



Louis Riel School, conducted by Deb Finkleman
Calgary Kiwanis Music Festival

HANDBELLS

By Cassidy Bearss

Over my years of playing handbells, I have realized how great it is as an instrument. The whole environment of handbells is exciting, from playing the instrument to the social part of being in a group. Most handbells are played in a group, so there is a lot of teamwork involved. Also, when you play handbells, there are so many great opportunities for you and your group to enjoy together, such as the Kiwanis Music Festival, playing in retirement homes and public places.

The Kiwanis Music Festival is a good place to me, because you get to hear all types of different groups play. It is also cool to see that people share the same interests as you. In Festival, you can learn many things, hopefully win top ratings, and move on to the next level. I'm sure many handbell groups are there just to learn more. Things that I have learned from Festival are: how to martelatto better, tips on how to ring louder and softer, and new ways to hold a chime, etc.

The retirement homes my group visited this year were: the Beverly Center and the Chinook Nursing Home. It's great to see how much the senior citizens

In this issue:

Handbells	1
Kiwanis Festival News	2
A Kiwanis Student View	2
President's Message	3
Ringing Link 2011	1, 4
Handbell Discovery 2010	4
"Ring Beside the Bridge"	
Choir Concert News	5
Classic Bronze 2010	6
ALGEHR Composer Competition	6
Youth Festivals	6
Dates to Remember	7
Teacher's Corner	7
International Music Camp	7
14 th International Handbell Symposium	7
Blast from the Past (Peal Archives)	7
Notes from the Editor	8
Guild Board	8
Handbell Resources	8
ALGEHR Website	8

******Calling all artisans and craft-lovers!!******

Are you an artist or perhaps you make jewelry or other creative crafts? The Ringing Link 2011 is looking for YOU! We hope to showcase local artists and talent during this national event and would love to hear from you. Please contact Emmy at ringing.link@algehr.org for more details.

enjoy our music, and how we enjoy playing for them. I really am happy that I got to play handbells over the past years!

(Cassidy Bearss is a grade six student at Louis Riel School in Calgary, and a member of the Prima Royal Riel Ringers).

BELLS RING IN KIWANIS FESTIVALS

Community and School Handbell groups from across the province participated in Kiwanis Music Festivals. We have a few submissions about them:



Louis Riel School, Calgary



Monsignor Neville Anderson School, Calgary



(All photos by Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin)

Lethbridge Kiwanis Festival

This year there were over 80 students performing. There were two classes; one for elementary students and one for Junior High/Middle School.

Sandy Brunelle was the adjudicator and she took time to work with each group, complementing them on their performances and leaving each one with a challenge to work on. With several schools in each class it was wonderful to see this resurgence in bells in the Lethbridge School District.

Calgary Kiwanis Festival

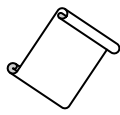
Dr. John Hooper was this year's Calgary Kiwanis handbell adjudicator. His positive comments, suggestions and further teaching ideas made the students feel excited about becoming better bell players. There were more than 10 choirs of all ages involved in the festival this year, more than 120 students. It was a tremendous concert of bell playing.

A KIWANIS REFLECTION

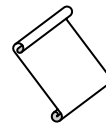
By Maisoon El Kardy

-Maisoon is a grade seven student at Louis Riel School in Calgary, and is a member of the Prima Royal Riel ringers.

When you perform at the Kiwanis Music Festival, to be truthful, it's somewhat nerve wracking, regardless if you're singing or playing an instrument. But when you're up there with 12 or 13 other people that are excited to start playing and show off their accomplishments to the adjudicator, then you know you're not alone and you can play with a sense of pride and belonging. I think the hardest part of playing handbells in front of an audience is getting your part really down pact, because you know your group is counting on you to get it right.



President's Message



After decades of non-participation (other than watching my kids' performances), I am finally re-entering the world of music festivals. In an effort to drive up our performance experience and to improve our skills, my handbell director entered *Quarter Notes* (a Calgary based quartet) into the Calgary Kiwanis Music Festival. After our group's initial trepidation of competing against top notch school choirs, and with the Kiwanis administration fumbling around trying to figure out what to do with an adult, community-based choir, we settled into our rehearsal routines focusing on technique, dynamics and the general musicality of our performance.

All of this reminded me of the whole purpose of music festivals – to provide participants to demonstrate their skills and talents in a supportive environment. The competitive aspect supplies the amateur musicians an incentive to develop and grow their artistic skills – to strive for the best. Music festivals also provide an avenue for the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringer to achieve its mission of cultivating and fostering the art of handbell ringing throughout Alberta. It is for this reason that the Board of Directors approved the expansion of our scholarship programs from the Edmonton Kiwanis Music Festival to festivals in Calgary, Fort McMurray and Lethbridge this year. The inclusion of handbells in the festivals has encouraged schools to solicit support from our membership to provide workshops as students and teachers drive to get ready for their performance. This, in turn, promotes the formation of new choirs and extends music education in handbells throughout our school systems. These are all ALGEHR's goals as well.

