



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE



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

Houston Bronze Ensemble, 1989



HOUSTON BRONZE CONCERTS

**A CONCERT OF PEARLS
30th Anniversary Concerts**

April 28, 2019 4:00 pm

Clear Lake Presbyterian Church
1511 El Dorado Blvd. Houston, TX 77062
Free concert

**30th Anniversary Dinner/Concert
Saturday, May 18, 2019**

Time: VIP, 5:45 General, 6:00 pm

With the premiere of the two winning pieces from
the Houston Bronze 30th Anniversary
Composition Contest

"Trinity " by Caleb Onstead

"Tapestry " by Rob Riker

Place: Maggiano's Little Italy
2019 Post Oak Blvd. Houston, TX 77056

Tickets:

VIP with adult beverage package \$90.00
VIP without adult beverage package \$75.00
Standard Ticket \$60.00

<https://hbe30.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, May 19, 2019 4:00 pm

With guest artists

The Brookwood Handbell Ensemble
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church
5201 Spring Cypress Rd. Spring, TX 77379

With the premiere performance of "Friendship"
by Kathleen Wissinger, commissioned by Houston
Bronze for two bell choirs
Free concert

Houston Bronze Ensemble
*A Concert
of Pearls*

Celebrating our past as we invest in the future



30th Anniversary



Houston Bronze Ensemble, 2019

Houston Bronze Concerts, Continued

Saturday, June 22, 2019
Joint Concert at Brookwood
More information coming soon!

DECEMBER 2019 PERFORMANCES

A BRONZE CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 6, 2019 7:00 pm
Tomball United Methodist Church
1603 Baker Dr. Tomball, TX 77375
Free concert

Saturday, December 7, 2019 7:30 pm
MATCH
Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston
3400 Main St, Houston, TX 77002
Ticketed concert

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently
scheduling events for 2019-2020

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
event_coordinator@houstonbronze.com

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Ringers Wanted!

Houston Bronze Ensemble AUDITIONS

If you are looking to play with a group that looks forward to sharing their passion for all things bells, playing challenging music, and sharing that passion and music with the Houston community and beyond, HBE is the ensemble for you. We strive for EXCELLENCE in all aspects of our organization. If you have the desire to be a part of that, we hope you will consider auditioning to become a member. We hold auditions each year for all people who wish to perform with us in the next season. All positions are available. We hope you will join us for a [Test Drive](#) on June 4 and then return for an audition. For more on Test Drive, see page 3 of this newsletter.

Auditions for Houston Bronze Ensemble 2019 - 2020 Season

Date: June 25, 2019

Time: 6:00 - 9:00

**Place: Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church
800 Houston Av. Houston, TX**

We hope that you will consider joining us. We work hard but the reward is great. Please let us know if you plan to audition by registering at:

<http://houstonbronze.com/become-a-member-of-houston-bronze---audition.html>

TEST DRIVE

Have you thought about becoming a member of the Houston Bronze Ensemble but just aren't sure what to expect? You are invited to join us for a rehearsal and take us out for a spin. You will have the opportunity 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 you consider auditioning and coming along for an amazing ride as a member of the Houston Bronze Ensemble. Test drive is not a requirement for the audition. It will simply give you an idea of what to expect and perhaps make the evening of the audition less stressful.

TEST DRIVE

Date: June 4, 2019

Time: 6:30 pm

**Place: Trinity Lutheran Church Downtown
800 Houston Av. Houston, TX**

Your test drive will include:

- Tricks of the Trade

(reviewing HBE ringing style, handbell techniques, review past audition material, meet current members and ask your questions.)

- Sight read with members of HBE.
- Stay to observe the rest of our rehearsal.

Register for Test Drive at

<http://houstonbronze.com/become-a-member-of-houston-bronze---test-drive.html>

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



WHAT WAS I THINKING?

by Jan Barkley

Those were the words playing on a loop in my head last August when I walked into my first Houston Bronze Ensemble rehearsal. The loop got louder as I received the thick packet of music for the fall. Struggling through the first sight-reading rehearsal, I feebly rang one note out of every half dozen. What WAS I thinking?

