



Updating OGEHR's Bylaw

At the most recent Board meeting we approved multiple changes and updates to the OGEHR Bylaw. These changes include:

- changes to make the Bylaw more user friendly
- change to allow Members' Meetings to be held by electronic means (e.g. - Zoom)
- change to allow the Board to make temporary changes to the Bylaw between Annual Meetings
- other minor grammatical, spelling, and contextual corrections

The Bylaw has now been posted at www.ogehr.ca/governance. Proposed changes appear in red. As able, members are asked to login to read and review this document.

A special members' meeting will be called for April 10th to approve the Bylaw in advance of the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 29th. In the meantime, an opportunity to address members' questions will be provided at the monthly check-in on February 25th @ 10 a.m.

Nancy Bell, Governance Committee Chair

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Virtual Handbell Project
- ◆ Bell Tutorials

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS

Clapper Chatter welcomes your submissions. All submissions must be received by the following deadlines: September 30 (October issue), January 31 (February issue), May 31 (June issue).

FORMAT

Text in Microsoft Word and high resolution colour photos in .jpg format are preferred.

REPRINT PERMISSION

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DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in Clapper Chatter are not necessarily those of the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers, nor does the appearance of products or services in advertisements constitute an endorsement by OGEHR.

ADVERTISING

Ad sizes and rates are available on request. Advertising must be submitted by the submission deadlines listed above. All final ad artwork must be saved in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. When preparing ads, use high resolution images and fonts, and set the Acrobat Preferences to embed the fonts and images at their original high resolution quality.

CLAPPER CHATTER EDITOR

Please send all submissions to:
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MORE ON SUBMISSIONS

A newsletter thrives or dies based on its content, so we need your input! Do you have a concert coming up, a review of a performance just accomplished, a significant event in the life of your bell choir, or a favourite piece of music that you would like to recommend to others? Send it in! Anything is fair game (subject to editorial review). Accompanying photographs are encouraged, as they really liven things up.

We want your feedback. Let us know what you like, or don't like, or would like to see, by emailing Simon at simon.spencer1993@gmail.com.

Submission deadline for the next issue: May 31st, for publication on June 15th.



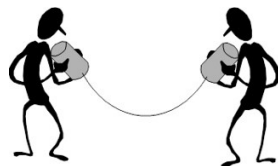
President's Message

"It's critical that we keep connected - and find ways to "Keep Calm and Ring on," is how I signed off my message in the October issue of the Clapper Chatter. I sincerely hope that whether you and your choir members have been ringing or not, you have been able to keep connected through physically distanced and/or virtual visits. When community and church doors are flung wide open, we want to get those bells ringing again!

The OGEHR Board has continued to work hard behind the scenes to help you keep connected. We hope you have been able to take advantage of and participate in at least one of these initiatives:

- Free Affiliate Membership
- Virtual Handbell Tutorial and Q&A sessions
- Virtual Handbell Project
- Virtual Bell Socials

We would love to hear from you – let us know how we are doing, and what we can continue to do to support you during this time of uncertainty and change. Communication is not a one-way channel – we ask that you actively communicate with us by contacting any Board member when you have comments, questions, or concerns.



A big thank you goes out to Directors for their diligent attention to OGEHR matters, especially during COVID-19. They are a great team that make things happen! It is my privilege to work with them!

OGEHR Handbell Tutorials



We are delighted that six clinicians have willingly stepped forward to create the video tutorials OGEHR has been able to offer this year, and very appreciative of the time and talent they are sharing with all of us. To date the tutorials range in content from *Getting Started with a New Piece of Music* to two tutorials on *Notation Software*. In the future they range from *How to Recover from a Train Wreck* to *How Can the Music Lending Library Help You*. We hope there are several topics each of you are interested in learning about, and encourage you to be part of the premier showing of these tutorials - and to join in the live Q&A sessions moderated by Man-Yee Sun, Rob Cairns, and Margaret Merkle.

Until the tutorials are premiered, they remain in the private domain and are available to members only. After the Q&A session, tutorials are then available in the public domain for you to view if you did not participate in the premiered session, or would like to view them again.

Whether you are ringing or not, we encourage you to check out the [upcoming tutorials](#) for 2021. They provide a great opportunity to stay connected. If you are a clinician and would like to produce and host a tutorial, please contact Marg at president@ogher.ca. We have had a request for a tutorial on “Solo Ringing for Beginners”.

Whether you have watched none or several tutorials, we are interested in hearing from you, and encourage you to complete this short [tutorial feedback form](#).

