

Houston Bronze Ensemble

Volume 5, No. 4

October, 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

Tomball United Methodist Church

Free concert

Saturday, December 1, 2018

7:30 pm

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston

Adults: \$15.00 Children \$10.00

<https://matchhouston.org/events/2018/bronze-christmas>

Sunday, January 6

Houston Bronze plays for the
Epiphany services 8:15 am and 10:45 am
Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church

**30th Anniversary Dinner/Concert
May 18, 2018**

Maggiano's Little Italy

2019 Post Oak Blvd. Houston, TX

Sunday, May 19, 2019

4:00

Houston Bronze Spring Concert
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

We are currently scheduling concerts for 2018-2019. To schedule a concert contact our event coordinator .

Newsletters will be issued in January, April, July, and October. Newsletters will be issued electronically through emails, on the website (www.houstonbronze.com), and on Facebook. We hope you will enjoy them.



Houston Bronze Ensemble invites you to attend one of our two performances of "A Bronze Christmas". Allow us to set the mood for your holiday season with many of your favorite Christmas carols. There will be fun light hearted songs such as "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Twelve Days of Christmas" and the beautiful handbell arrangements of "Silent Night", "Coventry Carol", "Carol of the Drum" and more. We hope you will join us. For more information, please go to our website, www.houstonbronze.com.

Friday, November 30, 2018

7:00 pm

Tomball United Methodist Church

1603 Baker Street Tomball, TX

free concert

Saturday, December 1, 2018

7:30 pm

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston

3400 South Main Street Houston, TX

Adult: \$15.00 Student: \$10.00

<https://matchhouston.org/events/2018/bronze-christmas>





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 2019 to be held in Bloomington, Minnesota on January 6-8, 2019. 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, 2018.
- 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, 2018.

Please direct any questions you may have about the scholarship program to

scholarship@houstonbronze.com

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



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 at The Brookwood Community. 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, November 30th in Tomball or December 1st at MATCH. We have only reserved 40 plants and these will be sold on a first come first serve basis.

Price for each poinsettia is \$20.00.

All profits made will be placed in our education fund which helps us continue to present workshops and to offer scholarships. You may purchase your poinsettia by using this link to our website. <http://houstonbronze.com/deck-our-concert-halls.html>

Thank you for supporting Houston Bronze.

Kim Braswell, Handbell Musicians of America West Regional Membership Coordinator, joined Houston Bronze for their first meeting of the 2018-19 season. She presented a workshop to begin our new year with a focus on EXCELLENCE.





Build A Bell Workshop

As your ensemble begins rehearsals for this fall season, Houston Bronze ensemble invites you to include us in your plans with a “Build a Bell Workshop”. 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. 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>



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 area 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>



Build a Bell Workshop
September, 2019 held at
Living Word Lutheran Church in
The Woodlands



MUSICIANS ARE NEVER SATISFIED

“Musicians are never satisfied” has become the mantra of the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble. We hear this phrase at each rehearsal. Musicians are always striving for more. Houston Bronze is so very happy and pleased with the musical growth of the Brookwood ensemble and the relationships and bonds that we have made with them. “The Brookwood Community provides an educational environment that creates meaningful jobs, builds a sense of belonging, and provides meaning and purpose for adults with disabilities.” Their vision is to change the way the world thinks about adults with disabilities.

Almost two years ago, Houston Bronze had the privilege of beginning to serve as a mentor to the handbell ensemble at Brookwood. We began our time working closely with them and their director, Kevin Coleman, on basic ringing techniques (playing vertically together, damping together, allowing the bells to move, etc.). This is a work in progress as it is for all handbell ensembles. We also spent time on improving the performance etiquette of the ensemble for a more professional and polished look.

