



Handbell Composer Heroes: Fred Merrett and Kevin McChesney at the Classic Bronze Final Concert, July 4, 2010 Edmonton. Watch for the next Peal for more about this successful Classic Bronze Event!

Photo by Amy Merrett

ALGEHR Members are invited to the 2010 Annual General Meeting
Saturday, October 16, 2010
11:15 am to 1:00 pm
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
1818 5th Avenue S.
Lethbridge, Alberta

President's Message- Volunteers Needed!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I know it has been a wet few months for most of Alberta, but I hope it hasn't "dampened" your ringing spirit!

For over the history of ALGEHR, we've kicked off the new season with Handbell Discovery. The Lethbridge Committee has done a wonderful job of putting a high quality program together to re-invigorate experienced ringers and to introduce new musicians to this wonderful art. I hope to see you all there.

During Handbell Discovery, we also hold our Annual General Meeting. This year's meeting will be held at St. Andrew's Church in Lethbridge from 11:15 am to 1:00 pm. During the meeting, the past year's activities are reviewed along with the annual financial report. Most importantly, though, are the elections of the Board of Directors. As we will have retirements this year, including myself, I urge you to get involved. Not only are you participating in the growth of handbell ringing, you also will have a lot of fun! The Board Members are involved in workshops, festivals, competitions and donations. If you are interested, please drop me a note at president@algehr.org.

Thank-you to all of the ALGEHR members and especially the Board of Directors for making my term as President so exciting!

Peter Bortolin

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Register now
for

**HANDBELL
DISCOVERY**

October
15/16

www.algehr.org

**RINGING
LINK 2011**

Calgary
July 6-9

www.ringinglink.ca



Team Canada Bell tables

Photo by John Hooper

Echoes for Peace

14th International Handbell Symposium

August 3-7, 2010
Osaka, Japan

By Emmy Bortolin-Okazawa

1100 ringers...

5 days...

Countless memories and experiences...

Every two years, the faithful come together, to reconnect with old friends and to discover new ones, to stretch their minds and bodies to embrace new ideas and challenges and to ring their little hearts out with some of the world's top conductors. This latest global gathering had its own set of challenges, but in true Japanese style and like its über-precise rail systems, the hard-working organizing committee pulled off a hugely successful and inspirational event.

Neither heat nor humidity, nor mixed up rehearsal times, nor language barriers could stand in the way of ensuring that everyone's expectations and needs were met, resulting in possibly the most impressive massed ringing final concerts – yes, there were TWO – that anyone could remember.

The double-concert concept ended up working quite well and not only produced two unique musical

offerings to accommodate the vast number of registrants who made their way to Osaka this August, but also allowed said registrants to actually enjoy being a spectator for at least one of the two final concerts (something which normally never happens at any massed event). Rehearsals for all 1100 took place in a space which essentially made up a complete floor of the Osaka International Convention Center. And how big a space you ask?



Team Canada (in red) sets up their table.



Rehearsal Room for 1100 ringers!

Well, when the FULL “5-minute break” is required just to make your way from one end of the hall to grab some water and return to your table, that should give some kind of rough idea...

The emphasis on this particular symposium seemed to be more on encouraging and highlighting all the individual performers showcased during the four mini-concerts which represented nearly 7 hrs of stage time! Registrants had the option of choosing up to 4 workshops or participating in the challenge of some

very quick study and performing in either the Echoes for Peace concert choir or the Symposium choir. Two official social outings – to the delightful Kacho-en (an exotic flower and bird park) and a morning excursion to tradition-steeped Kyoto – offered a chance to break out of the convention center and to remind ourselves what 37°C and 300% humidity felt like, regardless of the time of day!

Any group activity had to be executed with military precision – as expected – whether coordinating the caravan of 12 full coach busses as they negotiated tight parking spaces, trying to organize everyone for the massive group photo (what does “cheese” sound like when chanted by 1100 voices?) and even feeding that many hungry ringers after all those long, physical massed rehearsals. Usually there were at least 2 and sometimes 3 different halls set up for lunches and dinners, but miraculously everyone was usually fed within an hour. Perhaps the greatest example of punctuality (and everyone’s favourite) was the keeper of the traffic lights (for massed conductors) who kept everyone on their toes with her entertaining official start and end calls. As such, massed rehearsals were always on schedule!