Date and Clinician	Descriptor
<p>Sat., Feb. 20th 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Clinician: Lisa Kyriakides</p>	<p>How to Recover from a Train Wreck</p> <p>Despite hours of rehearsal there is always the potential for errors in performance. That's one of the things that makes live performance so exciting (and a bit scary). The sign of an experienced ringer is one who can recover from a big error with the audience none the wiser. Come learn how to be that ringer!</p>

<p>Sat., March 6th 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Clinician: Dominique Moreau</p>	<p>Malleting Bells: Malleting technique and tricks to make your life easier!</p>
<p>Sun., March 14th 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Clinician: Lisa Kyriakides</p>	<p>Choosing Music for Your Ensemble</p> <p>You have 4 performances this term, 11 ringers with different skill levels, and a limited amount of rehearsal time. How do you keep ringers and audience members enthusiastic about your music choices? This tutorial will cover criteria you should consider each time you choose your music.</p>
<p>Sat., March 27th 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Clinician: Debbie Fingas</p>	<p>Demystifying Meters</p> <p>How do you feel about counting? It's a fundamental ringing skill, yet sometimes meter is not as easy as one, two, three! This tutorial will explore mixed and compound meters in a hands-on workshop-style. We will decipher obscure time signatures, break down patterns, divide beats and then put it all together. Aimed at beginner-intermediate readers.</p>
<p>Sun., April 11th 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Clinician: Debbie Fingas</p>	<p>Four in Hand</p> <p>An introduction to four in hand ringing including how to set up bells for 4 in hand and shelley, when to use in the music and some exercises to get you started. Aimed at new four in hand ringers.</p>
<p>Sun., April 18th 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Clinician: Lisa Kyriakides</p>	<p>Finding the Melody in Your Score</p> <p>Have you ever had your conductor tell you to "bring out" the melody notes? As a conductor have you ever said those words and been presented with blank faces? In this tutorial we will discuss what a melody is, why we need to know where the melody is, and how composers often indicate the location of the melody.</p>
<p>Sat., April 24th 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Clinician: Debi Sproule</p>	<p>How can the Music Lending Library help you as a director or ringer?</p> <p>This video will look at ways the MLL can assist both directors and ringers. It will also discuss the process of borrowing music.</p>
<p>Sat., May 1st 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Clinician: Debbie Fingas</p>	<p>Chimes</p> <p>This tutorial will explore techniques specific to chimes, adapting handbell music to chimes, when chimes can be useful and ways to get your chime choir started ringing successfully quickly. Aimed at directors new to chimes</p>

Meet OGEHR's Tutorial Clinicians



ROB CAIRNS is a music and drama teacher at Lester B. Pearson School for the Arts in London, Ontario. Outside of school, he directs the St. Thomas Youth Choir and Children's Choir, and at Metropolitan United Church he directs the Jubilate Bells. Rob also does a bit of composing and has made his arrangements and compositions available for free at robjcairns.ca. Rob is currently the Vice-President of OGEHR.

We thank Rob for getting the Handbell Tutorial program up and running back in September by creating three video tutorials on how to *Practice Handbells and Home (Without Handbells!)*. One was on *Weaving*, the second was on *Mallets*, and the third was on *How to Rehearse*. All of these are now on the Event page of the OGEHR website, for your viewing pleasure



DEBBIE FINGAS is the Minister of Music at Trinity United Church in Cobourg, Ontario, where she accompanies weekly services and conducts two children's choirs, the Chancel Choir and the Jubilate Handbell Choir. In addition to her church work, Debbie enjoys being involved with local community music groups, including being the Associate Director for La Jeunesse Choirs.

An experienced organist, pianist, choral director, singer, and flautist, Debbie has performed in numerous concerts and recitals throughout southern Ontario. She conducts workshops in handbell ringing and has been faculty for the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers Festival, Handbell Musicians of America, and the Summer Institute of Church Music. In addition, she is the President of the Northumberland Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

Debbie graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and has received her Associate diploma from the Royal Canadian College of Organists. She also holds a Master of Arts in Church Music from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. In 2017, Debbie graduated with a Doctorate of Ministry at Emmanuel College at the Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto. Her thesis is a qualitative study examining how participating in a church choir or handbell choir nurtures a participant's spiritual life. We are delighted that Debbie has agreed to create three tutorials for us. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending Debbie's workshops on *Demystifying Meters* on March 27th; *Four in Hand* on April 11th; and *Chimes* on May 1st.



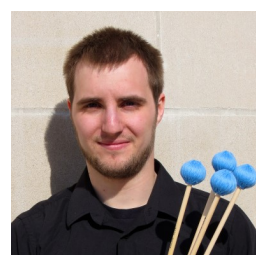
LISA KYRIAKIDES enjoys a busy and varied career as a conductor, clinician, performer, and musical director. She directs two 3-octave choirs at Aurora United Church as well as performs in the church's quintet *EmBellished*. Lisa is a member of *The Bronze Foundation* and is currently the Central Area Rep for OGEHR. We congratulate Lisa on being the recently elected secretary of the newly formed Handbell Musicians of Canada.

