

S P R I N G 2 0 2 2



The Peal

The Official Newsletter of the Alberta Guild of English Handbell Ringers

IHS Nashville: Aug 1-6, 2022



20th International Handbell Symposium
Nashville, Tennessee, U.S.A. • 2022

Calling Symposium fans and anyone itching to get globe-trotting again with bells - it's uncertain times for such things as travel and large gatherings. But there's good news for all those who are still unsure about registering for **IHS 2022 in Nashville... Earlybird pricing has been extended right up to the event!** That's right - there will be **NO FEE INCREASE** after the original early bird date of April 30, so you won't be penalized if it takes you a bit longer to decide for certain that you want to join in. Better still, join in on this **free Zoom chat** with fellow Canadian registrants [here](#) on **March 12, 2022 @ 11:30 am MST** to learn more – maybe even find out about some friends who are already going!

For details on registration: www.internationalhandbells.org

Save the date!!!

Notated Composure with Betty

April 2, 2022

ALGEHR Rhythms presents composer **Betty Radford** as she shows us how it's done!

Spring Ring & Bling

April 23, 2022

Virtual Concert and online Silent Auction – read on for more details and how to be a part of the festivities on page

IHS 2022 Nashville

August 1-6, 2022

Register for the **20th International Handbell Symposium** [here](#) and head on down to Nashville, Tennessee!



Board Director Betty Radford

Music and Music Education have always been central to **Betty's** career pursuits and leisure activities. Betty has had a varied music teaching career which encompasses elementary music classes, choir, piano, band, music in early childhood, and the University of Alberta as well as leading workshops and inservices. She regularly composed and arranged works for her students and choirs. Since retiring from music teaching Betty has turned her compositional skills to creating music for smaller and larger handbell choirs from level 1 - 5. Betty has had numerous compositions recognized by **ALGEHR's** Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions. **Handbell Musicians of Canada** selected "So Glorious and Free" to represent Canada at the **International Handbell Symposium** in Vancouver and

(Cont'd on p. 3)

Presidential Ponderings

I decided to drop the 'Pandemic' from the title – time to move on. Maybe I should add 'Endemic' but it doesn't seem to fit so well. Spring must be in the air, although I'm not quite sure where. Last week I into Canadian Tire to buy salt for the water softener. I came out with all things seed starting – coir pots, Jiffy pellets and seed starter trays. Nothing could have made me happier. And the great advantage of buying these at big box stores is that I am far less likely to come out with planters, succulents and bulbs than I would be if I had gone to a garden centre. Having said that, box stores do sometimes have some bargains. In mid-January I sauntered into Home Depot to buy a good old-fashioned rubber sink plug. Silly me, I'd thought they be in the Bathroom section; no, they're in Plumbing, just in case you ever need one. Between Bathrooms and Plumbing I found a rack with the saddest plants I have ever seen – Christmas hollies in decorated bucket planters. There were five of the sad creatures, sitting almost in complete darkness close to the floor, in soil with the consistency of dust. I could have swept them all up in my arms and started a plant refuge. I picked up all five, then put three back. You probably know that only female hollies bear berries and unlike guinea pigs, it's not easy to tell the men from the ladies. Actually, guinea pigs aren't that easy either. I figured with two plants there might be a chance of picking one male and one female. I transplanted them, put them in a bright position, watered and talked to them. They're not dead yet, but our daughter's feral cat (worth another Presidential Ponderings story), took one plant between its feral teeth and pulled it up. Whatever little root hairs it might tentatively be putting out were no more.

Following the success of *Discovery 2021*, I'm pleased to announce that *Discovery 2022* will be held at **St. Albert United Church**, reasonably close to Edmonton. Organization is still in the embryonic stage but we'll keep you informed as details unfurl. Depending how the Coronavirus behaves, we will plan for an in-person event but hopefully will make some workshop sessions available on a virtual platform. It certainly expanded the number of attendees at *Discovery 2021*.

