

## Houston Bronze Ensemble

Volume 4, No. 3  
July, 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:

**Summer Ring!**  
**Tuesday, July 18, 2017**  
**7-9 pm**

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church  
800 Houston Av.  
Houston, TX

**500 Forward Festival**  
**Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017 10:30 am**  
St. Mark's 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

#### MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston  
**Saturday, May 5, 2018 7:30 pm**  
3400 Main St.  
Houston, TX 77002

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*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.*



Houston Bronze would like to thank all of you who attended one of our concerts this spring. We hope you enjoyed the program. A favorite of most was "Escape Velocity". Certainly, the space shuttle video in the background added to the excitement of the piece. Our Trinity concert had a special meaning for many with the addition of the handbell choir from The Brookwood Community. As we continue to mentor them this year, we will hopefully be able to make future plans that will include them in our concerts. Other people commented about the excitement of the Fantasies or the musical and visual visit to Alaska with "Kodiak". There was certainly something for everyone. Work has already begun for our fall season. Our upcoming concerts are listed on the left. We hope to see you soon.



On May 16, 2017 Houston Bronze Ensemble held auditions for their 2017-2018 season. This is the second year that all members have had to reaudition to secure a position in the ensemble. Former member of Houston Bronze, Tom Ellerbrock, and director Bill Nave served as the audition panel. Congratulations to our 2017-2018 Houston Bronze Ensemble.

- Kathy Beaird
- Penny Brehany-Wellman
- LouAnn Bussey
- Jimmy Clark
- Jerry Conry
- DruEllen Duncan\*
- Linda Ellison
- Amy Haller
- Ben Harris
- Marvin Havard\*
- Sarah Moore
- Lorna Noack
- Cindy Robinson
- Michelle Shuman
- Wilson Van Tine

\* New member

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



## *A Note From Our President*

by Lorna Noack

Handbell ringers are students...and athletes...and doctors...and teachers...and mathematicians...and mechanics...and of course, musicians! We are students who are continually learning new music and techniques to improve our ringing. As athletes we train diligently for months both individually and as a team to build coordination and muscle memory so that our ringing appears effortless. We are doctors who practice healthy ringing styles as preventative medicine to avoid physical injury and who diagnose and treat wrong notes and rhythms when they occur. When the opportunity arises, we gladly teach others anything and everything about handbells. Our math brains are utilized while counting fractions of note values like crazy. We are mechanics who are aware of any bell that has an unusual "creak" or feels too loose or too tight and have the tools to make necessary repairs. Finally, we are musicians who bring life to the notes on the page so that they speak to the deepest recesses of our souls.

As we eagerly look forward to the beginning of another ringing season, the students/athletes/doctors/teachers/mathematicians/mechanics/musicians of Houston Bronze welcome you and hope you will follow us on Facebook and on our website through our studies, training, diagnosing, teaching, calculating and repairing this fall. Most importantly, please plan to join us for one of our concerts to hear and enjoy what we are ultimately all about - music that is sure to stir your soul and touch you emotionally!

## HOUSTON BRONZE PRESENTS



With a love for ringing and a passion to share our knowledge and 400+ years of collective experience, the Houston Bronze Ensemble offers excellent educational opportunities for your group of any size. Whether you are looking to improve a few skills and techniques or you are wanting to polish some music selections for upcoming performances, our education coordinator will work with you to design a workshop that is customized to meet your needs.

Below is a list of possible classes. These are only a few ideas. If you have other needs, please tell our education coordinator when you make your initial contact. To begin scheduling your workshop, go to <http://houstonbronze.com/build-a-bell-workshop.html>

These workshops are offered free of charge but donations made at these events will be placed in our education fund to help finance our growing education programs like workshops and scholarships.

### Possible classes:

- **ABC 123** (back to basics, including healthy ringing)
- **Beat It!** (a class on malleting)
- **FOUR!** (4 in hand)
- **How Low Can We Go?** (bass bell techniques)
- **Out of the Box!** (problem solving, including weaving)
- **I've Got Rhythm!** (basic rhythms and beyond)
- **Let's Take Action** (We will use the techniques taught and apply to your music.)
- **The Doctor is In** (Bell maintenance)

## Summer Ring!



It is not too late to take advantage of a new program that Houston Bronze is offering this summer. We have one more session of Summer Ring on July 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm. If you are suffering from ringing withdrawal, come and ring with us. It is free, but any donation you may wish to make will go towards our education fund that is used to help offer scholarships and workshops to handbell ringers in the

Houston area. You can register by going to our website, <http://houstonbronze.com/summer-ring.html>.

