

Vol. 10, No. 4
October, 2023



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE

Upcoming Concerts and Performances

2023

Friday, December 1, 2023 7:30 pm
"Jingle All the Way"

Guest Artist: Pride Chorus Houston
MATCH
Ticketed Concert

Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:00 pm
"Jingle All the Way"

Tomball United Methodist Church

Saturday, December 9 Time: 8:00
"Ring It In"

Unity of Houston

Houston Bronze will be featured at the Pride
Chorus Houston concert

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling
events for 2023 and beyond.

To schedule a concert, contact us at:

Email:

info@houstonbronze.org
eventcoordinator1@houstonbronze.com

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



NEW WEBSITE:

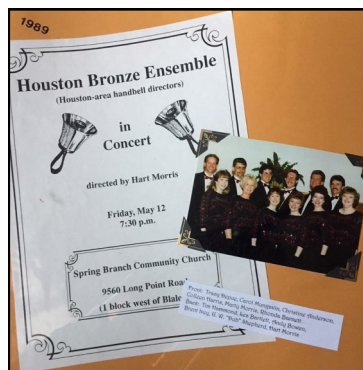
www.houstonbronze.org



1988—2023

**Happy 35th Anniversary to
Houston Bronze Ensemble!**

Thirty five years ago Houston Bronze got its start.



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 to Houston 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. For more about our history go to the link below:

houstonbronze.org/who-we-are/

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



Jingle All The Way!



Houston Bronze Ensemble
David York, Artistic Director

Friday, December 1, 2023 7:30 pm
Guest Artist: Members of Pride Chorus Houston
MATCH
3400 Main Street Houston, TX 77002
Tickets will soon be available through MATCH.

You know the tune! You know the season! Soon it'll be time when all is merry and bright, and Houston Bronze Ensemble is eager to ring in the festivities with a joyous mix of familiar and new. For this December's MATCH holiday concert we welcome Pride Chorus Houston. In addition to singing tailor-made arrangements stitched up especially for this collaborative program, they'll be singing familiar carols to inspire everyone to sing along. TOO. MUCH. FUN! Whether you're the bah humbug sort, or giddy gleeful for the glitz and glitter, or reverent for the nativity story, we've got you covered. So come! Let's be jolly! —David York

HOUSTON BRONZE IN THE COMMUNITY

Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:00 pm
"Jingle All the Way"
Tomball Methodist Church
1603 Baker Drive Tomball, TX 77375

Saturday, December 9, 2023 8:00 pm
"Ring It In"
Pride Chorus Houston
Featuring Houston Bronze Ensemble
Unity of Houston
2929 Unity Drive Houston, TX, 77057
To purchase tickets, go to: [Ring It In! — Pride Chorus Houston](#)

HOUSTON BRONZE CELEBRATION RINGERS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY OR EVENT

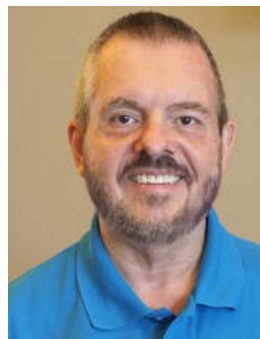
HBE at H-E-B
November 11, 2023
Harper's H-E-B 10200 Highway 242, Conroe, TX
(more information coming soon!)



Morning of December 9, 2023 - Private holiday party.

For more information about Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers go to, houstonbronze.org/celebration-ringers
To book handbells for your holiday party or event, contact us at eventcoordinator1@houstonbronze.com

College Ring-In 2024 HBE Scholarship Program



What is the HBE Associate Ringer Program?

Jerry Conry

This fall season saw something new at HBE, the introduction

of the Associate Ringers program.

Associate Ringers are adjunct ringers who participate with Houston Bronze Ensemble on an interim or occasional basis. Some are experienced ringers who are unavailable to make a full-time commitment to the ensemble and others are ringers who desire the opportunity to hone their skills while rehearsing with Houston Bronze Ensemble and to perform as needed on a more limited basis. HBE benefits from having extra hands available to conquer particularly challenging music and also to cover auxiliary instruments when required. The ensemble welcomes Elizabeth Taylor and Laura Bush as Associate Ringers this season. Most Associate Ringers come to Houston Bronze Ensemble by referral or as former ringers, and as such, aren't required to audition in the same manner as the core ensemble. Musicians who are interested in potential opportunities as Associate Ringers should contact the Artistic Director (director@houstonbronze.org) to discuss future requirements. Attendance at rehearsals will be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on current repertoire needs, the part assignments, and the availability of the Associate Ringer.