We extend our condolences to **Cliff Linton**, Life Member of **ALGEHR** and former Board member on the loss of his wife, **Linda**, in early December. Like Cliff, Linda was an avid ringer and especially loved to volunteer and direct bells at her grandchildren's school in Calgary.

Life with **ALGEHR** seems to be busy at the moment, the most pressing challenge being the purchase of the **Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE)** handbell collection to expand our education outreach to adults, youth and seniors. We are planning a summer camp this year and a Spring Break camp in 2023 which should provide a fun experience for young ringers, while helping balance our budget. **ALGEHR** has a new committee: the Fundraising Committee, chaired by **Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin** and comprising both Board members and external invitees. Kudos to Emmy for initiating the *GivingTuesday* fundraising event on 30th November which featured handbell music from across the province, including both youth and adult ensembles. Thanks to **Tammy-Jo Mortensen**, the MC with an assortment of bad handbell jokes, and **Sharon Vogrinetz** who, as usual, was the tech guru with the golden touch. And of course, thanks to all the ringers who contributed their talents. We have raised over \$19,000 to date which is quite outstanding. Many thanks to all our donors. Watch for Emmy's announcement of **Spring Ring & Bling** as the next fundraising initiative on April 23rd. I am not going to steal her thunder so will say nothing more here – read about it in this edition of *The Peal*.

We suspended our monthly webinar session in October because of *Discovery 2021* and in November because of *GivingTuesday*. I guess you can hardly call the Christmas party (Fa-La x9) an educational webinar, but it was certainly quite popular. We continued the webinars in January and many thanks to Emmy for her seminar on advanced solo and ensemble ringing.

I admit I really tried hard to ring four-in-hand, but alas, I failed. My excuse is that, like skiing, I took up handbells too late in life to ever become proficient. As for skiing, I was terrified both getting on and off the quad and hurtling down whatever slope confronted me.

On February 26th we had a webinar presented by British composer, **Benjamin Till**. He was commissioned to compose music that involved ringing a tower bell in every London church named in the children’s nursery rhyme, “Oranges and Lemons”, regardless of the state of decay of the church and its bells. On April 2nd **Betty Radford**, one of our new Board members, will lead a webinar on composing music for handbells. Watch for more details.

DEADLINES COMING UP! March 31, 2022 is the deadline for the SEF Grant, John Nelson Sr Memorial Scholarship, Fred Merrett Award for New Compositions and the Stan Morris Excellence in Teaching Award. All details are [here](#). **So many opportunities – don’t miss out!!**

Thanks to Emmy as always for crafting this edition of **The Peal**. Enjoy!

Fiona

Fiona Bamforth, President



Board Director Betty Radford

(Cont’d from p. 1)

...and “Mosaic” for the International Handbells Symposia in Hong Kong and Nashville, USA. Several of Betty’s compositions are available through publishers in the USA. “Exploring Handbells Book 1 & 2”, published by Themes and Variations, are instructional books for teachers & directors. These books provide details on many handbell techniques with music featuring those techniques. Betty continues to ring in two handbell ensembles and enjoys participating in music making.

For more information about Betty and her music go to www.sites.google.com/view/bellswithbetty. Also check out <https://www.handbellmusiciansofcanada.ca/showcase>



Who Loves ALGEHR?

As you might recall, **GivingTuesday** was **ALGEHR**'s kick-off to its major fundraising campaign to purchase the **CUE (Concordia University of Edmonton)** Handbell Collection. It was a great evening of wonderful performances from around the province and stories from some of the folks who hold **ALGEHR** near and dear to their heart. Our initial fundraising efforts resulted in over \$7000 in just 2 hours! At the time of writing, our current total is an impressive \$19,501.20 and we are well on our way to reach our objective of \$50,000. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our amazing donors. **THANK YOU!!!**

In this edition of **The Peal**, **Fred** and **Amy Merrett** share why they love **ALGEHR** and are supporting this campaign. For those who may not know Fred personally, this is a great summary of his love story with handbells.

