



Ontario Guild of
English Handbell
Ringers

CLAPPER CHATTER

June 2020

It's About Time



May 27-29, 2021
Kingston, ON

Join us **May 27-29, 2021** for the 18th OGEHR Festival being held in Kingston at St. Lawrence College. Our Festival Theme is “It’s About Time”, which speaks about the wonderful time we have when we play bells together again. Time is also represented in the themes of our chosen Festival pieces (see our website Music page for more information: <https://ogehr.ca/Music-List>). Our logo designer, Madeline Lang, has captured the iconic limestone Kingston City Hall, and its clock tower, as it sits on the waters of Lake Ontario.

We are fortunate to have Kathleen Wissinger as our guest director and Lisa Kyriakides directing our Gold Choir and *O Canada*. Please see the website for details on these talented conductors. Also, don’t forget to send in ideas you might have for one of our fun workshops and let us

know if you are able to host a workshop yourself.

All ringing will be in the Kingston Gym at St. Lawrence College, a five minute walk from the residence. The College is located near Lake Ontario and is essentially one large building, ensuring that the marketplace, dining area, and workshop rooms will be only a short indoor walk from the ringing floor.

Registrants will be accommodated in single or double (2 twin beds) rooms. Each room has a private full washroom, fridge, and individual climate control air conditioning. The residence offers complimentary Wi-Fi internet, local calls, and free parking. There are two lounges with cable TV, and one lounge per floor has public microwaves and seating. **Accommodation reservations will be made by registrants directly with St. Lawrence College Event Services.**

Keep up to date with Festival happenings by checking the Festival 2021 section of the OGEHR website (<https://ogehr.ca/Its-About-Time-May-27-29-2021>) and by watching the weekly OGEHR Email Tree.

If you’ve ever attended a handbell festival, you know the thrill of performing with hundreds of other ringers, attending workshops, hearing other choirs, and meeting other handbell ringers.

If you’ve never attended a bell festival, you may be interested in our **Observer** Program. You can attend for one day to watch rehearsals and mini rings, participate in a workshop, shop at the marketplace, and socialize with other ringers. If you attend on Saturday, a concert ticket is included. This is a unique experience to truly appreciate the beauty of handbell music on a grand scale. Please plan to attend **It’s About Time** May 27-29, 2021 at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Ontario!

Registration details will be provided in November. Please assist any ringers who do not have access to the internet with the application process. We will lead you through the process step by step.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2021 Festival
- Persevering during the pandemic

Continued on page 4.

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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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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simon.spencer1993@gmail.com
416-702-5661

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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: Sept. 30, for publication Oct. 15



President's Message

What a difference a year brings! Last June at Fanshawe College, 296 of us were able to stand side by side as we rehearsed, and a sold-out audience of 250 people was able to sit together as they listened to one of OGEHR's best final concerts. With the start of COVID-19, we have not been able to even attend weekly bell practices, be part of worship services, or be involved with community events. It's not just the music we miss; it's being able to make music together that we miss, too!

I know many of you have been able to stay connected by phone and by platforms such as ZOOM. This is so important and I commend you for doing so. A few intrepid members have taken on the challenge of practicing solos, and/or rehearsing with small groups and choirs virtually. We applaud your energy, talent and knowledge!

As I reflect on the past year, I feel sincerely blessed to have worked with such an outstanding Board of Directors, who bring an incredible range of gifts and expertise to each meeting. While we continue to mourn the untimely death of Terry Head, who was a beloved Director, together we have been able to move forward. Hosting the Annual Meeting electronically was a huge Board effort. OGEHR's Directors and volunteers are an amazing group of supportive and positive team players.