Below is a link to a recording made at our second session:

<https://www.facebook.com/HoustonBronze/videos/10155499395178648/>





## Blowing our own Horn!

by Linda Ellison

As a member of Houston Bronze Ensemble, I am so proud to be a part of these exciting times in HBE. As I look back over this past year, we have taken so many steps in our commitment to education. We have always been willing to help when asked but this year we began to actively seek new ways to share our love for handbells. We participated in Back to Bells last fall, conducted a bell maintenance for Trinity Downtown where we rehearse, and conducted two workshops at Clear Lake UMC. We began a mentoring relationship with the handbell choir at the Brookwood Community, a God-centered educational, residential, and entrepreneurial community for adults with functional disabilities. They have inspired us and encouraged us to go beyond the norm and to reach for excellence. This past ringing season Houston Bronze granted three scholarships to help Texas college students attend College Ring-In in Dallas. We offered a scholarship to Distinctly Teen for a Houston area teenager. This summer we began what has been a very successful summer program, Summer Ring. This fall we are kicking off yet another educational program called Build a Bell Workshop. This workshop offers directors the chance to build a workshop that will focus on the needs of their ensemble. We have done all of these without charging a fee. Houston Bronze does offer these workshops free of charge but donations towards our educational efforts are always welcome. These monies are used for offering scholarships, printing handouts, ordering new literature for educational purposes, publicity, etc. If it sounds like I am “blowing our own horn”, I guess I am. I believe we have reason to! I am proud to be a part of this ensemble that remains committed to excellence and is truly taking steps beyond the concert stage to ensure the future of handbells for ringers and listeners.



## 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.

### Corporate Contributors

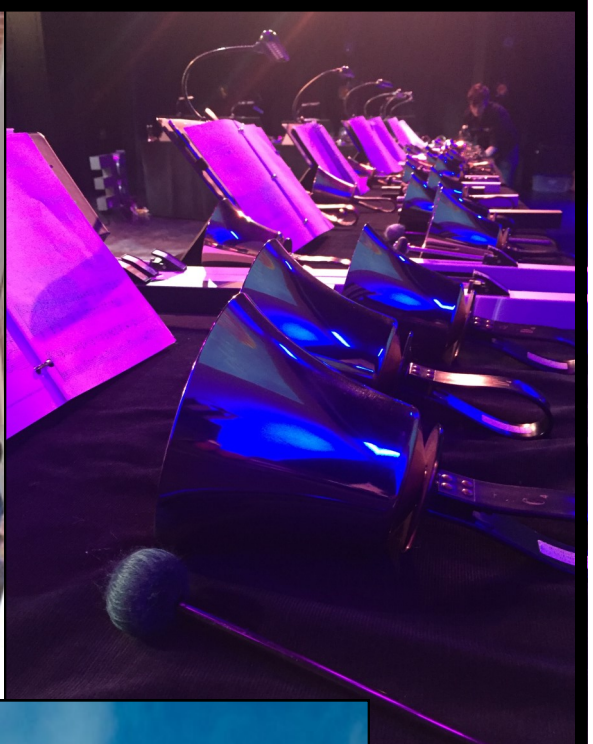
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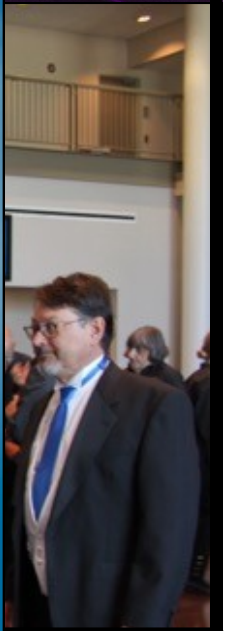


Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel



May, 2017

**Houston Bronze Ensemble**



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Benefits of Being a Friend of HBE

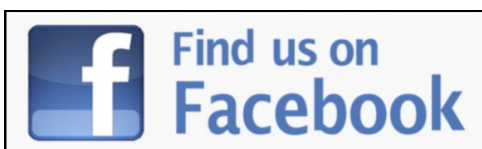
- Direct mailing of newsletter
- Your name listed in HBE programs and newsletter
- Advance notice of public concerts

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.

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Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel



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