

Come to... **ALGEHR'S Handbell Discovery 2013!**

Celebrate ALGEHR's 30th Anniversary with a 3 'Ring' Circus!!

Join us at **Concordia University, Edmonton**, on **Saturday, October 26**, for a fun-filled day exploring the world of handbells.

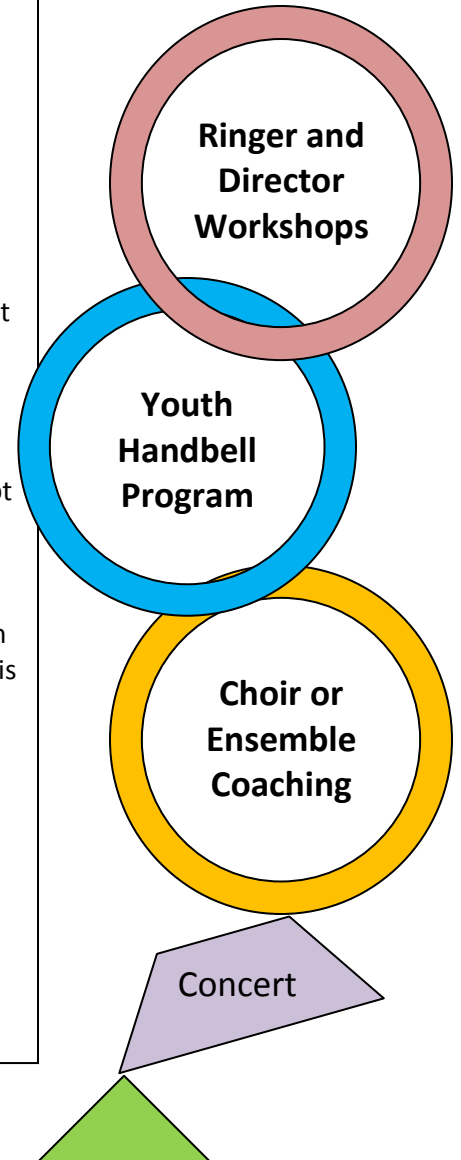
In the Center Ring, we will be featuring a variety of workshops to excite ringers and directors alike! Learn a new technique in a how-to session! Try on some new music at a Read-n-Ring Session! Clown around using bells in the Classroom! Stay tuned for a full listing of workshops, available soon.

In the Second Ring, there will be a day-long program for Youth. Rhythm, games, fun and frolic! Repertoire for the youth program is: **Sunrise** by Betty Radford (manuscript available from discovery@algehr.org) and **A Simple Pizzicato** by Derek Hakes

In the Third Ring, The final ring, the very SPECIAL Ring... we are pleased to offer for your enjoyment the opportunity for your choir or ensemble to work one-on-one with one of our coaches. Your choir or ensemble should come prepared with a piece that is a current "work in progress" (not performance ready, but not sight reading either). Our coach will work with you, offering suggestions to continue the development of your chosen repertoire.

There will also be a Sharing Concert at the end of the day featuring the Youth Strand participants and premiere performances of this year's **Fred Merritt Composition Competition Winners**. If you or your choir would like to share a piece at this event, please contact us!

Contact discovery@algehr.org for any further information about Discovery 2013.



Also in this issue:

**Carl Engstrom honoured
in Lethbridge**

**ALGEHR celebrates 30
years!**

**Current Handbell
Happenings**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a great summer I have had! It started with a trip to Croatia, then the UK, teaching in the Boston area and in New Brunswick, then sailing and kayaking in PEI. Amazing! The best part was I missed all of the awful storms but my garden was still green when I got home last week.

I hope however you have spent the summer months; you have been able to enjoy some R&R so that as the fall approaches you are all feeling excited to start another season.

Please keep watching the ALGEHR website for information on registration and information for the Jeju Conference. There is also lots of information coming out for Discovery in Edmonton in October. Make sure to mark your calendars and get your registrations in because it sounds like it is going to be a terrific day celebrating ALGEHR's 30th Anniversary.

Enjoy your last few weeks in the sunshine and good luck as you begin the preparations for the fall season. My Christmas music is selected – now I just need to place the order!