Hong Kong is the 7th guild to gain membership into our international family

Some exciting updates from the International Handbell Committee were announced, notably, the addition of Hong Kong as the 7th guild to gain membership into our international family joining Japan, the US, the UK, Korea, Australasia and Canada. As well, there were several groups from Singapore, Taiwan, Philippines, and China in attendance.

Team Canada - Although numbering only 9 in total (including massed conductor, John Hooper) Team Canada had a strong presence as we boasted the symposium’s youngest and hottest new composer: Robyn Tyrrell. Robyn composed *Pandemonium*, which was the Canadian massed piece. Robyn was mobbed by adoring fans every time she turned around. Apparently she stopped counting the number of autographed scores after Day 2.

Canada was represented in the special Echoes for Peace concert held on the anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bomb (August 6) with a duet by Emmy and Peter Bortolin of “Truly Amazing” - a beautiful setting of Amazing Grace - who were honoured to be accompanied by the arranger, AGEHR’s Kath Wissinger.



Robyn Tyrrell and John Hooper



Robyn Tyrrell signing autographs.



Team Canada: (l-r) Robyn Tyrrell, Anne Hill, Peter Bortolin, Alison Wood, Kathie Zalasky, Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, Doris May and Dian Sader (Missing: John Hooper)

Photo: Nico Bortolin

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJaOVsm2vL8>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOGcomqSOtg&feature=related>



Emmy Bortolin-Okazawa and Peter Bortolin perform their duet, "Truly Amazing"

Each IHC member guild presented a similar individual performance and the concert was rounded out by performances by the Echoes for Peace choirs.

The final concert day, August 7, was the ultimate in logistical challenges, but nothing seemed to faze HRJ's (Handbell Ringers of Japan) worker-bee team of 150 volunteers who, overnight, magically transformed the original concert stage into an area double its size. A variety of individual performances including ALGEHR's Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin, with a solo of "The Typewriter", some individual choirs and the Symposium choirs were interspersed between the 7 massed ringing selections. Orchestral instruments from flutes to cymbals to Japanese wadaiko (drum) enriched this thrilling finale to an unforgettable few days of fellowship creating music and global harmony.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qDLvYDf2bU>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hs1UK_Kr-5A&feature=related

<http://www.youtube.com/user/wakky10416>

Before we knew it, it was already time for farewells and one last supper together at the Closing Ceremonies where ceremonial transfers of the Symposium flag and bell were passed onto HRGB (Handbell Ringers of Great Britain) who will be hosting July 31 – August 4, 2012 in Liverpool, England!

<http://www.symposium.hrgb.org.uk/>

Although the memories of this symposium may be slowly passing into history, it is time to begin dreaming about the next "big one"!

Mark your calendars and start making your plans so that the next Team Canada will be even more awesome in 2012!



Kevin Ko & Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin



The Ceremonial Opening of the barrel of Sake. Pictured (l-r): Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara (HRJ President - this guy is 99 years old!), Alan Hartley (HRGB Chair), John In Chul Lee (KHA President - Korean Handbell Association), Anne Hill (HGC Chair), Carmel Daveson (HSA President - Handbell Society of Australasia), John Pfeiffer (AGEHR President).

Videos of the Sakura Final Concert (in which Team Canada performed) and the Echoes for Peace concert can be viewed at:



Photos by Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin

Ring Beside the Bridge
Handbell Discovery 2010
 October 15th & 16th
 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
 Lethbridge, AB

Adult registration - \$75 Youth registration - \$25
 For more information about this event, contact:
 Fiona Miller by email : discovery@algehr.org

Alberta
 Guild of English
 Handbell Ringers

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're interested in helping our volunteer organizing committee, please go to:
www.ringinglink.ca

TEACHERS' CORNER

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

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

Let's share them!