Lisa is passionate about handbells, as is evidenced by the number of tutorials she has volunteered to produce. These include: *Getting Started with a New Piece of Music*; *Conducting – The Basics*; *How to Mark Your Score Efficiently*; and *Rehearsal Techniques for Conductors*. Please plan on participating in Lisa's future tutorials that include *How to Recover from a Train Wreck*; *Choosing Music for Your Ensembles*; and *Finding the Melody in Your Score*. We thank Lisa for sharing her time and expertise with all of us by producing these excellent tutorials.



BRITTANY MCCORRISTON has been playing handbells for over ten years, and is working towards a Bachelors of Music in Contemporary Writing and Production at Berklee College of Music. Brittany specializes in music notation and editing and is currently an assistant editor for Berklee Press where she has worked on over 15 different publications. Brittany has a passion for teaching and believes that fluency in music technology is beneficial to all music learners.

We are delighted that Brittany has taken time out of her busy academic life to be a clinician for our Tutorial Program. She has already produced three tutorials – *Introduction to Notation Software*; *Virtual Handbell Project – Find Out How to Get Involved*; and *Writing for Bells, How to Get Your Ideas on Paper*.



DOMINIQUE MOREAU is a percussionist and music teacher in Ottawa. He plays with Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and teaches at Gisèle-Lalonde High School and the Ottawa Youth Orchestra. Dominique plays with the St. Andrew's Ringers. We are delighted that Dom has been able to produce tutorials on *Playing with Heavy Bells*; *Active Listening*; *How to use a Metronome*; and *Meters*. Watch for Dom's next tutorial, *Malleting Bells*, on March 6th.



DEBI SPROULE began ringing handbells in 2005. She is now involved with several different handbell groups and is OGEHR's Coordinator of the Music Lending Library. While we look forward to Debi's tutorial on *How can the Music Lending Library help you as a director or ringer?* on April 24th. Please get in touch with Debi at debisproule@gmail.com before then if you have questions for her.

Introducing **Maddy Lang**

Maddy Lang started playing bells at the ripe old age of 6 years when she joined the Wee Chimers at Metropolitan United Church in London, Ontario. 23 years later, and she's still playing at Met, now a member of the Jubilate Bells.

Maddy has been instrumental (ha ha) in the production of a series of quick reference videos produced through OGEHR's Education Committee called "Maddy's Handbell Minute". If you need a quick refresher on a particular handbell technique, we have a video for you!



Maddy's Handbell Minute

A series of 23 videos is planned. 11 of the videos are now available on our website. Please do have a look!

<https://ogehr.ca/Handbell-Minute/>

Maddy enjoys all kinds of activities, especially anything active and outside. She loves to hike, mountain bike, cross country ski, and rock climb. She's also a big fan of delicious food and spends a lot of time cooking (and grilling in the summer).



Handbell Minute Set-Up



Festival karaoke!

In 2017, Maddy moved to Kitchener where she lives with her partner. When it's allowed, she still makes the journey every Wednesday to play at Met. Maddy is the newest member of our Communication Committee, and has developed OGEHR's presence on Instagram. Thank you Maddy!

<https://www.instagram.com/handbells.ogehr/>

Nomination News

"Experience the Magic" - by Volunteering

OGEHR now has a presence on Instagram thanks to Maddie Lang, who is the newest member of the Communications Committee.

Over the next couple of months, the Nomination Committee will be working on to fill the 2021 - 2022 slate of Directors, Board Appointed Positions, and Members at Large to sit on committees, for terms that are vacant or terms that are coming due. We will be contacting you to consider staying in the role you presently fill, getting involved with a different aspect of OGEHR, or coming "on Board" for the first time. We ask you to take a look at the positions and terms of reference that can be viewed at <https://ogehr.ca/Volunteer/>. To be a strong organization we need your continued interest, contributions, and input.

With thanks,

On behalf of the Nomination Committee
Janis Cowie, Rob Cairns, Lisa Kyriakides

Margaret Merkley, Chair

President@ogehr.ca

Bell Socials

Another way to keep connected with your bell friends is by joining our monthly bell socials that take place virtually by Zoom. They are advertised both on the OGEHR website and through the email tree.



December Bell Social

Put these dates on your calendars if you plan on joining us.

- Thursday, February 25th at 10:00 a.m. *
- Monday, March 15th at 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 21st at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 25th at 3:00 p.m.

*While this Zoom will be a social, it will also give any OGEHR members who are interested in asking about the Bylaw changes to talk with Nancy Bell, Chair of Governance.



Memory Column

Because many friendships are formed over the years through bells, the OGEHR Board recently decided that a "Memory Column" should be incorporated into each issue of the Clapper Chatter. Please let us know if someone in your bell community has passed away and a bit about that person so that we can let bell friends be aware.