Happy ringing!

Fiona



Celebrating 30 years: ALGEHR Current Board Members

Remember to register for **ALGEHR'S** annual

HANDBELL DISCOVERY 2013

Oct 26, 2013

Concordia University, Edmonton

Come and celebrate ALGEHR's 30th Anniversary with a **3 'Ring' Circus!!**

For more information, please contact discovery@algehr.org.

ALGEHR MEMBERS!!!

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

New ringers are especially welcome (and will appreciate all there is to do) at Handbell Discovery!

Are You a Composer?

ALGEHR offers yearly awards for new handbell compositions. Check out our ALGEHR website (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)

**MEMORIES OF THE "BIRTH" OF
THE ALBERTA GUILD OF ENGLISH HANDBELL RINGERS
By Alison Wood**

It was the last weekend of April in 1983 when devoted handbell ringers and directors from all over Alberta and Saskatchewan made the pilgrimage to Calgary to attend a workshop with the guru of handbell ringing, **Donald Allured**. Don had a great reputation for his original bell music, his arrangements, his choir at Westminster Choir College, his ability to teach technique and musicality, and his favourite saying: "Playing the right bell at the right time is only the beginning." He had been invited by **John Nelson Sr.** to come to Calgary and give a workshop to interested ringers. It was one of the first times that a clinician of that calibre had ever been in Alberta, and as I recall, there were people who thought we were not ready for advanced workshops. However, John had a dream, and he had tenacity!

Handbells had been ringing in Alberta for close to twenty years by that time. **The First Baptist Church** in Calgary and **Robertson United** in Edmonton (which became Robertson-Wesley in 1971) had been ringing Schulmerich bells since the mid-1960s. **KnoxMet** in Edmonton rang a set of Whitechapel bells made in England. By the end of the seventies, thanks to the work of **John Nelson Sr.**; **Cyril Mossop**, the School Superintendent in Calgary; and **Fred Merrett** in Edmonton, there was a real presence of handbells in the schools in both centers, and a variety of smaller centers were also getting involved with handbells, both in churches and schools. Malmark bells now had a representative in Alberta, and a number of people had become members of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR) to improve their skills, since there was nothing like it in Canada.

By 1983, there were more than 100 sets of bells in Alberta Schools and our teachers were having difficulty finding pieces to play. Most published music in the US was sacred since most of their bell sets were in Churches. In Alberta, most bells were in the public school system and as such, teachers were required to use secular music, except at Christmas. Many were arranging their own music. The rest of us were using the educational lesson plans and multiple copies of music available from Schulmerich, the manual written by Don Allured called Joyfully Ring! and music from the books written by Martha Lynn Thompson.

At the 1983 weekend workshop, where **the seed for the Alberta Guild was planted by John Nelson**, Don went through the exercises in his new book, Musical Excellence in Handbells, and our knowledge of handbells increased exponentially. Dynamics, bell passes, table damping to change bells, weaving, new special effects, and the need and ability to play musically were introduced, practiced and used within pieces. We were excited, energized, and motivated to challenge ourselves with tougher music. I still have the pages and pages of notes I took, and can relive the frustration of my first crack at weaving!



Alison Wood, 2012
Photo A. Wood



Don Allured, 1983
Photo: A. Wood



Fred Merrett, Ringing
Link, 2011
Photo: A. Hergott



John Nelson, June 2011
Photo: Jade Demers

Memories of ALGEHR (continued from page 3)

By Alison Wood

John Nelson Sr. had expected this reaction, and at an expanded coffee-break, called a meeting and broached the idea of forming a guild like that in the US. This organization would be split between north and south, and each would take turns being in the executive position and ensuring that there was a Handbell Festival each year. Donald Allured, still known as the Father of English Handbell Ringing, was invited to give his advice and thoughts. By the end of the weekend, we knew what the goals were, had invited Don to return to Calgary in June of the following year to follow up his teaching at a brand new Festival event, and plans were made for the next meeting.

