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Alberta
Guild of English
Handbell Ringers

The Peal

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers



A Very Classy Event Indeed!

Many thanks and congratulations to **Susan Galloway's** intrepid crew (**Judy AtLee, Wendy Hoskin, Cathy Koski, Linda Stockl and Kathie Zalaski**) who put together *Classic Bronze 2017* featuring the new *Classic Copper* stream, a wonderful addition to what has become a great Edmonton tradition! Despite some “warm” temps (depending on who you asked) and some enthusiastic wanna-be-percussionist roofers, massed conductors, **Dr. Bill Payn** and **Camille Ream** led almost 30 hours of intense rehearsals over 3 days culminating in a final concert to a full house at St Albert United Church.

Alberta Rings!

Whether you are a ringer, a teacher, conductor or student, *Alberta Rings!* has something for you. On Sat, Oct 14, 2017, choose your favourite four sessions (out of 12), all of which will be lead by expert handbell clinicians. You will also be able to shop at the Mountain Marketplace, where you can find handbell items, music, and other unique gifts. Lunch, snacks and an event T-shirt are included in your Registration Fee this year. *Alberta Rings!* ends with a Celebration Concert on Saturday night. Enjoy performing with others, as well as listening to other remarkable handbell teams from around the province!

This year, on Fri, Oct 13, 2017, we invite you to attend an optional extra event. The evening starts with a special “Meet and Greet” social time, followed by two extraordinary sessions for those interested in learning more about handbell conducting and bell tree ringing.

Save the Date!

Alberta Rings!

Oct 13-14, 2017

Click here [Alberta Rings!](#) to register today!!

Festive Concerts

Nov-Dec, 2017

Here, there and everywhere across AB – send your dates to the *Peal*!!

IHS Cairns 2018

Aug 6-11, 2018

Click here [IHS Cairns 2018](#) for all the details!!



Presidential Ponderings

Hello ALGEHR members,

Thanks for your patience as we adjusted our membership program on our website. We have high hopes that going forward, you will find it easier to keep track of your membership status and will be able to register for all of our events without hiccups! If you have any concerns about your profile or membership status, please contact Lucy at membership@algehr.org.

Your ALGEHR Board is a great group of people. **Please consider joining us!** We are looking for interested members (new and long-time) to help us keep this organization strong. It's not a huge time commitment. No previous experience is necessary. We meet on-line 3 times a year, and once face-to-face. Share your passion with bells! We would love to nominate you, and bring you on-board in October. Think about it!!! Contact president@algehr.org for more information.

We are SO pleased to invite you all to come to our annual Discovery event on Oct.13 and 14, 2017. This year it is in Calgary, and is named **"Alberta Rings!"** See our website (www.algehr.org/events) for more information. Come to just one of the days, or take in the whole event. Attend a variety of Handbell Sessions (Bell Trees included!), come

to the Meet and Greet, shop at the Mountain Marketplace, participate in or Listen to our participate in or listen to our Celebration Concert. Included in your registration is an event T-shirt and lunch on Sat. There is so much offered! You can register on-line or through the mail. Register early! We also offer a **YOUTH Program** this year for both teams and for individual ringers who want to spend a day with other young ringers!

As you plan your Christmas Concert dates, keep us in mind. Let us know when they are so that ringers across the province can come and listen!

I hope you all had a great summer. I wish you great enthusiasm and joy as you embark on your new music!

Cheers all!

Anne

Anne Hergott
President, ALGEHR
#groovinginmyaquariuspants





European Tour 2017: Five Amazing Concerts in Five Awesome Venues!

WOW! How does one share the fabulous experience of playing handbells in Europe with over 75 ringers from Canada, the US, Puerto Rico, Germany, Estonia and Switzerland. We had an amazing time ringing under the direction of **Debbie Rice** in five different venues in five different cities in Europe.

Our first concert was in St. Janskerk in Gouda, Netherlands where we joined with the Parnu Handbell Studio from Estonia. This church has many stained glass windows which the townspeople disassembled and stored in a safe place during WWII. It was amazing to be able to ring in this historic church.

The second concert took place at Kloster Loccum in Germany as part of the Kloster's concert series. The group from Estonia joined us for this concert along with the Handglockenchor from nearby Wiedensahl. We played to a packed house – an audience of over 700 and we received a standing ovation and calls for an encore!

The third was a joint concert with the First English Handbell Choir of Nuremberg held in the Gustav-Adolf-Gedachtniskirche (Memorial Church) in Nuremberg, Germany. Again we played to a packed house and this time were called upon for two encores!

The fourth venue was at the town hall in Schonaich located near Stuttgart. This was a joint concert with the GLOX Handglockenchor. The highlight of this performance was 'Come, Little Shepherd' the reaction of the crowd when Klaus Hugl rang a very large cowbell borrowed from a local museum.

Our fifth concert was at the City Church of St. Jakob in Zurich, Switzerland. For this final concert of the tour, we were joined by Golden Bells, Student Chimers of State College Enge, School Choir of the state colleges Enge and the Alumni Choir KenSing.

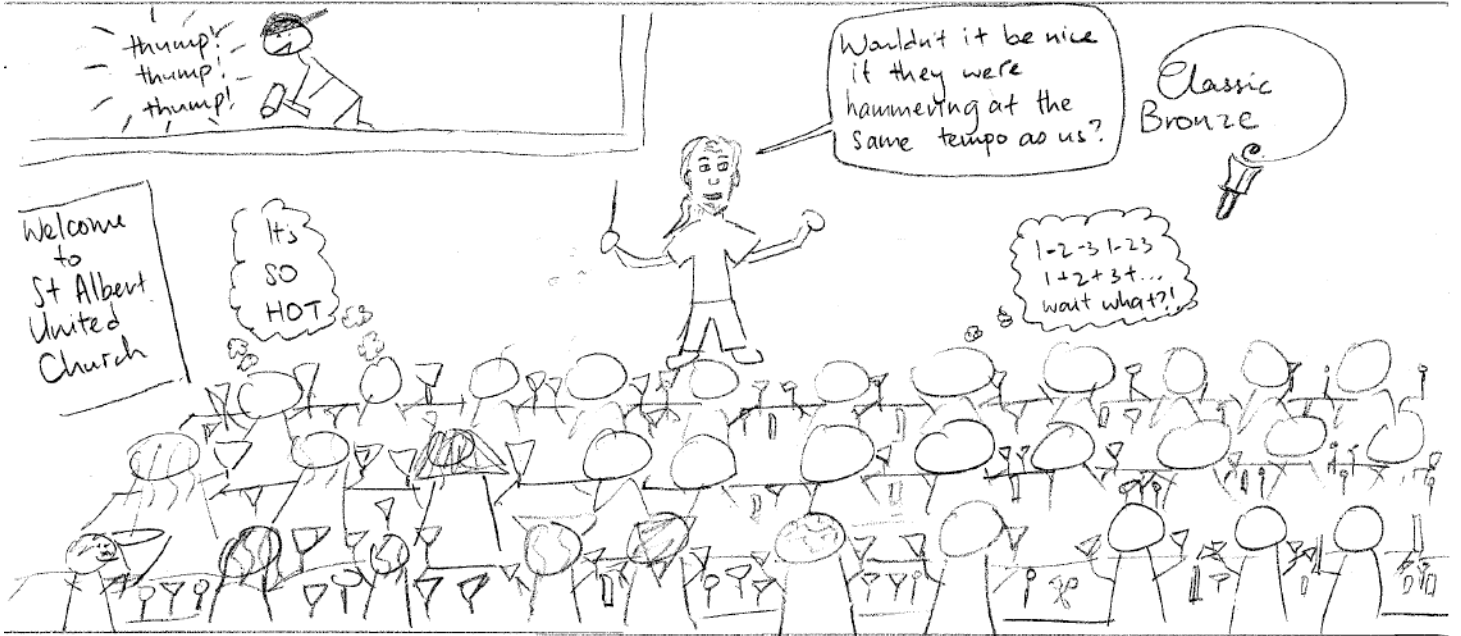
I love handbells! Being able to travel and play handbells all over the world with like-minded people is an amazing experience!

~Lucy Graham, ALGEHR Membership Director, Lethbridge



Ring It On!

By Joanne Wang



Classic Bronze 2017

2017 marked guest massed conductor, **Bill Payn's** second visit to Edmonton to lead *Classic Bronze* as well as ALGEHR's beloved American member, **Ellie Hodder's** repeat trek up north. **Bill** certainly didn't disappoint, working his usual magic, coaxing not only 'the correct notes' ("You should all be waaay beyond that"), but a beautifully musical interpretation of a varied repertoire ranging from his



rendition of "Good Christian Men, Rejoice!" and even "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In" accompanied by bass guitar and drum kit! This last number included audience participation on the singing of the last chorus and so many cell phone lights swaying in the darkness of the St Albert United Church sanctuary. A very cool finish to a wonderful few days of making music with good friends!

Classic Copper 2017

The addition of a *Classic Copper* stream this year was clearly a much-appreciated move on the part of *Classic Bronze* organizers with two full choirs participating from as far as Ontario under the precise baton of massed conductor **Camille Ream**.



Stanton Morris

March 5, 1947 – August 10, 2015

I am having difficulty dealing with the news that Stan Morris is no longer with us. I had some idea that he had been unwell the last time I phoned him for advice, but it never occurred to me that it might be serious. Stan was a charter member, later a life member, and a strong steadying force in the Alberta Guild; the “GO-TO GUY” for music teachers in Calgary; a creative, inventive handbell teacher; the driving force behind the handbell programs and Youth Handbell Festivals in Southern Alberta; and a kind and generous colleague who supported education, educators, and the Alberta Guild.

