



June 2010



Emmy Wyatt at the Handbell Youth Festival May 2010

HANDBELLS By Emmy Wyatt

We wake up early and hop out of bed, for on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00am, we have a handbell practice. When we begin to play the bells everything around us fades away and the only focus is the music. We laugh and have joy when we play. Also, we occasionally go on field trips. Our most recent performance was our school's Fine Arts Night and we had a blast. The four pieces we rang were Ring Jubilee, Computer Mouse, Bell Fanfare, and Old Macdonald. In May, we went to the Calgary Youth Handbell Festival at Cappy Smart School. We took part in handbell mass ringing, where more than one handbell choir rings the same song. The song we rang was called Ring Jubilee. It has some tricky parts, but when it is put together, it sounds beautiful. Let me tell you, it sure is hard! But at the end of all our handbell days and adventures, we all think how lucky we are to have an amazing conductor/music teacher and how lucky we are to have a chance to play these terrific instruments.

Emmy Wyatt is a grade 5 student at St. Sebastian School, Calgary

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St. Sebastian ringers at the Cappy Smart School Festival

YOUTH FESTIVALS ARE INSPIRING

Youth Handbell Festivals inspire everyone involved. The ringers want to ring better. Audiences want to learn to play. Parents are in awe of how well their children can ring. Teachers gather ideas and energy. Festivals are simply a lot of fun!

Festivals were held around the province this spring.

Teachers in **Calgary** had the opportunity to bring their handbell choirs together to participate in spring youth festivals organized and adjudicated by bell-enthusiast Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin.

The festivals were hosted by Monsignor Neville Anderson Elementary School and Cappy Smart School. Non-ringing students and parents from these schools were able to attend the festivals, and hear some excellent bell playing.

The Calgary festivals were supported by both the CSSD and CBE. Eight different bell choirs were involved over the two days of ringing.

To the delight of the audiences, each school group performed one piece on their own. Energetic Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin adjudicated each handbell choir with encouraging suggestions for improvement in technique and musicality. The Highlight of both the Festivals was the ending MASS RING, where every group played together.

Teachers and their Handbell groups in **Edmonton** also participated in Youth Festivals. Although this was a smaller festival than others in the past 20 years, it is great to see the continued participation and always new teachers joining in. There were about 100 young ringers at each festival. The first festival was hosted by Windsor Park School and the second was at Crawford Plains School. Susan Galloway was as usual, a wonderful and encouraging clinician. The mass piece, "Jubilant Fanfare" by Kevin McChesney, was a true joy to listen to.



Ringers from Monsignor Neville Anderson, Calgary Science School, and St. Clare Schools



Adjudicator Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin and Festival Teachers: Janine Bischoff, Andrew Bolen, and Anne Hergott



Ringers from Cappy Smart, St. Sebastian, Blessed Kateri, And Colonel J. Fred Scott Schools



The Calgary Science School Ringers at the Youth Festival with teacher Andrew Bolen

HANDBELL CONCERT NEWS



The Robertson-Wesley Ringers perform an exciting Handbell Concert! Sunday, June 6, 2010 at 11:30 am Robertson-Wesley United Church (10209-123 Street, Edmonton)

Admission to the concert is by donation.

In this concert, they will be interpreting newly-composed pieces for handbells, dazzling hymn and spirituals arrangements, and Beach Spring Stomp – a piece that employs many percussive effects, inspired by the musical/dance show "Stomp". For the concert they will be joined by the Choir of Robertson-Wesley for two pieces, as well as didgeridoo (native Australian instrument) player John Towill, violinist Heather Koots and percussionist Bob Fenske.

United Church of Canada's 85th anniversary celebration

Thursday June 10 (noon-9 pm), Churchill Square

The Robertson-Wesley Ringers will play for a ½ hour on the main stage from 6:30-7:00. They will be preceded by drummers, and followed by the Edmonton Vocal Minority Choir. Come cheer them on and celebrate!

For more information please call Tammy-Jo at 780-482-1587 or music@rwuc.org



I would like to thank all ALGEHR members for a successful year. Existing programs such as Handbell Discovery 2009 (St. Albert), SEF, Composer Competition youth and festivals/workshops were very successful. Our marketing plan and our electronic bulletin board has been kicked off and, with luck, will be in place for the next ringing year. Nationally, Alberta agreed to host Ringing Link Roundup 2011 with preparations well underway under Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin's lead. On the international front, Alberta is well represented at the 2010 International Handbell Symposium in Osaka with Robyn Tyrrell's Pandemonium as the Canadian composition and with John Hooper as the Canadian conductor.

This past year, Leonard Davidchuk passed over the reins of the PEAL to Anne Hergott in exchange for leading the charge on our electronic bulletin board and web site upgrade with our long-time web master, Cliff Linton. Thank-you to all of them for their hard work and fresh ideas. Our new treasurer, Ritu Gurjar, has also done a substantial amount of work on our investment portfolio and insurance policy this past year with the goal of sustaining, and possibly growing our Symposium Fund which maintains our Composer Competition and the Symposium Endowment Fund (SEF). Under Deb Finkleman's leadership, the SEF program had a record number of applicants this year which demonstrates the growth of the art of handbell ringing throughout Alberta. Finally, we increased the number of scholarships handed out to deserving handbell choirs at music festivals to four (Edmonton, Fort Calgary, Lethbridge and McMurray).

This is my last report to be issued as president as my term is up at the 2010 Lethbridge Handbell Discovery. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading ALGEHR over the last two years as we have been able to grow our guild. I encourage all members to actively participate in ALGEHR events, from organizing workshops, concerts, and children's festivals to volunteering on the Board. With your continued support, we will be a truly great force in the arts of Alberta. Hope you have a great summer and see you in Lethbridge for Handbell Discovery!

Composer Competition

The 2010 Composer Competition winners are: John Hooper (Agnus Dei – Category B) Darryl Dewalt (Still, Still, Still – Category C)

Thank-you to all of the composers who entered; all compositions were of high quality. Our thanks also go out to our adjudicators, who are handbell musicians, conductors and composers, for the great job they did in reviewing the compositions.

-Peter Bortolin



*** 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!

***Have you ever thought about placing an advertisement in our Peal Newsletter? It would be a great way to connect with the bell community in Alberta. For ad price and size information, contact Anne at peal@algehr.com.

***Ever consider getting involved with the ALGEHR board?
A passion for Bells is all you need.
Talk to one of the members listed on the last page of the Peal.

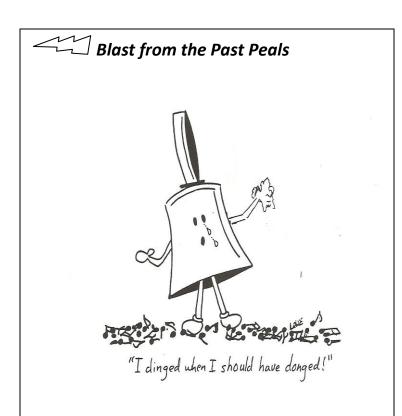
***Don't forget to put our annual ALGEHR"Handbell Discovery" on your calendar. See you in Lethbridge on Oct. 15 and 16, 2010.

WISHING WORKS!

A Good News Bell Story By Connie Stankowski

Saint Sebastian Elementary School in Lake Chaparral opened its doors for the first time to over 400 children in September of 2007. From the very first year, parent support was fantastic and parent council held numerous fundraisers. In September, teachers were asked to make a wish list of items not included in the school start-up budget to pass onto the parent council. One of the parent council's major goals after viewing the wish list was to raise money to purchase Handbells for the Music program. The parent council held a silent auction, two family dances, numerous hot lunches and a wildly successful year-end carnival.

A three octave set of Schulmerich Handbells were purchased that year by parent council. At the time, Chris Manderschied was the head of the parent council. Thanks to Chris and the wonderful parents at Saint Sebastian School for their dedication and phenomenal efforts to support the Music Program and the Handbell Club.



Vol.9 Issue 1, November 1994 The Peal Editor in 1994 was Lynn Lowe. Could she be this handbell cartoonist? Presently, the handbell ringers at Saint Sebastian include students as young as Grade 1 and up to Grade 6. Throughout the school year, handbells are incorporated in our daily music lessons. As well, our 12 member Handbell Club performs throughout the year and travels outside of school to perform. I am blessed to have such talented, committed children in my school!

Connie Stankowski is the Elementary Music Teacher at Saint Sebastian School, Calgary



Connie Stankowski and the St. Sebastian bell choir

FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS Calgary

***Earl Grey Choir B* (Joan Greenfield) won the ALGEHR SCHOLARSHIP of \$75 for best performance of a beginner handbell choir.

***Earl Grey Choir B* (Joan Greenfield) won the Donald E Allured Award for the Adjudicator's Choice - Handbell Ringing Elementary School Classes 6450-6451

**Calgary Christian School Senior Handbell Choir (Maureen Bray) won the Florence Morris Memorial Scholarship of \$100 for the handbell choir who has given the most artistic performance in a handbell class.

Ft. McMurray

***St. Anne's After -School Handbell Choir* won the ALGEHR SCHOLARSHIP for the Best Performance of a Beginner Handbell Choir.

This handbell choir was also asked to play at the Grand Concert for the Rotary Music Festival which includes the best performers in all the different disciplines.





Grace Presbyterian Church Bells (Tinnitus) and First Baptist Church Bells (Acclamation) performing in their Spring Praise Concert

SPRING PRAISE REVIEW

By Alyssa Michaud

There are few things more mesmerizing than watching a good handbell choir play. And so for Saturday night's 'Spring Praise!' concert to have brought together not one, but two great handbell choirs was a special occasion indeed, and one that drew a very warm response from the enthusiastic audience, despite the rather bleak weather outside.

Grace Presbyterian's choir, *Tinnitus*, joined forces with First Baptist's *Acclamation* for a program that explored the limits of the bells' expressive range, from the fiery and frantic to the silky and serene. Directors Lori Teneycke and Joan Schaufele showed their flair for arranging an engaging and varied program, and kept the audience spellbound with pieces that included arrangements of favourite hymns, thrilling originals by composers including McChesney, Mocklebust, and Stephenson, and collaborative showpieces that made use of both choirs and several guest instrumentalists.

Excellent music was not the only focus of this performance, however, as the choirs had philanthropy in mind as well. The concert raised funds for both Inn from the Cold and the Calgary International Learning Centre (CILC) - the initiatives chosen by Tinnitus and Acclamation, respectively. Due to the excellent turnout of audience members, whose ticket costs went directly to these organizations, the concert succeeded in raising over nine hundred dollars for its special projects.

After the program had come to a moving close, former ringers and first-time listeners alike came forward to

the tables to test out the bells, and to discuss the concert, with smiles that could hardly have been larger. The crowd lingered briefly together over a small reception of squares and cookies, but what lingered even longer were the rich harmonies rendered by the bells and by the good fellowship had around them, which remained resonant in our minds well into the evening.

Alyssa Michaud is a music student, handbell composer, piano virtuoso, and is also passionate about learning about the history of music.

Handbell Music Reviews

From **Handbells Etc.** Submitted by Camille Ream Edmonton Alberta, spring 2010

1. Prayer Sherman, 345 octaves, Level 2



This original composition has a melody that really flows nicely. The accompaniment is flowing eight notes, lots of LVs and a few accidentals. I can imagine a choir playing it in worship, as an anthem or as background music for the Prayers of the People. It is set at 100 but would work well at a slightly slower tempo.

Handbell Music Reviews

continued...



Hakes 1 345 octaves with opt. 3 octaves Choirchimes[®], Level 2+

2. Song of the Spirit (Play the Sunset)

The first time I heard this I loved it. The music definitely represents a sunset well – that peaceful time at night when you see the sunset with glowing colours and then finally setting. The addition of Choirchimes[®] adds flavour and texture to the music. This piece has great opportunities for wonderful dynamics and stretching of the tempo. It will likely be easy for ringers to ring the notes but they will need to watch the director for dynamics and tempo to make the best music possible.

3. Renewed Spirit

Mazzatenta 345 octaves with opt. 3 octaves Choirchimes[®], Level 2+

This original handbell composition is filled with a variety of techniques including mart lift, thumb damp, mallet roll, mart, pluck lift, shake, and echo! The middle section is all on Choirchimes[®] and is a little bit faster than the rest. This would work well for church, community or school handbell choirs.

4. Nocturne in C Minor (Moonlight)

Hascall 3456 octaves, Level 3

This piece was inspired by Beethoven's Piano Sonata No 14. This was another piece that we played at Distinctly Bronze West this year. Nancy has taken Beethoven's theme and made it her own. The melody is familiar but not exactly like the original – the theme is woven with harmonies that are really pleasing to listen to.

5. Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons) Arr. Nelson

345 octaves with opt. C Instrument, Level 3

This traditional Scottish melody (Kelvingrove) will be familiar to you all. It is 6/8 time, has a lilt to it and flows wonderfully. The addition of the C Instrument (I would choose violin) would add to the music. This music would work well in church or community settings.

6. Shepherd Me, O God Arr. Roberts 3456 octaves with opt. 3456 octaves Choirchimes[®] Level 3

This is a wonderful lyrical piece based on Psalm 23. The soothing melody and comforting paraphrased words make this piece definitely worthwhile sharing in worship. There are also choral parts available but it would equally well to have the words spoken over the music. I will be planning to use it with my handbell choir at First United Church.

7. Tremors (With Fear and Trembling Stand)

Glasgow

567 octaves with opt. 7th octave bass Choirchimes[®] Level 5

Wow! We played this at Distinctly Bronze West earlier this year. At first I wasn't sure about it (it looks initially quite challenging – especially for the bass – but after closer examination, they need to mallet the same ostinato for the first 16 measures). Then, as we began to "sound better", I was able to really see and feel the descriptive nature of the music – that of an earthquake. There are additional percussion parts that really add to the turmoil of the music. Michael suggests that White Chapel bells or Petit and Fritsen bells may be used instead of orchestral chimes.

Come to Ring Beside the Bridge Discovery!!

The Headline Clinician is **Anne Hill** from Victoria B.C. Anne is currently Chair of the Handbell Guild of Canada and directs B.C. Bronze. We are delighted that she has agreed to come to Lethbridge.

Friday evening starts with registration and a reception and concert at 7:00 p.m. The concert will include both local and visiting ringers. Saturday includes mass ringing sessions for Level ½, ¾ and youth participants. There are also sessions on handchimes, working in the classroom, small groups and ensembles, minor tweaking and drumming. Handbells Etc. will also be offering Read and Ring Sessions.

The ALGEHR Annual Meeting will take place during the lunch break and the day will conclude with a concert including mass ringing and hopefully the performance of the pieces that won this year's Composer Competition.



Watch for the Registration forms on the Guild website by the end of June.

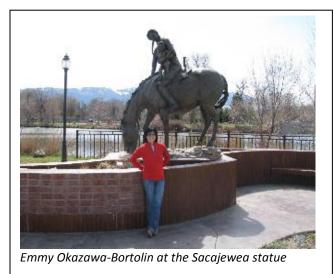
Our Big Sky Handbell Festival Experience

By Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin Livingston, Montana - April 23 - 24, 2010 "Bells without Borders"

I think the most incredible thing is that we waited this long to venture past the Sweet Grass/Coutts border checkpoint.

No, this wasn't exactly the first time we had travelled to Montana as tourists, but definitely the first time as "ding-a-lings." No doubt, we raised some serious suspicions on the part of the customs officers who had no clue what a "handBAII festival" was about and how these handballs would be "rung"...... Somehow we managed to convince them of our general harmlessness and we joined the rest of the 280 participants (from about 27 choirs) at the 29th annual regional handbell festival in the charming town of Livingston, MT.

Livingston has a population of about 8000 and is just an hour north of the north gates of Yellowstone National Park. Apparently such celebrities as Peter Fonda and Margot Kidder live there although they must have been away that weekend. For those who are familiar with the Lewis and Clark expeditions of the early 1800s (or the Ben Stiller movie, "Night at the Museum"), there is a bronze statue of the Shoshone woman, Sacajewea, who was instrumental in their success, in the beautiful Sacajewea Park right beside the high school.



Peter and I were adopted as bell orphans by different choirs - mine from the city of Polson and Peter's was from Missoula. We rehearsed and rang alongside our American friends under guest massed conductor and clinician, Kathleen Wissinger and we performed no less than TWELVE massed pieces in the big gala concert to a packed house at the Park High School gym. As well, there were a few individual groups that performed including a duet offering by Peter and yours truly making for an amazing evening of sharing music.



Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin and composer Kathleen Wissinger

Over the two days of the festival, I performed a solo during a mini-concert and we had the unique opportunity to work and learn from the super-talented and prolific composer, Kath Wissinger, during a Director's Seminar. As well, we met all kinds of friendly, interesting fellow ringers from across Idaho and Montana. Most were astounded that we actually drove 10 hours from Calgary to be part of their festivities (and even more impressed when they heard we took a tiny, windy, over-the-hills-to-grandma's-house kind of road that obviously NO ONE else had used in ages to get there). For the vast majority, our coming was something they had never ever considered possible - guess no one else had thought of it before.....Some acted like we had just flown in from the moon or something and yet for others from northern Montana, it just made sense ("Why not?")



We were instant celebrities and although the paparazzi mercifully left us alone, it was still special to have all kinds of strangers coming up to say "Hi" or to comment on our solo/duet performances. I distributed those Stetson magnets that I had produced to promote next year's **Ringing Link** (that most of you received at last year's **Discovery**) to the choir directors in the hopes of encouraging even one choir to venture north of the 49th parallel next July.

There was at least one director from Shelby, which is closer to Canada than any major city in Montana, who seemed inspired by our



cross-border trek. We have already been invited back next year as the festival will be in Missoula and we must admit; we are already making some plans. This whole experience has just reminded me of the long ties that **ALGEHR** has had with **Area X** ("ten" not "X") since the very early days of bells in Alberta. Before we even had our own guild, they were our foster parents, including us in their communications and events. For those who would like to discover more about all the incredible learning and sharing opportunities available through Area X, please check out their website (where you will find links to OUR website as well.)

http://myweb.cableone.net/davadahlgran/AreaX/

If you have nothing planned for June 25-27, there is an Area Festival at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon! This is a much larger (and unfortunately a little farther as well) event than Livingston as it is 2 and a half days, but probably similar to a Ringing Link. Here is some general info:

http://myweb.cableone.net/davadahlgran/AreaX/2010 %20conference.pdf

To find out more about how AGEHR's various Areas include Canadian guilds, go to:

http://www.agehr.org/areas/areas.asp

Music is most definitely a universal language that knows no borders of any kind!

Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin is the Chair-Elect of the Handbell Guilds of Canada and Past President of ALGEHR



Ringing Link 2011: July 6 – 9

ringing.link@algehr.org/www.algehr.org

RINGING LINK POSTER CONTEST!!!

Calling all young artists, doodlers and creative minds!

Design a poster promoting Canada's national handbell festival to be held right here in Calgary next July!

What does handbell ringing mean to you? How can you best show this in a poster that will inspire other Canadian ringers like you to want to come to Calgary?

You could WIN \$150!!!*

The Fine Print:

→ Contest open to all Albertan students (K-12) whose handbell director is a member of ALGEHR (Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers).

 \rightarrow Poster format: any drawing media in original hard copy and/or pdf.

 \rightarrow Content: ONLY original artwork and design will be allowed. (No computer graphics).

 \rightarrow Recommended size: 11" x 17" (artwork should be legible reduced to 4" x 5.5" size).

→ Theme: The festival will be known as "The Ringing Roundup" to reflect Calgary's western heritage with activities associated to this including Stampede.

 \rightarrow Deadline: Snail mail, e-mail or

hand-deliver by September 30, 2010 to: Ringing Link Poster Contest 63 West Cedar Rise SW Calgary, AB, T3H 5E2 ringing.link@algehr.org * The winning submission will be awarded a cash prize of \$150 or free registration to Ringing Link 2011. Honorable mentions may be awarded at judges' discretion. All submissions become property of ALGEHR and may be displayed (along with names and photos of artists) at provincial and national handbell events in 2010-2011. The winning design will be used in official Ringing Link promotional materials, brochures, concert programs and distributed across Canada.





Calling Experienced Ringers! Observers may also registercontact rkoski@telusplanet.net if interested!

Classic Bronze will be held in Edmonton, from Thursday afternoon, July 1 through Sunday afternoon, July 4, 2010. We are excited that this event will be conducted by Kevin McChesney of Colorado Springs. Kevin 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 the University and will be open to the public. *Concordia University College, in Edmonton* (<u>www.concordia.ab.ca</u>). The culminating concert will be on Sunday afternoon, **July 4** at the Tegler Center.

TEACHERS' CORNER Mentoring Makes a Difference

By Judy Gunderson



I started to teach music full-time six years ago in a school that had 3 octaves of handbells. I had some knowledge of handbells and began to teach it. Some students informed me that their grandmother, Linda Linton, knew how to play handbells. She and her husband, Cliff, helped me for a couple years. I realized that I had done some things wrong and had lots more to learn.

Since then, I have also learned very much from Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin. She has organized and taught handbell and tone chime workshops from which we, as teachers, have greatly benefitted in the last few years. The last two years, she has organized and adjudicated a Youth Handbells Festival for Calgary students. My students even say, "We have learned lots from Emmy."

I appreciate so much your passion for handbells, Emmy, Linda and Cliff, and for your willingness to mentor and coach teachers in Calgary. Now more of our handbells can be used and Calgary students can know the joy of playing them.

Judy Gunderson is a music teacher at Colonel J. Fred Scott, Calgary



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

*Funny stories?

*Embarrassing mistakes with happy endings?

*What has worked well with your students? *How do you manage teaching bells in the classroom?

Let's share them! Send your ideas to <u>peal@algehr.org</u>

DATES TO REMEMBER

2010

Handbells ASIA

June 21 - 24, 2010 Information on official website www.lui.com.sg/handbells2010

Area X Festival June 25-27

Newberg, Oregon

Classic Bronze with Kevin McChesney Final Concert July 4

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

October 15-16, 2010 Lethbridge, Alberta

2011

The Ringing Link July 6 – 9, 2011 Calgary, Alberta

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 <u>ringing.link@algehr.org</u> and let us know what area you'd like to share your expertise and time in.



*****Calling all artisans and craft-lovers!!**** Are you an artist or perhaps you making 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 <u>ringing.link@algehr.org</u> for more details.

OPPORTUNITY FOR LEARNING!!

Debbie Rice (Past President *American Guild of English Handbell Ringers* and current Executive Director of the *International Handbell Committee*), will be working with *Jubiloso* in Edmonton this fall.

ALGEHR would like to encourage choirs and musicians all over Alberta to consider inviting Ms Rice to work with them (workshops, rehearsals, small groups or large). Although there would be a nominal cost involved (suggested honorarium of \$200 for a 1-2 hr rehearsal session), other travel or incidental expenses would be minimal as she will already be in the province. This is a tremendous opportunity to work with a handbell expert. Check out Debbie Rice's Bio here: http://www.area11.org/bios/drice09.pdf

Communities across Alberta will be making plans and vying for Debbie's time and expertise. Don't miss this great opportunity!!

For contact information, Email peal@algehr.org

Notes from the Editor

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 <u>peal@algehr.org</u> by October 31. Our next Peal will come out in November. See you all at Discovery in the fall!

-Anne Hergott

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