There were wonderful people from all over the province at that workshop, and it was there that I met some people who are still part of the history of the Alberta Guild – **Rufus Schellenberg**, and his family from Olds including his daughter, **Carol** (now **Bergum**) who would later become one of our presidents and was about to start University; **Carol Petrie** who would form The Saskatchewan Guild the following year; and **Stan Morris**, a music teacher from Calgary, just to name a few! We were all high on the music we were making and determined to make a go of it.

A month later there was another meeting in Calgary in which bylaws and other requirements were handled, but I will leave that story for Carol Bergum to tell, as she was there. Shortly after that meeting, all documents had been signed by the founding members, delivered to the Alberta Government and the Alberta Guild was formed with John Nelson as president.

Much has been done in the meantime, but I must say in hindsight that **those first ten years were incredible**. Donald Allured did return for the Festival in Calgary in June of 1984 that had been John's dream, and the first Festival was a great success. At the end of the Festival, the first Annual General Meeting was held, John Nelson received the first Life Membership and **Lorna Davidchuk** took over the Presidency. She was able to run an Edmonton Festival in 1985 while holding on to her determination to ensure the Alberta Guild had a solid foundation. By the time her presidency ended, Alberta Guild members had received several free workshops from the Alberta Government on Board development and had completed suggestions such as writing a manual, developed a set of instructions for all events such as Festivals, Clinics, Do –It-Yourself Workshops, and had run several of these events in various centres in Alberta. **Carol Schellenberg** followed as president. Handbell Discovery was just one of her great contributions to the Guild. **Fred Merrett** was next in line, reinstating youth festivals and revising bylaws, helping other Canadian guilds to form and representing Alberta and Canada in Korea and Japan. All of this was done without the help of computers or fax machines, rarely used in those days, and with a budget that depended mainly on memberships. I remember a number of us chipping in money to buy stamps to send out membership renewals, hoping that reimbursement might be possible.



Carol (Schellenberg) Bergum and Alison Wood, 1980s

Photo: A. Wood



Stan Morris, 1985

Photo: A. Wood



Lorna Davidchuk, 2011

Photo: L. Davidchuk

Memories of ALGEHR (continued from page 4)

By Alison Wood

Looking back I am amazed at the fact that we were able to run an **International Symposium** before the decade was over, and an extremely successful one at that, leading to a **leadership position in the International Handbell Committee**. I can remember the sense of shock and pride when representing Western Canada at AGEHR Area X meetings in my position as President of ALGEHR, and their reaction when I pulled out our manuals to make a suggestion on how to do their Festival. The American Guild was thirty-eight years old by then, but they did not have an organizational manual, and each festival was planned from scratch with no previous records for reference. Their respect for our accomplishments in the first nine years marked a substantial change in the relationship between us.

There have been some questions about when the Alberta Guild actually formed, and I will end by taking responsibility for the confusion. We were all exhausted by the end of the International Symposium in 1992, and I was not expecting to stay for a second term as President. By the time I had time to think about the first decade it was long over! We held a concert to celebrate in 1995, comprised of music by Canadian composers. However, the Alberta Guild was registered as a Society in 1983, the first handbell guild in Canada, followed by Saskatchewan in 1984, Ontario in 1985, B.C. in 1993 and Manitoba in 1996. We have developed a strong history over these thirty years, and have much of which to be justly proud!!

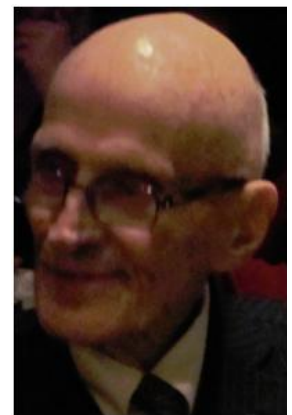
Alison Wood is a founding member and a Life Member of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers, and served it in a variety of capacities including President during the very successful fifth International Symposium in Edmonton. The concept of Handbell Guilds of Canada was launched in her living room, 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.

John Nelson, first president of ALGEHR, was the major influence behind the expansion of bells into Alberta. He recalls that he “attended the Schulmerich Sales meeting in January 1963. The new Handbells were introduced to all the Schulmerich District Managers at that meeting. The company only had the two octave set of handbells developed & manufactured to show us. We formed groups & the first handbell choirs rang the handbells. What wonderful music we introduced to the world.”

