

THE PEAL

November/December 2012

ALGEHR Handbell Discovery 2012, Wall Mural Thoughts*:

- -I like the noise of them
- -They are very fun!
- -I wait all year for Discovery.../ Great music and wonderful friends!
- -I like handbells because we get to do a lot of things and it is very fun.
- -I am very excited for playing!
- -I love the sounds of Handbells
- -Ringing Handbells is a great way to have music in your life.
- -When you have a good handbell team ringing is fun and it sounds beautiful!
- -Handbells are cool.
- -WA-WA's can go sideways!
- -Handbells sound cool®
- -Ringing is awesome!
- -It is fun and also educational. We love it, especially when guest ringers come to our school®



St. Rupert and St. Angela bell ringers learning from composer Kath Wissinger at the Youth section of the 2012 Handbell Discovery in Calgary. Photos: E. Okazawa-Bortolin





Light of Christ School bell choirs and Lethbridge's Gilbert Patterson bell choirs work with Kath Wissinger.

Photo: F. Miller

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings! For those of you who did not make it to the **2012 Discovery**, you missed a really good day; excellent workshops, amazing music and a whole lot of fun visiting with both old and new friends. Numbers were smaller than usual but that meant we had much more personal instruction. I even had the opportunity to take a bell completely apart and rebuild it again from scratch, what a learning experience. Thanks to Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin and her 'small but mighty' committee for all of the organization.

The other event that you missed was the **2012 Annual Meeting** at which I was re-elected to a second term as your President. Thank you for the trust and support that you have shown. At the AGM we elected several new people to the board of Directors as well as shuffling some current members around to new portfolios. I am extremely grateful to everyone who has donated time to this organization. We said goodbye to Nathanael from Fort McMurray who served for a year and has now stepped down. In his place, representing the North, we have Marissa de Sousa. Cathy Larson agreed to another term as our VP North. Ritu Gurjar's term as our treasurer has now been completed and she has handed over the reins to Eva Auch. Ritu then accepted the position of secretary. Later in this newsletter you will find a complete list of your Board of Directors for the 2012/2013 year. Welcome to our new members: Anna, Lucy, Eva, Marissa, Connie and Susan.

I don't know about all of you, but for me this time of year is very busy with my bell choirs. The two school choirs that I co-direct have just accepted an invitation for their fourth performance in the first ten days of December. These two choirs attended the Monday Youth session of Discovery and have been very excited to practice the new skills and techniques that Kath taught them.

As we prepare for Advent and the lead up to Christmas, with all its wonderful music, I wish you each a happy and healthy festive season and New Year filled with all that you hope for.

Best wishes.

Fíona



Fiona Miller and Kath Wissinger at ALGEHR's 2012 Discovery

Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions

ALGEHR invites any composer who is interested in handbell music to try their hand at writing a new handbell composition. Enter this new work into our annual Handbell Music competition: The Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions.

For more information about prizes, deadlines, and composition details, see the ALGEHR website: www.algehr.org

Looking for a new home!

We need a home for our **ALGEHR** conducting platform. Do you, or does your school or church have a need for such a structure? Would you like to use it indefinitely until our next large handbell event? Or do you have some space to store this beautiful stand? (It does fold up!) For more info (size, height, transportation) email Ritu at: secretary@algehr.org



Conducting stand built for Ringing Link 2011

MORE ALGEHR NEWS!

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteering doesn't have to be hard!

ALGEHR is always accepting of our members' generosity! Maybe you can help us? We currently need help with:

Archiving old items and files, Auditing our books,

Sending pictures or info to our website or *Peal* editor, Spreading the news about membership opportunities Storing our conducting podium.

Contact president@algehr.org if you can help us out!

SEF GRANT

ALGEHR wants to support the development of bell skills and handbell programs!!

Did you know you could apply for the yearly Symposium Endowment Fund (SEF Grant) for \$ for your program or choir? See our website for more information:

www.algehr.org

The winners from this past 2012 year were: Cathy Larson (Fort McMurray) Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin (Calgary).



Handbells everywhere!

If you haven't explored it yet... check out the handbell worlds that exist on-line.

Google "handbells" just for fun!

There are also forums you can join in on, such as

handbell-l+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Don't be afraid to explore the Handbell links on YouTube!

Facebook and other social networks also have Handbell links and pages.

Have a glance at our very own ALGEHR website; there are lots of interesting things on there too!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLANNING A BELL 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!

Contact president@algehr.org or see our ALGEHR EVENT ORGANIZER POLICY on our website www.algehr.org for further information!

Upcoming Christmas Concerts:

Ring in your Christmas season by attending the ninth annual Spruce Grove

'Carols and Bells'



This special event features a wide range of Christmas music via the unique musical expression of English handbells:

Parkland Bells, the two handbell choirs of St. Andrew's United Church, offer their complete Christmas repertoire.

