

Houston Bronze Ensemble

Volume 5, No. 1

January, 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

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

3400 Main St.

Houston, TX 77002

Area 9 Summit in Mesquite, TX
June 8-10

Newsletters will be issued in January, April, July, and October. Newsletters will be issued electronically through emails, on the website (www.houstonbronze.com), and on Facebook. We hope you will enjoy them.

Experience America through music.



Houston Bronze invites you to join us as we hit the road in our spring concert, **Road Trip**. Our musical destinations will include some of those familiar va-

cation stops but also an unexpected visit to what is sure to be a vacation spot in the future. We hope you will pack your bags and come along. There is always room for one more!



[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!](#)





A Note From Our President

Lorna Noack

If you attended one of our Christmas concerts, you heard me compare bell ringers to ducks. Ducks??? Absolutely!

In every way, we make like a duck looking composed and unruffled above the surface while below the surface, we paddle like crazy. Our performance goal is for our audiences to enjoy beautiful music rung by cool, calm, and collected ringers who make it look easy. Behind the tables, though, all kinds of frantic actions are occurring to make it happen! Here are a few statistics to help you understand what goes on behind the scenes:

- 15 ringers, 29 hands (yes, we had a ringer with a broken arm and the use of only 1 hand!)
- 265 bells and chimes
- 30+ mallets, singing bell sticks, and other rhythm instruments
- 41 hours of rehearsal
- 9 hours of small group gigs done by Celebration Ringers
- About 400 people who heard our performances
- 41 hours of educational outreach (Summer Rings, Brookwood mentoring, Build a Bell Workshops, Slocum ISD presentation)
- approximately 300 people reached through education

The spring semester looks to be equally exciting with 3 concerts scheduled, 2 more Build a Bell workshops on the calendar, continued work with the Brookwood Community Handbell Ensemble, and the start of a new endeavor as we adopt St. Pius X High School Beppo's Bells to help them prepare for TAPPS competition. We are also looking to further expand our Celebration Ringers repertoire to provide both traditional and unique music for weddings.

Visit our website:
www.houstonbronze.com



"Looking composed and unruffled"



"Paddling like CRAZY!!"

All of this requires a huge commitment of time and energy from each of our members, but the rewards of playing to responsive audiences and helping other ringers improve their skills are definitely worth it! We greatly appreciate your concert attendance, likes on Facebook, questions and comments, donations, and every other form of support you offer – it is often the spark of motivation needed to continue to put in the time and effort needed to be excellent in all we do. We look forward to sharing another semester of handbell excellence with you and the Houston community!





TEST DRIVE

by Jimmy Clark



Have you thought about becoming a member of the Houston Bronze Ensemble? Auditions are still four months away, but it is never too early to start planning ahead. When I talk about upcoming auditions with some of my handbell ringer friends I will typically get some of these reactions:

“You make it look so easy, but I’m not good enough.”

“I have never played the large bells.”

“I can’t play four-in-hand.”

“The music is too advanced.”

“I don’t know if I will fit in.”

I get it. You might have similar thoughts as well. But what if I told you there was a way 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 we prepare for our musical Road Trip across America. This is how we describe our new Spring Ring program.

Check out the next newsletter, Facebook page, or our website for more information about the upcoming Spring Ring. Be sure to like our page on Facebook so you won’t miss out on the details. If you want a sneak peek at our rehearsals, take a look at some of the Facebook Live videos on our page. Every person you see ringing in our Facebook or YouTube videos has experienced their first audition, their first rehearsal, and their first concert. We’ve been there. We understand. For me, it’s been an amazing Road Trip. Want to take a ride with us?



Check out our
[YouTube](#) Channel



Houston Bronze College Ring-In Scholarship Program

The Houston Bronze Ensemble is happy to announce the two winners of our College Ring In Scholarships. They attended the [Handbell Musicians of America College Ring-In 2018](#) that was held at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey on January 3-6, 2018. Each scholarship was for \$100.00, covering the cost of registration. Both of these young women attend Purdue University and ring with Purdue Bells. We enjoyed getting to know them.

Meet Sara Wendt: Sara started playing handbells at her home church in 7th grade and knew she wanted to continue in college. Purdue also has two small ensemble groups, and she is a member of both. She currently serves as manager of Purdue Bells. This will be her third College Ring-In. She is hoping to leave this year's College Ring-In with a better appreciation for handbells as an art and a better sense of musicality overall. She feels it is important to see how different directors interpret music and help ringers connect the notes on the page to their movements and playing style to create the best possible sound.

Meet Karen You: Karen played in her high school's handbell ensemble in Singapore for three years. Through all the rehearsals and various performances and competitions, she fell in love with this unique instrument and decided to ring in college. This led her to Purdue. At College Ring-In, 2018, Karen looks forward to improving as a musician. She has learned from each new conductor and feels that ringing under Michael Joy will be a highlight in her handbell career. She also looks forward to meeting ringers from other schools and sharing the passion not only for bells, but also for other aspects of life. She knows that this will be a valuable experience that will motivate her in the future.

Houston Bronze also provided lunch for the event. We are proud to have a part in this event, even though from afar.





HBE Celebration Ringers
Private Party



Dress Rehearsal MATCH



HBE Celebration Ringers
The Empty Glass



HBE Celebration Ringers
Lights in the Heights



HBE Celebration Ringers
Slocum ISD



Christmas party!



Time to polish!

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 Phillips 66 Shell Oil
Amazon HP Inc iGive

Individual Contributors 2016 to present

Anonymous
Lloyd and Judy Clayton
Sam and Linda Conner
Jerry Conry
Jimmy Clark and Matt Thompson
Bob and Linda Ellison
Lolli Green
Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston
Dean and Sherry Hunter
Tommy and Pamela Kaiser
Catherine Landry
Ken and Lorna Noack
Meredith Overcast
Fay Pye
Bob and Ruth Seiwel
Diana Schmitt
St. Peter's UMC, Katy, TX
Barbara Szalkowski
Ray and Flora Tacquard
Wilson Van Tine



Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers

Now available for weddings!

The Houston Bronze Ensemble is preparing to offer the Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers, a small group of Houston Bronze members, to perform at weddings. Because we are an ensemble of only 5-6 members, **Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers** is the perfect addition to your wedding ceremony whether in an intimate setting or a large area. We are currently putting together our repertoire list. It will include all of the wedding favorites. Our minimum rate is \$300 for one hour.

If you are interested in having us ring for your special day, please contact our event coordinator by filling out the form on our website, <http://houstonbronze.com/houston-bronze-celebration-ringers.html>



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.

The ensemble celebrated its 25th Anniversary year in 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.

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.



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

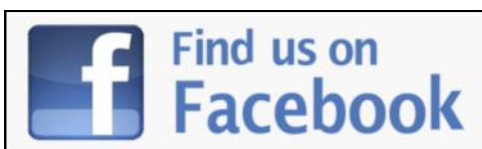
- Direct mailing of newsletter
- Your name listed in HBE programs and newsletter
- Advance notice of public concerts

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