



### Christmas Season Handbell Concerts

**Belles in Harmony**  
The Alberta Legislature  
December 20, between 7:00 and  
9:00 pm - sharing the time with the  
Josephburg's Men's Chorus

**Concordia Community Chorus  
and Jubiloso**  
Dec. 16, 7:30 pm  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
298 Bethel Drive  
Sherwood Park

**"Christmas is Coming"**  
Josephburg Choral Society (Men's  
Chorus and Belles in Harmony)  
Dow Centennial Centre,  
Fort Saskatchewan; December 14  
7:00 pm

**Carols and Bells Concert**  
2:30 pm, Sunday,  
December 15, 2013  
St. Andrew's United Church  
1A Fieldstone Drive  
Spruce Grove, AB

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I send you greetings from a rather damp and dreary Scotland. I understand that you have been dealing with lots of snow and I hope that you are all keeping safe and warm.

As our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year draws to a close I am happy to announce that one of ALGEHR's founding members was recognized with a Life Time Membership. **Lorna Davidchuk** has been one of the great "Movers and Shakers" of ALGEHR right from the start. Congratulations!

I was very sorry to miss Discovery in Edmonton. I have heard that it was a great event and I look forward to hearing more about it. If you have not already done so, why not write an article or send pictures for the next edition of the PEAL? We can let those who did not attend know what was missed and hopefully encourage them to attend next year.

With the 2013 Discovery now all done we are looking for a host for the 2014 version. Discovery this year was held in the Northern part of the Province and so next year should be towards the South Please let me know if you are interested in holding this event. There is lots of experienced help available if you can act as host.

I am sure that you are all working hard preparing for, what is usually the busiest season of the year for bell ringers. I am looking forward to getting back to Lethbridge to work with my young choirs as they prepare for their Christmas performances.

Happy Ringing,

*Fiona*

[president@algehr.org](mailto:president@algehr.org)



Susan Wood, playing bells in 1980s, was incorrectly identified in the last Peal. Sorry Susan!

### Also In This Issue:

- New Life Membership Awarded!
- Surprising Chimes
- Discovery 2013
- Ringing Link 2014
- IHS 2016
- Handbell bouquets
- Music Reviews
- Concert Information
- Festivals

***Farewell and Welcome to ALGEHR Board Members.***

Following the AGM in October, I now have the sad duty of saying farewell to several of our Board members. They have devoted much of their time and energy over the years to our organization. Some took on major positions while others were just there with advice, ideas and opinions. Each of them has helped to continue the dream that was started 30 years ago. In their own way they have all become friends and I hope that although they are stepping down from the Board, they will still be around to offer support and spread the joy of ringing.

**Thanks to:**

**Ritu Gurjar** (Calgary). Ritu served 2 terms as the treasurer and also served this year as secretary.

**Linda Stockl** (Edmonton). Linda was in charge of the SEF Grants and this year was the liaison and on the organizing committee for Discovery 2013.

**Judy Gunderson** (Calgary). Judy served as the secretary and also served as VP South.

**Connie Stankowski** (Calgary). Connie was our Education Liaison.

It is very exciting for me to welcome **Russell Dunkerley** to the Board. He is a first time Board member who plays in Acclamation Handbell Choir in Calgary. Thank you for your willingness to join our group.

You will note that in spite of four members retiring from the Board we have only elected one new member. There are two reasons for this:

- Last year we added a very large number of people to the Board at which point it was actually rather cumbersome and several members did not have voting privileges. It was decided this year to keep the board to only 14 members.
- Not everyone is willing to give up some of their free time to ensure the continuation of the Guild and so there were not as many nominations this year.

If membership on the ALGEHR Board is something you would like more information about, please feel free to contact me. We meet three times a year with occasional email discussion in between. I look forward to hearing from you.

Fiona Miller, [president@algehr.org](mailto:president@algehr.org)

***Handbell Discovery 2013***

Handbell enthusiasts joined together in Edmonton in October to celebrate ALGEHR's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a **3 'Ring' Circus!** Many individuals and groups from across the province took advantage of the workshops available to learn and improve all things Handbell.

Thanks to all the organizers and volunteers who helped to make this a great event! Mark your calendars now for our next Discovery in 2014!

A special award was presented during Handbell Discovery to Lorna Davidchuk. Lorna was honoured with an ALGEHR Life Membership. Alison Wood remembers the many contributions that Lorna made to the guild in our 30 year history and shares them in this Peal.

