

Houston Bronze Ensemble

Volume 5, No. 3

July, 2018



EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Dedicated to HandBell Excellence

Ensuring the future of handbells for ringers and listeners

Calendar of Events

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2018 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

eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com

PERFORMANCE CALENDAR:

Friday, November 30, 2018
7:00 pm

Houston Bronze Christmas Concert
Tomball United Methodist Church

Saturday, December 1, 2018
7:30 pm

Houston Bronze Christmas Concert
MATCH

Sunday, January 6

Houston Bronze plays for the
Epiphany services at
Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church

Sunday, May 19, 2019
4:00

Houston Bronze Spring Concert
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

30th Anniversary Dinner/Concert
TBA

We are currently scheduling concerts for 2018-2019. To schedule a concert contact our event coordinator at eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com

Newsletters will be issued in January, April, July, and October. Newsletters will be issued electronically through emails, on the website



Welcome to the **30th Anniversary** Season of The Houston Bronze Ensemble. We have some exciting plans for this very special season. Some plans are still in formative stages while others have already begun to take shape. We will be posting the date and venue shortly. To hear the latest about our plans, please follow us on Facebook. We also make every effort to keep our website current.

Our "Road Trip" concerts this spring were a lot of fun. We want to thank all of you who made the journey with us at one of our four concerts. We had wonderful audiences at each performance. Enjoy the pictures from our "Road Trip" on the next page of the newsletter.

We hope that you will join us at Christmas for our concerts in Tomball and downtown at MATCH. We will be back in rehearsal the first week of August preparing for the Christmas season. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer. See you in December!

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Houston Bronze 30th Anniversary Original Composition Contest

The Houston Bronze Ensemble, announces our first composition contest to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. It was 30 years ago that our founders met for lunch with the purpose of forming an ensemble where directors from the churches would have an opportunity to ring. With nothing but a paper napkin to jot down possible names of members, our ensemble was created. As a part of our celebration we are sponsoring an original composition contest. We plan to perform the winning pieces at our 30th Anniversary concert in the spring of 2019.

Deadline: November 1, 2018
Prizes: \$1,000 First place
 \$ 500 Second place

For all of the contest rules, please go to our website. We look forward to hearing from handbell composers. <http://houstonbronze.com/30th-anniversary-celebration-and-composition-contest.html>

CONGRATULATIONS

Auditions for the 2018-2019 season of Houston Bronze Ensemble were held on June 12 and June 26. We welcome a new member to Houston Bronze, Jan Barkley. We look forward to getting to know her next season. Returning members are: Kathy Beard, Penny Brehany-Wellman, Jimmy Clark, Jerry Conry, DruEllen Duncan, Linda Ellison, Amy Haller, Ben Harris, J. Marvin Havard, Lorna Noack, Cindy Robinson, Michelle Shuman, and Wilson VanTine,

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Houston Bronze Ensemble Workshop Calendar



Summer Ring !
 July 24, 2018
 7:00—9:00 pm
 800 Houston Av.
 Trinity Downtown
 Lutheran Church

For information and to register go to <http://houstonbronze.com/summer-ring.html>



Build a Bell Workshop
 Select classes for your ensemble and we will work with you on a date. For

more information go to <http://houstonbronze.com/build-a-bell-workshop.html>



August Adventure Workshop
 Greater Houston Handbell Association

"Training Camp" presented by HBE
 August 18, 2018 3-4 pm
 St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
 5308 Buffalo Speedway
 Watch for more information on our Facebook page and on the GHHA website.
<http://ghha.net/august-adventure/>

Summer Days!



Do you suffer from the dreaded “Ringing Withdrawal” during the summer months? It’s not too late to join us for our second Summer Ring of this summer.

In Session 1 we read Level 1 and 2 music. We were happy to make 8 new handbell friends. Session 2, to be held at 7:00 pm on July 24 at Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church, will be for more experienced ringers. We will ring Level 3 and 4 music. The sessions are offered free of charge but we will accept donations to be dedicated to our scholarship programs.

If you would like to attend, please reserve your place by registering on our website. If you have something specific you would like to learn or do at your session, let us know. This will help us to tailor the session to the people attending. Knowing that you are coming will allow us to ensure that we have music, bells, and space for all who attend. Bring your gloves, a handbell folder (if available), and a friend.

For more information and to register go to:

<http://houstonbronze.com/summer-ring.html>



We know that directors are already looking for music and making plans for next fall. We invite you to include in your plans a “Build a Bell Workshop” led by members of Houston Bronze.

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. Houston Bronze offers these workshops free of charge but donations towards our educational efforts are always welcome.

Below are a few comments from people who attended our classes last year.