When I started teaching in 1976, Edmonton had 15 bell sets in the schools. Calgary had 90, and Stan had quickly developed a very successful handbell program. He gave workshops to teachers, developed an Annual Youth Handbell Festival, and had the youth handbell choirs the rest of us wished we had. His elementary students became excellent ringers and could hold their own in concerts with adults that had been ringing for years. When they finished grade six, Stan provided a place to continue developing their skills in playing the instrument that so many of us adore. He invited the committed ones to join an after-school or evening choir when they moved on to Junior High School, thus providing the opportunity that our province is woefully lacking – a place to continue developing excellent skills. Stan’s Junior High r choir played repertoire that some of the adults who had played for years could not handle. I went to a few of Stan’s workshops and learned a great deal about how to teach bells from him. My favourite Stan Morris tip? Get a few full-length mirrors and put them sideways on the counter. In that way ringers can watch themselves ring and correct their own technique. Stan used to allow individuals to come in at recess and noon hours to practice

technique, constantly giving up his breaks. Stan loved teaching, and his ringers and choirs were among the finest in Canada.

Stan was the person who challenged Alberta teachers to push for excellence, and he had a profound influence on me. His Festivals consisted of individual choirs playing for each other, receiving adjudication from the guest clinician in the first half and in the second half, the adjudicator was expected to teach everyone something new they could all learn and take back to their schools the next day. When The Fifth International Symposium was held in Edmonton in 1992, Stan was invited to bring a choir to play at the Opening Ceremonies. In those days only one or two choirs per country were allowed to play a solo piece during the five day event. Most of Alberta’s adult ringers were too busy developing the skills necessary to host a world event, and were unable to give time to rehearsals. We knew Stan’s groups were always good, but few teachers would be willing to donate a month of summer vacation, and not all parents are willing to give up travel plans. Stan brought his group with two-years experience from Cecil Swanson Elementary School. The Swanson Bellissima Ringers played five pieces at what now would be Level 3 difficulty and the world was introduced to the “Bells in the Schools” program, begun by Cyril Mossop and John Nelson.

(Cont’d p. 7)



Stanton Morris (cont'd from p. 6)

Our guests from Japan, the U.S., the U.K., Korea and Australia were extremely impressed and all these years later are coming to Albertans for advice on how bells can be used to teach music. Stan Morris' hard work gave Alberta a place of respect in the handbell community. His Festivals, performances, and that the quality and difficulty of that Symposium program made teachers like me push harder to challenge my students and myself.

I have to admit that there was a time I was afraid of Stan Morris, as can happen when one respects the work of a superior. However, two years after that Symposium, it became very clear to me that the most important thing about Stan Morris was that he was a good, and kind man, as well as a gifted music teacher. After the Symposium, when we were all exhausted, no one would take the presidency of the Guild. I agreed to stay until a replacement was found. A month or two extra became two more years and at the 1994 AGM, there still was no candidate for president. There was a real concern that the Guild would not survive, when Stan came to me quietly and volunteered. Besides the relief this gift offered us all, which would have been enough of a contribution, in the ensuing years I discovered that as well as his obvious teaching talents, Stan had remarkable skills in the areas of team-building, communication, and empowering others. During his presidency he worked to build relationships that were based on knowing each other as people, not just ringers, and there was an increase in active members in all parts of the organization and province. Stan made everyone feel valued and supported, and was unflinching in recognizing the contributions of the membership while often downplaying his own. His leadership revived the Guild, and I will never forget the kindness and support I personally received from him.

Stanton Morris made a huge contribution to the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers and the students of Calgary Public Schools. We owe him a great debt and his influence will continue to be felt as his students go on to teach. He was a great man, his life made a difference, and I will miss him very much.

~Alison Wood, ALGEHR Lifetime Member, Edmonton



Many thanks.... are owed to **Christie Rouble** and her efforts on the ALGEHR Board of Directors. A long-time and accomplished bell ringer with Acclamation (Calgary), Christie agreed to join the Board at the Lethbridge Discovery. We all appreciated her unique humor and insights at the meetings, and especially appreciated her efforts with our website. Good luck in your new endeavours, Christie!

And a big welcome to **Willi Whiston**, IT guru, whose talents have been greatly appreciated by the Board as we continue to make improvements to our website to better meet the needs of our members!

John Nelson, Sr Memorial Scholarship



John Stephen Nelson, after 94 full years of living, passed on in his sleep on December 25, 2015.

