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Bell Pioneer: John Nelson Retires



Just where
will ALGEHR's
Discovery be
this October??

...clue!

RINGING BELLS IN PALM DESERT

By Carol Airey (aka Cowbelle Carol)



Have you ever taken your bell ringing outside your comfort zone? I am writing to encourage everyday ringers like myself who have never done so, to **stretch your wings**. It wasn't as scary as I thought it would be; in fact, it was a real musical highlight in my life, and I have many new friends as a result. When presented with the opportunity to travel to Palm Springs to ring with the Desert Bell Tones of Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church, I jumped at the chance. Let's face it, who in their right mind wouldn't escape Canada in mid-February?

Before I share this experience with you, I need to correct an oversight. While emceeing the **Ringling Link National Concert** last July, I referred to the Schulmerich and Malmark handbells but missed referring to the oldest of them all—the **Whitechapel bells**. The Whitechapel Bell Foundry is Britain's oldest manufacturing company (under various predecessor company names), having been established in London in 1570 during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Whitechapel's famous bells include the original Liberty Bell (1752), the Great Bell of Montreal (1847) and, probably best known of all, Big Ben (1858) at the Palace of Westminster. The foundry began making handbells about 300 years ago, easily identified by their unique leather handles. Whitechapel handbells are played today by the Tinnitus Handbell Choir at Grace Presbyterian Church, Calgary, under the leadership of Lori Teneycke, a member of our Ringling Link 2011 organizing committee.

Lori Teneycke forgave me for this oversight and, in fact, asked if I would ring with Tinnitus this year. She mentioned that a trip to Palm Springs was in the works and this was additional enticement to play this unique type of handbell, both in looks and sound. So I have been ringing with 2 choirs this year—my home choir of Acclamation at First Baptist, Calgary, plus Tinnitus at Grace Presbyterian. Believe me, it's keeping me busy and out of trouble!

The Tinnitus bell choir is a fun group of ringers. When Lori and her husband Reg (accomplished bell roadie from 2011 Ringling Link) winter in the Palm Springs area, they attend the Palm Desert Community Presbyterian Church. A few years ago, Lori arranged for Tinnitus to play in the Palm Desert Easter service plus another concert.

It went over so well that Lori organized this second trip and arranged a church subsidy in order that choir members and handbell ringers could travel south to join in the annual Palm Desert Hymn Fest on Sunday, February 19th. Eight of us were fortunate enough to take advantage of this opportunity. The Desert Bell Tones, directed by Ray Allen, is made up of 8 ringers, swelling to 12 with snowbirds, ranging in age from 55 to 87. Many are retired teachers &/or have good musical background; however, imagine the challenge of directing such a group when half your ringers leave when the snow melts! The Desert Tones made us feel right at home.

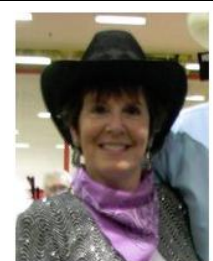
Lori directed us in playing an all-mallet novelty piece “A Simple Pizzicato” by Derek K. Hakes as the prelude. Ray Allen directed our other two pieces—“Come, Thou Almighty King” arranged with new music by Victor C. Johnson and “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory,” arranged by Joel Raney. Joel’s arrangement was, as always, fabulous, with full score of piano, organ, handbells, orchestra and choir incorporating challenging key changes and time signature changes (*sigh ... why are they always at the bottom of the page?*). Needless to say, a HUGE sound filled the church. We participated in the morning services, one at 8:30 a.m. and another at 10:15 a.m. **Total attendance was 1,400—WOW!!** Folks down south are still talking about how the service touched their hearts; it was a privilege to make music together as Christians from both sides of the border, sharing the great old hymns of our faith. Kudos go out to Lori and Reg for their stellar job organizing our participation in this event.

I feel that I really only started to improve as a ringer once I began attending local, provincial and national seminars (**Handbell Discovery, Classic Bronze and Ringing Link**). We pick up big and little improvements when exposed to new directors, clinicians and other ringers, and I encourage all you ringers out there to take advantage of any new ringing opportunity that comes your way—be it for performance or skill enhancement. You will be stretched in ways you didn’t think possible. I am grateful for my own particular opportunity, and wish everyone who will be attending the International Handbell Symposium in Liverpool as fabulous a time as I had in the desert!



*Palm Desert
Community
Presbyterian Church*

I feel that I really only started to improve as a ringer once I began attending local, provincial and national seminars



Cowbelle Carol



Reg and Lori Teneycke



Deanna Henderson (ringer), Lori Teneycke (organizer, director, ringer), Carol Airey (Can you believe Carol took her fascinator to the desert!?)

Carol's Trip Highlights:

- Uplifting to make music together and fill the sanctuary with beautiful sound.
- Opportunity to push my skill level by ringing various 4-in-hand combinations (D7-C8 bell assignment). I can Shelley successfully but this was a real challenge for my brain!
- Accepting that we ALL make mistakes—while frustrating anywhere, it’s normal everywhere, and we don’t have to be afraid to do so in another setting.
- Being able to do bell processions into both services from OUTSIDE the church in the sunshine instead of from INSIDE at the back of the church; this was a real treat.
- Seeing a new part of the world we all share—enjoyed the physical warmth and beauty of the desert, unique local sightseeing and shoe shopping (hey, I’m female!).
- Making many new friends—our billet hosts, local choir and handbell members.
- New culinary treats—my first date milkshake was sweet, thick and delicious.
- Receiving invitations to come back!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is just around the corner and for many its arrival signals Festivals and concerts and a crazy rehearsal schedule. Kiwanis Festival is now over in Lethbridge and my choirs are gathering in their music, changing their positions and starting to prepare for our spring concert.

I hope that all of you are enjoying the mild weather and the signs of renewal all around us. Here in ALGEHR we must also look to growth and renewal. This is the perfect time for you to start to consider what you can do to help the Guild. With our Annual Discovery coming up in October mark your calendars now and start to encourage everyone you know who is interested in ringing to join us in Calgary on October 13th. Take time to consider a position on the Board. Feel free to contact any of the Board members and ask them what is involved.

Happy ringing and have a wonderful spring.

Fiona



CALLING ALL COMPOSERS

Thank you to all the composers who submitted compositions to ALGEHR'S **Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions**.

We will let you know the results in the next Peal.

*See page 11 for more information about the 16th International Handbell Symposium Composition Contest

Consider volunteering for a position on The ALGEHR Board of Directors! If you like talking bells, and learning about our bell community, come join us!

At our last meeting, we worked hard, and then some of us enjoyed the outdoors. We welcomed new members: Judy Gunderson (Calgary), Anke Kelker (Edmonton), Nathanael Laws (Fort McMurray) and Linda Stockl (Edmonton).



Judy Gunderson



Linda Stockl



Anke Kelker



Nathanael Laws



Ritu Gurjar

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLANNING AN EVENT?

ALGEHR would like to support any person(s) willing to organize a bell event, festival or workshop. These events are an excellent way to encourage the development of bell ringing and an opportunity to increase membership and interest in our Albertan handbell community. Not to mention, they are a lot of fun!

See our [ALGEHR EVENT ORGANIZER POLICY](#) on our website www.algehr.org for further information!

Calgary Kiwanis Music Festival

On March 14 at the Main Theatre in the Jubilee Auditorium, audience members were treated to a fantastic morning of music. No less than twelve school handbell choirs from the Calgary region performed their handbell repertoire. The adjudicator this year was Patsy Andrews-Vert from Manitoba, who gave helpful hints and generous comments to the students and their teachers.

The Kiwanis classes are non-competitive but each group is given feedback from the adjudicator.

This year, the **ALGEHR scholarship** for a---Beginner Choir was given to the Light of Christ Catholic School Junior Handbell Choir, conducted by A. Chan.

The Florence Morris Memorial Scholarship was given to the FFCA- South Middle School, conducted by C.Kopec.



Patsy Andrews-Vert



Handbell Discovery 2012

Make your plans to come to the annual **ALGEHR Handbell Discovery**. This year it will be on Saturday October 13, 2012, in Calgary. There will be an opportunity to involve youth handbell choirs on Friday, Oct 12. Further information will be posted on our website, and published in our next Peal.



Spring Youth Festivals

You are welcome to come and listen to young Albertan handbell choirs in action!

Two festivals are scheduled for each region.

Edmonton:

J A Fife School:

Wed, April 18 (9:15-11:15) and (12:30- 2:45)

Crawford Plains School:

Thursday, May 3 morning

The adjudicator for both events is Tammy-Jo Mortenson, and the massed ringing piece is "With Great Joy" by Susan Geshke. Wendy Hoskin, Lorna Walker, Karen Abrahamson, Melanie Yakimyshin, and Vici Wynn are the organizers.

Calgary:

Colonel J. Fred Scott School:

Tuesday, April 17

St Sebastian School:

Tuesday, May 1

Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin is the adjudicator and organizer of these events.

Contact us if you want to know how to get involved in these fun festivals for school students: www.algehr.org

John Nelson Retires!

John Nelson was honoured by friends, family and business associates at a lavish Appreciation Dinner in Calgary, on January 31, 2012. Organized by Kermit Junkert (Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Schulmerich Bells), the dinner celebrated John's successful 58-year career with the company and his official retirement this year.

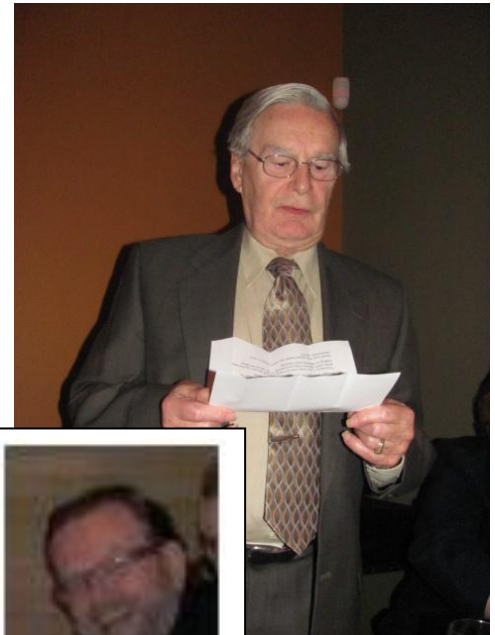
After a delicious private dinner, the guests were able to share their special reasons for attending, share bell stories and ultimately, express their gratitude towards John. Especially moving were the stories shared by John's sons, Gary and John Jr., both of whom flew in (from Toronto and Regina) for this special event. Gary Nelson announced that a Carillon bell would be installed in John's honour at the Tyndale University College and Seminary. Alberta composer Fred Merrett also spoke eloquently about his friendship with John, and John's role in the bell history of Alberta.

John Nelson held an important role in helping to create our Albertan handbell community. It was John who first introduced our province to handbells, by placing the first Schulmerich 2-octave bell set at the First Baptist Church in Calgary in 1963. Since then, John has placed more than 180 bell sets in Alberta schools, and has placed many carillons in churches and important buildings across the province. The ALGEHR board is especially indebted to John. Along with Stan Morris, John endeavored to get a board organized for Alberta. He spearheaded this movement and became the first ALGEHR president. John's love of music and passion for handbells has impacted a great many people.

Kermit Junkert, of Schulmerich Bells, announced that St John's Music will be taking over John Nelson's sales portfolio in Canada.



John Nelson and Carol Nelson



*Composer
Fred Merrett*



Gary Nelson



*Kermit Junkert
(Schulmerich Bells).*



*Cathi Ramsden, John Nelson Jr.,
John and Carol Nelson*



*John Nelson with St. John's Music representatives.
Gael Dumelie (left) is now the Western Canada Schulmerich Bell
representative.*

CONCERT NEWS

*Come hear bells across the province!
Mark your calendars!*

Come to Edmonton!

The Robertson-Wesley Ringers will be playing a concert on Sun. May 27 at 11:30 am at Robertson-Wesley United Church.

Admission is by donation. There will be guest instrumentalists featured on the program, as well as a brand new composition by Robin King.



Come to Camrose!

Quarter Notes Handbell Ensemble will be performing for the first time in Camrose on Saturday, May 5 @ 7:30 pm at the Camrose United Church.

Come to Calgary!

Quarter Notes Handbell Ensemble will also be performing in Calgary at the Scarboro United Church on May 26 @ 7 pm. They will be performing with special guests and friends.

Come to Edmonton!

Making Beautiful Music

Storms to Sunshining
Laughter to Love

CONCORDIA RINGERS

in concert with

JUBILOSO! BELLS OF CONCORDIA

Debbie Rice, *director*

SATURDAY, APRIL 21 ~ 7:30 p.m.

Robert Tegler Student Centre

Concordia University College of Alberta

73rd Street south of 112th Avenue

TICKET INFORMATION: Adults-\$12; Seniors & Students-\$10; Families-\$25 at the door or from
TIX on the Square (on line or 780.420.1757) or Concordia (780.479.9313)



CONCORDIA
School of Music

CONCORDIA University College of Alberta . 7128 Ada Boulevard . Edmonton, AB T5B 4E4 . 780.479.8142 . music.concordia.ab.ca

CONCERT NEWS CONTINUED:

Come hear bells across the province!

Come to Red Deer!

Tickets are available in advance or at the door. \$10 adult, \$25 for family.

"Sound Celebration"

Celebrating Gaetz Memorial United
Church's 125th Anniversary
with an evening of Pop Music
with Handbells, Choir & "Synergy" Band
special guests The Red Deer Recorder Consort

**Golden Gaetz
Ringers**



**Gaetz
Silver Bells**

TEACHERS' CORNER

Sometimes it's just a simple sentence that has sparked ideas, or solved a bell problem that had been on my mind. Attending workshops and festivals has always been the best way to learn new tricks of the bell trade! Especially if you're new to teaching or playing bells, you should give yourself the treat of attending one of the many events across our province. See you at the next one!

—Anne Hergott, *Peal Editor*



Joan Schaufele leads a teachers' class at Discovery 2011.



Concentrating attendees in the Fort McMurray Discovery 2011

Handbell Music Reviews

Handbells etc., Winter 2012, Submitted by Camille Ream



A Time of Joy

Dobrinski, 3456 octaves, Level 1+

This original composition is definitely a “Time for Joy”. Written in 4/4 but with each quarter note at 160 – 170 – this piece feels like it should be in cut time. The melody is bright and sparkly, the dynamics are clear and all ringers are busy! The music includes shakes, swings, marts, mallets, thumbdamps, martlifts, and ring touches, and even a brush damp. All this makes it a great piece for ringers of all ages. This makes a great piece for a festival competition because it is filled with so much music, dynamics and techniques. Your adjudicators will smile when they hear this!

Bless the Lord

Arr. Wagner, 345 octaves, Level 2

This combines the flowing eighth notes of J.S.Bach’s Prelude in C with the familiar hymn tune Bless the Lord. This arrangement works well at any worship service. I would be tempted to add Choirchimes - maybe on the eighth notes at the beginning with the bells ringing the melody starting at measure 9 through to measure 21, then switch so that the treble bells are playing the eighth notes and the Choirchimes are playing the melody in the middle bells. When the key changes, then have everyone play bells. If you are fortunate enough to have low bass Choirchimes, then add the lower note to add another layer to deepen the sound.

Worthy of Worship

Arr. Ingram, 345 octaves, Level 2

Some of you may be familiar with the tune Judson. It seems like I have heard it before, but I am not sure where or when but I know that I like it. I love how Bill has integrated Choirchimes into this arrangement. Although the Judson tune is not really new, these music and lyrics are used often in contemporary Christian settings. One of my learning goals this year is to focus just as much on the lyrics as I do on the music. The lyrics to the chorus are: You are worthy, Father, Creator. You are worthy, Saviour, Sustainer. You are worthy, worthy and wonderful: Worthy of Worship and Praise!

Holy Manna

Arr. Thompson, 23 octaves, Level 2

This is a wonderful tune that is so versatile that it can fit almost any occasion in the church year. This clever arrangement is in the new series “Ring More with Less”. It is written for 5, 6, or 7 ringers. All assignments are included – some of them require “thinking outside the box” – like E6D6! Although there are some techniques, there are no bell changes so this could be played without tables or mats if needed. It might work well to play in the entry way of your church as people are gathering to worship.

You Raise Me Up

Arr. Raney, 345 octaves, Level 2+

You will all know this from Josh Groban! Nice to have something so contemporary – although not really! The addition of the cello or digital strings, really add to the musicality of the piece. Dynamics are imperative to ensure that your ringers can ring passionately and give the most meaning to the music. To make this arrangement absolutely outstanding, add an inspirational PowerPoint presentation. The lyrics include, “You raise me up...to more than I can be”.

Melody of Hope

Tucker, 345 octaves, Level 2+

This original composition works well in school, community and church settings. This flowing melody will work well during Lent, Remembrance Day or any other time when you need to play music of a reflective nature. I love how Sondra has incorporated Choirchimes in the middle passage, especially when it is hidden in the middle between the treble and bass bells. Play this one musically and it definitely sound like a level 3+!

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Bettcher, 345 octaves, Level 3+

This is wonderful arrangement of a contemporary Christian piece for Lent. The singing bell starts with the melody vibrating freely, alternation with some gentle eighth notes. The melody should come in strong, even though it is in the middle bells. There are a few time changes and lots of times where the tempo can be stretched to add passion to the melody. There are numerous notations that suggest alternate assignments so that all the singing bells and melody notes can be played.

O Waly Waly

3 octave Quartet

This familiar tune will work well for either community or church settings. Each ringer plays about 10 -12 bells. Although this is not rated in difficulty, it will prove a bit of a challenge to a new quartet. The score is written in parts much like an SATB choir. Also, included in the music is each part written out separately – like a band score. Either way will work! If you are looking for a lyrically, somewhat challenging quartet, this might be the one that you need.

Seasons of Praise

Arr. Anderson/Wagner, 3 octaves Solo

What I like best about these arrangements is the combinations of selections that are combined in each medley. For example, the piece for the season of Christmas, includes What Child is This, Lully Lullay Thou Little Tiny Child, Twas in the Moon of Wintertime and The Sleep of the Infant Child. You can be certain that any music arranged by Christine Anderson and Douglas Wagner will definitely be terrific so this will be a must as you make plans for the church seasons.

Handbell Camp

Information for the 22nd annual Intergenerational Handbell Camp can be located at www.handbellcamp.org. This excellent camp will meet July 8 thru July 12, 2012. In past years teen and adult ringers from Alabama, Minnesota, Virginia, Texas and the Area 8 states have attended. Massed ringing, individual ability level choirs, classes and activities make this a fun learning experience! Please check it out.

Liverpool Symposium Update



There are 26 Canadian handbell ringers going to Liverpool. Alberta registrants should check the symposium website <http://www.symposium.hrgb.org.uk/> for any updates.

Two Albertans will be involved in this event:

Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin will be a mass conductor and session leader at the event.

Dr. John Hooper's composition, **Toccata**, has been selected for mass ringing.



Handbell Ringer Travel Opportunity!



The Holy Land: A Musical Journey of Faith Sharing Israel's First International Handbell Festival

April 5 – 16, 2013

*Conducted by Deborah Rice
Hosted by Keith Cole*

Dear Ringers and Directors,

You are cordially invited to join me for the first international handbell festival in Israel from April 5 to 16, 2013. *The Holy Land: A Musical Journey of Faith* will deliver us into the cradle of Biblical sites where we shall also share Christian and Israeli music together.

Our musical journey will convene in Tel Aviv along the Mediterranean Sea for our first concert. This will be followed by concerts in Jerusalem and the area of Nazareth/Galilee. You will get to know Inbalim Ensemble, a member of Peimon, Israel Association of Handbell Ringers. Since their organization in 2009, it has become their passion to establish choirs in Israel churches, senior citizens' homes, among special needs populations, and in low-income districts for troubled youth. Our time in the Nazareth/Galilee area is devoted to concerts that may extend into some of these areas.

Our musical repertoire will include six mass selections of cultural and Christian origins. The balance of our concert program will be inclusive of Inbalim Ensemble and individual selections of participating choir groups and/or ensembles. What a wonderful place this will be for you to showcase your talents as handbell musicians to the people of Israel!

This will be a life changing experience. I would love for you and your ringers to be a part of this tour. And yes, individuals and partial groups will also be accommodated, as well as non-ringing tour members.

I hope you will seriously consider being part of this international festival to the Holy Land. With you, this would be a wonderful partnership.

Yours in ringing,

Debbie Rice
Festival Artistic Director
The Holy Land:
***A Musical Journey of Faith
Sharing Israel's First International
Handbell Festival***

The complete brochure with an application form will be available in June 2012. In the meantime, please contact Debbie Rice or Keith Cole to let them know of your interest in joining the tour and to request a complete brochure as soon as it is available!

Deborah Rice

(336) 406-0808

dricenc@triad.rr.com

Keith Cole

(615) 298-6606

keithc@wittetravel.com

Advanced Ringer Event:

Classic Bronze, an advanced massed ringing event, will be held in Edmonton, from Thursday afternoon, July 5 through Sunday afternoon, July 8. **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 may find information at: www.classicbronze.org
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 in .pdf format on the web page. For details, contact Cathy Koski at classicbronze.org@gmail.com.



DISCOVERY 2012

Come to Calgary in October!
ALGEHR's Annual Discovery will be held on October 12 (youth) and October 13 (adult workshops).

Please contact ALGEHR if you are interested in further information, or are interested in volunteering to help make this a great event.

16th International Handbell Symposium Composition Contest

Entries must be received no later than midnight April 30, 2012.

Please send to:

Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, Chair

Handbell Guilds of Canada

Handbell Composition Competition

63 West Cedar Rise SW, Calgary, AB, T3H 5E2

Entrants to the contest may expect to be informed of the outcome by July 1, 2012

 **Notes from the Editor:**

It's an honour to celebrate John Nelson's retirement in the ALGEHR newsletter. If you wish to read more about John's accomplishments, please see our website (www.algehr.org) for the June 2011 past issue of our Peal Newsletter. To have your choir's concert activities or pictures shared with ALGEHR members, send the information to the ALGEHR website: www.algehr.org or peal@algehr.org. If you have any information or bell ideas and would like to submit them for the next Peal, please send your thoughts/articles to peal@algehr.org by May 31, 2012. Our next Peal will come out in June, 2012.

See you at the next event! -Anne Hergott

DATES TO REMEMBER 2012

Edmonton Youth Festivals

J A Fife School: Wed, April 18

Crawford Plains School: Thursday, May 3

Calgary Youth Handbell Festivals

Colonel J. Fred Scott School: Tuesday, April 17

St Sebastian School: Tuesday, May 1

Classic Bronze

July 5 - 8, 2012

Edmonton, Alberta

Intergenerational Handbell Camp

July 8 thru July 12

www.handbellcamp.org

International Music Camp

July 8-14, 2012

July 28-31, 2012 NEW intense session

<http://www.internationalmusiccamp.com/>

15th International Handbell Symposium

31 July - 4 August 2012

Liverpool, England

Handbell Discovery 2012

October 12 (youth) and 13, 2012

Calgary, AB.

www.algehr.org

Visit us at our
ALGEHR Website:
www.algehr.org

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Membership News:

Please remember to keep us informed of any changes to your email addresses. Do you have questions about your membership?

Please ask Joan: membership@algehr.org

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