Sure, I had rung in my church handbell choir for 25 years, but this was different. This felt like the big leagues of bells. But as with most things in life, if it's worth doing, it's probably going to be hard. So I fought the urge to run far, far away and came back the next week and the week after.

One of the things I worried about most was being the weak link and letting the ensemble down. The incredible thing that happened, though, was I had a room full of help and support. My fellow ringers guided me through difficult passages and gave me tips on malleting techniques. They coached me on rhythms and taught me that I didn't have to try to do it all myself. There was a room full of people who could help me pick up that impossible bell or ring a chime when I couldn't make the switch fast enough. And I could do the same for someone else. We were a team.

By the time the Christmas concerts rolled around, I felt miraculously like I could hold my own. I was able to ring through that thick folder of music with joy and confidence.

Now that I'm 8 months into it, I can say that it has been amazing. I know that I still take longer to catch up to speed with the rest of the choir and I still have areas where I struggle, but everyone continues to be incredibly helpful and encouraging. I started this journey last year when I attended the Test Drive. At the time, I was completely in awe of what this group could do and I never thought I could ring at that level. But with hard work and the support of the rest of the ensemble, I now know I can do it.

If you have any interest in learning more about the Houston Bronze Ensemble or have thought in the back of your mind about auditioning, I encourage you to attend the [Test Drive](#) on Tuesday, June 4. If you don't, you might find yourself sitting at home and saying to yourself, "I should have gone--What was I thinking?"

Summer Days!



Tuesday, July 23, 2019

7:00 - 9:00

Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church

800 Houston Avenue

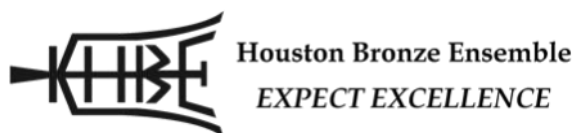
Do you suffer from the dreaded “Ringing Withdrawal” during the summer months? If you are looking for the opportunity to play different positions, work on new techniques, and meet other people who share your passion for all things bells, then you will want to join us for Summer Ring!

This summer we will host one Summer Ring event. We will be reading through Level 2+ to Level 3+ music sent to us by Jeffers.

If you would like to attend, please reserve your place by registering on our website. Bring your gloves, a handbell folder (if available), and a friend.

For more information and to register go to:

<http://houstonbronze.com/summer-ring.html>



HOUSTON BRONZE and BROOKWOOD HANDBELL ENSEMBLES TO PERFORM AT ASTROS GAME

On August 22 Brookwood and HBE will join their ensembles for the presentation of The Star Spangled Banner prior to the opening pitch of the Houston Astros baseball game. Make your plans to attend this game and cheer on these two ensembles as well as your Houston Astros. It promises to be a fun evening!



BUILD A BELL WORKSHOP

We know that directors are already looking for music and making plans for next fall. We invite you to include in your plans a “Build a Bell Workshop” led by members of Houston Bronze. For more information and to begin making your plans for a Build a Bell Workshop go to our website and fill out the form. Houston Bronze offers these workshops free of charge but donations towards our educational efforts are always welcome.

DOROTHY SHAW HANDBELL CHOIR VISITS OUR OPEN REHEARSAL

On March 12 Houston Bronze had their annual Open Rehearsal. We thank those who attended. We were all treated to a special performance by this fabulous ensemble from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. This ensemble plays without a director and without music. We enjoyed the time we got to spend with these wonderful young people. We hope to meet them again in the future.



RALEIGH RINGERS TO PERFORM IN HOUSTON THIS SUMMER

On June 12, 2019 the Raleigh Ringers will perform a concert in Houston at Lakewood United Methodist Church. If you have never heard this world renowned handbell ensemble, you will not want to miss it. For tickets go to <https://lumc.yapsody.com/event/index/357481/the-raleigh-ringers>



Congratulations!!!

We extend our congratulations to Houston Bronze member Jimmy Clark who has just been awarded his doctoral degree in information systems from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.





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

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The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2019 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.



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE



Thank you to Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church for providing us with rehearsal space and storage space. We are forever grateful to you.

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!](#)

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel!

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!

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