***Are You a Composer?***

ALGEHR offers yearly awards for new handbell compositions. Check out our ALGEHR website ([www.algehr.org](http://www.algehr.org)) for more information about The Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions

***ALGEHR Symposium Endowment Fund (SEF)***

ALGEHR offers grants to help encourage the art of bell ringing in Alberta. Check out our website to see if you or your program is eligible ([www.algehr.org](http://www.algehr.org))

**LIFE MEMBER ALGEHR AWARD  
PRESENTED TO:**

***LORNA DAVIDCHUK***



*Lorna Davidchuk*

*Photo: L. Davidchuk*

## ***ALGEHR History: Lorna Davidchuk***

***By Alison Wood***

I was delighted to hear that one way in which **the Alberta Guild celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Handbell Discovery was to award Lorna Davidchuk a Life Membership.** What an appropriate thing to do! There have been many occasions when I have thought about how hard Lorna worked, and how instrumental she was in putting our guild on the right foot - giving it the structure and the stability needed to accomplish so much; the knowledge and ability to be in a position to host an International Symposium within only ten years of existence; and the wherewithal not just to survive, but to thrive over its thirty years. At the time Lorna was president, not many people recognized her vision, or appreciated her efforts. Thankfully, she is a very strong woman and made us do it anyway!

As I mentioned in my last article, our guild was the dream of John Nelson, and he had worked extremely hard to get ALGEHR to the point of registration as an Alberta Society in 1983, while at the same time organizing an International Festival with Donald Allured in 1984. At the end of that time, John and the Calgary people were exhausted, and justly demanded that someone from Edmonton take over. There were people at that meeting who were used to working in and for music societies, but probably because they too were overworked, and had an idea of what setting up a new one would involve, kept very quiet. The silence was thick, and I was absolutely stunned when out of the void came the voice of my friend, the nurse, Lorna Davidchuk, who said, **“I’ll do it!”** I was in shock and wondering what she would know about being a president of something like this, because I certainly knew nothing. However, I was in awe of her courage, and when she said that we would need time to figure out what we were doing before another big event, I had a better idea of her intelligence.

I knew **Lorna was a hard worker, but I had no idea how driven she was.** She found that the Alberta Government offered a Board Development workshop, and she signed the Board up for a weekend. Some of us grumbled – weekends are sacred when one is new in the workplace and has to work long hours, but we went. We learned how to dream for an organization, how to analyze the dreams and break them down into goals with action plans, how to communicate with each other, how to write by-laws, how to develop a three-year rolling plan, how to structure a Board and an Executive to represent the whole province, how to budget, how to keep track of finances and membership, the necessity of evaluating all events, capitalize on the positives, and take action to correct the negatives.

**During Lorna’s presidency,** a variety of programs were developed and offered annually in the North and the South of the Province. For a number of years afterward, both the North and the South could count on a yearly Ringing Workshop covering a variety of handbell topics; a Read n’ Ring Workshop to ring tough repertoire, which was not an easy task since few Canadian handbell sellers in those days stocked much music; and any workshop you wanted for your own choir (called a Do-It-Yourself Workshop) that would have full guild support including clinician fees; help in finding the right clinician for your needs, resources like music and bells, basically anything anyone could think of.

***Lorna: (Continues on page 5)***

## ***Our Surprising Chimes!***

***By Juanita Pickerl***

As the Director of Parkland Bells for the past 17 years, I thought we had pretty much reached our maximum potential. We have gone from ringing two octaves of handbells to ringing five octaves of handbells plus three octaves of handchimes. We have also grown from one choir playing level 1 and 2 music to two choirs - 24 ringers- the most experienced choir playing level 3+ arrangements. It's been an amazing journey!

When I received the email encouraging applications for the ALGEHR Symposium grant earlier this year, it got me thinking. Last year we added the top 1/2 octave to complete our five octaves of handbells. It was exciting to have access to even more musical expression. Through my experiences with Handbell Discovery, The Ringing Link and Classic Bronze, I'll admit to falling in love with the sound of those deep, fog horn chimes. So, after speaking with my choirs, we decided to submit an application to expand our chimes to four octaves. Not quite the foghorns, but getting there!

That was at the end of February. Our application was received and we had been told to expect a decision in June so we patiently waited. Our annual spring concerts on the Mother's Day weekend were a success and, at the end of May, we were invited to present a concert at Westlock Gospel Chapel in Westlock. Over the years, we have played in many venues in Parkland County and also beyond the borders of our local community. Typically, concerts on our 'Road Trips' are lots of fun for us and usually draw an audience of between 20 and 40 guests. Much to our surprise, 140 people came out to our Westlock concert! It was an afternoon of sheer delight to share the musical gift we have been blessed with. We received a freewill offering at our concert that afternoon. When I came home, I counted up the offering and was completely shocked by the generosity of our guests. I wondered aloud, 'Wow God, what's this all about?' God has had such a visible presence in our growth through the years that I know that nothing happens without His intention. The following week, I received word from the Guild. Our grant application was successful although the funds had been divided among multiple recipients. Imagine my amazement when I determined that combining the amount of the ALGEHR grant and the Westlock offering was very nearly the exact amount we needed to proceed with our chime expansion!