The Houston Bronze Ensemble has been granting scholarships to college students who are attending the Handbell Musicians of America College Ring-In since 2017. To date we have granted a total of 13 scholarships to this event. Each year we hope to grant 3 scholarships for \$100.00 to cover the cost of registration. Each scholarship is granted in the form of a reimbursement once the event and requirements of the scholarship are met. All other expenses (music, lodging, meals, transportation to and from the festival site, sightseeing, etc.) are the responsibility of the recipient. To learn more and to apply for the scholarship follow this link. **The deadline for the application is December 1, 2023.**

For more information on Handbell Musicians of America College Ring-In 2024, please follow link below. <https://handbellmusicians.org/event/college-ring-in-2024/>

For more information on the HBE scholarships, go to www.houstonbronze.org/scholarships

CONCERT DATES SCHEDULED FOR SPRING, 2024

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!

Saturday, May 11, 2024 7:30 pm MATCH

Sunday, May 19, 2024 4:00 pm Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

CRAZY! CRAZY! FANTASTIC!

by Linda Ellison

Our fall season started out a little crazy but we have moved into FANTASTIC! We began with our new director, David York, but short three ringers. We made it work. We knew we were losing 5 ringers once seminar was over in July. They moved from the state and life took them to other adventures. We had been able to add Matt and Micki through our audition process in May. We then introduced our Associate Ringer Program, adding Liz and Laura. They certainly helped us to make it work even better. Finally, in mid September, we were fortunate to add Megan to our ensemble. Bells we thought we were going to have to live without are back on the table. WOO HOO! We are working hard as we move toward our December concerts. We will be taking new pictures soon and have two extended Saturday rehearsals to help prepare us for fun concerts. We hope you will make your plans to join us. Auditions for the spring will be held in December. For more information go to <http://houstonbronze.org/audition/> And now here is your Houston Bronze Ensemble for Fall, 2023.

Meet Your Houston Bronze Ensemble Fall, 2023

David York, Artistic Director

Micki Balog*
Kathy Beaird
Laura Bush^
Jerry Conry
DruEllen Duncan
Linda Ellison
J. Marvin Havard
Matt Hawley*

Sarah Killingsworth
Diana Montgomery
Michelle Shuman
Megan Staley*
Elizabeth Taylor^
Wilson Van Tine

*new member
^associate ringer



Schedule a Workshop

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/

DISTINCTLY BRONZE WEST

In early October, **Wilson Van Tine** of Houston Bronze, will travel to Vancouver, Washington to take part in Distinctly Bronze West with handbell enthusiasts from across the country. The conductor of the event will be Hart Morris. Hart is one of the founders of Houston Bronze and was our first director 35 years ago. We hope everyone has a wonderful time.



Like us on FaceBook!



Houston Bronze assists at Fall Fanfare.

HOUSTON BRONZE MEMBERS ATTEND FALL FANFARE 2023

On Saturday, September 9, members of HBE assisted with the Fall Fanfare hosted by Area 9 of Handbell Musicians of America and The Greater Houston Handbell Association. Our own Diana Montgomery played a major role in organizing Fall Fanfare. She also led a morning reading session of music selections sent by Handbell World. Past members of HBE, Lorna Noack and Alex Erhardt, led two of the morning workshops offered at Fall Fanfare. Mark Arnold from Area 9 was there to teach the Rookie Ringer class in the morning and lead the reading session in the afternoon. In this reading session, we played through selected music to be used in an upcoming community handbell event, **RING HOUSTON**, on February 17, 2024. [Greig Ashurst](#), current president of HMA, will be the clinician at the event in February. Other members of Houston Bronze who helped where needed were Jerry Conry, Marvin Havard, and Linda Ellison. We had a wonderful time sharing the day with ringers from the Houston area and from as far away as Bellville.

Coming Soon!!
RING HOUSTON!

A Community Handbell Event

February 17, 2024 Greig Ashurst, clinician

Memorial Drive UMC, Houston Tx

<https://theqhha.net/>



The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2023 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
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. houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE



[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!](#)

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. 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 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!



Thank you!

Houston Bronze Ensemble would like to thank our contributors for their donations during this past year. In the past 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

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Individual Contributors

January 2019—Present

Stephen Ashurst	Robert and Linda Ellison	Ken and Lorna Noack
Leslie Bartlett	Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Houston, TX	Sarah and Steven Schlacks
Penny Brehany-Wellman	Ben and Margaret Harris	Michelle Shuman
Judy Clayton	J. Marvin Havard	St. John's Lutheran Church Cypress, TX
Sam and Linda Conner	Phil and Marylyn Hodges	Barbara Szalkowski
Jerry Conry	Dean and Sherry Hunter	Margaret and Bob Tucker
Jimmy Clark	Alicia Monroe	Wilson Van Tine
Cheryl Cranford (Bells of Hope)	Diana and Mike Montgomery	Mary Voigt
Paul and Betty Dorn		
Tim and DruEllen Duncan		