

Volume 2, No. 3

July, 2015



Houston Bronze Ensemble

Calendar of Events

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for the 2015-2016 season. If you are interested in hosting the entire ensemble or perhaps just a small ensemble for a concert, party, or wedding, please contact us at:

P.O. Box 53886
Houston, TX 77052

Phone: 1-866-908-RING (7464)
www.houstonbronze.com

Email:
info@houstonbronze.com
eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com

CALENDAR:

July 11, 2015 7:30 pm

University of St. Thomas
Cullen Hall

4001 Mt. Vernon 77006
Houston, TX 77006

Ticket: \$10.00 Adult
\$5.00 Student

St. Thomas Student, free
(May be bought at the door)

July 18, 2015 6:00 pm

Feature concert at Pinnacle
Hyatt Regency DFW
Dallas, TX

September 26, 2015

Private Workshop

December 4, 2015 7:30 pm

Christmas Concert
Ticket: \$10.00

MATCH

3400 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

January 10, 2016

Epiphany Service
Trinity Lutheran Downtown
TBA

April 24, 2016

4:00 pm
Spring Concert
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

We are also available to conduct workshops for handbell organizations throughout the Houston area.

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

The Houston Bronze Ensemble
Houston's Premier Handbell Ensemble
presents
JOURNEY

Pinnacle Send-Off Concert!
University of St. Thomas
Cullen Hall
4001 Mt. Vernon
Houston, TX 77006

Saturday, July 11
7:30 pm

Tickets: \$10.00 Adult
\$5.00 Student
St. Thomas student free with id
To be purchased at door

Reception following concert!

www.houstonbronze.com
LIKE us on Facebook!

The logo for the Houston Bronze Ensemble, featuring the word "HBE" in a stylized, bold, black font with a white outline. The letters are interconnected, with the 'H' and 'B' sharing a vertical stroke, and the 'E' having a unique, angular shape.

**Pinnacle Send Off Concert at
Cullen Hall, St. Thomas University**

Our concert is titled **JOURNEY**. We played two concerts in April with the same theme. There are some changes to this program, including the premiere of a new piece by Michael Glasgow. Our concert in Cullen Hall at St. Thomas will take us back to a venue that the ensemble has played before. This is a wonderful place to come for a bell concert. The acoustics are great and the stadium seating allows the viewer to see what is happening on the table. A map to help you with parking is at the end of this newsletter. Join us on Saturday, July 11 at 7:30 for our Pinnacle Send Off Concert with a reception to follow. The Houston Bronze Ensemble, Houston's premier handbell ensemble, will play music that may bring visions of a specific place, a spiritual happening or perhaps a feeling experienced as we journey on this road called life.



THE HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

To Perform a Featured Concert at Pinnacle 2015

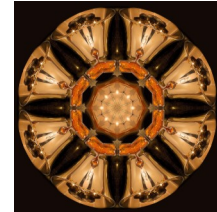
Saturday, July 18, 2015 6:00 pm

Hyatt Regency DFW, Dallas, Texas

A Handbell Musicians of America EVENT

A Feature Concert at [Pinnacle!](#)

The Houston Bronze Ensemble was selected through an audition process to present a Feature concert for Pinnacle 2015, a Handbell Musicians of America event. Feature performances demonstrate the diverse performance styles and genres possible with the handbell art form. Pinnacle is an event for performers and challenges all handbell musicians to strive for their personal performance pinnacle. Bill Nave, the director of Houston Bronze, has selected a repertoire list that will certainly do that. The ensemble is working hard to raise our level of playing as we journey to Dallas in July, 2015. Our concert will be at 6:00, Saturday night, July 18. For more information check out the [Pinnacle](#) website. Hope to see you there!



Three Original Pieces with Houston Bronze Dedication to be Performed by HBE at Send-Off Concert and at Pinnacle

When HBE journeys to Pinnacle this summer to perform a Feature concert, we will be playing three numbers that contain a dedication to our ensemble. The first one is entitled "Selah". This piece was written by Bill Brusick. The ensemble commissioned this piece for our 25th Gala Anniversary celebration and Dr. Brusick dedicated it to us. The second piece dedicated to our ensemble is by Jason Krug, "Te Recuerdo" meaning "I remember you". This piece has a beautifully haunting melody. Wilson Van Tine, a member of HBE, had the highest bid at the auction at national convention in Nashville last summer. He dedicated it to us and the church ensemble he plays with. The third piece was dedicated to us by Michael Glasgow. We had already planned to play his "Healing Spirit" and his "Spirit Within". We knew there was a third piece coming and members approached him at Distinctly Bronze, 2014 about the possibility of playing the Spirit Trilogy for our concert in the Spring of 2015. Michael did a workshop with us in February and we read the beginnings of the third part of the trilogy, "Spirit Dance". It was a true honor to see this piece in its early stages and to share some of our thoughts with him. This third movement is a fun one, full of Michael's energy. When we received the completed piece, he surprised us with a very lovely dedication which reads "To Houston Bronze, for their support of my work, and their encouragement to finish the journey." This was such a timely dedication since the theme for our program this spring is JOURNEY.



Houston Bronze Performs at Holmquist Elementary School in Alief

On May 5, 2015 the entire Houston Bronze Ensemble spent the morning at Holmquist Elementary School in Alief. While there we played two concerts for the third and fourth graders at the school. It was a distance to travel during rush hour for many of our members, but when the students started to sing along on Michael Glasgow's "Firework", we all knew it was worth the effort. We enjoyed ourselves very much. It is our hope that in the next year, we will begin to expand our educational outreach to the next generation of handbell players.



Houston Bronze to Honor Judy Clayton at July 11 Concert

At the conclusion of our concert on July 11, 2015 at St. Thomas University, HBE will honor one of our members who has chosen to retire from the organization at the conclusion of our Pinnacle concert. Judy has been a valued member of Houston Bronze. She is mostly found playing down in the big bells or on the big chimes. Judy joined HBE in 2002. She has served as a board member for several years. She was largely responsible for encouraging the organization to purchase our trailer which is now how we move our equipment from place to place. She has also been responsible for hauling that trailer and making sure that we arrive at our destination with all the necessary equipment. We will certainly miss Judy's presence at rehearsals and wish her well. She will remain a member of the HBE Board as a member at large. We know we will continue to be in touch and to see her frequently. We invite you to join us in the lobby of Cullen Hall following our concert there on July 11 as we honor Judy's contribution to the organization.

Houston Bronze Members Staying Busy this Summer!

Members of HBE are staying busy this summer. Our rehearsals will continue through mid July as we prepare for Pinnacle. Members are also teaching workshops, directing camps, playing at and preparing for events outside of Houston Bronze's walls. Below are a few ways we are spending our summer.

DISTINCTLY BRONZE EAST

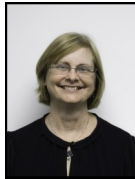
Six members of HBE will spend part of the summer preparing for this annual event held in New Bern, N.C. in October. Members who will be preparing for this event are: Jerry Conry, Linda Ellison, Amy Haller, Ben Harris, Ruth Seiwel, and Wilson Van Tine.



Ben Harris Selected to Present Workshops at Pinnacle, 2015

Ben Harris, a ringing member of The Houston Bronze Ensemble, will be participating in Pinnacle, 2015 in an additional capacity. Besides ringing with the ensemble at our Feature Concert on Saturday night, Ben will be teaching two workshops. The first workshop, "The Director as Diagnostician", is

based on the premise that most if not all musicality problems in ringing handbells is based on technique problems. The second workshop, "Score Study for Ringers, Not Just Directors" discusses the fact that much can be learned about a piece by looking at the music before the very first rehearsal has begun. Houston Bronze congratulates Ben on being chosen to present these workshops.



Houston Bronze Member Selected to Attend Virtuoso in Raleigh, N.C.

On June 11, HBE member, Linda Ellison, travelled to Raleigh, North Carolina to participate in the second Virtuoso event sponsored by the Raleigh Ringers. The ringers for this event sent in an audition video and were selected to come. The ensemble, made up of 29 ringers from 13 states, rehearsed for two days and then presented a final concert. William Payn directed the Virtuoso ensemble. Virtuoso performed as a part of the Raleigh Ringers concert. One number was rung by all of the ringers to conclude the concert. Congratulations to Linda on being selected to ring in this event.



Houston Bronze Member Directs Handbell Camp for TCCC

One of our Houston Bronze members, Ruth Seiwel, is the Handbell Camp Director for Texas Conference Choir Clinic for music and worship arts (TCCC). She spent June 8-12 at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center with almost 400 other children, youth and adults. This camp features world class clinicians in Adult, High School, Middle School and Elementary Choral Groups as well as in the Handbell Camp. The week also includes Organ and Dance Clinicians and each night has a featured concert, a variety show or a wonderful Communion Service. The Handbell Camp serves about 175 of those attending. Classes are offered for each age group at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Bob Avant, conductor of the Austin Handbell Ensemble, was the 2015 Handbell Clinician. TCCC is a great opportunity which is known by far too many people! Head over to texaschoircamp.org and check it out. Registration usually begins in late February and the dates for 2016 are June 6-10 so make your plans to attend and bring children now!

Below is a map showing the parking areas at St. Thomas. St. Thomas is located in the Montrose area of Houston. There may also be street parking available around the campus.

**Houston Bronze Ensemble Concert on the campus of
St. Thomas University**

Parking Map

- Student**
LOTS No Permit after 7:00 pm
- Faculty & Staff**
Lots E, L, M, O, P, S No permit after 7:00
- Moran Center Parking Garage**
Visitor Parking: \$2.00 Exit Fee
Accepts \$1 bills, \$5 bills, and quarters
- Houston Bronze Concert**
Cullen Recital Hall

Watch for signs to direct you to the concert!

HEAVY METAL CAMPAIGN

It is not too late to make a contribution to the Houston Bronze Ensemble **Heavy Metal** Capital Campaign to fund the purchase of a seventh octave of Schulmerich handbells. The bells are now in our possession and made their debut in our Spring concert this year. The purchase of a seventh octave has expanded our melodic range, giving us a total of 85 bells in our primary set and placing us on par with the top ensembles in the U.S. We now have the equipment to ring any music published for handbells and HBE is the only community ensemble in the State of Texas to own a seventh octave! But all that additional bronze didn't come cheap, cashing in at nearly \$35,000. Please consider making your contribution today. And your gift is tax-deductible as HBE is a 501 (c)3 organization.



Sharing the art of handbell ringing.

About The Houston Bronze Ensemble

The *Houston Bronze Ensemble*, Houston's premier handbell ensemble, is a professional, auditioned, handbell ensemble made up of musicians from the greater Houston area. Houston Bronze was founded in the fall of 1988 by Hart Morris, formerly the Director of Music Ministries at Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston. After Hart moved to Memphis, Tennessee, the ensemble rang under the musical direction of arranger and composer Margaret (Maggi) R. Tucker until 1993. During the 1994 season, the group rang ensemble style with various ringers directing the ensemble. These included G.W. Shepherd, Andy Bowen and David VanderMeer. Conductors since then have included David VanderMeer (Fall 1996—Spring 2001), Dolan Bayless (Fall 2001—January 2006), Ben Harris (Fall 2006—July 2010), Ruth Seiwel (Fall 2010—July 2012), and James Roberts (Fall 2012-May 2014). Bill Nave was appointed the artistic director in August, 2014. In 2014 the ensemble celebrated their 25th Anniversary year. The ensemble has been invited and will perform at Pinnacle 2015 held in Dallas, TX in July of 2015.