I am truly blessed. I have wonderful people who ring with me to God's glory. We come from various denominations to make music together and we are definitely a community of friends. We laugh, cry and pray for one another through good and bad. My ringers (especially those who handle our 'Heavy Metal') are thrilled to have the opportunity to add yet another dimension to the music that we share. Thank you, Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers, for the support and education you have offered me, my ringers and the Alberta ringing community over the past 30 years. I am truly proud to be a member of this fine organization.



Praise Choir (Black outfits with Red Scarves):

Left to Right

Front Row: Rebecca Burton, Sylvia Young, Judy Lamothe, Chadya Sirdar, Juanita Pickerl

Second Row: Kathy Manyk, Megan Johnston, Ann Johnstone, Brenda Russell

Third Row: Yvonne Johnston, Leah Kabotoff, Cindy House



Rejoice Choir (White Shirts, Multi-Scarves, Black Bow Ties):

Left to Right

Front Row: Bethany Fehr, Justin Berger, Alanna Janzen, Julia Stobbe, Katy Berger, Matthew Stobbe, Julianna Fehr

Second Row: Adam Fehr, Sarah Wiens, Isaac Fehr, Samuel Fehr, Brenda Evjen, Michael Evjen, Juanita Pickerl



## **Lorna: (Continued from page 3)**

**By Alison Wood**

At the same time as the new workshops were offered, two manuals were being written – one on the **governance**, rules and organization of ALGEHR – the kind of thing that the government requires and in reality, the Society needs to operate; and the **Program Manual** that listed every Program the Guild operated and how to do every possible thing needed to make sure every person, bell, food item, piece of paper and equipment was in the right place at the right time. I still have some of the originals of those manuals and their contents. I found them in an envelope when I was trying to downsize this year, and remembered I had borrowed them when I was trying to write the manual the International Handbell Committee “requested” after our 1992 International Symposium. (Actually, it was not a request. Because that handbell symposium, - the fifth – was so successful, and was “Practically Perfect in Every Way” thanks to Peter Bortolin and his team, it was moved and passed that Alison Wood would write a manual despite my protests that I couldn’t do it.) All those original pages I found, written before we had computers, were in Lorna’s handwriting. So were the many reports on each event, compiled from reports from all the organizers and the hundreds of evaluation forms received. The actual statistics and all comments ever written on an evaluation form were also meticulously recorded by Lorna. I am sure some would say she should have delegated those little jobs. Well, I saw her try, and **if no-one would volunteer, she just did them.**

Lorna is a peacemaker, and is content to get a job done the way she wants it done and knows it needs to be done without taking credit. I read some of the letters on file that she received from members that were unhappy that the huge festival of the first year was not going to be repeated in the second year. I was shocked to see letters worded so strongly that one felt bullied in reading them. Lorna answered firmly but politely, but in the end she decided to try to make everyone happy, and organized a Festival in 1985 in her first year, as well as continuing her efforts to make ALGEHR a secure entity.

You may assume that perhaps Lorna had more time than many. You would be incorrect. During her presidency she had two small boys and a part time nursing position! In Japan the following year, at the second International Handbell Symposium, there were meetings and presents for the handbell leaders present in order to set a path for future communication and international gatherings. Lorna did not put herself forward since her choir directors wished to be involved, and it was not until the Symposium was over that the other guild presidents found there had been a Canadian president in attendance. That resulted in the development of a protocol for Symposia, IHC meetings and inter-guild communication to avoid such uncertainty in the future.

## **Handbell Music Reviews**

Handbells etc., Edmonton Alberta

*Submitted by Camille Ream*

### **A Simple Prayer – (Soliloquy)**

By Lamb, 2/3 octaves Handbells or Choirchimes®, Level 1-

This original composition is wonderfully reflective. It is about as easy as it ever gets for handbells! Although it is very easy, it has a lot of opportunity for ringers to focus on correct ringing technique. Although the chords are full, they are mostly half notes. This piece will help ringers practice breathing together so that each chord can be played exactly together and all the circles match. Playing this piece like that, we allow it to be even more reflective and prayerful.

### **I Want to Walk as a Child of Light**

Arr. Moglebust, 345 octaves Opt C or Bb Instrument, Level 2

This piece is also available in a 2/3 octave version and is compatible with this arrangement. This is a hymn from 1970 that has a wonderful flowing melody. The words are strong so it would be nice to either include them in the bulletin or on the PowerPoint screen as the piece is being rung. The middle section has the melody in the middle voices and delicately suspended malleting in the upper treble bells. This piece can be played with or without the addition of an instrument.