As we move forward into the 2020—2021 OGEHR year, I encourage all of you to think about the following:

1. While all group events are presently cancelled, please keep up to date with opportunities to stay connected and bell activities near and afar by reading the weekly e-mail tree and the Clapper Chatter, and joining in ZOOM "bell-drop ins".
2. May 2021 may seem like a long way off, but the 2021 Festival Committee has been hard at work since November of 2019. Please take a look at the music that has been selected and plan on incorporating it into your 2020 – 2021 season. Mark May 27—29 on your calendars, and plan on joining us at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, ON.
3. Get involved with your Guild at some level. As you will note in subsequent articles, there are many volunteer positions. If you see one that interests you or if you can think of someone who would be a good fit for the positions that are available, please contact me at president@ogher.ca
4. While there over 30 Handbell choirs and close to 300 members who are part of OGEHR, we are aware that there are many choirs that are not members. When you hear about one of these choirs please promote OGEHR and pass along their contact information to Helen Coxon at membership@ogher.ca

Let's hope that we can all be back playing by the time September school bells are ringing.

Margaret Merkle

OGEHR, President

Continued from page 1.

The prices below apply to all members of OGEHR, as well as members of other handbell Guilds.

PROGRAM OPTIONS

There are four Program Options for participation at *It's About Time* Festival 2021:

1. Program with Meals

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday programs

6 meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday and Saturday)

Adult \$275 (includes taxes)

Youth \$250 (includes taxes); Youth are defined as 17 years of age or under on May 27, 2021

2. Program No Meals

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday programs

NO meals

\$145 (includes taxes)

3. Observer

Friday OR Saturday program

3 meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) on day selected

Participation in one workshop

Observe rehearsals and mini rings

One Festival Concert ticket

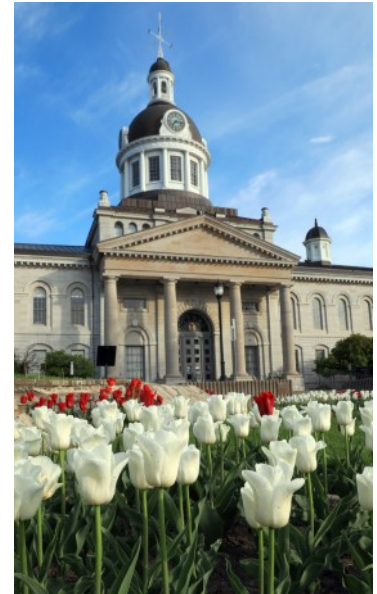
\$170 (includes taxes)

4. Friend of the Festival

6 meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday and Saturday)

One Festival Concert ticket

\$140 (includes taxes)



Come join us in Kingston, The Limestone City, on Lake Ontario for a great handbell festival!



Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers

2020 Annual Meeting

May 23, 2020



Many thanks to the 42 OGEHR members who took time to join the 2020 OGEHR Annual Meeting, held via a teleconference on Saturday, May 23rd. They were part of an historic event—OGEHR's first electronic annual meeting!

During Festival years, OGEHR's Annual Meeting is held at the Festival. During non-festival years, it is combined with a program. The 2020 Annual Meeting was to have taken place at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Scarborough, and the Program Committee had planned a program to coincide with our Annual Meeting.

With the advent of COVID-19, these plans had to be modified. After careful deliberation, the OGEHR Board decided to host the AM via Pragmatic. We are most appreciative of the careful attention to detail that Mary Loree gave to the planning of this meeting, enabling it to run quickly and smoothly.

The following motions were made and carried:

- To receive the report from the Board and ratify the actions of the Board from June 6, 2019 to May 22, 2020.
- To receive the December 31, 2019 Financial Statements as printed.
- To approve the appointment of the accounting firm BDO Canada, LLP, as the accountant for the Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers and to authorize the firm to conduct a review for the year ending December 31, 2020.
- To elect **Rob Cairns** as **President Director** of the Guild, including to the **Officer** position of **Vice-President**, for the unexpired two-year term, beginning at the end of the 2020 Annual Meeting and ending at the adjournment of the 2021 Annual meeting.
- To elect the following candidates as **Directors of the Guild**, for full **three-year terms** beginning at the adjournment of the 2020 Annual Meeting and expiring at the adjournment of the 2023 Annual Meeting:
 - Joan Bolam
 - Janis Cowie
 - Sona Khachikyan
- To elect Sona Khachikyan as an Officer of the Guild, to the position of Treasurer, for a full three-year term beginning at the adjournment of the 2020 Annual Meeting and expiring at the adjournment of the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- Jennifer Bell, who has stepped down from the role of Treasurer after completing her three-year term, was thanked for her dedication and contributions to OGEHR.