“I brought the first two octave set of Schulmerich handbells into Canada & I sold that set to the First Baptist Church in Calgary. It was the 75th Anniversary of the church that year. My wife Carol directed that first choir & since there was no music written for handbells at that time, she wrote handbell music for the handbell ringers on large cards & continued writing the musical scores for the choir until the first handbell music was available from the music publishers in the United States.”

“It was Cyril Mossop who was the Music Director at First Baptist Church. He was also the supervisor of music for the Calgary Board of Education, and was looking for an instrument for the elementary schools. He thought the handbells would be ideal so he ordered the first set. Ruth Burke was the first teacher that had a handbell choir in Calgary.”

The **birth of ALGEHR** came out of this humble beginning. John Nelson writes that “Alison’s message (the article above) certainly outlined all the information on the Handbell growth in the province of Alberta. I could not add much more.”



John Nelson at his retirement party, winter 2012

Other Handbell News

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 – 25th, 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



Stella Tian, long time Bell ringer at First Baptist Church in Calgary married Dan in June, 2013. Stella celebrated her big day to the sound of bells as she walked down the aisle.

This is one of the great benefits of belonging to a bell choir!! What is more beautiful than bells at a wedding? Ok, well... Stella was definitely more beautiful!!

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!

Advertisement Opportunities:



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

Handbell Bouquet

First Baptist Church Lethbridge Recognizes One of Our Own: Carl Engstrom

By Lucy Graham

On June 9th, First Baptist Church in Lethbridge held their Creative Arts Sunday. The Family Handbell Group directed by Lucy Graham played during the morning worship services. As usual, Carl Engstrom willingly filled in playing two of the missing positions.

Following the offertory pieces being played here, **Carl Engstrom was recognized for his contribution to the music ministry of First Baptist Church.** He was instrumental in introducing Hand bells to First Baptist Church in 1991. At the time he was teaching school at Lakeview Elementary. He was playing a piece for the offertory and he asked a few of us to join him and play a few chords on the hand bells at the end of his piece. Following that occasion, Carl was asked if he would direct a hand bell choir if the Church Council would be willing to use funds from the Memorial Fund to purchase the bells. The rest is history.

Carl directed the Adult Choir and some kids' choirs over the next 21 years while participating at the board level of **ALGEHR.** He has been the secretary of the board, membership secretary, and VP South. He has arranged and composed a variety of music for Handbells and has been a winner of the ALGEHR composition awards. Carl has attended and participated in Ringing Links in Saskatoon, Edmonton and Winnipeg.

Carl continues to ring in the handbell choirs at McKillop United Church and at First Baptist (where he also plays the organ on a regular basis). He has passed on his love for Handbells to many of us and more recently passed the director's role at First Baptist to Lucy Graham.

In recognition of his contribution to the Music Ministry, a banner was made by Janet Alexander and presented to Carl during the Creative Arts Sunday. The banner shows the keyboard and the beautiful notes of joy that we love while ringing the bells.



Carl Engstrom, with the banner, Janet Alexander, and Lucy Graham



The Family Handbell Group, directed by Lucy Graham, at the First Baptist Church, Lethbridge, with Carl Engstrom (far right)

Photos submitted by L. Graham

Canadian Handbell News!



The Manitoba Guild of English Handbell Ringers invites you to attend the 7th 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-19th century), the Present (19th century Victorian era of Dickens' time), and Music Yet to Come (20th/21st 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 16th to 21st 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 7th, 2014 (Dickens' birth date in 1812). The balance of \$220 (adults) \$195 (students) is due April 30th, 2013.

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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R0G 2P0
(204) 735-2423 patavert@pmcnet.ca

Morna-June Morrow
27 Rochester Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 3V6
(204) 269-0208 m-jmorrow@shaw.ca

Information Update!

