days via ZOOM. I had a good time taking classes, learning some new in-formation about business and virtual related top-ics and joining the solo roundtable meeting. I was not only able to say hi to old friends but also make new connections and find new resources. All of the concerts were awesome and very touching. It reminded me that I'm not alone in this tough time.

There were a lot of new cool ideas this year, such as taking virtual group photo and the chance to be a part of the final virtual concert. Ringers recorded parts and submitted their re-cording. I was very glad to be part of that. The video is still on the youtube: "Triumphal Entry" - National Seminar 2020 Virtual Handbell Ensem-ble <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6uefdT26oQ>

In addition, the silent auction opened to the public. I used the photo that I took from the 2016 National Seminar to make a 2000 piece puzzle. It was a big hit and the bidding price ended up at \$206. The winner, Leslie Lewis, is actually in the puzzle!

It was a joyful and memorable seminar this year! I greatly appreciate all the HMA staff whose hard work made it happen I definitely encourage you participate in the seminar next year, in person or virtual.



Cloud's jigsaw puzzle for Silent Auction



To Everything There Is a Season

A time to live, a time to die



On August 23, 2020 our dear friend, Ruth Seiwell, passed away. It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Ruth. Ruth was a member of Houston Bronze from 1999 - 2017. During those 18 years she served our ensemble as a ringer, a board member, a director, a teacher, a supporter and whatever else needed to be done. Even after leaving the ensemble in 2017 she never stopped supporting us. She was a loyal friend. Ruth's leaves with us so many memories. She also leaves a legacy in the handbell world that will last for years to come. Her dedication and talent set a path for our ensemble to continue and to thrive. Thank you Ruth for all you gave to us. Rest in peace dear friend.

A time to plant, a time to pluck up that which is planted



This September, Houston Bronze ringer, Amy Haller, will be leaving Texas and returning to her beloved Colorado. She goes to Colorado to be close to family. Amy joined Houston Bronze in the fall of 2010 and was usually found playing four in hand near the top of the table. She was also willing to move anywhere else on the table as needed. She served on the board and was active in our Build a Bell workshops. Her ringing skills and organizational talents will be greatly missed by all of us but our friendship remains. We hope that she enjoys the cooler weather of Colorado and the changing of seasons. We wish her all the best.

A time to mourn and a time to dance



Certainly the circumstances of 2020 have caused us all a great feeling loss and sadness. Houston Bronze Ensemble has felt that as well, not only because of Covid, but now because of the loss of our two friends. Please know we will continue to bring you excellence in all that we do, whether in performance, teaching, or community service. We can't wait to see you all again in the very near future.

The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2020 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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Thank you to Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church for providing us with rehearsal space and storage space. 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 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. 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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- 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!
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Name: _____

(As it should appear in our programs and newsletters)

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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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