It was a pleasure for us to donate to the Concordia purchase. Anything that keeps the bells ringing is so satisfying. The legacy is much appreciated.

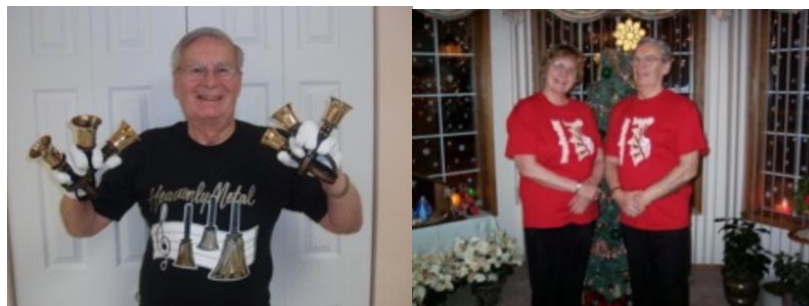
*Fred is definitely a pioneer, having formed the first high school band in Manitoba in 1951. **John Nelson** from **Schulmerich** first introduced Fred to handbells. Fred then started a bell group at the **Technical Vocational High School** in Winnipeg in 1964. He was happy to bring handbells into the school program when he moved to Edmonton in 1973 and was on staff at **Harry Ainlay High School**. Then he organized many conferences and workshops for teachers to learn all about handbell ringing. He loved to see it grow. He also taught at the **International Music Camp** located on the border between Manitoba and North Dakota every summer and would be happy to drive anyone who wanted to attend. That program is still very popular.*

Fred and I loved to play handbell duets—performing at senior residences, church services, etc. and especially at our casual 'at-home' concerts when we could entertain up to twenty-five people at a time. Fred would ring six-in-hand plus many pick-ups, while I almost managed two or three (ha ha). He wrote all the music specifically for us. The week between Christmas and New Year's Day was devoted to a concert every evening. We actually called ourselves "The Ding-a-Ling Duo."

Fred's final count for published handbell music is 148 numbers, including several 'how to' manuals.

When we moved to our long-term care facility, the space in our suite would not accommodate the area that is needed to set up the bells. We miss ringing very much. We keep up with music in our lives when we play instrumental duets (trumpet and clarinet) every day. Fred has arranged 135 of our favourite tunes with piano accompaniments, and although the sound is definitely not as beautiful as handbells, it is good for our lungs—and fun.

~ Submitted by Amy Merrett



ALGEHR Rhythms: Weaving in Three Hills

Several of us in **JUBELLATION** were able to attend Emmy's webinar on January 29. How much we appreciated and benefitted from her instruction in several areas of bell ringing! What should our next step be but to go to work drilling the techniques Emmy's presented! And that we did, starting the very next Wednesday, February 3. Over the last three weeks we have had excellent workouts on the "weaving" technique. Our coordination skills have been challenged, we have coached one another, and we have enjoyed lots of fun and laughter along the way!

For the second part of our practice we worked on a quartet arrangement of "What Wondrous Love". Again, following Emmy's advice, we first sat down with copies of the arrangement, pencil and eraser in hand, studying the score in detail and each ringer making the necessary markings for playing their particular bells. Then, when we then went to play the arrangement in ensemble, it was a delight to see how well we all played our part for the first time. Certainly we need much more practice on playing the arrangement, but what a positive start! The ensemble picture was taken last Wednesday, February 16, when we had acquired a new ringer!

Another bell ringing event was on Boxing Day Sunday, December 26, 2021! Due to Covid, our choir had been unable to practice last Fall. However, not to be completely deterred, I (**Rhoda**) took the opportunity to prepare playing a Bell Tree solo of a lovely arrangement of "We Three Kings". **Glenn Flewelling**, another choir member, played the creative and delightful accompaniment with his wife, **Marsha**, turning the pages. The Sunday morning congregation was very appreciative of the presentation!