### **Celebrate with Ringing**

By Mazzatenta, 345 octaves opt Choirchimes®, Level 2+

This is an exciting original arrangement that truly helps us celebrate with bells! The accents and syncopation really helps us want to celebrate with this piece. We celebrate quietly in the middle section with the addition of mallets on the table in the accompaniment and chimes in the melody. The final page is full of full shaking chords in a fortissimo and ends with RT that will bring applause and smiles from your audience.

*(Continues on page 12)*

**Lorna: (Continued from page 5)**

**By Alison Wood**

In 1990, as President, I was asked to represent Western Canada at an Area X meeting. They were planning their biennial Festival, and although by that time they probably would have hosted about fourteen previous Area X festivals and worked on the same number of National Festivals, it sounded as if they were starting from scratch. When I pulled out our black manual, now about fifteen years old, they were astounded, thought it was wonderful, and asked if they could borrow it.

**Lorna was ahead of her time, and those of us who followed her certainly benefited.**

The **gargantuan amount of work that Lorna accomplished** during her presidency is not the kind of flashy, “Exciting Happening” that tends to win awards. It was however, the nut and bolts of a firm foundation that gave the Alberta Guild the ability to fly in certain areas, and the quiet place of respect it has earned in others. **We owe a great deal to Lorna Davidchuk.** I strongly believe that the fact we are having a thirtieth anniversary when other guilds are struggling is largely due to her efforts. The Alberta Guild is fortunate to have so many excellent ringers and exceptional people in its ranks, and their choice to pay tribute to those of the past gives great hope for the future! Thank you to all of you for everything you do, and to you, Lorna, for everything you did. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries are very important in Japan and I often have been asked over the years to write letters of Congratulations to Japanese handbell choirs and to The Handbell Ringers of Japan, their guild, on that anniversary.



Lorna Davidchuk, Dec. 2013

Photo: L. Davidchuk

So to the Alberta Guild, which many of us remember from birth, all of its members and founders, and particularly Lorna Davidchuk, its worthy new Life-Member, Congratulations and Here's to Thirty More!



Alison Wood, 2012

Photo A. Wood

**Alison Wood** is a founding member and a Life Member of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers, and served it in a variety of capacities including President during the very successful fifth International Symposium in Edmonton. The concept of Handbell Guilds of Canada was launched in her living room, and Alison served as its first chairperson. She served on the International Handbell Committee for eighteen years and was Executive Director from 2004 until 2008.

# ***The World is coming to Canada!***

***17th IHS: July 26–30,  
2016 in Vancouver***

***By Anne Hill and Nikki Attwell,  
Planning Committee Co-Chairs***



***In just two and a half years from now, hundreds of ringers from around the world will travel to beautiful British Columbia for the 2016 International Handbell Symposium. Be a part of this exciting and rare opportunity!***

Because Handbell Guilds of Canada (HGC) is the national body representing Canada on the international stage, IHS2016 Vancouver is **presented** by HGC, and **hosted** by BCGEHR on HGC's behalf. BCGEHR looks forward to the support and participation of handbell ringers from all provincial guilds and across Canada.

**OUR LOCATION** The Symposium will be held in Vancouver—surely one of Canada's most beautiful cities and a prime tourist destination for people the world over. It is superbly situated to be a draw for Pacific Rim countries as well as being easily accessible for all North American ringers. British Columbia also has strong ties to its Great British and European forebears. We look forward to welcoming ringers from all around the world to this "Jewel on the Pacific" that has so much to offer.

Surrounded by the mountains and located on the waterfront at Canada Place in the heart of beautiful downtown Vancouver, the Vancouver Convention Centre ([www.vancouverconventioncentre.com](http://www.vancouverconventioncentre.com)) is an award-winning facility. It opened in July 1987 after originally serving as the Canada Pavilion at Expo '86. Since its inception, the facility has demonstrated a constant commitment to service excellence, technical capabilities, and creative high-quality banqueting.

**OUR THEME** British Columbia's rich aboriginal history and culture, combined with Vancouver's reputation for leadership in sustainability and environmentalism, has provided the ideal focus for this event. Honouring the ancestors of this land, including the aboriginal ways of knowing and being within an environment, has encouraged us to explore the many complementary ways that First Peoples cultures and environmental sustainability intertwine and connect within community. We plan on a high level of involvement of Canada's First Peoples and integration of Canadian aboriginal history and culture throughout the event. We look forward to other nations sharing the sounds of their lands and lives of their peoples at IHS 2016.

We've chosen "Soundings" as our title for its many faceted, rich associations. The musical association is clear, but the word also invokes thoughts of depth, fullness, resonance (all of which relate nicely to the handbell idiom), as well as observations of the environment and/or water. It invokes the Aboriginal peoples' connection to the natural world, as well as connecting to meaningful ideas in terms of musical depth and the fullness of musical sound of many ringers playing together—a sense of world community. Its relevance to both music and environment gives a great deal of scope for composition and will come into play in many other ways as well.

