

Houston Bronze Ensemble

Volume 5, No. 2

April, 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
event_coordinator@houstonbronze.com

CALENDAR:

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church
Sunday, April 15, 2018

4:00 pm

Featuring Beppo's Bells of
St. Pius X High School

Free Concert
5201 Spring Cypress Rd.
Spring, TX 77379

Clear Lake Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 29, 2018

4:00 pm

Free concert
1511 El Dorado Blvd,
Houston, TX 77062

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston

Saturday, May 5, 2018

7:30 pm

\$10.00 Student \$15.00 Adult
3400 Main St.
Houston, TX 77002

Area 9 Summit in Mesquite, TX
Friday, June 8, 2018

7:00 pm

Mesquite Convention Center
Mesquite, TX

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



Houston Bronze invites you to join us as we hit the road in our spring concert, **Road Trip**. Our musical



destinations will include visit to some of those familiar vacation stops. We hope you will pack your bags and come along. There is always room for one

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!](#)

more!



We will have a limited number of potted plants from The Brookwood Community available for sell at the conclusion of each concert for \$20.00.

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

presents

ROAD TRIP

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

Sunday, April 15, 2018 4:00 pm

Featuring Beppo's Bells from St. Pius X High School

5201 Spring Cypress Rd. Spring, TX 77379

Free Concert

Clear Lake Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 29, 2018 4:00 pm

1511 El Dorado Blvd. Houston, TX 77062

Free concert

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston

Saturday, May 5, 2018 7:30 pm

\$10.00 Student \$15.00 Adult

3400 Main St. Houston, TX 77002

<https://matchouston.org/events/road-trip>

Summit

Opening Concert for Area 9 Convention

Friday, June 8, 2018 7:00 pm

Ballroom B in the Mesquite Convention Center

Mesquite, TX



Experience America through music.



**HOUSTON BRONZE TO PERFORM
OPENING CONCERT AT
AREA 9 SUMMIT**



The Houston Bronze Ensemble is proud to announce that they were selected to perform at the opening concert on

June 8, 2018 at the Area 9 event, Summit, which is to be held in Ballroom B of the Mesquite Convention Center in Mesquite, TX. HBE will be performing selections from our spring concert, "Road Trip". This opening concert will begin at 7:00 pm. Tickets for the concert are \$12.50 and may be purchased in advance through the website or on the day of the concert at the Welcome Center located to the left of the ballroom doors. If you are registering for the conference, your ticket price is included. We hope to see many of our friends in the audience. For more information on all the events of Summit, check out the Area 9 website,

<http://area9.handbellmusicians.org/events/summit/>



**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>



**Beppo's Bells To
Perform With
Houston Bronze**

On April 15, 2018 the handbell choir from St.

Pius X High School, Beppo's Bells, will perform with the Houston Bronze Ensemble at Trinity Klein Lutheran Church in Spring, TX. Beppo was the childhood nickname of Pope Pius X and is the name of the SPX panther mascot. Beppo's Bells regularly rings for school masses, the Christmas and spring concerts, as well as for other school events as requested. They also compete in TAPPS state handbell competition each year where they have regularly earned superior ratings. The choir is completing their eighth year and sixth under director Marge Harris. At our concert on April 15th they will play "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" by Houston composer, Tammy Waldrop and then join Houston Bronze in "Energique", a piece written for two handbell choirs by Matthew Prins. HBE has served as a mentor to this group during this semester.

Ringers Wanted!



Have you thought about becoming a member of the Houston Bronze Ensemble but just aren't sure what to expect? You are invited to join us for a rehearsal and take us out for a spin. You will have the opportunity to learn more about the audition process, talk with our current members and artistic director, and experience a Houston Bronze Ensemble rehearsal before coming to an audition. You wouldn't buy a car without a test drive, right? Think of this as your test drive as you consider auditioning and coming along for an amazing ride as a member of the Houston Bronze Ensemble.