Send your ideas to peal@algehr.org



Handbell Music Reviews

From **Handbells Etc.**

Submitted by **Camille Ream**

Edmonton Alberta, fall 2010

Technicalities for Handbells Volume 1

(Rustic Mallet Dance and Echo Canyon)

Wissinger

2/3 octaves, Level 1+

Two pieces in one! Always a great option. These two beginning pieces are just right for your choir if you are planning to teach them how to mallet or how to echo. All ringers get a chance to do these techniques. The written instructions remind directs that repeated quarter notes should be malleted by alternate mallets. There is also some practice exercises included in the score.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Arr. Wissinger

3/5 octaves, Level 2

This arrangement of the popular Christmas song is a really great arrangement. There are lots of techniques included as well as a sing-along section. It ends with a great martlift that will provide the perfect opportunity for your choir to receive a spontaneous applause.

Andante in F Minor (Psalm of Hope)

Helman

3/4/5 octaves Opt. Choirchimes®, Level 2+

What a wonderful original handbell composition. The flowing melody and arpeggio chords at the beginning will make your audience fall in love with this piece. The first time that I heard it, I wanted to listen to it again! I love that the middle section is written in the key of F major - it adds so much to the piece.

Jingle Bellathon

Arr. Stephenson

3/4/5 octaves Opt. Choirchimes® and optional slapstick, sleighbells and maracas, Level 2+

This will definitely be a crowd pleaser for any concert! Valerie has taken this simple tune to a new level. Each verse has a different technique or rhythm. The addition of Choirchimes® and the grace notes in the middle section give a reflective rendition of Jingle Bells.

The melody changes to the middle chimes, the bass becomes chordal and the high trebles become delicately moving eighth notes. This music works well at any worship service.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

2010

Handbell Discovery 2010

October 15-16, 2010
Lethbridge, Alberta

2011

The Ringing Link

July 6 – 9, 2011
Calgary, Alberta

COME TO
LETHBRIDGE

Register Now!

Handbell Etc. Music Reviews Continued...

Psalm 23

Lamb

3/4/5 octaves Opt. Choirchimes®, Level 3

This original composition really works well for Psalm 23. The melody lines are soothing and comforting. The bass notes are simple but strong. When my choir does this, I would like to see a PowerPoint presentation with pictures to reflect the words. If you are looking for an original sacred composition, this would be a great choice!

Come Holy Spirit (Invocation)

Arr. Tucker

3/4/5 octaves opt. Choirchimes®, Level 3

Based on the plainsong (Veni Creator Spiritus) and the Welsh tune Aberystwyth, the haunting melody starts with a singing bell, and malleted suspended notes. The singing bells continue and plainsong melody is played on Choirchimes®.

Celtic Noel

Arr. Tucker

3/4/5 octaves opt. Choirchimes® and flute or pennywhistle/piccolo, Level 3

This piece is really The First Noel! The C Instrument part, there are many ornaments and gracenotes which give the music the Celtic feel. Although the piece says the C Instrument is optional, it adds so much to the music that it would be a shame not to use it. If you do not have a C Instrument available, I would add the ornaments and grace notes to the bell part. This would be it more difficult than a level 3 piece but would definitely give it the Celtic feel that Sondra is looking for.

Believe (from the movie Polar Express)

Arr. Eithun

3/4/5 octaves opt. Choirchimes® and percussion

This music is lyrical and great to listen to. It is great that one of the publishers has been able to print some music from a popular motion picture. So much of the music coming out now is sacred hymns tunes.

Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Arr. Hakes

3/4/5 octaves

This traditional West Indies Carol is fun and spirited! The use of mallets makes the rhythms easier and helps keep the flavour of the music. Great fun for the intermediate choir!



That First Christmas Night (QUARTET)

Arr. Lamb

3 octaves

This piece combines It Came Upon the Midnight Clear and Silent Night - two great pieces for the Christmas season. This would be a terrific choice for Christmas Eve! It is classed as an Easy/Moderate difficulty.

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
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).
- Poster format: any drawing media in original hard copy and/or pdf.
- Content: ONLY original artwork and design will be allowed. (No computer graphics).
- 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 Round-up" to reflect Calgary's western heritage with activities associated to this including Stampede.
- 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.

Notes from the Editor

Thanks to all of you who sent ideas and comments for making this a better newsletter for our ALGEHR members. This "Extra" Peal highlights the exciting Osaka event and reminds members about our exciting events to come. If you have suggestions or submissions for our next Peal, please send them to: peal@algehr.org by October 31. Our next Peal will come out in November.

*See you all at Discovery in Lethbridge!
-Anne Hergott*

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found nowhere else.

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