**OUR LOGO** Coast Salish artist **Chris Paul** ([www.chrispaul.ca](http://www.chrispaul.ca)) has designed the Soundings logo. It is rich in imagery and captures so well the many facets of our theme: music, community, the environment. Blue: for water and sky, the bell and its reflection representing earth and sea, musical sound and echo (reverberation), the present and our history. The eagle—a symbol of grace, power and great intellect (all important for handbell ringers!)—enwraps the bell, as the handbell community reaches around the globe. And in one further image emphasizing “community”, the upper eagle shares the ‘clapper’ of the bell with its reflection.

Chris Paul is gaining international acclaim for his limited edition giclee prints, cedar panels, and glass sculptures. Born near Victoria in 1969 as a member of Tsartlip nation, Chris was immersed in Coast Salish art as a child. Before the age of thirty, Chris had completed one year of intensive training at ‘Ksan, the Gitanmaax School of Northwest Coast Art, and had completed a two year apprenticeship under celebrated Tsimshian artist, Roy Henry Vickers. Chris has also gained exposure through the hit television series “Grey’s Anatomy,” in which a number of his prints have been featured. His pieces often reflect flora, fauna and mythologies associated with his culture and his home on Vancouver Island.

**HISTORY OF THE IHS** Since 1984, the location of the International Handbell Symposium has rotated among the six members of the International Handbell Committee (America, Japan, Great Britain, Korea, Canada, Australasia). Canada has twice before hosted an International Symposium: 1992 in Edmonton, and 2004 in Toronto. Now BC takes its turn!

**THE IHC IS GROWING!** In 2010, Hong Kong was admitted to membership in the IHC; and in 2012, Singapore was granted provisional membership, and expects to be admitted to full membership in 2014. Their turns in the rotation will be added at the end of the current cycle, meaning it may be 16 years before Canada hosts again, rather than 12. Let’s make the most of this opportunity on our own soil!



## HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

- ✿ **Plan to attend:** We want a strong contingent of Canadian ringers to welcome our international visitors. And if you’ve never visited Vancouver, what better opportunity could there be?
- ✿ **Take part in the planning:** The Planning Committee is a national committee, made up of representatives from all provincial guilds (see list below for members), and will be assisted by subcommittee members as necessary. If you are approached by a Planning Committee member to act on a subcommittee, please carefully consider the request — you are asked because we need your special skills and abilities to help make our event a re’*sounding*’ success.
- ✿ **Offer financial help:** Do you own, work for, or know of a business that would be a sponsor or advertiser? There will be many different opportunities for sponsorship and support, many different ways for businesses to have visibility and be seen as a supporter of music, the arts, the handbell community.



**WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING!** Feel the excitement, get on board, and start planning now! We recognize that attending an international symposium represents a sizeable financial commitment, much greater than a provincial or national event, and is also one of many handbell events from which to choose, but it also represents a rare and special opportunity, one that will not be available in Canada for many more years.

### ***IHS2016 Planning Committee***

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**Co-Chair** ANNE HILL  
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**Volunteer Coordinator**  
KAREN MCCLELLAND (on leave)

**Promotions Coordinator** ELLEN RAMSAY  
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### ***Advertisement Opportunities:***



We would be happy to include an advertisement for your business in our Peal Newsletter. Please Contact [peal@algehr.org](mailto:peal@algehr.org) for more information.

Thanks to Heather Dempsey who offered to use and store ALGEHR'S fantastic conducting stand!

### ***ALGEHR MEMBERS!!!***

Spread the News! Let your colleagues, staff, friends, and fellow ringers know about us and our programs, and all the great Handbell opportunities!!

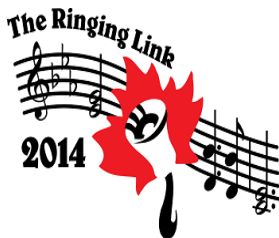
### ***ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLANNING A BELL EVENT?***

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](mailto:president@algehr.org) or see our ALGEHR EVENT ORGANIZER POLICY on our website [www.algehr.org](http://www.algehr.org) for further information!

**Canadian Handbell News!**  
**Ringling Link: This summer!!**



**A Dickens of a Ring!**  
JULY 2-5, 2014 | WINNIPEG, MB

The Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers invites you to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> National Ringing Link Conference of the **Handbell Guilds of Canada** at the **Victoria Inn, Winnipeg, Manitoba, from July 2-5, 2014**. The Manitoba Guild is basing the event on Charles Dickens' memorable and well-loved novel, "*A Christmas Carol*". Instead of being visited by the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come, we will explore Christmas music of the Past (pre-19<sup>th</sup> century), the Present (19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian era of Dickens' time), and Music Yet to Come (20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> centuries). The massed ringing directors: Anne Hill (Victoria), Stuart Sladden (Winnipeg), Monica McGowan (Lakeville, Minnesota) and Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin (Calgary) have chosen delightful music ranging from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