Talented guest vocalist **Roxanne Martin** will partner with the bells to offer a lovely Christmas anthem and lead the carol sing.

Harpist **Leah Kabotoff** will join the **Praise Choir** on a Christmas lullaby, and the **Rejoice Choir** will also offer a **handbell drama** based on Sally Lloyd-Jones Christmas book entitled '**Song of the Stars'**.

A freewill offering will be accepted with fifty percent of proceeds directed to a local charity and refreshments will be served following the concert to share in the Christmas spirit.

The concert takes place at

2:30 PM on Sunday, December 16th
St. Andrew's United Church, (1A Fieldstone Drive, Spruce Grove).

All are welcome. Hope you will join us!



Christmas Concert

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Calgary Sunday, December 16 at 7 PM.

The Acclamation and Tintinaires Handbell choirs from
First Baptist Church
will be performing
with the Sanctuary Choir.

Come join us in this wonderful celebration of the season!



Gilbert Paterson Middle School Bells, (Martes Bells and Lunch Bells) upcoming performances in Lethbridge:

- Both choirs are playing on Wednesday December 5th at noon for the City Hall Christmas Festival.
- Both choirs are playing at Garden View Seniors' Lodge at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday December 11th.
- **GPMS Christmas Concert** at College Drive Community Church on Wednesday December 12th at 7:30 p.m. Both choirs plus the school choral program.
- Both choirs are playing for the service at **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church** on Sunday December 16th at 10:30 a.m.

ALGEHR HANDBELL DISCOVERY 2012



Teacher Judy Gunderson

Kath Wissinger conducts the Festival Choir group.

Photo: F. Miller



Holly Schile, Christina Pfitscher (St Angela), Kath Wissinger, Janine Tymchuk (St Rupert), Connie Stankowski, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin and Craig Carpenter (Principal at St Sebastian) - Oct 15 am Youth Discovery.



Kath gives special attention and advice at the table in the director's session.

Photo: F. Miller



Kath Wissinger shares her composing and teaching experience with teachers and conductors.

Photo: F. Miller

Liverpool Symposium Review

If you have never ventured out to attend an International Bell Symposium, you are missing out! Alison Wood, a Bell "Pioneer" here in Alberta attended the Symposium in Liverpool this past summer, and offers her favourite moments and highlights. If we all start thinking about it now, we can join her and other Canadians at the next Symposiums. Plan on attending in Korea, summer 2014 and here in Canada's own Vancouver, summer of 2016!

Alison Wood's highlights of the 2012 Liverpool Symposium were:

*That Marjorie Slinn was there! Marjorie was one of the members that came to Edmonton in 1991 with her friend, Isabelle Olsen, and that was the reason for the *very first meeting of the Handbell Guilds of Canada* (which we then called the Tri-Guild) in my apartment. Marjorie worked hard for HGC and was the spokesperson for Canada at the IHC meeting in 1992 (since I had to Chair it). I am SO HAPPY that Marjorie is still travelling and ringing. She was a great promoter of Canada!

*That there were about 26 Canadians there from all over. That is probably the most Canadians we have had at one event— certainly the most we have had without a full choir present.

*This was one of the happiest, friendliest Symposia ever! (I have been to 13 out of 15). All problems were met by Handbell Ringers of Great Britain and the Security people at the Convention Centre with a big smile, and one left feeling like problems would be easily solved – and solved they were.

*I was in Liverpool in 1988 on the Grand Ringing Tour after the Exeter Symposium, and again in 1991 with Robertson-Wesley Choir. It is now a completely different city — clean, pretty, and best of all (in my opinion) music of the Beatles playing everywhere! All museums and Art Galleries (and there are many of them) are free, with the exception of The Beatles Museum. I went on the Hop On Hop Off tour about six times, and danced to the music of "The Cheatles" with twenty other die-hard ringers until they stopped playing and everyone else went home on the "fun night."



Canadian bell ringers (from all across Canada) having fun in Liverpool.



Alison Wood



Marjorie Slinn

Photos: Alison Wood



Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin was the Canadian conductor

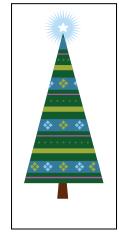
Photo: E. Okazawa-Bortolin

A Handbell Ringer's 12 Days of Christmas

By Anke Kelker

On the **1**st day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me A concert in less than two weeks!

On the **2**nd day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me Two pairs of gloves And a concert in less than two weeks!



