

Vol. 12, No. 2  
April, 2025



Houston Bronze Ensemble  
*EXPECT EXCELLENCE*

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

## HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE 2025 CONCERTS

### LUX AETERNA

Sunday, April 27, 2025 4:00 pm  
Trinity Klein Lutheran Church  
5201 Spring Cypress Rd  
Spring, TX 77379

Friday, May 2, 2025 7:30 pm  
MATCH  
3400 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77002

Sunday, May 4, 2025 4:00 pm  
First United Methodist Church Pearland  
2314 N. Grand Blvd.  
Pearland, TX 77581

Saturday, December 13, 2025 7:00 pm  
Tomball United Methodist Church  
1603 Baker Street  
Tomball, TX 77375

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2025 and beyond. To schedule a concert or music for your holiday party, contact us at:

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



<https://houstonbronze.org>



HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE PRESENTS

# LUX AETERNA

SUNDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>  
TRINITY KLEIN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
4:00PM

FRIDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>  
MIDTOWN ARTS & THEATRE CENTER HOUSTON  
7:30PM

SUNDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PEARLAND  
4:00PM

Houston Bronze Ensemble is excited to present our spring concert, **Lux Aeterna**. Our concert will be performed in three locations scattered all around the city. We will begin in northwest Houston, then into the city, and finally in south Houston. Each of these concerts will be presented without a purchasing a ticket. Donations will be appreciated.

For the MATCH concert, using the link below, you will need to reserve your seat through their box office. You can also use this link to watch the live stream of the concert.

<https://matchouston.org/events/2025/lux-aeterna>

Check out our [YouTube](#) Channel.



## LUX AETERNA

The ting of a bell in silence is a bit like the spark of a flame in darkness. It is on this timeless metaphor that Houston Bronze Ensemble builds its spring program, "Lux Aeterna" or "Light Eternal." Light is the force by which life is sustained. Light guides our way. Poets and prophets use light to describe dimensions beyond our time and place. Combining the sinewy expressivity of solo violin with virtuosic handbell ringing, we hear the light reflected in Arvo Pärt's "Mirror in Mirror." We journey into outer space with Sondra Tucker's "Cosmic Dance." And we glimpse into the afterlife through the music of Arnold Sherman, Matthew Compton, and William Payn. We round out the program with a gorgeous transcription of Jules Massenet's "Meditation on Thaïs" and Henry Mancini's "Moon River." Please join Houston Bronze Ensemble and guest violinist, Zachary Montasser, for a sacred hour of meditation, inspiration, and preparation for the sweet days of Spring. *Submitted by David York*



**Zachary Montasser, Guest Artist, violin**

Houston Bronze is happy to announce our guest artist for our spring, 2025 concerts. We are excited to perform with him.

Zachary has enjoyed a varied and fruitful career, exploring many musical styles and venues. He is an avid chamber musician, and has been a founding member of two classical string quartets. Currently he is a member of the Candlelight Series in Corpus Christi, performs in a Harp/Violin duo, and regularly collaborates in all chamber music settings.

Zachary performs regularly as a musical theater musician. He has performed in off-Broadway tours, and for esteemed companies such as Theater Under the Stars, A.D. Players, and Stages Theater. He also performs in more traditional classical programming with organizations like Opera in the Heights, and The Symphony of Southeast Texas.

Zachary's musical journey has taken him all over the world, from Chicago to Beijing, to Mexico City and Houston and New Orleans and Germany, etc.

Currently, Zachary is pioneering a musical appreciation course called "Musicology LIVE!," which endeavors to break down accessibility barriers to classical music through impassioned performance lectures. Check out more at [www.musicwithz.com](http://www.musicwithz.com)





# Audition

## Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston's premier handbell ensemble



*We will be holding auditions for our 2025-2026 season. We invite you to come and share your talent!*



### Audition

**May 6, 2025 7:00 pm**  
**Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church**  
*Please register for an audition.*  
<https://houstonbronze.org/audition/>

## *We Need You!!*

Houston Bronze Ensemble is looking to fill some vacancies that we will have in the ensemble in the fall. We hope you will consider joining us. If you are wanting to play music of all styles and difficulty levels, we would love to have you join us. We will be holding auditions in May. For more information about the audition process,

please go to <https://houstonbronze.org/audition/> We invite you to attend one of our rehearsals to see how we operate. We rehearse on Tuesday night at 7:00 pm in Room 205 at Trinity Downtown Lutheran Church. If you have questions about the process, please contact us at [houstonbronze@outlook.com](mailto:houstonbronze@outlook.com) or [info@houstonbronze.org](mailto:info@houstonbronze.org)

## Schedule a Workshop

**HOUSTON BRONZE ENSEMBLE**  
*EXPECT EXCELLENCE*

**Build a Bell Workshop**

<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! This is offered without a fee. For more information and to request a workshop:

[houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/](https://houstonbronze.org/build-a-bell-workshop/)

### 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.



# Out and About



**Houston Bronze at Distinctly Bronze East**  
Three members of HBE travelled to New Bern, North Carolina to attend DBE. The event was directed by P.L. Grove and Nick Hanson.



Greater Houston Handbell Association

In February, three members of HBE participated in and assisted in the annual event "Ring Houston" hosted by GHHA. The event was held at Memorial Drive UMC. Diana, Wilson, and Linda also served in the planning of this event. They were elected to serve on the 2025-2026 board of GHHA. Congratulations to each of them.

Three members of HBE, Sarah, Alex, and DruEllen were out running in the H-TOWN races on March 23,



On March 16, 2025 two members of HBE assisted Trinity DT handbell choir by subbing for members who were absent. This church is so generous with what they offer us in rehearsal space and storage for our very large instrument. Thank you to Laura and Megan for helping them.



## The Houston Bronze Ensemble

Houston Bronze Ensemble is currently scheduling events for 2025 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](http://www.houstonbronze.org)

Email:  
[info@houstonbronze.com](mailto:info@houstonbronze.com)  
[event@houstonbronze.org](mailto: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/](http://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](http://www.houstonbronze.org)

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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](http://www.houstonbronze.org) for more information about our group and what we offer. Feel free to contact us at [info@houstonbronze.org](mailto:info@houstonbronze.org) with any questions or requests. We look forward to working with you to provide handbell excellence to meet your needs!