Individual workshops will be given by the massed directors as well as J.-C. Coolen, Susan Galloway, Heather Keith, Jan Nordstrand, Camille Ream and Susan Stevenson covering such topics as: Ensemble Ringing, Bell Trees, Music in Motion, Matching Sounds Across the Choir, Rhythmic Ensemble, Personal Practice Tips and Strategies, Change Ringing, Hands on Hand Chimes, What They See is What They Hear, Beginning and Advanced Conducting, Handbells with Orff instruments; Handbells with Church Choral Music, Read and Ring sessions with mixed repertoire (Christmas, non-Christmas, Sacred, Secular), warm up sessions as well as maintenance sessions on Malmark and Schulmerich handbells and chimes.

Mini-concerts will include solo, ensemble and full handbell choir performances and the Victorian Christmas Banquet will feature wonderful surprises musically, visually and appetizingly!

Registration includes:

- Wednesday Opening Ceremonies and all conference sessions
- Refreshment Breaks
- Thursday breakfast and lunch
- Friday breakfast, lunch, banquet
- Saturday breakfast, lunch
- Ringing Link 2014 T-Shirt

A non-refundable deposit of \$175 per person must accompany the registration which is due **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014** (Dickens' birth date in 1812). The balance of \$220 (adults) \$195 (students) is due April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Thursday evening will be an opportunity to visit Winnipeg's Historic Forks, where the Red and Assiniboine Rivers meet – a wonderful place to visit, shop and eat. See the imposing National Museum of Human Rights, the only Canadian National Museum outside the Capital region of Ottawa, walk across the Louis Riel Esplanade and explore historic St. Boniface. Or perhaps you might enjoy an evening with friends or family or take in some other sight-seeing such as Assiniboine Park and Zoo with the Leo Mol Sculpture Gardens.

Saturday afternoon will feature a concert program open to the public with all the massed directors leading all participants in massed ringing of Christmas music from the Past, Present and Yet to Come. It promises to be a ***Dickens of a Ring!*** Please consider joining other handbell ringing enthusiasts next July!

Watch for further information coming to you through Provincial Newsletters and later on the website. Registration details will be coming out in early December. For further information, kindly contact Co-Chairs:

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## **A NOTE OF GRATITUDE**

*By Lorna Davidchuk*

On October 26, 2013, our choir from Robertson-Wesley United Church, the 'Robertson-Wesley Ringers' (RWR), were invited to play at 'Handbell Discovery's' Final Concert. One of our members, Betty Radford, who also plays in Jubiloso!, had won the Fred Merrett Composition Competition in two categories! We had been asked to perform one of these winners, the piece she had submitted in the 3 to 5 octave category. "Dancing with the Yao People" is an absolutely gorgeous piece, and Betty's skillful use of the entire five octaves, ability to choose appropriate special handbell effects, and her ability to introduce a variety of moods through dynamic contrasts and elegant musical line has made this piece a personal favourite. Our choir members were honoured to have the opportunity to introduce it to the audience.

At the end of Saturday's concert, Peter Bortolin, currently Past-president of ALGEHR, got up to announce that, in honor of the ALGEHR's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2013, the Board had decided to appoint another 'Honorary Life Member'. As he was talking, I was trying to guess who the lucky recipient might be. **When he announced my name, I was so taken by surprise that I had to sit for a minute to absorb the situation before going up to give Peter a huge hug and say thank you.** Linda Stockl, who held the Discovery portfolio on the ALGEHR Board, asked me for a speech. I was so taken aback by the honor bestowed on me, that, for once, I was unusually and totally speechless!

Although I was unable to find my voice at the Discovery, I realized that in *The Peal*, I could express my sincere, heartfelt thanks to the current ALGEHR Board and the members it represents, for bestowing this honor on me. I can't believe that I am joining amazing Life Members such as John Nelson Sr., Rufus Schellenberg, Stan Morris, Peter Bortolin, Fred Merrett, Alison Wood, and my husband, Leonard Davidchuk.

Apparently my husband and others were aware of the presentation that was planned, but they did not say a word to me. In fact, in the car going to Concordia for the Handbell Discovery's Final Concert on Saturday, October 26, 2013, I was talking to Leonard about how unbelievable it is to accept that ALGEHR is now 30 years old, and to look back at the huge impact it has had on so much of our lives together as a couple. We began ringing Handbells in 1979, have been ringing ever since, and realize that handbells have made our lives richer in many ways. We have met many wonderful people, travelled in Canada, to Japan in 1986, and Australia in 2006 with the Robertson-Wesley Ringers for International Symposia, and played with RWR at many, many venues over the years. Life is good, and Leonard and I promised each other that we would continue to play as long as we possibly can!