On the **3**rd day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me
Three extra mallets
Two pairs of gloves
And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the **4**th day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me Four choir chimes
Three extra mallets
Two pairs of gloves
And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the **5**th day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me Five Whitechapels
Four choir chimes
On the first day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me A concert in less than two weeks!
Three extra mallets
Two pairs of gloves
And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the **6**th day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me Six octaves Malmarks
Five Whitechapels
Four choir chimes
Three extra mallets
Two pairs of gloves
And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the $\mathbf{7}^{th}$ day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me Seven Accidentals Six octaves Malmarks Five Whitechapels

Four choir chimes
Three extra mallets
Two pairs of gloves
And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the **8**th day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me Eight beats of weaving
Seven Accidentals
Six octaves Malmarks
Five Whitechapels
Four choir chimes
Three extra mallets
Two pairs of gloves
And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the **9**th day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me Nine nasty page turns
Eight beats of weaving
Seven Accidentals
Six octaves Malmarks
Five Whitechapels
Four choir chimes
Three extra mallets
Two pairs of gloves
And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the **10**th day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me Ten tempo changes
Nine nasty page turns
Eight beats of weaving
Seven Accidentals
Six octaves Malmarks
Five Whitechapels
Four choir chimes
Three extra mallets
Two pairs of gloves
And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the $\boldsymbol{11}^{th}$ day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me

Eleven syncopations
Ten tempo changes
Nine nasty page turns
Eight beats of weaving
Seven Accidentals
Six octaves Malmarks
Five Whitechapels
Four choir chimes
Three extra mallets



Two pairs of gloves

And a concert in less than two weeks!

On the **12**th day of Christmas my bell choir gave to me

Twelve ringers ringing

Eleven syncopations

Ten tempo changes

Nine nasty page turns

Eight beats of weaving

Seven Accidentals

Six octaves Malmarks

Five Whitechapels

Four choir chimes

Three extra mallets

Two pairs of gloves

And a concert in less than two weeks!



Would you consider going to the

2014 International Handbell Symposium in Jeju, Korea?

Quick Facts:

Registration: Starts on September 1, 2013 - ends on December 31, 2013

Fee: USD 800.00 (Deposit: USD 300.00, non-refundable) Final Payment Due: March 31, 2014

Schedule:

August 5: Registration, Opening Ceremony, Massed Ringing Rehearsals August 6-8: Workshops, Solo Concerts, Massed Ringing Rehearsals

August 7: Half-day Tour

August 9: Final Concert, Closing Banquet

Talk to your bell friends. Start planning now!



Handbell Bouquet

I am thankful for the efforts of Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin to help promote handbell literacy and improvement of handbell-playing skills by conducting a teachers' handbell group for the last two years. Not only have my skills improved, but my confidence has also increased very much. I believe that, without that, I could not have participated in the Bronze Festival Ensemble at this year's Handbell Discovery.

Judy Gunderson





We are delighted to remind you what Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers (ALGEHR) does for you!

As you are aware,

ALGEHR is a not-for-profit organization which provides opportunities for artistic development of Albertans through the sharing, encouragement and appreciation of quality English Handbell Ringing.

With your membership, you are able to:

- *Attend all our provincial **ALGEHR** handbell workshops and festivals.
- *Receive organizational help and sponsorship support to organize any of your own handbell events.
- *Find **Teacher support** for starting new programs.
- *Apply for yearly **SEF Grants** (Symposium Endowment Fund Grants).
- *Access **Professional Development** as part of Discovery and Bell Festivals
- *Find and contact Handbell experts, repair persons, and handbell music information easily.
- *Learn and attend National and International events as advertised in the ALGEHR Peal and Website.
- *Receive ALGEHR Newsflashes by email about important Albertan Handbell events and information.
- *Enter our yearly composing competition, the Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions.
- *Attend **ALGEHR's** yearly AGM meeting and have voting privileges in **ALGEHR** Board nominations, or become an **ALGEHR** Board Member and help support our Provincial Guild.
- *Access clinicians to help you with your particular projects or plans.
- *Have website membership privileges (coming



Notes from the Editor

Season's Greetings everyone! Thanks to all of you who offered articles and pictures, concert dates and news for this Peal. Enjoy all the concerts that this season offers you. Take pictures, and take home a concert program so you can tell me how great it all was!! I would LOVE to share this with our ALGEHR members ©

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 March 31, 2013. Our next Peal will come out in April. Cheers! Anne

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Holy Land: A Musical Journey of Faith

(The first international handbell festival in Israel)

April 5 to 16, 2013

For information: dricenc@triad.rr.com

International Music Camp:

July 7-13, 2013 and/or July 27-30, 2013

North Dakota, USA

http://www.internationalmusiccamp.com/

Handbell Discovery 2013

October 2013

Edmonton, Alberta

Ringing Link 2014

July 3 - 6, 2014

Manitoba, Canada

Korea International Symposium 2014

August 5 to 9, 2014

Jeju, Korea

Vancouver International Symposium 2016

Summer, 2016 Vancouver, BC



See Ya!

Photo: E. O-Bortolin

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

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