Your TEST DRIVE

Date: May 15, 2018

Time: 6:30 pm

**Place: Trinity Lutheran Church Downtown
800 Houston Av. Houston, TX**

Your test drive will include:

- Tricks of the Trade

(reviewing HBE ringing style, handbell techniques, review past audition material, meet current members and ask your questions.)

- Sight Read with members of HBE a piece that is scheduled to be performed for our Christmas, 2018 program.
- Stay to observe the rest of our rehearsal.

Register for Test Drive at

<http://houstonbronze.com/becoming-a-member-of-houston-bronze.html>



If you are looking to play with a group that looks forward to sharing their passion for all things bells, playing challenging music, and sharing that passion and music with the Houston community and beyond, HBE is the ensemble for you. We strive for EXCELLENCE in all aspects of our organization. If you have the desire to be a part of that, we hope you will consider auditioning to become a member. We hold auditions each year for all people who wish to perform with us in the next season. All positions are available. We hope you will join us for a Test Drive on May 15 and then return for the audition. The test drive is not a requirement for the audition. It will simply give you an idea of what to expect and perhaps make the evening of the audition less stressful.

Auditions for Houston Bronze Ensemble 2018-2019 Season

Date: June 12, 2018

Time: 6:30 - 9:00

**Place: Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston Av. Houston, TX**

We hope that you will consider joining us. We work hard but the reward is great. Please let us know if you plan to audition by registering at:

<http://houstonbronze.com/becoming-a-member-of-houston-bronze.html>

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.

Summer Days!



Do you suffer from the dreaded “Ringing Withdrawal” during the summer months? If you are looking for the opportunity to play different positions, work on new techniques, and meet other people who share your passion for all things bells, then you will want to join us for Summer Ring!

This summer we will host two Summer Rings. At each session we will spend a short time on reviewing healthy ringing and then quickly move on to reading music.

The music in each session will change. Session 1 will be for less experienced ringers, ringing Level 1 and 2 music. Session 2 will be for more experienced ringers and 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. Feel free to join us for both!

If you would like to attend, please reserve your place by registering on our website. Let us know which sessions you plan to attend. 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.

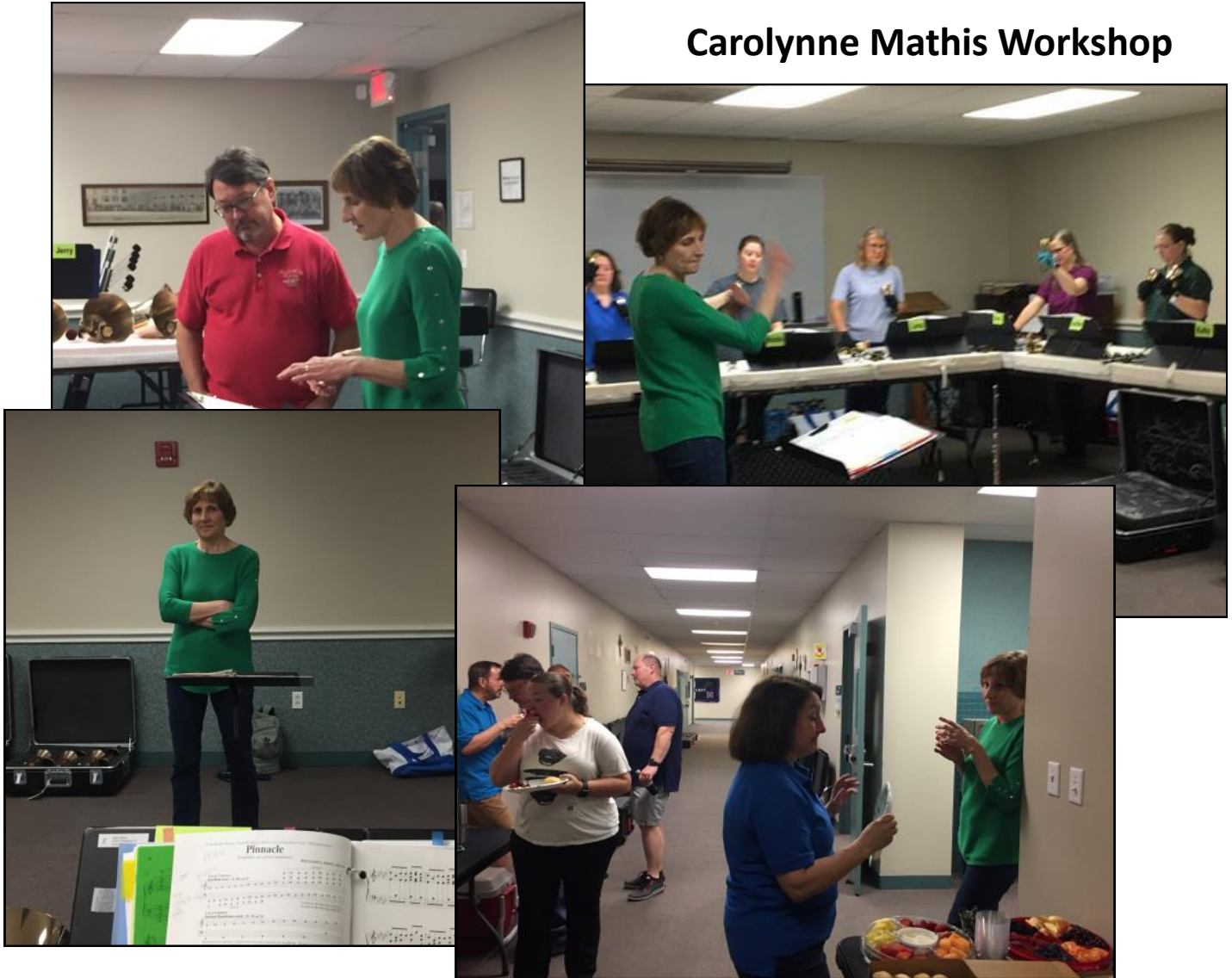
Below are a few comments from people who attended our classes last year.

- * 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>

Carolynne Mathis Workshop



On Saturday, March 24, HBE had the privilege to work with clinician Carolynne Mathis. She spent the morning with us and worked with us on our upcoming "Road Trip" concert. We first had the opportunity to work with Carolynne at Texas Bronzefest last year and we knew that we wanted the opportunity to spend more time with her. Carolynne is Professor of Handbells at Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she conducts two ensembles and teaches handbell techniques and pedagogy. She is also the director of handbells at Faith Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Carolynne has served as a clinician at local, area, and national events. She is the author of the book *Teaching Young Ringers* and has conducted *Distinctly Teen* at the Handbell Musicians of America National Seminar. She will be returning to Texas this summer to be a part of the Area 9 Summit Event. Houston Bronze is already looking forward to when we might have the opportunity to work with her again. It was a fantastic day!!!

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

ExxonMobil HP Inc Phillips 66 Shell Oil
Amazon Smile iGive

Individual Contributors 2016 to present

Anonymous
William and Jeanne Brusick
Frank Busch
Lloyd and Judy Clayton
Sam and Linda Conner
Jerry Conry
Jimmy Clark and Matt Thompson
Tim and DruEllen Duncan
Robert and Linda Ellison

Lolli Green
Grace Presbyterian Church,
Houston, TX
Amy Haller
Ben and Margaret Harris
Dean and Sherry Hunter
Tommy and Pamela Kaiser
Catherine Landry
Sarah Moore
Kenneth and Lorna Noack

Meredith Overcast
Fay Pye
Ricky and Cindy Robinson
Bob and Ruth Seiwel
Diana Schmitt
St. Peter's UMC, Katy, TX
Barbara Szalkowski
Ray and Flora Tacquard
Wilson Van Tine



LIKE us on [FACEBOOK](#)

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel



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.

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.



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
- 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: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail Address _____

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 to make arrangements to contribute via credit card.

LIKE us on [FACEBOOK](#)

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel



Visit our website:
www.houstonbronze.com