

Vol. 13, No 3
July, 2026



Houston Bronze Ensemble
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

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

Houston Bronze Ensemble December, 2026 Concert Schedule

Light a Candle

Saturday, December 5, 2026

Time: TBA

Tomball Methodist Church
1603 Baker Drive
Tomball, TX 77375

Sunday 6, 2026 Time: 4:00 pm

Chapelwood United Methodist Church
11140 Greenbay St.
Houston, TX 77024

Friday, December 11, 2026 7:30 pm

MATCH
3400 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently
scheduling events for 2026 and beyond.
To schedule a concert or music for your holiday party,
contact us at:

Email:
info@houstonbronze.org
event@houstonbronze.org



A Heartfelt Thank You from the Houston Bronze Ensemble

The Houston Bronze Ensemble extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our spring concert series. We had the pleasure of performing in three beautiful churches, entertaining wonderful and responsive audiences. Whether you joined us live or watched online, we hope you enjoyed the concert.

A special thank you goes to The Houston Masterworks Chamber Singers who joined us as our esteemed guests. We truly couldn't have accomplished this without your support. Your presence enabled us to present "The Bells," and your solo performances were simply enchanting.

Plan to join us in December for "Light a Candle." More information coming soon. We are still working to add performances to our calendar.



<https://houstonbronze.org>
email: info@houstonbronze.org

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Audition for Houston Bronze



Houston Bronze Ensemble
Houston's premier handbell ensemble

We will be holding auditions for our 2026-2027 season. We invite you to come and share your talent!

Audition

*Contact us to set a date.
We will have openings this fall*

<https://houstonbronze.org/audition/>

houstonbronze.org/audition

If you are passionate about bell ringing and wish to connect with like-minded individuals, we invite you to consider auditioning with HBE. We are seeking advanced ringers eager to enhance their skills. Our program will present you with challenges designed to elevate your ringing to new heights. We will collaborate with you to schedule an audition date that accommodates your availability. For more information about the audition process, please visit our website. Should you have any further questions, feel free to email us at info@houstonbronze.org. We look forward to discussing the opportunity for you to join us.

HBE Supports Handbells in Houston Area and Beyond

Dive into the musical magic of bells with the Houston Bronze Ensemble's workshops, available all year round! Pick your favorite topics from our jam-packed list of classes on our webpage, and if you don't spot what you need, just holler! Here's the cherry on top: we come to you, so no bell-hauling shenanigans required. Best part? It's free, though your generous donations will have us ringing with gratitude. For more info or to book a bell-tastic workshop, pop over to our site.



Houston Bronze Ensemble

Build a Bell Workshop

Email: houstonbronze@outlook.org
houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/

Workshop topics: Bass Bell Techniques, Problem Solving, 4 in Hand, Mallets and stopped sounds, Rhythm Basics, Bell Basics, Bell Maintenance, Charge your battery!

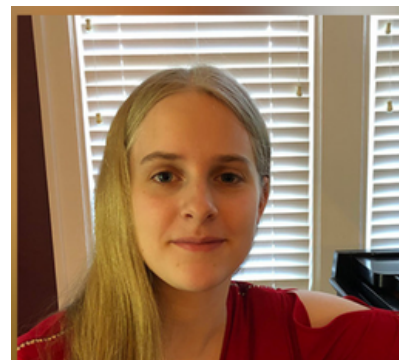
houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop

Saying Goodbye



Two valuable members of HBE will not be returning to ring next year. They will always be a part of the Houston Bronze family. We wish them both health, happiness, and ringing for many years to come. We thank them for all they have done for this ensemble. We will miss you.

Saying Hello



In June, HBE held an audition. We are happy to welcome Katherine Jolliff to the Houston Bronze family for our 2026-2027 season. Kat is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and is currently at Rice University working on her Master's degree in organ performance. Welcome. Kat.



SUMMER FUN!

We hope all of our readers are having some summer fun. Several of our ensemble members will be traveling this summer to participate in handbell activities.

Diana will travel first to Hurst, Texas, to attend SUMMIT, an HMA Area 9 conference. She is traveling there with the Brookwood Handbell Ensemble where they will present a 30 minute concert. Next, she will go to Cincinnati, Ohio, for the HMA National Seminar. While there she will teach a class, "Music Reading Is Not Required". This is a class about adaptive notation, a system of colored letters that allows anyone to make music. Her last trip of the summer will be to attend the International Handbell Symposium in Aberdeen, Scotland. She plans to travel with her husband, Mike, by way of Edinburgh and do some sightseeing as she journeys by bus to Aberdeen.

Jerry will also attend International Symposium but will be traveling to Aberdeen by way of Belfast.



Jerry adds, "I lived in the UK for 7 years and rang handbells with several groups while there including the Hamilton Ringers directed by Keith Rowland. The International Symposium Chair was also ringing with Hamilton as was the conductor of the HRGB massed ringing selection so I'm looking forward to rekindling old friendships. I did not visit Aberdeen when living there so that part of Scotland will be new to me. After the Symposium, I'll head to London to check out my old stomping grounds and see how much things have changed. After all, I left the UK in 2003!

Wilson will attend International Symposium and travel by way of London. Some sightseeing is planned while in London and he is looking forward to seeing several shows including Paddington, Hunger Games, Devil Wears Prada, Hercules, and one more yet to be decided. At International Symposium, he will take part in the Advanced ringing track.

Michelle will fly to straight to Aberdeen for International Symposium. After the symposium is concluded she will travel to see more of Scotland. She will travel to Edinburgh for the Royal Tattoo and to Isle of Sky to see puffins and a very deep solar eclipse. She will also be doing falconry and boating on Loch Ness.

Linda will travel to Bay View, Michigan to attend Bay View Week of Handbells, a massed ringing opportunity under the direction of Fred Gramann. "Fred is a draw for me to go to this event. I enjoy the music he selects and his detailed style of working with groups. It is always nice to at least have the hope of getting away from the Texas heat."



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MORE SUMMER FUN

Meanwhile, our handbells are also enjoying some much needed time off at the Texas Bell Ranch. They will be cleaned, restored with new parts and then polished before their return. Our cases will also get cleaned, repaired, and replaced. Our old cases will be converted to house our 5 octaves of Petit and Fritsen bells. If you would like to make a donation to help carry Houston Bronze well into the future, allowing us to continue to share our music with the Houston area and beyond, we encourage you to make a donation to our RESTORE HARMONY campaign.



CONCERT PETTING ZOO



After our concerts, we love inviting audience members to come and explore the instruments. Guests can test their strength on the mighty C2 bell, compare the sound of Petit and Fritsen bells to both handbells and chimes, ring a big bass chime, and discover all the instruments displayed on the tables. Ensemble members are always nearby to answer questions, share information, and help guide everyone so both visitors and the equipment stay safe.



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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.



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.



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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!