- * I loved the approach, the different assets they bring to bell playing. They convinced me it's possible to be much better*
- * Learned something new!*
- * Fun! Learned helpful techniques*
- * It was over too soon!*

For more information and to begin making your plans for a Build a Bell Workshop go to our website and fill out the form. We look forward to working with you.

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



A Single Voice

by Amy Haller, Houston Bronze member

(Reprinted from Area 9 May, 2018 Newsletter,

<http://>

area9.handbellmusicians.org/)

I have been thinking a lot lately about language: how it affects our everyday lives, and how it can help or hinder our efforts to communicate with the people around us - friends, family, co-workers. Language has the power to hurt, to heal, and to change the way we feel. If we think about what we are trying to accomplish as musicians, the concept of language and communication is particularly relevant.

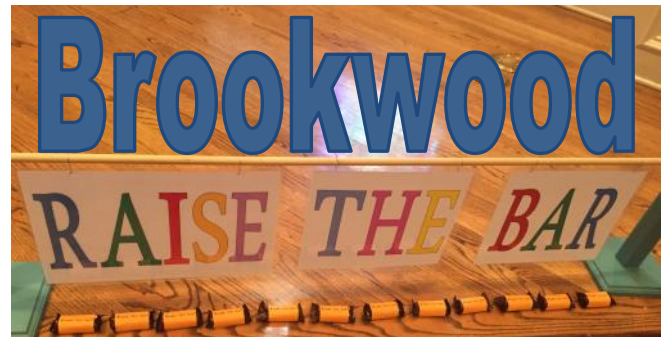
I try to approach it this way: music is the language that we use to communicate what a composer was thinking or feeling when they wrote the piece. Within this language there are all sorts of tools that the composer gives us: dynamics, tempos, rhythms. As handbell musicians, we can add to those tools a variety of techniques like stopped sounds, LV's, and shakes. When we put all of this together, we have a very powerful means of communicating.

For us, the uniqueness of our instrument makes putting a musical thought together a challenge. It is like trying to articulate an idea where each word is spoken by a different person. However, we have to make it sound like just one person is talking. Doing this takes all sorts of skill and rehearsal. It also requires us to listen to each other - another essential component of quality communication. Even as complicated as all of this can sometimes be, the pursuit of this "single voice" is what playing handbells is all about and what keeps me coming back year after year!

I found this quote by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that says it best:

"Music is the universal language of mankind."

So, next time you perform, think about trying to speak with one voice to your audience, using music as your language.



Houston Bronze continues to serve as a mentor to the Brookwood Community Handbell Ensemble. We have been working with them for almost two years now. We are developing a way to move the music reading system they use into the 21st century. At our concert last spring a computer programmer came forward to help us move ahead with a plan to convert their scrolls into something that is easier to read, more consistent, easily corrected and easier to produce. In the process we have introduced several new handbell techniques to the members. They are having a blast with singing bell and twinkling like stars using suspended mallets. They are also learning musical terms and symbols as we are now transferring those signs into the music they are reading. The ensemble is currently working on "Behold the Heavens-B" which appeared in Handbell Musicians of America Overtones magazine. The piece was written by Kathleen Wissinger. The music is very different from anything they have played before and the ensemble is really enjoying the new sounds they are making. The members continue to raise the bar and we continue to enjoy our time spent with our extraordinary Brookwood friends.



Recording for Jeffers



On June 30, members of HBE met at First Baptist Church to record new pieces of music for Jeffers. We have had the privilege of doing this for the past several years. It is always good to see Bill Ingram and Bob Avant. Bob does a great job of making us sound good on the final recordings. Be on the lookout for these probably next spring and summer. It is good to finish our 2017-2018 season. It has been a successful year. We have made great strides towards excellence in the performances and workshops we have given for people from elementary school through senior adults. We loved every minute of it. We don't have too long before we begin our new season. We hope to see you at one of our concerts or workshops next season. Have a great summer!

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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Individual Contributors 2016 to present

Anonymous	Lolli Green	Meredith Overcast
Kathy Beard	Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX	Fay Pye
William and Jeanne Brusick	Amy Haller	Ricky and Cindy Robinson
Penny Brehany-Wellman	Ben and Margaret Harris	Bob and Ruth Seiwell
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Jerry Conry	Sarah Moore	Ray and Flora Tacquard
Jimmy Clark and Matt Thompson	Kenneth and Lorna Noack	Wilson Van Tine
Tim and DruEllen Duncan	Meredith Overcast	Mary Voigt
Robert and Linda Ellison		



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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

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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.

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. HBE will perform at Summit, held in Mesquite, TX, this summer. Houston Bronze celebrates its 30th Anniversary next spring.

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.

www.houstonbronze.com.



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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!
- 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

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(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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