I am personally very proud of our membership in the role they play in growing the art of handbell ringing throughout our province and that we can visibly show our support through scholarships. As more handbell communities develop, we will proudly support festivals within those areas as well.

As for *Quarter Notes*, we survived the experience, became a better ensemble and hopefully will be able to show our improvements through future performances. This is the true power of the music festival.

Since our last PEAL, Leonard Davidchuk, our former editor has moved on to oversee the development of our web-based classified ad tool. Together with Cliff Linton and Lori Teneycke, we are looking forward to its kick-off within the next couple of months. Leonard has grown the PEAL since he initially signed on as editor in 2007 with his upbeat style and graphics. Our new editor, Anne Hergott, who was introduced to you in our last Peal, brings her own unique editorial direction plus a lot of energy – I am really looking forward to our upcoming issues!

Cheers!

Peter Bortolin
ALGEHR President

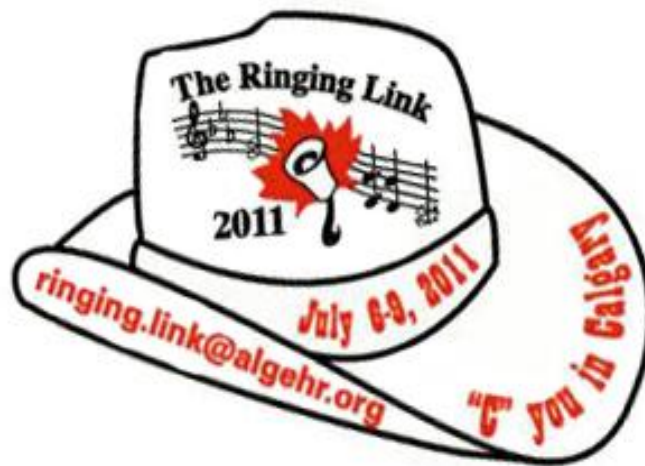
***** Would you like to VOLUNTEER? *****

We're always looking for extra hands at any of the local, provincial or national events listed in this newsletter. Contact any of the board members or event organizers if you are interested!

We'd love to hear from you! -ed.



Quarter Notes was invited to play at the final "Stars of the Festival Concert."



The Ringing Link 2011

The organizing committee is hard at work for the BIG EVENT taking place July 6 - 9, 2011 in Calgary. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend with your choir or even as a "bell orphan".

Wranglers of all levels and ages are expected to descend upon Calgary next summer in our every-third-year **round-up** of **cowboys** and **cowbells**. Dust off your **Stetsons** and polish up your **boots** for a great **celebellation!**

If you missed out on volunteering to help out in any way, never fear, there's still lots to get done so just holler or send a quick e-mail to ringing.link@algehr.org and let us know what area you'd like to share your expertise and time in!

ALGEHR HANDBELL DISCOVERY 2010

Lethbridge

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

October 15 and 16

Mark your calendars now and come and
"Ring Beside the Bridge"

The weekend will begin on Friday evening with registration, a mini concert and a reception. Workshop sessions on Saturday, including mass ringing and 'Read and Ring' will culminate in a late afternoon concert. There will be both adult and youth streams, so something for everyone. Adult registration will be \$70 and the Youth is \$25. Check the dates now and watch the Guild website for more information and the registration forms.

For more information, for those who can't wait, please contact:
Fiona Miller (Lethbridge Discovery 2010 Coordinator) discovery@algehr.org

HANDBELL CHOIR CONCERT NEWS

SAVE THE DATE!

- WHO:** First Baptist Church
Acclamation Handbell Choir AND
Grace Presbyterian Church
Handbell Choir
- WHAT:** **Spring Praise Fundraising Concert**
- WHEN:** Saturday, **May 29, 2010**, 8:00 p.m.
(Light reception to follow)
- WHERE:** First Baptist Church, 1311 - 4 Street SW, Calgary
- WHY:** To raise funds for Calgary International Learning Centre (ESL program run by First Baptist Church)
- COST:** Tickets \$10/person available at the door



Acclamation Bell Choir (first Baptist Church)
-picture submitted by Carol Airey



First Baptist Church "Acclamation Bell Choir" will also perform during the Calgary Lilac Festival (4th Street SW).
May 30, 2010



CONCERT IN DEVON

Saturday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.

The Josephburg Choral Society

Featuring

The Belles in Harmony,

The Josephburg Men's Choir

And

Measure for Measure,

Devon United Church, 2 St. Clair Street, Devon.

Tickets at the door.

For more information call the Church Office at 780-987-3714.



*****ALGEHR 2010 COMPOSER COMPETITION*****

March 31 was the deadline for submitting a new handbell composition. We will publish the winners of the competition in our next Peal. Congratulations to all composers who entered their works.

Winners of the composer competition could have their works performed at the Lethbridge Handbell Discovery “Ring Beside the Bridge” on October 15-16, 2010.

Calling Experienced Ringers!