Honouring the memory of a loved one through a gift to the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) will create a lasting legacy. When a loved one passes, you may choose to have friends and family members make a donation to OGEHR in lieu of flowers. We will send you a list of names of those who contribute in memory of your loved one. To make your donation, please go to www.ogehr.ca/donate-now. A tax receipt will be provided on receipt of donation.

Estate Planning



Please consider creating a lasting legacy by remembering OGEHR in your estate plan. Called a charitable bequest, your gift will help future generations experience the joy of learning and ringing together. Making a bequest is as simple as inserting a few sentences into your will, specifying either a fixed amount or a percentage be directed to OGEHR.

OGEHR Honorary Members Article 3 of 8

by Mary Loree

DONALD E. ALLURED

September 14, 1922 – February 28, 2011



Donald E. Allured was named an OGEHR Honorary Member after serving as director of the advanced and massed choirs at our 1987 and 1991 festivals, 'Rainbow Ring' and 'Grand Valley', respectively. Don was renowned at the time for his achievements as a musician, composer, director and educator, and for his passion and efforts in furthering excellence in handbell conducting and ringing. He had previously been named Honorary Life Member of AGEHR and had received their highest accreditation, Master Teacher and Master Conductor.

Don credited Union Theological Seminary, where he earned his master's degree in sacred music, for his strong musical foundation. That foundation included a passionate belief in the pursuit and attainment of not only excellence, but perfection in the composition, directing, and ringing of handbell music. Don is credited with the mantra, '*Perfection is just the beginning*', and the saying, "*Ringing the right bell at the right time is only the beginning, not the end*".

To Don, the music itself created the foundation of musicality. Unable to find handbell music that met his expectations, he began to compose. Don published his first collection in 1970 and went on to write more than 100 compositions – including one for the first G2 bell that Malmark produced. The 1989 OGEHR Festival repertoire included Don's 'Grand Psalm of Praise' and 'Sharon's Song'. His arrangement of '*The Maple Leaf Forever*' for the 1991 Festival was dedicated to OGEHR member and future Honorary Member, Stuart Belson. An Allured arrangement of 'Londonderry Aire' was a Bronze selection at that festival. A particularly poignant composition honoured his son, Lee, who died in 1999.

Don also wrote textbooks, each of which furthered his quest of bringing musicality to the art of handbell ringing. “Mastering Musicianship in Handbells” (1992) is considered by some to be the encyclopedia of handbells.

A treatise written by Don in 1974 demonstrated his commitment for directors to take the art of handbell ringing to a new level. In it, he admonished directors to demand more of their ringers; keep up-to-date with new and advanced techniques; be acquainted with the mechanical aspects and musical capabilities of bells; work on conducting technique constantly; and aspire to a professional approach. An Allured quote regarding directors’ expectations of ringers’ arrival time to practice states, *‘If you are early, you are on time; if you are on time, you are late.’* Directors were instructed to take an uncompromising approach to producing music, with the composer’s or arranger’s intentions overriding any excuses or compromises from ringers.

Don Allured shared his described philosophy of how to attain handbell excellence through his roles as clinician, director, educator and ...road traveller...in a Winnebago RV, often up to 75,000 miles per year!

Don’s passion for handbells and their musicality began in 1963. While a church musician at **Central Methodist Church, Lansing, MI**, Don heard a bell choir in Marshall, MI. He subsequently attended the national AGEHR festival in Detroit and ordered a two-octave set of Schulmerich bells, without cases, for \$795.00. The bells arrived, each carefully wrapped in a jewellery ‘Pacific cloth’ bag. This was first year of handbell production for Schulmerich.

In 1965, at **First United Methodist Church, Lake Charles, Louisiana**, Don directed the middle school choir, Wesleyan Bell Choir. He augmented the church’s original three octaves of Schulmerich bells in 1967 with 4th and 5th octaves of Whitechapel bells from England because the American bell manufacturer, Schulmerich, was not yet making 5-octave sets. In 1968, Don began what would become the long-standing practice of touring with his choirs. He and the Wesleyan Bell Choir toured annually for 7 years in a rented Winnebago RV, visiting all 50 states. The sale of LPs contributed to their travel funds.

In the mid-1970s, as well as being AGEHR president, Don Allured reportedly became the first fulltime handbell clinician.

In 1977, the Bay View Conservatory and Alma College asked Don to conduct a handbell workshop at **Bay View, MI**. Don had a close connection to Bay View – his aunt had bought a cottage there the year Don was born, and he had visited the cottage from the time he was one. The decision to accept the Bay View offer began what was to become ‘Bay View Week of Handbells’. True to Don’s philosophy of musical accomplishment, this event, from its inception, focused on presenting musically challenging and technically demanding music. It attracted advanced ringers who played multiple six-octave sets of handbells and hand chimes, plus bells and chimes going down to C1, and sometimes including experimental bells manufacturers provided for the participants to try out. The “Donald E. Allured Original Composition Award” began in 1993. OGEHR members attend ‘Bay View’ regularly.