Purpose

In his memory, the John Nelson, Sr. Scholarship will provide funding towards the registration costs for one ringer to attend:

- An ALGEHR Handbell Discovery or
- One recognized ALGEHR handbell event

Criteria

Based on the following criteria an award will be made each year provided an applicant meets these criteria:

- The ringer must have a desire to improve his or her musical ringing skills
- The ringer must have some experience playing handbells as a member of a handbell choir

Application Process

A musician may apply for the John Nelson, Sr. Scholarship by submitting a letter of application to ALGEHR which addresses the above criteria. A letter of reference from his or her choir director should also accompany this application. Applications for this scholarship should be sent to the past president of ALGEHR by June 30th of each year. (pastpres@algehr.org)

Selection Process

All applications received by the deadline will be reviewed by a committee of ALGEHR including, but not limited to, the president, past-president, treasurer, and secretary. The award will be presented to the recipient in the form of a pre-paid scholarship (to a maximum of the cost of the registration fee). The funds will be taken from the interest generated by the principal in the John Nelson, Sr. scholarship account.

A recipient can only be awarded the scholarship once.

Following the ALGEHR approved event, the recipient will forward a report on his/her experience to the PEAL editor for publication in the PEAL. (peal@algehr.org)

Direct any inquiries to the past-president of ALGEHR at pastpres@algehr.org .

TBT (“ThrowBack Thursdays” or really any day of the week)

As we look forward to celebrating our 35th year as a Guild, here’s a fun look back at what was going on in Alberta 25 years ago. If any of you were there back then and have stories/photos to share, please do! Bonus points for anyone who can identify anyone and everyone in these shots as well as identify the significance of the event. And.....GO!



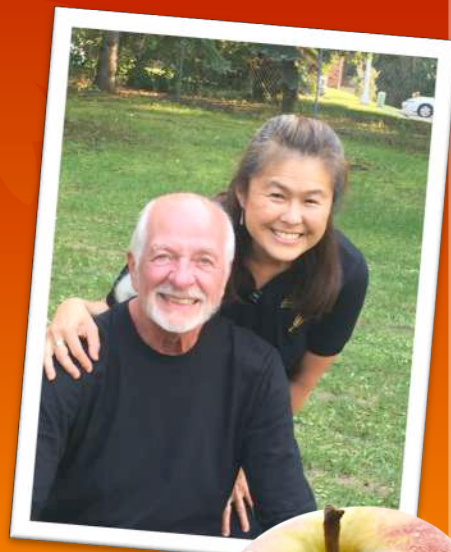
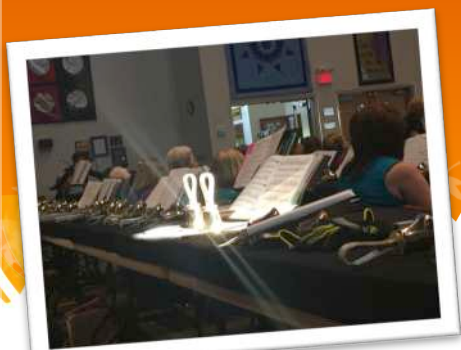
Meanwhile, back at the church...the usual suspects up to their usual antics...see all the fun you missed this summer??



Editor's Encore

As another jam-packed, fun-filled summer of ringing activities draws to a close, I hope this edition of your *Peal* brings back fond memories of friendships renewed or initiated, no doubt enriching our incredible global family of musical connections from near and far. Without question, my highlight was reconnecting with my conductor mentor and hero, Dr. Bill Payn, at *Classic Bronze*. If you missed out on sharing YOUR "What-I-Did-This-Summer" tale, don't fret, just jot it down and fire it off to me by Nov 15 for the next round of story-telling...

Photo credits: Carol Airey, Lucy Graham, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin



Not to be missed! (Send me your performance dates to be posted here)

Sun, Dec 3, 2017 @ 10:30 am: *Chi-Rho Ringers*, St Andrew's Presbyterian, Lethbridge

Sun, Dec 10, 2017 @ 3 pm: *Jubiloso! Bells of Concordia*, Tegler Centre, Edmonton

Sun, Dec 10, 2017: *Acclamation*, First Baptist, Calgary

Mon, Dec 11, 2017 @ 7 pm: *Gilbert Patterson Middle School*, College Dr Comm Church, Lethbridge

Sun, Dec 17, 2017 @ 7 pm: *United Harmony*, Sherwood Park United, Sherwood Park

Contact your Board!

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
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| Cathy Larson | VP North/Fred Merrett | vpnorth@algehr.org / composer@algehr.org |
| VACANT | VP South | vpssouth@algehr.org |
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| Rhoda Murray | Secretary | secretary@algehr.org |
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| Willi Williston | Website | web@algehr.org |
| Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin | Social/Peal | social@algehr.org / peal@algehr.org |
| Fiona Miller | Past-president | pastpres@algehr.org |

Next Peal deadline!! Nov 15, 2016 ~ Please send me your submissions by this date!!!