

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

EXPECT EXCELLENCE



1989 - 2019

Celebrating 30 years of handbell excellence.

Part One

Dedicated to all members of Houston Bronze Ensemble- past, present and future.



A Note from the President of Houston Bronze Ensemble 2019

-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!

This 30 year history has been prepared with love and appreciation for the 30th anniversary year of Houston Bronze by Linda Ellison.

Past and Present Member of The Houston Bronze Ensemble

1989 - 2019

Listed below are the past and present members of The Houston Bronze Ensemble. The present members would like to say thank you to all of those members who preceded us as members of this ensemble. Your work and dedication has help to make us who we are today. It is our wish that we and future ringers of HBE will continue to share the art of handbell ringing with the Houston area and beyond.

Andy Bowen	Laronda Denkler	Wilson Van Tine	James Roberts^
*Brent Ivey	Russell Miller	Judy Clayton	Veronica Kannan
*Carol Mungavin	Sara Leach	Karen Mild	Jennifer Meador
*Christine Anderson	Carrie Bowie	Rebecca Lee	Ashlea Mangum
*Colleen Harris	Karen Moore	Stephanie Stevens	Bill Nave^
*Dick Love	Marsha Seale	Jerry Conry	Matt Hawley
*G.W. 'Dub' Shepherd	Sarah Winkel	Lorna Noack	Patrick Murphy
*Hart Morris^	Susan Howe	Alys Lindholm	Kathy Beaird
*Leroy Krolczyk	Sylvia Miller	Cindy Haskett	Penny Brehany-Wellman
*Les Bartlett	Sharon Campbell	Cindy Robinson	J. Marvin Havard
*Margaret Tucker**	Deborah Adams	Laura Bush	DruEllen Duncan
*Marty Morris	Lou Ann Bussey	Mary McEvilly	Jimmy Clark
*Rhonda Barnett	Stephen Fey	Monica Fowler	Sarah Moore
Tracy Depue	Vicki Fey	Stevie Berryman	Jan Barkley
David VanderMeer**	Dolan Bayless**	Allison Carter	LeAnn Tromanhauser
Stephen Roddy	Joseph Painter	Bernadette Maness	Cloud Wang
Tim Hammond	Cherie VanMaanen	Paul Berryman	
Janet Miller	Dave Kloes	Catherine Bost	*Charter member
Stephen Morris	Susan LaPointe	Deanne Leonard	^Director
Bruce Eidson	Faye Timmer	Erin Lillian	**Ringer and director
Julie Stone Cortez	Ruth Seiwel**	Tom Ellerbrock	
Mark Williams	Sharon Brumley	Amanda Weyrick	
Scott Snyder	Julane Swank	Meredith Gaines	
Tim Timpani	Ben Harris**	Michael Fine	
Stephanie Williams	Claudia Gee	Amy Haller	
Angie Heston	Melanie Aman	Rhea Montpool	
Deborah Hawk	Michelle Shuman	Linda Ellison	
John Marsh	Micki Balog	Michael Petrus	

1989

BLAST *from the* PAST

#1 - Beginnings



Houston Bronze Ensemble was born at a lunch meeting at Pappy's Café with Jeff Weiss, Christine Anderson, and Hart Morris in attendance. Jeff had visited David Davidson and Beth Judd in Dallas and returned home inspired by the Dallas Handbell Ensemble.

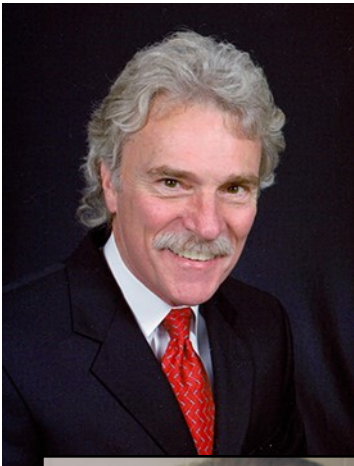
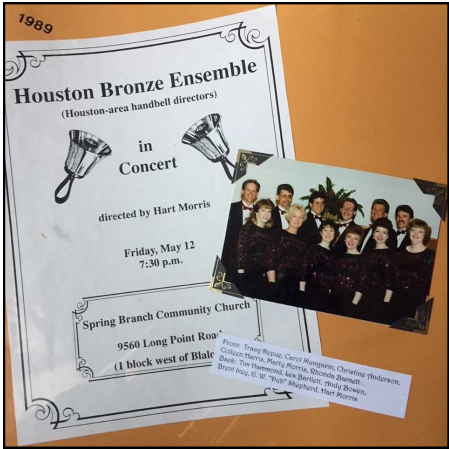
Houston Bronze Ensemble was originally established to give directors in the Houston area a place to ring. At the first organizational meeting at Pappy's Café with nothing but a napkin to jot the names on, Houston Bronze was born.



1989 Beginnings

BLAST *from the* PAST

#2 - Hart Morris/Margaret Tucker



Front Row: Tracy DePue, Carol Mungavin, Christine Anderson, Colleen Harris, Marty Morris, Rhonda Barnett

Back Row: Tim Hammond, Les Bartlett, Andy Bowen, Brent Ivey, G.W. "Dub" Shepherd, Hart Morris

To the left is Hart Morris founding director of HBE and Margaret (Maggi) Tucker who led the ensemble from 1989-1994.