The **Church Music Department at Westminster Choir College, Rider University, Princeton, NJ** presented a faculty position to Don in 1979. Here, Don developed a handbell leadership curriculum and taught one semester each year, leaving time to conduct workshops and tour annually with the Westminster Handbell Choir – in another Winnebago. The choir performed on what was considered the world’s largest set of handbells, containing seven and one half octaves and 90 bells. Don retired from the College in 1988. He was moved to tears when the College presented him with an honorary Doctor of Music degree in 2007.

Dr. Don Allured remained a guest conductor at the Bay View Week of Handbells Concert for many years after he retired to Pensacola, Florida. He continued to express an interest in OGEHR and its activities and appreciated receiving news from the Guild.

Don passed away in 2011 in Pensacola. His ashes are part of the memorial gardens at Bay View.

(References available upon request)

The Virtual Handbell Project

In this unprecedented year, we have all been away from our handbell choirs, and I'm sure many have been missing the opportunity to make music! Sometimes adversity gives rise to new opportunity. This was the case when Brittany McCorrison came to the Guild with an idea.

In the fall of 2020, Brittany invited any OGEHR Members who wanted to try a Virtual Handbell Choir to contact her. Thirty members from around the province decided that they wanted to give it a try. We are so pleased that Brittany and all of these Handbell musicians undertook this wonderful project!

The final video is complete and premieres today, Monday, February 15th, at 7pm. Please use the link below to go to our Virtual Handbell Project webpage to watch the video and for details about how Brittany put this project together!

Audio Mixing and Video Editing were done by Brittany McCorrison. Want to organize your own virtual choir project? Brittany is currently taking on new projects (all instruments/voice), inquire at virtualhandbellproject@gmail.com

OGEHR Virtual Handbell Project: <https://ogehr.ca/Virtual-Handbell-Project>



Terry Head Memorial Fund

We would like to thank all those who have donated to the Terry Head Memorial Fund so far. As of the end of December 2020, we have raised \$2,090.00! We hope that more people will consider giving to this fund so that we will be able to provide future opportunities for OGEHR members looking to further themselves as a directors, conductors, clinicians, educators, or performers.

We are also pleased that some donors have honoured Terry in different ways. A tree has been planted in Israel to honour Terry's memory through a donation to the Jewish National Fund; The Fauré Requiem was performed at First St. Andrew's Church in London, ON (where Terry was the Director of Music) on the anniversary of his passing; and the poem below was also written in his honour by London poet Robyn Marie Butt. For details about the fund or to donate, please go to our [Terry Head Memorial Fund](#) webpage.

Another Carol of the Bells

for Terry Head, in memoriam

Robyn Marie Butt

All the notes of our distress
tempered and alloyed, to press
their ancient clamour on the ear
with all that would insist on fear,
and all our sorrows, settle in
to listen, when the bells begin.
Somehow in their light-hearted sound
lifted for a roundelay
cares fall, released, each time bells play.

Then memory glides past random tears
alive with what remains most dear
rebuilt inside us, from the air
that clappers striking send like prayer
to soften our forgetful pace
calling us once again to grace.
We'd lost touch. Then bells play
and reassert our rise from clay.

What's in their notes? I scarcely know
how to tell what carols show rising on
their pulsing air
to work where we most need repair,
but music bearing into sound
such rounded joy as brass has bound
inside its gathered mouths, can sing:
Look, start again at everything
you feel still matters. For the rest?
Understand you did your best.

Who's to say you failed to raise
whatever deal you had with praise?
Oh here is praise, so roundly held
within a gloved and ringing hand
not clenched to battle for decay
but deftly to enhance the day!
So recollect that all is well ring
out the circle of your bell
too often mute inside your chest
and let your sounded note give test
to what you hold so secret there.

God dreams for you. Your jewel's rare.
Remember, and be reassured:
intentions from the heart are pure.

Now rest your thoughts, and help chimes play
the words we all forget to say,
and see your doubts revoke at last
insistent wintry inner blasts –
among green hills and blooming dells
swung forth by players of the bells.

For Some Ringers - A Not-So-Bleak-Mid-Winter

Submitted by Randy Mills

Covid continues to impact the arts activities of so many in our world, while its effects on the health of countless individuals rages on. The reduction in concerts and church services will have curtailed all of our music-making, but a few videos on social media show that intrepid ringers and directors were still able to mark the holiday season.

The Jubilate Handbell Choir at Cobourg's Trinity United Church, led by Dr Debbie Fingas, saluted community heroes in a beautifully-shot video from Cobourg Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=219134303122203>

Our friends Eleanor McDougall and heather nicholson provided a wonderful medley 'Reflections on Christmas' as Eleanor rang a bell-tree from Knox Bells of Praise, Meaford:

<https://youtu.be/-AlR8ah24iY>

Instead of a cast of thousands (well, dozens) for the annual Carol Services at Trinity College School, I was able to record my group of Gr 10 ringers for this year's virtual service. These talented young people enjoyed learning 12-Bell arrangements by Patricia Cota, and the photo shows them performing for their Gr 10 colleagues in the chapel earlier in the term.



