

Vol. 11, No. 2
April, 2024



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

Upcoming Concerts

2024

Saturday, May 11, 2024 7:30 pm

MATCH

Sunday, May 19, 2024 4:00 pm

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

Christmas Concert

Friday, December 6, 2024 7:30 pm

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2024 and beyond.

To schedule a concert, contact us at:

Email:

info@houstonbronze.org
event@houstonbronze.org

www.houstonbronze.org
P.O. Box 541741
Houston, TX 77254
Phone: 1-866-908-RING (7464)



NEW WEBSITE:
www.houstonbronze.org

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS
DAVID YORK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Ready?
Set.
Ring!**

HOUSTON'S PREMIER HANDBELL CHOIR

Saturday, May 11, 2024 7:30 pm

MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston

3400 Main Street

Houston, TX 77002

Tickets available at matchouston.org/box-office

Sunday, May 19, 2024 4:00 pm

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

5201 Spring Cypress Rd.

Spring, TX 77379

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.





Spring loaded for action, Houston Bronze Ensemble unleashes the power of percussion in its virtuosic handbell concert “Ready? Set. Ring!”.

You’ll hear dazzling renditions of classics by Bach, Mozart, and Strauss, and a seductive new arrangement of Ravel’s “Bolero” by Director, David York, with guest marimba player, Cloud Wang. Also featured will be “Out of a Silent Planet,” the award-winning composition by Alex Guebert that travels from atmospheric outer space to a swirl of sound that grabs your imagination and sends your heart racing. Beyond their compelling musical performances, Houston Bronze Ensemble takes handbell ringing to a standard of excellence that inspires audiences of all ages and backgrounds - from the most discerning listeners to those who are new to the art form. Come witness this ‘team sport’ at its best. Ready? Set. RING!

— by David York



Thank you to Sarah and Katie for the wonderful picture!



Cloud Wang

Guest Artist, marimba

We are excited to welcome Cloud back to perform with HBE. A member of HBE from 2019-2021 Cloud was born in Changhua, Taiwan. She plays multiple instruments including piano, organ, handbells, mallet percussion, carillon, and percussion. She received a bachelor’s degree from National Sun Yat-Sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, majoring in classical music. In 2010, she earned a scholarship to Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA to major in jazz vibraphone and steel drum performance. In 2010, Cloud received second prize for vibraphone in Italy Percussion Competition in Fermo, Italy. She graduated from Berklee with a jazz vibraphone performance diploma. Currently, Cloud lives in Houston, TX. She is a freelance musician — a piano accompanist for school contests, concerts, pit musician for music theatre productions, guest organist and handbell soloist at churches in town.

Concert Repertoire

“Allegro” from the Concerto in A Minor by Bach—arr. Fred Gramann

Fancye by Timothy H. Waugh

Minimal Rondeau by Thomas E. Parsons

Out of the Silent Planet by Alex Guebert

Pizzicati from the ballet Sylvia by Delibes—arr. William Griffin

Pizzicato Polka by Johann Strauss—arr. by Robert Ivey

Rhythmic Rip! by John Behnke

Rondo Alla Turca by Mozart—arr. Catherine McMichael

Synergy by Kevin McChesney

Tarantella—arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Toccata Ritmica by Michael Joy

Bolero by Ravel—arr. David York
featuring guest artist, Cloud Wang on marimba

Guest Percussionist on several selections throughout concert—Tom Ellerbrock

Teacher and Student Reunite at Houston Bronze Ensemble

On December 2, 2023, Wade Brokmeyer and his wife attended a Christmas-themed performance by the Houston Bronze Ensemble. Wade had just been invited to audition for HBE and wanted to get a glimpse at how the group performed, as well as enjoy some good music. As soon as the show started, he noticed that one of the ringers looked very familiar. He looked at the list of names in the brochure, looked at the ringer again, and thought about it some more. Finally, realization struck him. He leaned over to his wife and whispered, "That's my old chimes teacher, Laura Bush!"

Wade had first taken a chimes class as a music elective in junior high, with Laura as his instructor. It was his first experience ringing in an ensemble, and he was instantly hooked not only by the chimes themselves, but by Laura's enthusiasm and eagerness to help him and his fellow classmates learn. Wade went up to Laura after the show to reintroduce himself, and it turned out she remembered him just as well, and in a good way! A week later, Wade passed his audition and joined HBE, and he and Laura are ringing together again not as teacher and student, but as peers. However, Wade still comes to Laura for tips and advice, just as he did back then.

"It's really a testament to Laura that she was able to spark such a long-lasting interest in playing chimes and bells," Wade commented. "I had always had an interest in music and learning an instrument, but nothing ever 'stuck.' She was able to make ringing 'stick,' and joining a group like HBE was always in the back of my mind because of my experiences with her."

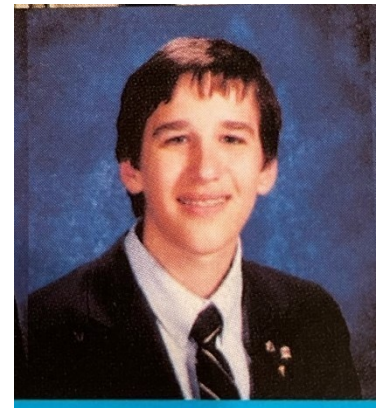
"Generally, I think of life as a straight path with hills and valleys," added Laura. "However, every once in a while, there is a loop where someone comes back around through your life. Such is the case with Wade. It really warms my heart that something I did so many years ago made such a difference and impact on a person that now I get to see the rewards of that process. I feel blessed to be able to ring with Wade in the Houston Bronze Ensemble."

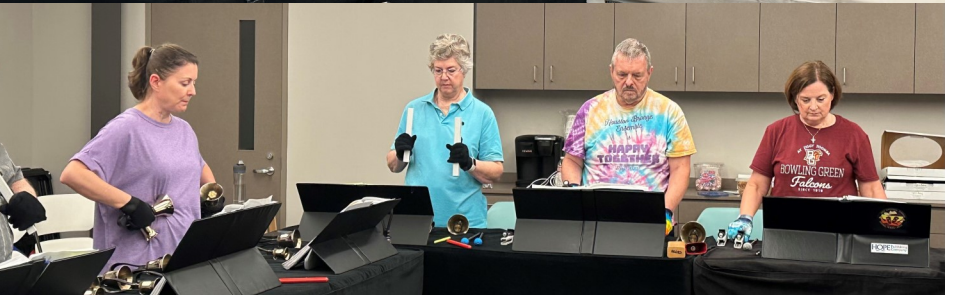
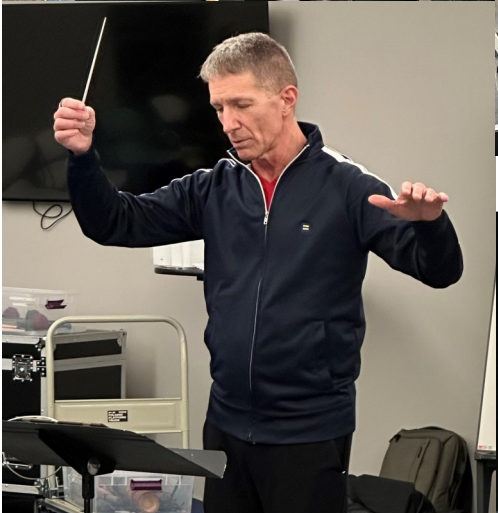
Laura and Wade (who still struggles NOT to call her "Mrs. Bush") will be ringing along with the rest of HBE on May 11 at MATCH, and again on May 19 at Trinity Klein Lutheran Church in Spring.



Laura Bush picture from school yearbook. 2004

Wade Brokmeyer picture from school yearbook. 2004





SPRING RETREAT AT BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY



Schedule a Workshop

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Build a Bell Workshop

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

Workshop topics include: Bass Bell Techniques, Problem Solving, Mallets and stopped sounds, Rhythm Basics, Bell Maintenance, Charge your battery!, 4 in Hand, and Work on your music.

Houston Bronze Ensemble is available to you for workshops throughout the year. You may pick the topics from a list of classes. If you don't see what you need, please ask. The best part is there is no need to pack your bells and travel. We come to you! This is offered without a fee. For more information and to request a workshop:

houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/



Wilson and past HBE member, Ben



Diana with director, Emily Li.



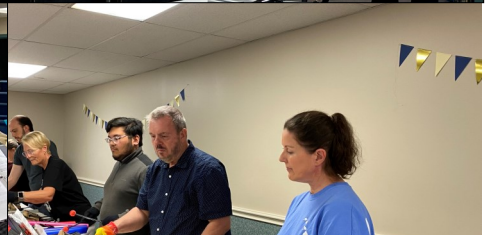
Jerry playing Heavy metal!

Houston Bronze at Distinctly Bronze East

Three members of HBE travelled to New Bern, North Carolina to attend DBE. This was the 25th Anniversary of this wonderful mass ringing event that brings people from all over the U.S. and the world to ring together. The music is always challenging and this year was no exception. The clinician/director for this year's event was Emily Li. A good time was had by all.



2024 REHEARSAL PICTURES



The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2024 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.org

Email:
info@houstonbronze.com
event@houstonbronze.org

Houston Bronze Ensemble also loves conducting workshops for handbell organizations throughout the Houston area. We would love to do one for your group. houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/

DONATE TO HOUSTON BRONZE TODAY!

Houston Bronze Ensemble is a 501 (c)(3) organization. We rely on your donations to continue to maintain and purchase our instruments, purchase music, print programs, truck rental, provide a stipend for our artistic director, and so much more. To make your donation, please go to our website and click the donate button at the top of the page.



www.houstonbronze.org

THANK YOU!!

Thank you to Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church for providing HBE with rehearsal and storage space for all of our equipment. We are forever grateful to you.



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 on 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. Artistic Directors since then have included David VanderMeer, Dolan Bayless, Ben Harris, Ruth Seiwel, James Roberts, Bill Nave, and Sondra Tucker. David York was appointed the artistic director in July 2023.

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 handbell 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.org for more information about our group and what we offer. Feel free to contact us at info@houstonbronze.org with any questions or requests. We look forward to working with you to provide handbell excellence to meet your needs!