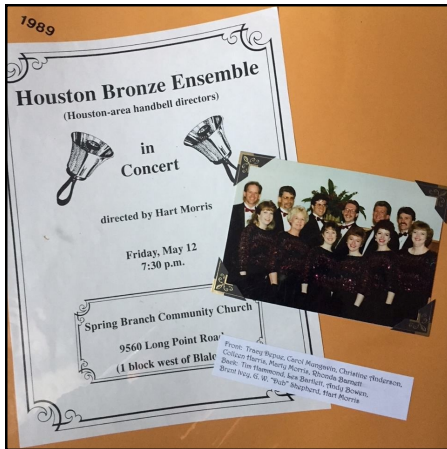


On May 12, 1989 a group of Houston area handbell directors presented their first concert as Houston Bronze Ensemble. The ensemble was directed by Hart Morris. The reason for the formation of the ensemble was to give church handbell directors a place to play bells. It was soon after this concert that Hart Morris moved to Tennessee. Margaret Tucker followed him as the conductor of HBE in the fall of 1989.

1989 Beginnings

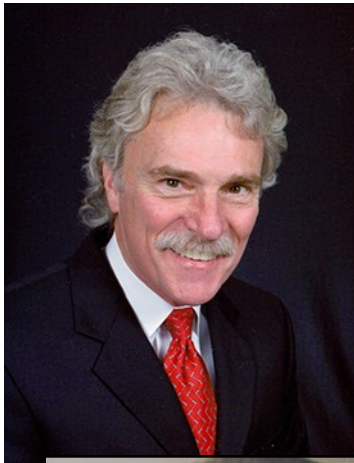
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1994 - 1996

BLAST FROM THE PAST



#4 - Transitions

BLAST FROM THE PAST #4

In the scrapbook I discovered a note entitled "A Bronze Lullaby". After the retirement of Maggi Tucker, the annual HBE Christmas concert in 1994 was directed by David VanderMeer, serving as interim director. In the spring of 1995 the ensemble decided to use its wealth

of "in-house" directors and presented this concert without an appointed director. Four ensemble members, Andrew Bowen, John Marsh, G.W. "Dub" Shepherd and David VanderMeer, served as co-directors of this concert.

The next page in the scrapbook reads "ENSEMBLE ON LEAVE". This could be a frightening one except we know the outcome of that leave. The "lullaby" was a period of rest. There was no concert in December of 1995 or in the spring of 1996. I was told by an ensemble member at that time that in the summer of 1996, members met and determined that they really missed the opportunity to ring together. At that time David VanderMeer agreed to accept the position as director of Houston Bronze Ensemble and the ensemble came back as strong as ever. We are forever grateful glad that David accepted the position and the ringers returned to the table. More about David VanderMeer's tenure as director will be in our next Blast From the Past.

Houston Bronze Ensemble
Spring Concerts 1995

Thursday, May 21, 1995
Westminster United Methodist Church
8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 26, 1995
Edgewater Retirement Community, Galveston
1:30 p.m.

Friday, May 26, 1995
First Baptist Church of Galveston
8:00 p.m.

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE PERSONNEL

* Andrew Bowen - Assistant Director of Music - St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
Curtis Bunde - Children's Choir - Coordinator - Dallas United Methodist Church
Daniel S. Giddens - Organist/Director
Sharon Campbell - Two Stone Solo and Tenorbell Ringer
Susan Howe - Director of Handbells and Youth Music - First Christian Church, Texas City
Sara Leach - Director of Sanctuary Dalls - First Presbyterian Church, Killebrew
John Marsh - Organist and Chantmaster - St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Brend Miller - Organist/Musician of Music - Dallas United Methodist Church
Sylvia Miller - Flute and Handbell Ringer - Dallas United Methodist Church
Marilyn Sade - Music Director and Organist - St. John Lutheran Church, Cypress
Mr. W. "Dub" Shepherd - Diamond Minister of Music - Kingwood United Methodist Church
Susan White - Organist/Assistant Director - Westbury United Methodist Church
David VanderMeer - Minister of Music - Northwoods Presbyterian Church

* Co-Directors

SPECIAL THANKS

First Presbyterian Church, Brent Ivey, Handbell director for the use of their facilities and bells
Westminster United Methodist Church, Edgewater Retirement Community and First Baptist Church of Galveston for hosting our Spring Concerts
Brent Ivey, Barbara Tucker, and Margaret Tucker, Guest Artists
Julie Stone-Cortez, HBE permanent substitute ringer
First Presbyterian Church of Midland, Texas, Lester Ackerman for the use of the CD bell

1995 - 1996
ENSEMBLE ON LEAVE



CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Friday, December 6, 1996
8:00 p.m.
Westminster United Methodist Church
(San Felipe at Bering)

Guest Artists include:
Margaret R. Tucker, Organ
Theresa Hanebury, Trumpet
Suzy Melbers, Flute
Sue Lawrence, Oboe
Brian Whites, Percussion
Melissa Givens, Soprano

Join us for a delightful evening of Holiday Handbell Favorites!!
A free-will offering will be taken to help defray the cost of the concert.

1996 - 2001

BLAST *from the* PAST

#5 - David VanderMeer

BLAST FROM THE PAST #5 1996-2001

David VanderMeer became the director of HBE in the Fall of 1996. He remained the director through the spring of 2001. During his tenure, the ensemble played at weddings, performed concerts beyond the borders

of Texas in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, and played the regular concerts at Christmas and in the spring. During this period the ensemble also commissioned their first two pieces. The first one from Hart Morris, the founding director of Houston Bronze, is entitled 'Dance and Devotion'. This piece was first performed at Pinnacle 2000 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The second piece, "Cathedrals" was composed by Margaret R. Tucker and premiered in the final season, Spring 2001, of David's tenure as director.