We have been working for the last year and a half on developing a new delivery system for the music they read. When we started, the ensemble was reading from a scroll. These scrolls placed notes rung together in a box. The performer usually had no idea how long their note would last. The different octaves were assigned a color. We often found the scrolls confusing and lacking in needed information. Often they didn’t know where the note was to damp or were unsure of the note color because of the fading of the markers. Working together with input from ensemble members and their director, we developed a system using PowerPoint. We are in the process of transferring their music to this new system. It is easier to read and easier to correct when a mistake

is made transcribing the music. Currently the transcribing is done by hand, one note and one symbol at a time, but we are hoping to soon have a program that makes this much easier. This month the ensemble **performed** for the first time using this new delivery system exclusively. We have also introduced new handbell techniques that they love exploring. Their current favorite is the singing bell. Some struggled to overcome their disability as they tried to make the technique work. One member was determined and tried various things until he made it work! They have also used mallets on suspended bells, marts, thumb dams, LV’s. We will soon introduce vibrato on chimes.

For me, the most exciting growth has been in their ability to use the language of music. They now use the words half note, whole note, quarter note and eighth note as a part of every rehearsal. They recognize the music symbols for piano, forte, pianissimo, fortissimo, crescendo and decrescendo. This month, they sight-read two new pieces and blew us away with their success. As ensemble members continue to “raise the bar”, they meet every challenge we throw at them and have exceeded all of our expectations. Musicians may never be satisfied, but Houston Bronze is over the moon, pleased as punch and tickled pink with the accomplishments of the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble.

Congratulations to each member of the ensemble on the growth you have made in these past two years. We look forward to our continued relationship. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

(See additional pictures included in this newsletter.)



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BROOKWOOD



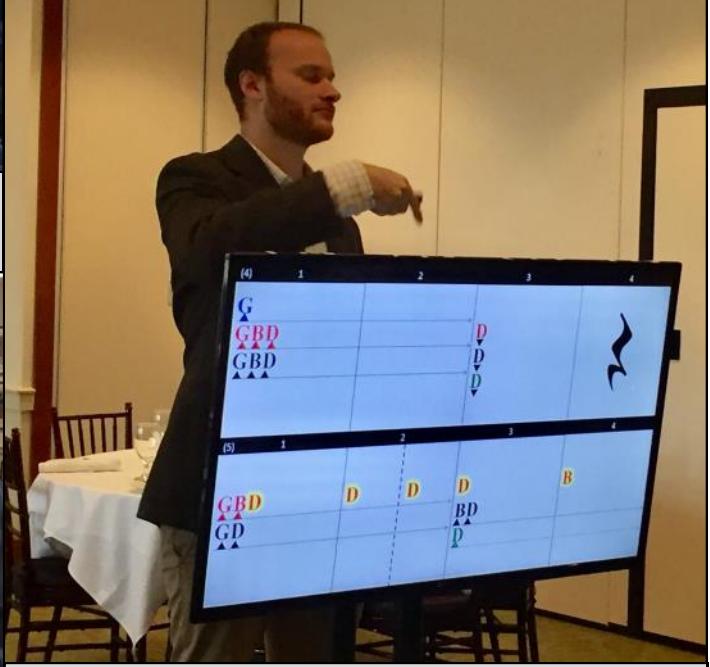
↑ This is an example of the old scroll system used at Brookwood with Kevin Coleman, director. Boxes indicate notes rung together.



↓ Brookwood performs with HBE in 2017. ↑



↓ Brookwood performs at the Brookwood Cafe, September 11, 2018 ↑



New system. Each box is a beat. Eighth notes are shown by dividing the beat box in half. The arrow beneath helps ringer know how long to hold. The highlighted notes are melody.



This past summer Houston Bronze Ensemble offered two Summer Ring sessions. These sessions offered ringers in the Houston area to come and read through 10-12 selections of new music. We would like to thank each of you who attended and a special thank you to Jeffer's for allowing us to borrow music for these events. We hope those of you who attended were able to add some new titles to your list of music to play. We look forward to offering this event again next year.



In August Houston Bronze Ensemble presented a workshop at August Adventure presented by Greater Houston Handbell Association in preparation for FebFest. This year's guest conductor is Tim Waugh. The title of our workshop was Training Camp. Before each new season our favorite sports teams head into training camp to work on skills that will hopefully prepare them for a successful season. We hope that our workshop offered some useful information to prepare your ensemble for a winning season.





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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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.

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!](#)
Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel!



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!

Houston Bronze Ensemble holds a
501 (c)(3) non-profit status.



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- 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
- 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.

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(As it should appear in our programs and newsletters)

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- 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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