

S U M M E R 2 0 1 7



The Peal

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers



School's Out!

Well, almost....at least with the majority of this season's performances under our belts, it's time to rest our weary arms and minds as summer is finally here! Some of us won't be taking a break, however, and we look forward to hearing all about your adventures in the fall!



One final thank you to the 2016 IHS Vancouver team

Although a year has already almost passed since IHS Vancouver, our intrepid crew is only finally wrapping final reports, etc from this amazing global event ~ thanks again to all of them for their incredible work. And we are already looking forward to 2018 where the IHS will be held in beautiful Cairns, Australia! Stay tuned for more news about the massed piece that has been chosen to represent Canada in our next Peal!!

Save the Date!

Singing, Ringing

June 3, 2017

Enjoy a fine musical offering at First Baptist in Calgary! (p.4)

50 Years of Bells

June 4, 2017

Celebrate a ½ century of bells at Robertson-Wesley in Edmonton! (p.6)

Jubellation

June 8, 2017

Check out their spring concert at Knox United in Three Hills! (p.5)

Presidential Ponderings

Hello ALGEHR members,

We are so fortunate to have such a rich handbell community in Alberta, and it's at this time of year when this is so evident. Spring bell concerts are being performed across the province from April through June. If you've attended some of these concerts (or seen the advertisements for them), you know that you can enjoy a wide range of concert themes in a variety of concert locales. I've had the good fortune to see several spring concerts already, and have totally enjoyed them! Handbell teams often combine their music with other instrumentalists, or present additional performers in the concerts. What a surprising and rich musical experience! If you have a chance to get to more of these spring concerts, do! It'll knock your socks off- like they've done to me.

Keep an eye on ALGEHR's website and our Facebook page. Registration for our annual Discovery event on October 13 and 14, 2017 is open. This year it is named "**Alberta Rings!**" and will be taking place in Calgary at *First Baptist Church*. Like last year, there are extra sessions offered on the Friday night, created just for you. An official "Meet and Greet Social Time" is included, so ALGEHR members can enjoy meeting other ALGEHR members face to face! There is also a full Saturday Youth Program planned. Individual youth (gr. 4-12) and full teams are welcome. Check out the details at www.algehr.org (Discovery 2017) and plan on coming!

ALGEHR exists to promote the art of handbell ringing through education, communication, workshops, sessions, composing competitions, grants, etc. Take advantage of your membership! What do you need from ALGEHR? Contact the ALGEHR Board of Directors if you have a question or an idea. We exist to help you and your program! We have great experts, who can send you in the right direction, or help you create something extraordinary. New ideas are more than welcome!

I'd like to remind our members that we have

two important and special funds that welcome your donations: the new ***John Nelson Scholarship*** and the ***Fort McMurray Relief Fund***.

I hope you enjoy this latest Peal.

Happy Summer all!
Anne

president@algehr.org





Jubilo! Bells of Concordia gets all jazzed up

Proving that handbell music is definitely not just all that “churchy” stuff, *Jubilo!* Director, Debbie Rice, took on the personal task to come up with a line-up guaranteed to catch the attention of even the most musically challenged audience members with “*Blues, Rock & All That Jazz*”. In the process, she even ended up expanding her own vast musical knowledge to include the likes of ABBA and other “unknown” (to her) musical gems. Among study materials were the Mama Mia DVD and various munchies. Although most of us forgot about all the fancy props and paraphernalia that were

supposed to further “jazz” our performance, a good time was had by all with plenty of toe-tapping, a unique seating arrangement, an “ongoing” refreshment reception and smiles all around.

Just goes to show [#itdontmeanathing](#) if you [#flymetothemoon](#) on [#theboardwalk](#) with [#energique](#) cos got [#georgiaonmymind](#) who's just a [#dancingqueen](#) from the [#danceofthefive](#) singing [#thegladsoundblues](#) and [#allthatjazz!!](#)



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JUNE

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Jubellation , Three Hills ~ Rhoda Murray

On Sunday, April 2, *Jubellation* played at a 9:30 am Sunday morning service at Linden Lodge in Linden. Then we drove to Airdrie and enjoyed the Sunday buffet at Smitty's. Then at 3 pm the Handbell Choir played to a group of seniors residing in Cedarwood Station, Airdrie.

Upcoming performances include:

Friday, June 2 @ 3 pm - WESTVIEW CARE CENTRE, LINDEN.

Thursday, June 8 @ 7 pm - SPRING CONCERT (in cooperation with the local SENIORS' WEEK CELEBRATIONS) - at Knox United Church, Three Hills.