Finally, my youth chimers at St Mark's Anglican, Port Hope, crowned a busy Fall with a professionally-produced DVD of carols. Once groups of 10 outdoors were permitted, we began to chime (distanced) at the country home of the grandparents of two of our chimers. When churches reopened in September, the chimers met each week to prepare music for preludes, offertory and communion for every Sunday. Generous donors stepped forward to underwrite the DVD – a steep learning curve for this director, not least in arranging for permissions from publishers. The resulting shots of Port Hope and area by New Oculus Imaging made for a terrific Christmas gift for our chimers' families, and copies have been on sale since. The link is to a short sample (Bring a Torch) – more are available on the church's Youtube page.

<https://youtu.be/7O-DzxFzXdQ>

Staying Connected During the Pandemic

Ringers at Aurora United Church (AUC) are in a somewhat unique situation during this pandemic. Let me explain... Our historic church building burned down almost 7 years ago, and we are only now in the process of re-building. Since that fateful day on April 11, 2014, we have been renting space from our neighbouring church, Trinity Anglican Church (TAC). So essentially, there have been two full churches running in the same building.

Now go forward to 2020 and the pandemic. When things shut down in March, our church immediately began virtual services. Even when churches could re-open in September, it was impossible for us to do so. How could we clean the church completely after TAC's services? Having 2 churches in one building made it impossible for us to hold in-person services or for our Handbell ensembles to rehearse.

So how do we stay connected when we can't ring together? Well in a word – ZOOM! We have been meeting on Zoom on Wednesday nights (our normal rehearsal night) since the pandemic began. We meet for about 75 minutes each week, and there are usually about 11-13 of us in attendance (out of 19 ringers). There is no pressure to join in. Some ringers attend faithfully and some pop in occasionally to check in. We have had several virtual parties and celebrated when exciting things have happened (Grandbabies, Selling homes, etc.).

But mostly, we spend these Zoom sessions talking about our daily lives and how we are feeling about everything that's going on. We have recommended books and Netflix shows, talked about the knitting projects we are working on, laughed a lot and shed some tears. We have also talked about some strange topics over the last 10 months, toilets and hedgehogs to name a few! Our weekly Zooms have been a forum to express our worries about the pandemic and the effect it has had on our lives. It has been a wonderful chance for us all to stay connected and to nurture and support each other during these difficult days.

Ironically, although we cannot meet in person, these weekly sessions have brought us closer together. In many ways, we know each other so much better now! We can't wait to return to that first rehearsal. That is going to be an AMAZING day! Until then, we Zoom on!

Lisa Kyriakides, AUC Handbell Director

Tune into Tutorials

by Bonnie Howse
Kingston, Limestone Ringers

I am just a regular average OGEHR Bell ringer – I am not a director, nor do I aspire to be one. I have tuned in LIVE to almost every tutorial that has been presented by the many talented clinicians that are a part of OGEHR. Even though they don't all apply to me and my level of ringing ability, I have been SO impressed with the vast knowledge that these presenters can impart to us. You can ask questions via chat if you wish to, or like me, just listen in. Especially during these boring lockdown times, when we can't do much else, I find them to be entertaining, and we can always learn something new. I HOPE TO SEE OTHERS join in on some of the next tutorials. If you haven't yet joined OGEHR for the current year, membership is free. You just need to update your profile.

Four Ringers - Eight Handbells

by Joan Plume, St. Matthew's United Church, Richmond Hill

A few years ago, I came upon a collection of pieces written for 4 ringers and 8 bells. {G5 - G6} and thought this would be an easy way to have a small group of ringers entertain at Retirement Homes - no foam or tables required; just music stands.

Over the last few months, we have been taping church services with less than 10 people attending, so these pieces have been great. We play with masks and gloves from music stands across the front of the church, making sure we are social distancing. Our congregation enjoys hearing the bells and it keeps us ringing.

The pieces are easy to sight read and most of them are sacred. There are now about 14 sets available, each having 12 pieces with 4 copies of each. During Advent, we used Book 4, which is all Christmas music.

When you only have four players (or when we are in the middle of a world-wide pandemic), I highly recommend:

FOUR RINGER HANDBELL COLLECTIONS

Arranged by James D. Kimball

I have ordered them from Jeffers Handbell Supply. The price with shipping and exchange is about \$50.00 per set.

Happy Ringing!

News from the Lending Library

Debi Sproule,

Music Lending Coordinator

Based on this strong recommendation from Joan, I have ordered 2 books - #1 and #4 - of the Four Ringer Handbell Series arranged by James Kimball. The first collection includes both hymns and familiar secular pieces, and book 4 is all Christmas music.