~ Submitted by Rhoda Murray, Board Director



FA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA Festive Fun: The ALGEHR President and the Christmas party

When I wrote my resignation letter to my boss a few years ago, I was not contemplating the joy of an extra half-hour in bed nor having to attend those meetings which run overtime and where no decisions are made. It was the delicious realization that I would never have to attend another work Christmas party. ***What was I thinking when I suggested that we have a virtual ALGEHR Christmas party?***

First approach was to delegate to someone else (I'm getting quite good at it). It was Emmy who came up with the name and the idea of soliciting suitable festive handbell music from across Alberta. Sharon was the techie maestro who focused on how to put it altogether online. We were entertained by **Carol Bergum**, (solo and duet), **JuBELLation**, **Jubiloso**, and **Robinson-Wesley Ringers**. My job was to do the something in between the musical sandwich. Singing Christmas carols was definitely not an option. I know this from our church choir trying to sing anthems while muted on Zoom.

We came up with some ideas for Zoom party games. I don't do party games at the best of times. The virtual platform was an additional challenge – no idea of the number of attendees, how long before people get bored, and how you monitor the virtual equivalent of shouting out quiz answers. But we came up with anagrams, a word quiz, scavenger hunt, a picture quiz and a craft, all handbell themed. The anagrams would be the icebreaker – that was easy. The word quiz was bell themed. When you're the **ALGEHR** president immersed in serious stuff like organizing Board meetings, it was a lot of fun coming up with as many words as possible with 'bell' in it (but not ***impossibell***). **Fiona Miller** was the winner. Then a scavenger hunt, a bit more of a challenge online but we asked everyone to find nine items starting with the letters of HANDBELLS. **Bob and Judy AtLee** were the quickest but then there were two of them. Second and third places went to **Anke Kelker** and **Gail Fournier**.

The picture quiz was based on Pictionary online. I engaged our two millennial daughters for guidance. Daughter #2 said make it no longer than five minutes and daughter #3 said she would be happy to do the graphics. (I excluded daughter #1, she regards herself as a non-millennial, although is up to ordering from Skip the Dishes and tracking the progress of supper on her cell phone). And so we came up with a Christmas carol themed pictorial guessing game.

And the craft. I am not a crafty person – I can only think in two dimensions. However, loving gardening and having far more clay pots than I need, these were the obvious start for a handbell themed craft. Unfortunately, there was too much going on at Christmas and we only had three entries. **Julie Sabo** was voted the winner with her **Malmark** A5 handbell, with a perfectly crafted handle. **Betty Radford**, thinking outside the box, created a musical craft. And mine, well, was nothing too crafty but at least I did one!

It was probably mid-January before I realized that I had completely forgotten about distributing the prizes! And just to assure you that we on the Board are very conscientious about being frugal with the **ALGEHR** budget, Fiona Miller's prize went from Edmonton to Red Deer via me, Red Deer to Calgary via daughter #1, north Calgary to south Calgary via Annie Hergott and south Calgary to Lethbridge via Fiona Miller.

The other prize winners fortunately were all within easy driving distance.

I'm not thinking about next year's party. **Yet!**



A Crafty ALGEHR Christmas

3 Octaves Handbells Used: 18

1^{LV} *mf* 2^{Sk} LV 3^{Sk} 4^{Sk}

5^{mp} 6 7 8

9^{mp} 10 11^{Sk} *mf* 12^{Sk} 13 *p*

14^{Sk} 15 pine cones 16 ribbon 17 bells

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ALGEHR Rhythms: Oranges and Lemons...and Bells?

As mentioned previously, the most recent webinar of our series took place on Saturday, February 26, 2022 with a special guest from London, England.