In reflecting on my experiences and contributions to the Alberta Guild of English this weekend, I realized that many of you would not remember the time or circumstances that resulted in this life membership. It may interest you to know that I was present thirty years ago, as the Guild was beginning. Indeed I was a founding member of ALGEHR, which was the first Handbell Guild in Canada, when it formed in 1983. John Nelson was the first president of this guild, and I served as the second President of ALGEHR from 1984-1986, despite my misgivings. During my Presidency, ALGEHR hosted the second 'International Handbell Festival' in Edmonton at the University of Alberta in 1985, and as president, of course, I was required to provide leadership, be actively involved in planning, and indeed in every aspect of that Festival. It was also pointed out to me that it is often difficult to take a lesser role in a community one has once led, but unlike many leaders, I continued to serve the Guild in roles that may appear to be less demanding. These included being part of the Planning Committee in Olds, Alberta for the 'Handbell Happening in the Heart of Alberta' festival, was Past-President of ALGEHR from 1986-1988, Member at Large from 2001-2003, and the Membership Chairperson on the ALGEHR Board in 2003-2005.

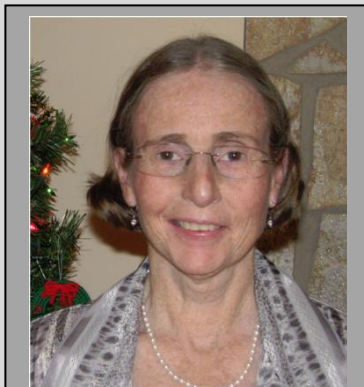
(Continued on page 12)

### *A Note of Gratitude Continued:*

During my Presidency, there were very few of us that were old enough, experienced enough or knowledgeable enough to know what would be required to keep the Guild running and profitable. We got some help from the Alberta Government, and the Board learned the requirements and were diligent in laying the groundwork for the next 30 years by establishing the first Bylaws, designing the Logo for ALGEHR, creating programs, and manuals, developed guidelines for clinics and events such as Handbell Discovery, Read and Ring, Ringing Link, and Handbell Festivals. We registered as a not-for-profit organization, established Clinician Guidelines and gratuities, and created Guidelines and Exhibitor Contracts for displayers at events and Festivals, while ensuring that all events and programs established budgets, and there would be regular audits of our finances.

The first 10 years were an amazing adventure and a lot of hard work for the many devoted ALGEHR members. Over the followings two decades, our Presidents and Board Members have continued to produce great ideas and results. I am only one of many who deserve this award of Life Membership, and I feel very humbled by the ALGEHR's decision. It also was so very special to receive it during the celebration this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of ALGEHR's existence, surrounded by my esteemed handbell colleagues.

With many thanks and much appreciation,  
Lorna Davidchuk,  
Founding and Life Member of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers



Lorna Davidchuk, Dec. 2013

*Photo: L. Davidchuk*

### **Music Reviews (Continued from page 5):**

#### **Joys Are Flowing Like a River (Blessed Quietness),**

Arr. Page, 345 Choirchimes®, Level 2+

As soon as I heard this piece, I liked it even though the tune was unfamiliar to me. It has a beautiful flowing melody that just sings throughout the entire piece as it passes among the upper bells, the middle chimes, and back to bells. The original music was written in 1897 and is not in any of the hymnaries that I have. If you are looking for a piece of music around prayers in worship, this would work well.

#### **Great Is My Faithfulness,**

Arr. Moklebust, 345 octaves opt. Choirchimes®, Level 3-

I didn't think I would ever find an arrangement of this piece that I liked better than Dobrinski's but I think I might have ☺! Moklebust adds variety to this music with a flowing bass line with the melody in the trebles and then moves those flowing lines up to the upper trebles and puts the melody into an organ sound with the Choirchimes®. She has 5 bars of fermatas that just are perfect. The director will need really need to be clear with his/her gestures to ensure that the ringers know exactly what to do. Ringers need to be sure to watch the director carefully so that the pauses enhance the musicality rather than look like people are lost.

#### **Supplication,**

By Keller, 345 octaves, Level 3

I must admit that I had to look up "Supplication". From the picture on the front of the music, (although it sounded like it could be a medical term) – I knew it had something to do with prayer. This prayerful piece is written all in minor keys so would work well for the season of Lent. The prayers start off confidently at an mf, then are repeated a little softer. There are many crescendos in the prayers throughout the music. The most interesting part for me is that some of these prayers are rung at a forte as well as a fortissimo. I wonder what prayers Keller was thinking of during these passages. I am seriously considering purchasing this for my church choir.