2014 Jeju International Handbell Symposium Registration & Payment Schedule and Accommodations

Registration & Payment Schedule:

- \$850 CAD per person, registration to open September 1, 2013
- Forms will be distributed to provincial guilds as soon as they are available Fall 2013
- Cheques or money orders to be made out to **Handbell Guilds of Canada**
- Completed forms and deposits of \$325 CAD to be received by November 30, 2013 by:
Marcia Gosse, Treasurer, HGC
271 Mountbatten Ave, Ottawa, ON, K1H 5W2
- Final balance payment of \$525 CAD to be received by March 15, 2014
- All deposits are non-returnable and cannot be refunded. For cancellations made after March 31, 2014 balance payments are non-refundable. Delegate substitutions may be permitted.

Note (1): Payments have been converted to Canadian currency – after the wire transfers, on behalf of all participants, as well as the exchange rate to USD, any difference will be refunded.

Note (2): The deadline set by the Korean Handbell Association (KHA) December 31, 2013. However, in order to avoid any postal delays due to Christmas, we will keep the original HGC deadline of November 30, 2013 to allow sufficient time to process and administer the wire transfer.

Registration includes:

- Attendance at all massed ringing sessions
- Selected classes/workshops
- Symposium souvenir shirt
- Lunch (Wednesday - Saturday inclusive)
- Dinner (Tuesday - Friday inclusive)
- Final Banquet (Saturday)
- Final Concert
- Varied non-ringer programme (in lieu of ringing activities/workshops)

Albertans who wish to attend must apply through ALGEHR. Contact president@algehr.org if you are interested!

Registration does NOT include:

- Original copies of massed ringing scores and
- Foam padding (which, for fire safety reasons must be ordered from KHA)

Accommodations: The following hotels have been recommended by KHA.

- The Suites Hotel <http://www.suites.co.kr>
- Hana Hotel http://www.hotelhana.co.kr/html/eng/in_010.asp
- Hyatt Regency Hotel <http://jeju.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

Note from KHA: "The symposium, which will be taking place in August of 2014, is in the middle of the typical Korean summer vacation season. Jeju Island is a very popular destination. Therefore, we strongly recommend that all participating individuals and associations plan their flight and hotel reservations this year so that you do not run into any abrupt setbacks in your schedule during the symposium."

NOW
AND
NOW
AND
NOW

THE HANDBELL OATH

I PROMISE TO COUNT,
ALWAYS WEAR WRIST SUPPORTS,
NEVER CROSS ARMS, LOCK HANDLES,
SYNCHRONIZE WITH JOE BY BEAT THREE,
PICK UP MY DOUBLE-SHELLEYS IN TIME,
ROLL-DAMP FROM THE LIP TO THE CROWN,
NEVER MAKE A FACE, TUCK IN THE TASSLES,
SMILE, MART WITH THE HANDLES ON THE PAD,
DOUBLE AN OCTAVE DOWN, TAKE A DEEP BREATH,
NEVER WHOMP, PROGRAM MY MIND, NEVER HAMMER,
KEEP THE CASTINGS LEVEL AND GET THE CHIMES OUT,
HAVE NOTHING IN MY MOUTH BUT TEETH, TONGUE AND BRACES,
GIVE THE BELL ONE QUICK TURN TO REMOVE THE JEWELLER'S ROUGE,
AND ALWAYS PLAY THE RIGHT NOTES AT THE RIGHT TIME; MUSICALLY.
THE END

*(Reprinted from the February 1996 ALGEHR Peal Newsletter)
(With permission- from the Dec '95 Issue of Quarter Notes, BC Guild)
-Found in Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin's collection of Peals*

Notes  from the Editor

We're not done celebrating our 30th year of ALGEHR yet! If you have memories or pictures of early ALGEHR moments, please send them in to share with all of us ☺ All submissions welcome by October 31, 2013. Our next Peal will come out in November.

See you at the Discovery 2013!

Anne

Website QR code



Facebook QR code



QR codes for ALGEHR's website and Facebook page are provided below. Join us there!

* **Facebook** page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlgehrAlber taGuildOfEnglishHandbellRingers>.

***Twitter:** This is linked to the Facebook posts, so any news or updates will be posted on twitter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Handbell Discovery 2013

October 26, 2013
Edmonton, Alberta

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

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

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Photo: F. Miller

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