



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Dedicated to HandBell Excellence
Ensuring the future of handbells for ringers and listeners

HOUSTON BRONZE CONCERTS
2019 - 2020 PERFORMANCES

A BRONZE CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 6, 2019 7:00 PM

Tomball United Methodist Church
1603 Baker Dr. Tomball, TX 77375

Free concert

Saturday, December 7, 2019 7:30 PM
MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston
3400 Main St, Houston, TX 77002
Adults: \$15.00 Students: \$10.00

Christmas at the Villa

Saturday, December 14, 2019 5:00 PM

Sunday, December 15, 2019 5:00 PM

Performance with the Houston Chamber Choir
Chapel at the Villa de Matel
6510 Lawndale Street
Houston, TX 77023

Epiphany Services

Sunday, January 5, 2020 8:15 AM and 10:50 AM

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston Avenue
Houston, TX

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling
events for 2019-2020.

To schedule a concert, 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

Houston Bronze Ensemble
presents
A Bronze Christmas
2019

Friday, December 6, 2019
7:00 pm
(free concert)
Tomball United Methodist Church
1603 Baker Street Tomball, TX

Saturday, December 7, 2019
7:30 pm
MATCH
Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston
3400 South Main Street Houston, TX
Adults: \$15.00 Students: \$10.00

We hope you are making your plans to attend one of our two Houston Bronze concerts during this upcoming holiday season. Our first concert will be at Tomball United Methodist Church on December 6. This is a free concert. Our second concert will take us back to **MATCH** on December 7. To purchase tickets for this concert please go to: <https://matchouston.org/events/2019/bronze-christmas>



Houston Bronze Ensemble to perform with the Houston Chamber Choir

Saturday, December 14 - 5:00 PM
Sunday, December 15 - 5:00 PM

We are excited to announce that we will be guest artists performing with the Houston Chamber Choir during this upcoming holiday season. We are excited about the opportunity to share the concert stage with this wonderful choral ensemble. The concerts are held at the Chapel of the Villa da Matel located at 6510 Lawndale Street, Houston, TX 77023. For more information and to purchase tickets please go to:

<https://houstonchamberchoir.org/2019-2020-season-event-calendar>



Houston Bronze To Perform At Epiphany Services

Sunday, January 5, 2020
8:15 AM and 10:50 AM
800 Houston Avenue
Houston, TX

The Houston Bronze Ensemble will once again perform at the Epiphany Services at Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church. This church graciously allows us to rehearse in their building and to store all equipment there. They also have allowed us to have Saturday workshops for our ensemble and workshops for the handbell community of Houston. We thank them for all they do for us. We could not do what we do without their continued support and generosity.

Spring Concerts
For Houston Bronze Ensemble

Saturday, May 16, 2020 7:30 PM
MATCH
Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston
3400 Main St. Houston, TX 77002
Ticketed concert

Sunday, May 17, 2020 4:00 PM
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church
5201 Spring Cypress Rd. Spring, TX 77379

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2019-2020. To schedule a concert, 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



Open Rehearsal

OCTOBER 15, 2019 7-9 pm
Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston Avenue
Houston, TX

You are invited to attend our fall open rehearsal and see first hand how we prepare for our concerts. You may be considering an audition in the future or perhaps just curious. Either way we hope to see you at rehearsal on October 15. Then join us at one of our Christmas concerts to hear the final product!

OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT

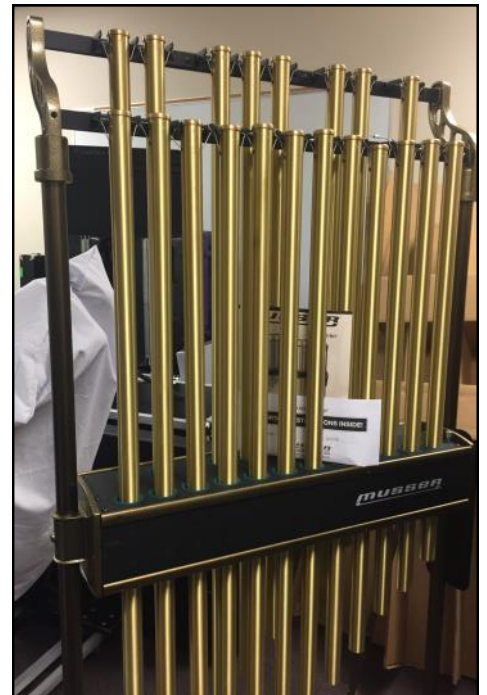


From our president, Lorna Noack:

Celebrating our 30th anniversary throughout the 2018-19 season stirred many fond memories of favorite pieces played, friendships formed, and tours traveled. Laughter was shared recalling the many “misadventures” of concert mishaps, the panic caused by forgotten music, equipment, or attire, and the last minute scrambles for qualified substitutes - now that the circumstances are past. Most of all, our current personnel developed a much deeper appreciation for all those who came before us who worked so diligently and persevered through multiple challenges to establish an enduring ensemble dedicated to excellence.

As Houston Bronze Ensemble embarks on its fourth decade of changing the way the Houston area thinks about handbells, we are committed to continuing the tradition of excellence established during our first thirty years. Our charter members founded the group to provide an avenue for area directors to enjoy ringing advanced music. Today’s members come from all walks of life, but definitely still enjoy ringing challenging music for the enjoyment of our audiences. Additions to our equipment resources through the years increasingly enhance our ability to perform our ever-growing repertoire list. From the beginning, teaching and encouraging other ringers has also been an important component of the ensemble. In recent years, our educational outreach has expanded to include Build a Bell Workshops, College Ring-In scholarships, and our close friendship and mentoring relationship with The Brookwood Community Handbell Ensemble. With such a solid foundation to build upon, the future of Houston Bronze Ensemble is beyond exciting as we continue our pursuit of excellence in all we do. It is our hope that you will join on us our journey into many more years of handbell excellence!

Christmas Comes Early



Houston Bronze wants to thank ensemble member, Wilson Van Tine for his very generous gift and the matching gift from Phillips 66 which allowed us to purchase a set of orchestral chimes to use in our upcoming concerts. We have had several occasions in the past where they were called for and had to substitute electronic sounds for those. We now have a set of our own chimes. They will get their debut at our Christmas concerts this year.



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, December 6th in Tomball or December 7th 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.

We are currently awaiting some other information before taking pre-orders. Please watch for more information on our Facebook page or on our website.



Celebration Ringers Available for your Holiday Party!



Now is the time to schedule your holiday party music. Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers is a small group of HBE members. Because we are an ensemble of only 5-6 people, we are the perfect

entertainment addition to your holiday gathering, neighborhood caroling party, corporate event, holiday bazaar, religious celebration or intimate dinner party. For more information, contact our event coordinator by filling out the form on our website, <http://houstonbronze.com/houston-bronze-celebration-ringers-music-for-weddings-and-parties.html> Our holiday calendar fills up quickly each year, so don't delay making your request.



HOUSTON BRONZE OFFERS **THREE** COLLEGE RING-IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Houston Bronze Ensemble is happy to announce that we will once again be granting three \$100.00 scholarships to college students who are attending the Handbell Musicians of America College Ring-In 2020 to be held in Houston, TX on January 3-5, 2019. This amount is intended to cover the cost of registration. Any remaining monies may be used at the discretion of the attendee to help with other costs of the event. Each scholarship will be granted in the form of a reimbursement once the event and requirements of the scholarship are met. Preference will be given any applicant from the greater Houston metropolitan area. Secondly, we will consider applicants from the state of Texas and from all areas of the United States. For more information about the event go to <http://handbellmusicians.org/events-networking/events/collegeringin2020/>.

