

Vol. 11, No. 4
October, 2024



Houston Bronze Ensemble

EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Friday, December 6, 2024 7:30 pm
MATCH
Matchbox 2
340 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

Saturday, December 7, 2024 7:00 pm
Tomball Methodist Church
1603 Baker Street
Tomball, TX 77375

Spring 2025 Concerts

Sunday, April 27, 2025 4:00 pm
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church

Friday, May 2, 2025 7:30 pm
MATCH

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2024 and beyond. To schedule a concert or music for your holiday party, 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)

HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS




Making Spirits Bright

WITH GUEST ARTIST
S.L.E.D.
An A Cappella Quartet
for All Occasions

Friday, December 6
MATCH, Matchbox 2
3400 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

Saturday, December 7
Tomball Methodist Church
1603 Baker Street
Tomball, TX 77375

This newsletter is filled with news about what HBE has been up to since August. It includes information about the following:

-  Concert dates, times, ticket information, and what we will be included in the program. We are excited to introduce our guests artist for the season. It's going to be something different and very fun!!
-  How to book a small ensemble for your holiday event.
-  What you need know about our College Ring-In Scholarship Program for 2025. If you know a young adult who might be interested, please encourage them to apply.

And much more!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.



Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.

Making Spirits Bright

Houston Bronze is excited to present this program of holiday music to you. We are especially thrilled to announce our very special guest artist for this season. The Barbershop Quartet S.L.E.D. will be joining us on the stage for this fun concert. S.L.E.D. is comprised of four energetic and talented individuals whose commitment to musical excellence is rivaled only by their passion for entertaining. We are all members of the Barbershop Harmony Society and members of various choruses: The Houston Tidelanders, Space City Sound, The Statesmen Chorus and Vocal Majority in whom we have competed in numerous Regional and International Competitions.



And in case you are wondering about the ensemble's name, here is what they write with tongue in cheek in their brochure. "There is no longer a need to lie awake at night wondering about the meaning of our name. Our name was held in a "Cloud of Secrecy" until now. The secret is out! This "Scintilatingly Lighthearted Ensemble of Destiny" wants you to know we love sharing the meaning of our name, no matter if we are Savoring Life Eating Donuts for breakfast together or celebrating the holidays leaving milk and cookies out for the guy in

the big red suit; after all Santa Loves Eating Dessert!! Oh well, you may need to come to a show or hire us for a performance to learn more about the meaning of our name."

We look forward to performing with this exciting ensemble.

It is going to be
sooooo much
fun!



Follow us on **Facebook** for up to date information about our program.

More concert information may be found on page 3 of this news letter.



More Concert Information

The sound of handbells ringing Christmas melodies quickens the spirit of the season in an instant. Houston's premier handbell choir will present holiday fare with virtuosic arrangements designed to inspire, soothe, and excite. For wee ones spying for Santa, for the busy cookie makers, and for our good ol' grumpy bah humbugs, an hour with Houston Bronze Ensemble will make the rest of your December a little brighter.

To add to the fun, we've invited our singing friends S.L.E.D. to bring their magical vocals in close-harmony arrangements of some of your favorite Christmas songs.

Whether you're looking for the sacred or secular, an escape from the demands of the time, or a gleeful plunge into holiday revelry, Houston Bronze has just the recipe.

Do I need a ticket?

Friday, December 6th at 7:30 pm

Register for your free ticket. Go to <https://matchouston.org/events/2024/making-spirits-bright>. Tickets are also available at the door on the day of the concert. Always free.

This concert will be livestreamed. Follow the link above to find free access to the livestream and video-on demand. We aim to inspire you! A free-will offering will be collected. But first things first.

Get the ticket. (Bring friends!) Listen with glee! Give as inspired!

Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 pm

As a part of what has become a Christmas tradition for Houston Bronze, we will once again perform in Tomball. Our appearance is underwritten by Tomball Methodist Church. Join the Tomball Fellowship for this annual tradition. No ticket required.