Based on a request from a teacher who has borrowed chimes from the Instrument Loan Program, a couple of new resources for use with handchimes have been purchased.

- Building a Successful Handbell or Handchime Choir
- ♦ Special Effects for Handchimes

It is great to know that these resources have been put to immediate use.

Readers are reminded that all OGEHR resources can be found by going to the Resource Tab on the OGEHR website. Please contact me at debisproule@gmail.com with questions or comments.

Chime-ing in

By Maggie Park

Emanuel United Church, Ottawa

Greetings from the snowy lockdown that is Ottawa. Like so many of us, I'm more than chafing at the separation from my music, but I had the good fortune to spend a few hours at the church rehearsing and then recording selections aired during various virtual church services. Despite the masks, social distancing, and gloves (which we always wear with the bells, anyway), it was terrific fun to see and play along with some of my fellow ringers – it helped ease the ache of being without shared music for so long.

I want to thank OGEHR for helping keep the learning alive through the various tutorials. Anyone who's attended will know I tend to ask a *lot* of questions at the Q&A meetings that follow the livestreaming – I have a keen interest in learning as much as possible, and these tutorials are invaluable. It doesn't match the hands-on experience that one gets with playing actual instruments, but my rubber mallets (stolen, or 'borrowed') from the school percussion supplies and wooden spatulas are serving as substitutes for the moment. Thankfully, the tutorials are also posted on the website, and I frequently review the material presented in them. The handouts are quite useful (and I've got all sort of notes scribbled on them), and the Q&A Zoom meetings are invaluable. I've been ringing for only about five years, but I've been a musician and singer all my life. Still, there are always things to be learned, and apart from focusing on the bass parts (as I usually ring upper bass or lower battery), I've even started learning more treble techniques.

I'm particularly interested in the workshops that focus on conducting and composing/arranging, as I'm hoping to start a percussion choir at my school as soon as we're allowed to actually gather and make music together again. Not only has OGEHR provided workshops that address those specific things, but the presenters are more than willing to go further, and they're incredibly approachable and generous with their time. So, I would urge any and all to take advantage of these great resources – by working together, we're so much stronger together, and we're never too old to learn something new.

Portland Pealers

Our little group of four, the Portland Pealers Handbell Choir from Portland United Church, offered a selection of three Christmas favourites to the Crosby community prior to their tree lighting late Saturday afternoon, November 21. Happily, the snow and rain stayed away, but the wind was a bit brisk. We managed to finish just under the wire as the light faded. Social distancing was observed and masks were worn. Jason W. Krug's "Smaller but Mighty Selections for Christmas" are perfect for these ringers. The selections chosen were: *Love Came Down at Christmas*, *The First Nowell*, and *Angels from the Realms of Glory*.

We really enjoyed the outside experience and we were happy to add to this celebration.

Submitted by Jan Haskin,

Portland Pealers



Handbell Musicians of Canada

Warm greetings to all Canadian handbell musicians! It is with great excitement and anticipation that, as of January 25, 2021, your first fully elected board of directors has taken the helm of the newly formed Handbell Musicians of Canada.

As Chair of this inaugural board, I would like to acknowledge the vast amount of hard work that the Interim HMC Board members have poured into our organization. They have reshaped our national handbell association and, with great care and passion, have set us on a path that I and the others on our new board are excited to explore.

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite everyone who has not yet joined HMC to do so. One of the main transformations from the former Handbells Guilds of Canada is that the new iteration of our organization is one where individual musicians make up our members, regardless of their affiliation – or not! – with a provincial guild. This means we can welcome and serve all those who are part of our musical community, even if they don't have the more local support of a provincial guild. We are so thrilled to truly be a community that stretches from C, to C, to shining C (if we've kept up with the polishing, that is).

Becoming a member is much easier than trying to get over a bad pun - check out our website for details: www.handbellmusiciansofcanada.ca. It's fast, easy, and fully online.

Along with our website, check us out on Facebook and Instagram. These are the main platforms where we will be sharing news of new initiatives and events that our new board will be rolling out in the coming months. We look forward to seeing where 2021 takes us!

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and musically full New Year!

Ellen Ramsay

Chair, HMC

19th Annual Sierra Spring Ring: Digital Edition



Saturday, March 13, 2021

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM PST

Tintabulations is excited to announce that we are still exploring this internet thing-a-ma-jig and are offering a new 19th Annual Sierra Spring Ring: Digital Edition! Thanks to a few tech savvy Tintabbers and a generous rehearsal space, we are creating an entertaining and educational online event with ample audience participation. Ring along at home to our pre-recorded massed ring, check out the tips & tricks from each Tintab member/bell position (we'll help you really "think outside the box"), and join us for a live Zoom study hall (ask us anything, and hang out with friends!).