Edmonton Youth Festival 2017 ~ Wendy Hoskin

We held four youth festivals this year at four Edmonton and Area Schools. We had 22 choirs participating involving 16 schools from the Public, Catholic and Sherwood Park school districts. Debbie Rice adjudicated the first three festivals and Tammy-Jo Mortensen did the last one. It is wonderful to see how attentive and responsive the students were. We used the piece 'Bronze Fanfare' by Kathleen Wissinger for our mass ring. It was a fun selection which used a variety of techniques. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to all the solo pieces as well as watching the adjudicators work with the various choirs. Thanks to all the great music teachers we have in our school systems.

Editor's Note: Thanks to our unstoppable volunteers like Wendy Hoskin who keep this proud tradition going year after year!

Calgary Teacher Testimonial ~ Melissa Piwowarczyk

Having the opportunity to use the handbells (on loan from Handbells, Etc) with the Grade 5 and 6 class was an amazing experience. Although the students were tentative and intimidated by a new instrument, they were eager to learn. Having to sing and play at the same time was also a challenge in itself! But the students were quick to learn and they were able to play quite difficult pieces in a short amount of time. In the end, their performance was amazing and received great feedback from the audience. I look forward to using the handbells again in the future.

Celebrating 50 Years of Handbell Ringing!

The current members of the *Robertson-Wesley Ringers* and *Nova Bells* would like to invite you to a special celebration at Robertson-Wesley United Church (10209-123 Street, Edmonton). The *R-W Ringers* will play in the service on Sunday, June 4 at 10:30 am and the service will be followed by an hour-long concert at approximately 11:30 am with the *R-W Ringers* and *Nova Bells*.

This celebration is in honour of the 50th anniversary of handbell ringing at Robertson-Wesley United Church. Robertson United Church, under then Music Director Douglas Millson, was one of the first churches in Canada to get a set of handbells, and what a legacy that purchase has created! In recognition of that history, we have been cited in the article on “Handbells” in the Canadian Encyclopedia of Music <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/handbells-emc/>

Over the last 50 years our handbell ringers have attended and planned several International Handbell Symposia – as individuals or as a whole choir (Vancouver-2016, Australia-2006, Japan-1986), attended provincial and national events, performed at many community, corporate and civic events, and made five recordings.

A special invitation has been extended to all alumni handbell ringers and directors, as well as audience members to join us in this celebration. As part of our recognition of Canada’s 150th, the concert will be comprised of music of Canadian composers or music that has special connections with Canada, and an extra special feature of the concert will be the premiere of a work commissioned from Betty B. Radford for the event. The concert will begin at approximately 11:30 am on Sunday, June 4.

No admission charge, but a freewill offering will be appreciated.

Media contact for info. or sound bites:

Tammy-Jo Mortensen

music@rwuc.org

[780-482-1587](tel:780-482-1587)

rwuc.org/concerts.html



Classic Bronze/Classic Copper 2017

A Musical Mosaic

Classic Bronze is an elite international group of advanced handbell ringers. *Classic Bronze* welcomes back director Dr. William Payn. New this year, *Classic Copper*, a branch of *Classic Bronze*, offers less experienced ringers a chance to stretch themselves. *Classic Copper* is under the direction of Camille Ream.

Under the tutelage of Dr. Payn and Camille Ream, handbell ringers from across North America will spend four days of intensive rehearsals, developing their musicality, timing and techniques in preparation for this event.

They will present a wide variety of pieces - Aquarius / Let the Sun Shine In, Good Christian Men Rejoice, Exodus, Fly Me to the Moon and several of Dr. Payn's own compositions.

The concert is at St. Albert United Church, 20 Green Grove Drive, Saturday July 29, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

Tickets are available at the door: adults \$15 / student / seniors \$12 / family \$25



Director – Dr. William Payn



Ringers capable of sight reading level 3 and performing level 4 and 5 music.



NEW THIS YEAR!!!

Director - Camille Ream



Ringers capable of sight reading level 2 and performing level 3 and 4 music.

Editor's Encore

As another school and performance season comes to a close, HUGE thanks to all who have contributed with great stories and beautiful photos – hope to get even more next year! This edition is fairly light as many of us seem to be already on holiday mode. Wherever your summer plans may take you, travel safe, take lots of photos and tell us all about it by August 15!!

Photo credits: Anne Hergott, Rhoda Murray, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin



Happy Summer!

Contact your Board!

Anne Hergott	President	president@algehr.org
Cathy Larson	VP North/Fred Merrett	vpnorth@algehr.org / composer@algehr.org
Lucy Graham	VP South	vpsouth@algehr.org / membership@algehr.org
Susan Villman	Treasurer	treasurer@algehr.org
Rhoda Murray	Secretary	secretary@algehr.org
Susan Galloway	Education	education@algehr.org
Anke Kelker	SEF Grant	sefgrant@algehr.org
Christy Rouble	Website	web@algehr.org
Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin	Peal/Social	peal@algehr.org / social@algehr.org
Fiona Miller	Past-president	pastpres@algehr.org

Next Peal deadline!! August 15, 2017 ~ Please send me your submissions by this date!!!