A graphic for the 'Build a Bell Workshop'. It features a stack of colorful blocks (red, yellow, blue, green) with various bell-related terms: 'Work on your music', '4 in Hand', 'Bass Bell Techniques', 'Problem Solving', 'Mallets and stopped sounds', 'Rhythm Basics', 'Bell Maintenance', and 'Charge your battery!'. The Houston Bronze Ensemble logo is at the top left, and the text 'HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE EXPECT EXCELLENCE' is at the top right. Below the blocks, it says 'Build a Bell Workshop' and provides the URL 'http://houstonbronze.com/build-a-bell-workshop.html'.

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! Our workshops are offered free of charge. For more information and to request a workshop:

Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers



Greet your guests with the sounds of Christmas!

The Houston Bronze Ensemble offers performances by the **Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers**. This is a small group of Houston Bronze Handbell Ensemble members. Because we are an ensemble of only 5-6 members, **Houston Bronze Celebration Ringers** is the perfect entertainment addition to your holiday gathering, neighborhood caroling party, corporate event, holiday bazaar, religious celebration or intimate dinner party! Our size allows us to be tucked into a corner of a room or on a front porch or patio. Our minimum rate is \$300 for one hour.

If you are interested in having us come ring at your holiday celebration, please



We hope to see you during the holidays!

Houston Bronze Ensemble is a 501(c)(3) organization.



College Ring-In 2025

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, 2024.**

For more information on Handbell Musicians of America College Ring-In 2025, please follow link below.

[College Ring-in 2025 | Handbell Musicians of America.](https://handbellmusiciansofamerica.org/college-ring-in-2025/)

For more information and to apply for the HBE scholarships, go to

<https://houstonbronze.org/college-ringin-2025/>

Houston Bronze-Out and About



Checkout HBE's YOUTUBE Channel!

Jerry Conry, HBE member and board VP, has been working many hours to update our YouTube channel with newly found recordings of older concerts. He has been transferring our recordings from VHS tapes and DVD's. The channel now contains concerts as far back as 2002 but he is working on some as far back as 1991. If you have not already subscribed to our channel, please join us.

www.youtube.com/@houstonbronzeensemble593



Kyle Performs with Space City Sound

On September 6, 2024, Kyle Maninanton, a member of HBE, displayed his many musical talents when he performed with the a cappella group Space City Sound. The concert also included a performance by FENDER BENDER, Kyle's Barbershop Quartet. Two members of Houston Bronze were able to attend the dinner/concert. They said it was a very fun evening.



Kyle with his Barbershop quartet, FENDER BENDER!

Kathy writes: "It was a great program! The voices blended and complemented each other so well. I really enjoyed the concert and look forward to seeing them again.

Jerry writes: You could tell how much they enjoyed making music together. The energy and excitement was palpable and the singers seemed to have a genuine connection with each other. I definitely want to attend another concert.



Kathy and Jerry attend concert to support Kyle.

Out and About, cont.

Distinctly Bronze West— Vancouver, Washington

In October, four members of HBE will journey to Vancouver, Washington to participate in Distinctly Bronze West. Fred Gramman will lead the ensemble this year. He always bring wonderful music and is able to obtain the very best from the ensembles he directs. We wish these four Bronze members a safe and fabulous experience.

Left to right: Wilson, Megan, Kathy, Diana



Saturday Retreat

Retreat— “ a period of seclusion for the purposes of rest, relaxation, and meditation”

Mmmm! Whoever formulated this definition has not been to one of our retreats. HBE met for their “retreat” on September 28th but it was hardly a period of rest or relaxation. For us, it was a period of intense work on pieces for our Christmas concerts in December. We had a productive rehearsal. It is always fun to ring together. Hope you are making your plans to join us to hear our final product on December 6th or 7th.



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)
<http://houstonbronze.org>

Email:
info@houstonbronze.org
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!