Music Performed in Massed Ring:

- Despite the Storm, Cathy Moglebust
 - Choristers Guild, 2-3 octaves catalog # CGB932, 3-6 octaves catalog # CGB933
- How Firm a Foundation, arr. Sandra Eithun
 - Choristers Guild, 2-3 octaves catalog # CGB305, 3-5 octaves catalog # CGB743
- Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee, arr. Arnold Sherman
 - Agape, 2-3 octaves catalog # 1652, 4-6 octaves catalog # 1851

For further information please go to <https://tintabulations.com/spring-ring-2021>

OGEHR Board of Directors

As at Feb 15, 2021

(bracketed year after position or name indicates end of term)

Margaret Merkley president@ogehr.ca *President ('21); Chair: Board ('21); Chair: Programs ('22);
Chair: Nominations ('21); Honorary Membership*

Rob Cairns ('21) vice-president@ogehr.ca
Vice-President ('21); Chair Education

Mary Loree ('21) secretary@ogehr.ca
Corresponding and Recording Secretary ('21)

Helen Coxon ('22) membership@ogehr.ca
Membership Secretary ('22)

Sona Khachikyan ('23) treasurer@ogehr.ca
Treasurer ('23)

Nancy Bell ('21) governance@ogehr.ca
Chair: Governance ('21)

Joan Bolam ('23) areareps@ogehr.ca
Chair: Area Representatives ('20)

Janis Cowie ('23) festivalchair@ogehr.ca
Chair: 2021 Festival ('22); Vice-Chair: Nominations ('21)

Kim Leitch ('22) communications@ogehr.ca
Chair: Communications ('22)

OGEHR Board Appointed Positions

As of Feb 15, 2021

Area Representatives – please contact Joan Bolam (areareps@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Janet McDonald
East Representative ('23)

heather nicholson
Central East Representative ('22)

Lisa Kyriakides
Central Representative ('21)

Mark Matterson
Central West Representative ('23)

<vacant>>
South Representative ('22)

Rob Cairns
West Representative ('21)

Shirley Reinders
North East Representative ('23)

<vacant>>
North West Representative ('21)

Communications – please contact Kim Leitch (communications@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Man-Yee Sun
Email Coordinator ('21)

Randy Mills
Social Media Coordinator ('22)

Simon Spencer
Newsletter Editor ('22)

Kim Leitch
Webmaster ('21)

Festival Coordinators – please contact Janis Cowie (festivalchair@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Gail Bowes
2021 Festival Coordinator ('22)

Programs - please contact Margaret Merkley (president@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Barbara Peaker
Instrument Loan Program Coordinator ('22)

Debi Sproule
Music Lending Coordinator ('22)

Standing Committees

Area Representatives

Joan Bolam (Chair)
East AR
Central East AR
Central AR Vacant
Central West AR
South AR Vacant
West AR
North East AR
North West AR Vacant
President

Communications

Kim Leitch (Chair)
Newsletter Editor
Webmaster
Email Coordinator
Social Media Coordinator
Members-at-large:
1. Janis Cowie
2. Rob Cairns
3. Maddy Lang*
President

Ad Hoc Committees

2021 Festival

Janis Cowie (Chair & Registrar)
2019 Festival Coordinator, Auction
& Communications
(Gail Bowes)
Amy Baker (Facilities)
Sue Buckingham (Marketplace)
Ruth Pettis (Mini Ring)
Judy King & Jan Haskins
(Music)
Kathy Baer (Publicity)
Janet McDonald (Publicity)
Bonnie Howse (Publicity)
Lynne Current (Social)
Marg Merkley (Workshops)
Kim Leitch (Secretary
& Website)
President

Development

Vacant (Chair)
Members-at-large:
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Vacant
President

Education

Rob Cairns (Chair)
Members-at-large:
1. Matthew Boutda
2. Peggy David
3. Debbie McMackin
4. Randy Mills
5. Vacant
President

Governance

Nancy Bell (Chair)
Members-at-large:
1. Linda Wilson
2. Lloyd Winfield
3. Vacant
President

Honorary Membership

Vice President (Chair)
Past President
President

Nominating

Marg Merkley (Chair)
Janis Cowie (Vice-Chair)
Central Area Representative
West Area Representative
President

Programs

Marg Merkley (Acting Chair)
Instrument Loan Program
Coordinator
Music Lending Library
Coordinator
Members-at-large:
1. Lloyd Winfield
2. Vacant
President

Terry Head Memorial Committee

Rob Cairns (Chair)
KC Cann
Susan Carscadden Mifsud
Janis Cowie
Judy McKnight
Barb Plante
President

Working Group

Membership Working Group*

Helen Coxon (Chair)
Joan Bolam
Kim Leitch
Norma Draper
Shirley Reinders

* indicates changes made at Jan 9, 2021 Board Meeting