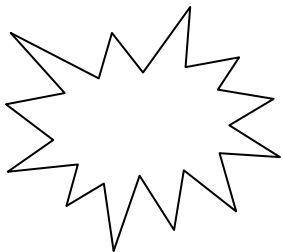
Observers may also register- contact rkoski@telusplanet.net if interested!

Classic Bronze, an advanced massed ringing event, will be held in Edmonton, from Thursday afternoon, **July 1 through Sunday afternoon, July 4, 2010**. **Classic Bronze** will feature advanced level 3/4/5 music and is seeking ringers capable of reading level 3 and performing level 5 music.

Interested ringers will need to send the application form, the reference form attesting to the ringer’s skill and musicianship, as well as a registration fee. Application materials are available on the www.classicbronze.org website. For details, contact Cathy Koski at rkoski@telusplanet.net. Repertoire will be available for purchase March, 2010 by participants. **Classic Bronze** will have four core handbell sets - two six-octave sets and two five-octave sets along with various complementary instruments.

We are excited that this event will be conducted by **Kevin McChesney** of Colorado Springs. Kevin McChesney is a true handbell professional. He has composed more than 400 arrangements and original works for handbells and is in constant demand as conductor and clinician world-wide.

Rehearsals will be held at *Concordia University College, in Edmonton* (www.concordia.ab.ca). The culminating concert will be on Sunday afternoon, **July 4** at the Tegler Center at the University and will be open to the public.



Youth Festival News

Plans are being finalized for the 2010 edition of the Calgary Youth Handbell Festival with two separate dates - **April 27 and May 4** - organized to accommodate the 10 or so choirs expected to participate. Although it is getting a little late in the game, if your school choir is still hoping to be part of the action and fun of massed ringing *Ring Jubilee* and showcasing your own favourite piece, please contact Festival organizer, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin @ pastpres@algehr.org immediately!!!

Watch for photos and stories about this great event in your next Peal!

DATES TO REMEMBER

2010

Calgary Youth Handbell Festivals

April 27 and May 4, 2010

Handbells ASIA June 21 - 24, 2010

Information on official website
www.lui.com.sg/handbells2010

Classic Bronze with Kevin McChesney

July 1 – 4, 2010 Edmonton
www.classicbronze.org

International Music Camp

July 11 - 17, 2010
<http://www.internationalmusiccamp.com/>

14th International Handbell Symposium

August 3 - 7, 2010
Osaka, Japan

Handbell Discovery 2010

Lethbridge, Alberta
October 15-16, 2010

2011

The Ringing Link

Calgary, Alberta
July 6 – 9, 2011

The International Music Camp, The 31st Annual Handbell Workshop July 11–17, 2010

Join the hundreds of handbell ringers and directors who have ventured to the International Peace Gardens to attend a week of camp: ringing, skill building, new friends, old acquaintances, and lots of learning in a great location!

For more information, contact:

International Music Camp
Tim Wollenzien, Executive Director
111-11th Avenue SW
Minot, North Dakota 58701 USA
701.838.8472
info@internationalmusiccamp.com

TEACHERS' CORNER

Do you have any teaching ideas that you would like to share?

- *What has worked well with your students?
- *How do you manage teaching bells in the classroom?
- *Any tips about what to do with gloves?
- *How about bell techniques, age level tricks?
- *Do you use any rules that work better than others?
- *Do you have any concert ideas?
- *Teaching tools or books?
- *Posters or computer websites?
- *Funny stories?
- *Embarrassing mistakes with happy endings?



Let's share them!

Send your ideas to peal@algehr.org



Blast from the Past Peals

This great workshop idea was included in the Oct. 2000, Feb. 2001 and May 2001 (Volume 15, number 1, 2 and 3) editions of the PEAL. I encourage you to try a "do-it-yourself workshop" There are so many qualified and helpful handbell experts in Alberta! -ed.

Do It Yourself Workshops

Are you trying to get a handbell choir started? Is your choir in need of something new or a refresher? Or perhaps you'd like the opportunity to work with a different director for one rehearsal? If there is some topic on which your choir would like a Do-It-Yourself workshop, contact the area representative nearest you. They can arrange for someone to come out and work with you for a rehearsal or a personalized workshop for your choir, church or school.

Notes  from the Editor

Hello to all bell enthusiasts! As your new Peal editor, I hope to continue the Peal tradition of supporting ALGEHR in their mission to encourage artistic development in English Handbell Ringing here in Alberta. Our vibrant handbell community in Alberta has so many talented and dedicated directors, composers, teachers and students: Let's tell everyone! Celebrate your concerts and your bell activities, and share your bell gossip in the Peal.

Thanks to all of you who offered articles and pictures, concert dates and news for this Peal. If you have any information or ideas and would like to submit them for the next Peal, please send your thoughts/articles to peal@algehr.org by May 30. Our next Peal will come out in June.

I look forward to meeting more of you in person!

-Anne Hergott

ALGEHR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sonology Music is a web-based handbell publishing company that takes great pride in offering a wide variety of music that can be found nowhere else.

The Peal is the official Newsletter of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers.