

Vol. 8, No.1
January, 2021



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

2021 Concerts and Performances

While we currently have venues and dates scheduled for the spring, please know that because of Covid this can change as we move through the season. Please stay with us and watch our Facebook page and our website for the latest information.

Saturday, May 22, 2021 7:30 PM
MATCH

Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston
3400 Main St. Houston, TX 77002
Ticketed concert

Sunday, May 23, 2021 4:00 PM

Trinity Klein Lutheran Church
5201 Spring Cypress Rd. Spring, TX 77379
Free concert

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



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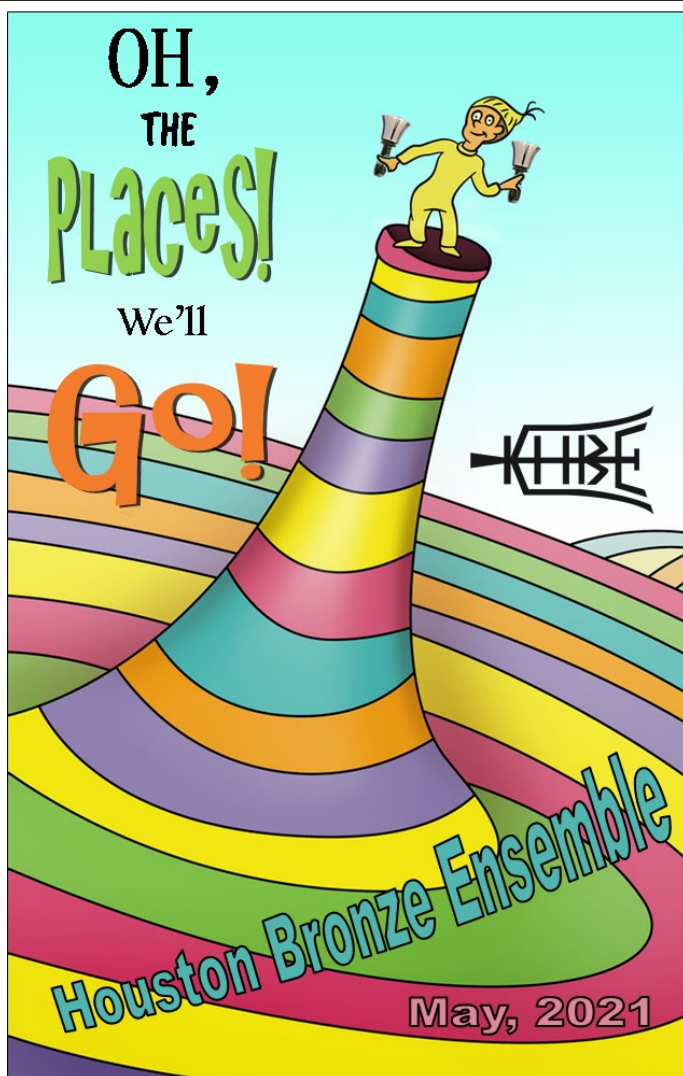
Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2021
To schedule a concert, contact us at:

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

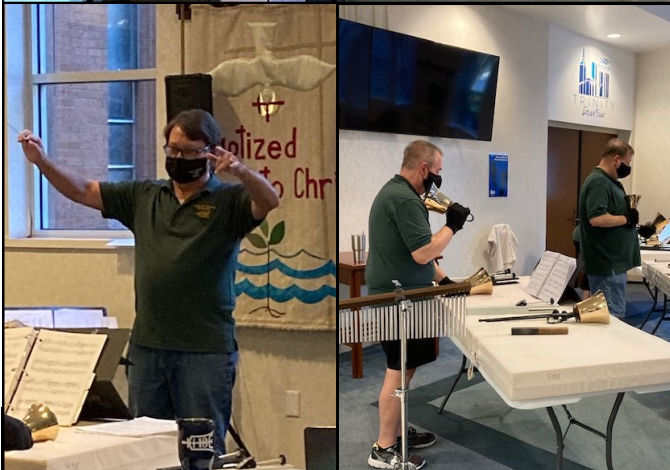
www.houstonbronze.com

Email:

info@houstonbronze.com
eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com



Houston Bronze Ensemble will soon start our rehearsing for our planned spring concerts in 2021. After months of staying close to home, we are all hoping to be more on the go this spring, even if it is just to get a hair cut or finally make that trip that was cancelled last spring and summer. We hope you will join us in May. For the latest on these concerts and other HBE plans, follow us on Facebook or check out our website. Enjoy the newsletter, seeing what we have been up to since October.



Handbell Musicians
OF AMERICA

VIRTUAL
HANDBELL MUSICIANS
master series

Composition Class Showcase
Sunday, November 15 • 7:15 p.m. EST



This fall Houston Bronze was contacted by Handbell Musicians of America about joining, as the performing group, a virtual composition masterclass that was to be offered by them with Jason Krug as instructor. We were honored to be invited and of course, said yes. Because of Covid, everything was conducted via Zoom. Once we became involved in the process, everything happened quickly. We received most of the beginning drafts from the composers via Jason on Sunday, November 8. Copies were quickly made and sent to ensemble members to mark and come prepared to rehearse and then record them at our regular Tuesday night rehearsal on Nov. 10. All recordings were made via iPhone. These recordings were then sent to Jason. Two members of HBE met via ZOOM with Jason and the composers on Friday November 11. The composers heard their compositions for the first time performed on handbells. The composers received comments from Jason and HBE and then returned to the “drawing board” to make edits. On Sunday at about 4:00, we started receiving and printing on site the edits made by the composers with Jason’s tutelage. One piece was seen for the first time on Sunday. We were able to rehearse the changes briefly before the performance began via ZOOM. This was a great experience for us. This workshop performance is still available to see at <https://youtu.be/unjwY91Filo>



Holiday at the Garden

Saturday, December 12
(National Poinsettia Day)

Learn how to cultivate poinsettias with On the Grow garden coach, Janice Brown.

Brookwood will have 150 of their popular, locally grown poinsettias on display and for sale.

30-minute hand bell performance, featuring sounds of the season, will be presented by the Houston Bronze Ensemble at 11 a.m., 12 p.m., and 1 p.m.

Floral designer Jessica Cohen will demonstrate how to arrange evergreens and botanical accents in a holiday wreath workshop \$25. RSVP: ayanna@hbg.org

Also, enjoy a plant scavenger hunt, holiday treats, and decorations throughout the Garden.

Houston Botanic Garden

On December 12th, members of Houston Bronze’s Celebration Ringers had the opportunity to play at the Holiday at the Garden event held at Houston’s new Botanic Garden. It was a beautiful December day and we had a wonderful time bringing holiday music to the visitors at the garden.

Celebration Ringers is a small group of Houston Bronze ringers. Because of the size, we use many fewer bells and no tables. This allows us to play in smaller spaces. We are available for weddings and parties. If you are interested in hearing more about Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers, contact us at eventcoordinator@houstonbronze.com.



NEW CD RELEASED!

We are excited to announce that our new CD “30th” is now available. This CD is made up of pieces from our 30th anniversary year which we celebrated in 2019. It includes six pieces from our 2018 Christmas concert and six pieces from our spring 2019 concert. Included on the CD are pieces by the winners of our composition contest and also a selection performed with the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble. The CD is available for purchase at our concerts and is also available on iTunes.

<https://music.apple.com/.../houston-bronze.../1545474292>



Houston Bronze Ensemble, Spring 2021

Houston Bronze conducted auditions for the upcoming season on Tuesday, January 5. We are happy to welcome Diana Montgomery as a new member to the ensemble. Although she is new to playing in the ensemble, we have known Diana for several years. She is the director of handbells at Chapelwood United Methodist Church and is also the director of the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble that HBE has mentored since the fall of 2016. We also welcome back Sarah Moore, a past member of Houston Bronze. She returns to Houston after receiving her masters degree from Indiana State. Joining Diana and Sarah will be Kathy Beard, Jimmy Clark, Jerry Conry, DruEllen Duncan, Linda Ellison, Ben Harris, Marvin Havard, Lorna Noack, Cindy Robinson, LeAnn Tromanhauser, Wilson Van Tine, Cloud Wang, and director, Bill Nave.

**Houston Bronze Ensemble
Spring, 2021**

The Houston Bronze Ensemble



A Maskerade Christmas

Our "maskerade" Christmas was a lot of fun for us to put together despite all the obstacles that 2020 put in our way. We had to do things a bit differently but in the end, HBE had a wonderful live concert at Tomball UMC and we also recorded the concert in an empty MATCH theater for you to watch on YouTube. We hope you will watch it. While there, subscribe to our channel to receive updates of latest posts. If you have not watched, it is still available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/eZVFRX8FdDg>



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

Build a Bell Workshop

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



BUILD A BELL WORKSHOP

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

Comments from past workshops:

- Great skills training with knowledgeable and kind teachers.
- Working out of comfort zone, that's a good thing
- 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.
- Wasn't long enough
- Liked the individual attention.
- Friendly, knowledgeable, positive approach.



HOUSTON BRONZE CELEBRATION RINGERS AT EPIPHANY SERVICES

On January 3, 2021 Houston Bronze continued what has become a tradition for us. Each year we have the honor of playing at the Epiphany Services at Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church. This church has become home to us offering us space for rehearsals, workshops, and recording sessions. They also provide us space to store our rather large instrument. Playing for them is a great way to begin the new year. While the entire ensemble is usually present and we perform selections from our Christmas concert, this year was a little different. There was only one service and in order to social distance our smaller group, Celebration Ringers, provided music for the service. This is just a small way we have of saying thank you to this church for all they do. We can never thank them enough!



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!

The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2021 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.

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!



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.

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- Share Facebook entries.
- Check out our website, www.houstonbronze.com
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Benefits of Being a Friend of HBE

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