## Edmonton Youth Handbell Festivals 2014

The organizing committee of the Youth Handbell Festivals – Edmonton is pleased to announce a **new partnership between The Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers and the Kiwanis Music Festival**. These two organizations are joining forces to co-sponsor the 2014 Youth Handbell Festivals. This festival is an opportunity for your handbell group to share music they have prepared, work with an adjudicator in a workshop setting and participate in a mass ringing.

In the spring of 2014, the Youth Handbell Festivals will be included as a class in the Kiwanis Music Festival. The format of the festivals WILL NOT change. Participating choirs will be invited to prepare two selections of music with the option of one of those selections being the massed ringing piece. The festivals (or handbell classes) will run the week of April 22 – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Both afternoon and morning time slots will be available. Festivals (or classes) will be limited to 6 handbell groups in order to allow the adjudicator to work with each group for a 15 minute workshop. Dates and locations will be confirmed later this fall.

The massed ringing piece chosen for this year is *Campana Sonos* by Kathleen Wissinger.

Registration for the festivals / classes will take place through the Kiwanis Music Festival registration website, available later this fall. Note the following change: **ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 30, 2014**. Look for further details in the PEAL, or inquiries can be made to Lorna Walker, Lorna.Walker@epsb.ca

### Notes from the Editor:

Thanks for your contributions and support of ALGEHR. There is so much to do: Attend an *Alberta Bell Event*; Plan to go to *Ringling Link 2014* this summer in *Winnipeg*; Start dreaming about attending the *IHS 2016* in *Vancouver*. We are so fortunate to have such great events happening close to home ☺ Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings! *Anne*

### Music Reviews (Continued from page 12):

#### Psalm 24 (Sacred Places)

By Eithun, 345 octaves opt. Choirchimes®/Narrator, Level 3

This is an original piece of music that has some really descriptive interpretations of the Psalm. Although the narrator is optional, I really think that it enhances the presentation of the piece. If you are not using a narrator, it would be best to use the optional title "Sacred Places". The piece is all kind of quiet and ethereal. It has the quarter marked at 69 so it is not fast but it has some tricky 16<sup>th</sup> notes that will need extra rehearsing to that they don't sound like triplets. Keeping the speed at the marked tempo marking really will help this piece help you feel in a "Sacred Place".

#### Mozart Allegro

Arr. Edwards, 3 or 5 octaves , Level 3

This is a fantastic arrangement of this very well known Allegro from Symphony No. 40. If you are looking for something classical but catchy, this is what you need. It goes at a quick pace (allegro) and will truly be a crowd pleaser. Make sure that you add dynamics and keep the pace so that is it played the Mozart would have wanted it played.

#### Call of the Bells

Winter, 34567, Level 3

This will be performed at the 16th International Handbell Symposium in South Korea in 2014. Winter writes "Bells in churches and cathedrals all over the world call people to worship, to mourn, to give thanks and to celebrate". That's exactly what this piece does. It calls us to do all of those things. The bells peal through the music but the peals have a wide variety of accompaniment. I can only imagine how fantastic it will sound in South Korea.

#### Jerusalem

Arr. Krug , 345 opt. Choirchimes®, Level 3+

Krug has done some amazing arranging in the opening couple of pages. The use of a suspended mallets on the melody, the addition of a chime accompaniment, then the switch of the melody to the bass bells with the chime accompaniment in the trebles. You will need to count carefully throughout as the pulse changes from ¾ to 4/4 in a variety of places. This grand tune can fit anywhere!

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **Ringling Link 2014**

July 2 – 5, 2014  
Manitoba, Canada

### **International Music Camp:**

July 2014  
North Dakota, USA

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

### **Korea International Symposium 2014**

August 5 to 9, 2014  
Jeju, Korea

### **Vancouver International Symposium 2016**

Summer, 2016  
Vancouver, BC

### **Handbell Discovery 2014**

October 2014  
Will it be in your community?

Visit us at our  
ALGEHR Website:  
[www.algehr.org](http://www.algehr.org)

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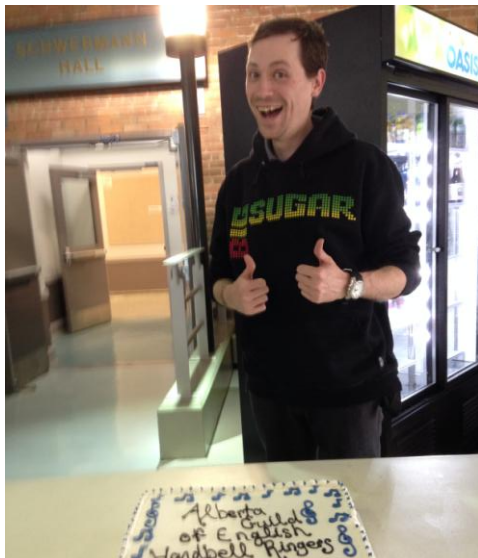
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### **New member of the ALGEHR Board of Directors: Russell Dunkerley**



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