Benjamin Till is a multi-award-winning, BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) - nominated filmmaker and composer who is a pioneer in the unusual genre of the televised documentary musical in which ordinary people sing about their own lives. He is the Resident Composer and a vocalist for Mosaic Voices, a professional male-voice choir based at New West End Synagogue in Central London. As a composer, he's known for writing hugely-ambitious, often site-specific or place-inspired works.

In 2009, Benjamin recorded all the bells mentioned in the nursery rhyme, "[Oranges and Lemons](#)" (two hundred bells in seventeen London churches), and wrote a piece of music to feature them all playing in harmony, alongside a choir of people who live or work in one of the areas around the churches. This twelve-minute composition, which included a staggering 4000 individual bell strikes was featured on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune* and [BBC Radio 4's Today Programme](#),^[2] alongside in depth coverage by [BBC London](#),^{[3][4][5]} who sponsored the piece with [Arts Council England](#). The piece received its premiere performance on 11 July 2009 at [St. Mary le Bow Church](#), London. If you missed the webinar, you can view it [here](#), but without the fascinating behind-the-scenes and how-it-came-to-be story that Benjamin presented, it might not be nearly as impressive as it was for the attendees.

Here are some thoughts from **ALGEHR** Membership Secretary, **Lucy Graham**:

*I was unfamiliar with the lyrics - not in our Canadian books and I don't remember my Mom ever reading it to us. Nor did we ever learn the tune. Guess it is an English tune. It was interesting to learn the meaning of the words or places mentioned in the lyrics - oranges and lemons being unloaded at the docks near the church of Saint Clements, Saint John's bell being in the Tower of London, the bells of Old Bailey - Bailey being the jail, and then St. Sepulchre's bell tolling in the morning when the inmates were condemned to die. Also interesting to hear that the **WhiteChapel** bell factory is now closed. Groups with **WhiteChapel** bells have a treasure. The "bell used chart" indicating which notes the bells at the different churches rang. Who knew every church bell tower had different notes! Amazing how Benjamin was able to incorporate all the church bells into his composition. Thanks again to the **ALGEHR Rhythms** committee for putting on this webinar/workshop.*

And here is the million-dollar question (and yes, there is a prize): In which issue of The Peal was there mention of "Oranges and Lemons"?? You can check out all previous issues under Membership on our website so, on your mark, get set....GO!

Email peal@algehr.org with your answer to win!



Spring Ring & Bling 2022

Last, but not least in this edition of *The Peal*!

Mark your calendars – **Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 7 pm** will be **ALGEHR**'s next BIG EVENT!!!

Following the successful outcome of our first ***GivingTuesday Virtual Concert***, we are pleased to announce the ***Spring Ring & Bling Virtual Concert and Silent Auction***. This will be an entirely VIRTUAL event and will feature performances ("**Ring**") from ensembles near and far during a FREE online concert. It will also mark the end of our week-long online Silent Auction ("**Bling**").

This event will benefit **ALGEHR**'s ongoing philanthropic efforts to raise \$50,000 for the purchase of the **CUE (Concordia University of Edmonton)** Collection.

So how can **YOU** get involved?

Performers/Ring: Ringers and Directors, if you are disappointed in not being able to hold your annual spring concert, this is your chance to perform for the WHOLE province (and beyond)!

- Simply choose 1 or 2 of your favourite current selections
- Email fundraising@algehr.org ASAP to communicate your intent to participate
- Video your performance(s) and submit by March 31, 2022 or ASAP
- Soloists, small and full ensembles are welcome – ALL performers must have current Life, Regular, Ringer or Student **ALGEHR** membership

And if you aren't ringing, but would like to share other talents, please email us as well!

Silent Auction/Bling: Items offered for this portion of the event will be listed on an online platform and the entire auction will take place virtually. Bidders will have one week to visit the website and make their bids – as many times as necessary! Successful bidders will be announced during the virtual concert on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Shipping and delivery info will be on the website.