Requirements:

- Be accepted by HMA into College Ring-In.
- Be a student at a college or university.
- Submit scholarship application to HBE by December 15, 2019.
- 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-2020.html>

Application Deadline is December 15, 2019. Please direct any questions you may have about the scholarship program to scholarship@houstonbronze.com

Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Build a Bell Workshop

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

BUILD A BELL WORKSHOP

We know that directors are choosing music and planning out the year. We invite you to include in your plans a “Build a Bell Workshop” led by members of Houston Bronze. HBE has provided two workshops this month. One was held at Christus Victor Lutheran Church in League City and a second at St. John Lutheran Church in Tomball. It is not too late to schedule your workshop for the fall.

For more information and to schedule a Build a Bell Workshop go to our website and fill out the form. Houston Bronze offers these workshops free of charge but donations towards our educational efforts are always welcome. For more information go to <http://houstonbronze.com/build-a-bell-workshop.html>



Comments from our workshops this fall:

- Ended so quickly. Not long enough.
- Liked the work on playing together.
- Learned proper malleting techniques.
- Liked dividing the techniques into sections.
- Enjoyed work on dynamics.
- I better understand malleting and thumb damping.
- I feel more confident.
- Enjoyed working with enthusiastic and knowledgeable presenters.
- Liked the individual attention.
- Friendly, knowledgeable, positive approach.

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



Houston Bronze Members To Play In The Great Christmas Ring, Carnegie Hall

Over the Thanksgiving weekend seven members of Houston Bronze will travel to New York

City to perform in Carnegie Hall as a part of The Great Christmas Ring. On December 1, they will be joined by over 300 bell ringers from across North America for the annual presentation of Handel's Messiah. The handbells will be under the direction of Kevin McChesney. Those attending are Kathy Beard, Penny Brehany-Wellman, DruEllen Duncan, Linda Ellison, Ben Harris, Lorna Noack, and Cindy Robinson.



LIKE US ON FACE-BOOK!!

New CD Coming Soon!!!

A new HBE 30th Anniversary cd will be available sometime this fall. The recording will be made up of selections from both our Christmas 2018 concert and our Spring 2019 concert. It will include recordings of our composition contest winners and a special track with Houston Bronze and The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble performing together.



Support Houston Bronze As you Shop

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0643444>



Summer in Review



Houston Bronze Ensemble and Brookwood Handbell Ensemble performed the national anthem at the Astros baseball game. We had a fabulous time!



Our 2019 Summer Ring was our best one yet. We had a totally full house. We want to thank all of you who attended. We also appreciated the feedback you gave us. Our thanks go to LouAnn Bussey who led Summer Ring 2019. This event will be back again next summer and we are already using the feedback we received to tweak the event. It may involve adding yet another event with a slightly different twist. Stay tuned!!

Houston Bronze Represented at Distinctly Bronze East 2018

Two members of Houston Bronze, Linda Ellison and Wilson Van Tine, attended the delayed Distinctly Bronze East 2018 which was held in Raleigh.



The event was originally scheduled for New Bern, N.C., last October but a hurricane blew through our much loved New Bern. There was a lot of damage done and the event was rescheduled. We had a great time with Lee Afdahl and our friends from across the United States.





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
 Kathy Beard
 Penny Brehany-Wellman
 Margaret Bremer
 William and Jeanne Brusick
 Frank Busch
 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
 Marvin J. Havard
 Dean and Sherry Hunter
 Tommy and Pamela Kaiser
 Ronnie and Stacey Keener
 Catherine Landry
 Living Word Lutheran
 Church, The Woodlands
 Sarah Moore
 Kenneth and Lorna Noack
 Meredith Overcast

Fay Pye
 Ricky and Cindy Robinson
 L. Z. and V. M. Rodriguez
 Diana Schmitt
 Bob and Ruth Seiwel
 Michelle Shuman
 St. Peter's UMC, Katy, TX
 Barbara Szalkowski
 Ray and Flora Tacquard
 Margaret and Bob Tucker
 Wilson Van Tine
 Mary Voigt



The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2019 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. <http://houstonbronze.com/build-a-bell-workshop.html>



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Thank you to Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church for providing us with rehearsal space and storage space. We are forever grateful to you.

[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!



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