Donations will be gratefully accepted from local businesses, organizations, individuals, and of course, **ALGEHR** friends and members. Your **ALGEHR** Board Directors have committed to contributing at least FIVE donations each and would like to challenge YOU to secure at least ONE gift that could be in the form of a tangible item or perhaps a service/gift-in-kind. Are you a star baker? Maybe you could offer a donation of some homemade baked goods? Are you a creative crafter? Might there be some original piece that could appeal to an interested bidder? Or maybe you know someone who would like to promote their business? The sky's the limit!

All donations must be accompanied by the form found on the next page and confirmed by April 1, 2022 or earlier if possible. Tax receipts will be provided for most items with the exception of gift certificates. If you're wondering about a possible donation, please email us your questions at fundraising@algehr.org.

Looking forward to hearing from you all very soon!

With many thanks from your ALGEHR Fundraising Committee



ALGEHR
 P.O. Box 11951
 Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3L1
 CANADA

Spring Ring & Bling Online Silent Auction

When: Saturday April 16 – 23, 2022

Where: 32auctions.com

Why: Proceeds to support **ALGEHR**'s purchase of the Concordia University of Edmonton's (**CUE**) Handbell Collection to further its mandate to promote the art of handbell ringing and to contribute to cultural community activities and music education of youth, adults, and educators.

*Dear Friend of **ALGEHR**,*

*Thank you for considering a donation to our online silent auction this spring! As Alberta's provincial guild for handbell musicians, we recently acquired this impressive collection – the largest in Canada – when **CUE** closed its School of Music.*

*With this acquisition, **ALGEHR** plans to make available loaner sets of bells and chimes to schools, youth and community ensembles. Before investing in their own instruments, the loaner program would allow such groups to “test drive” them prior to purchase. In addition, **ALGEHR** will form partnerships to develop and support vital professional development and training for music teachers. As well, plans for community ensembles, youth workshops, and bell “training camps” are already underway.*

*Will you help us reach our goal of \$50,000? We already have over \$19,000 and hope to get a little closer through this online silent auction. No gift is too small! All donations will be gratefully accepted towards our cause. *If additional space is needed to describe, please continue on a second page. Please confirm your commitment by April 1, 2022 with this form and a photo of your donation emailed to fundraising@algehr.org. Other than gift certificates from a business, a tax receipt can be provided in most cases for the fair market value of each item. Bids will close at 4 pm on Saturday, April 23, 2022 and the successful bidders will be announced during the Virtual Concert at 7 pm. More details about this event will be forthcoming.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Donor's Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Donor's email: _____ Phone: _____

Item Donated*: _____

Suggested Retail Value: _____ Minimum Opening Bid: _____

Editor's Encore

As we near the 2nd anniversary of the end of our “old pre-COVID” life, sometimes the “good ol’ days” seem like such a very distant faint memory. Sometimes it feels like it was just yesterday. And with the recent unthinkable events happening in Ukraine, they certainly put into perspective the concept of “freedom fighters” and somehow protesting “loss of rights” with a mask mandate seems so incredibly insignificant.

While the intent of this editorial is not political by any means, its only hope is to show solidarity from at least one human being towards everyone affected during such truly uncertain and troubled times. Perhaps many of you may have already seen [this](#), but if not, here’s hoping that it might bring some semblance of the peace and love all our Ukrainian friends and family should feel from the rest of the world. Although not confirmed recently, there were bells at the Central Baptist Church in Kyiv. Regardless of the challenges and struggles we might be facing, let’s not forget the healing powers of music. Take a few moments for self-care and enjoy [this](#).

~**Peal** photo credits to Amy Merrett, Rhoda Murray, Betty Radford, and Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin



Contact your Board!

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Emmy Okazawa-Bortolin	Past-president	pastpres@algehr.org

Next Peal deadline!! May 15, 2022 ~ Please send me your submissions by this date!!!