The 2021 OGEHR Annual Meeting will be held on May 27, 2020 in Kingston.

Margaret Merkley
OGEHR, President

2020—2021 OGEHR DIRECTORS



Margaret Merkley

President
Chair: Nominations
Chair: Program



Rob Cairns

Vice-President
Chair: Education
Chair Terry Head Scholarship



Mary Loree

Corresponding & Recording Secretary



Helen Coxon

Membership Secretary



Sona Khachikyan

Treasurer



Nancy Bell

Chair: Governance



Joan Bolam

Chair: Area Reps



Janis Cowie

Chair: 2021 Festival



Kim Leitch

Webmaster
Chair: Communication



Each Director/Chair has a group of either Board Appointed members or members at large on their Committee. Many thanks to the following members for volunteering to be on these committees for 2020—2021 to make Committee work happen!

The Nominating Committee is still looking for “members at large” for most Committees. If you see an area that interests you, please consider contacting me at president@ogher.ca .

❖ Area Representatives Committee:

- Joan Bolam – Chair
- Janet MacDonald – East Area Representative
- heather nicholson – Central East Area Representative
- Lisa Kyriakides– Central Area Representative
- Mark Matterson – Central West Representative
- Vacant- South Area Representative
- Shirley Reinders – North East Representative
- Vacant – North West Area Representative

❖ Communications Committee:

- Kim Leitch - Chair
- Simon Spencer – Newsletter Editor
- Man-Yee Sun - Email coordinator
- Kim Leith – Webmaster
- Janis Cowie – Member at large
- Rob Cairns – Member at large
- Vacant – member at large

❖ Education Committee:

- Rob Cairns - Chair
- Matthew Boutda
- Peggy David
- Debbie McMackin
- Randy Mills
- Vacant

❖ Governance Committee:

- Nancy Bell - Chair
- Linda Wilson
- Lloyd Winfield
- Vacant – Member at Large

❖ Nominating Committee:

- Margaret Merkley - Chair
- Janis Cowie – Vice Chair
- Rob Cairns
- Lisa Kyriakides
- Vacant - North West Area Representative

❖ Program Committee:

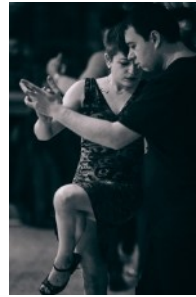
- Margaret Merkley - Chair
- Barbara Peaker – Instrument Loan Program Coordinator
- Debi Sproule – Music Lending Coordinator
- Lloyd Winfield – Member at Large
- Vacant – Member at Large

❖ 2021 Festival Committee:

- Janis Cowie – Chair and Registrar
- Gail Bowes – Festival Coordinator, Communication, and Auction
- Facilities – Amy Baker
- Marketplace – Susan Buckingham
- Mini Ring – Ruth Pettis
- Music – Judy King, Jan Haskin
- Publicity – Kathy Baer, Janet McDonald, Bonnie Howes
- Social – Lynne Current
- Website and Secretary – Kim Leitch
- Workshops – Margaret Merkley
- Kim Leitch – Website and Secretary
- President Ex Officio – Margaret Merkley

Meet our Newest (and Youngest) Director - Sona Khachikyan

Sona has recently received her accounting designation through ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants). She is currently taking the Overview of Canadian Tax and Law course remotely, which will give her the option to apply for a CPA membership, and then hold two designations. She has worked as an accountant for the past seven years. She started as a Financial Analyst, she has worked as a Senior Billing Administrator, and is currently working as a Finance Coordinator at an engineering firm.



While not a bell ringer, Sona has several hobbies. She enjoys rock climbing, playing the piano and the guitar, skiing, and learning about programming. However, her biggest passion is Argentine Tango, which she has been practicing for almost a year.

Thank you, Jennifer Bell!



Many thanks to Jennifer Bell, who is stepping down from her role as Director/Treasurer at the completion of her three-year term.

Jennifer's interest in OGEHR was fostered from a very young age as she grew up in a musical home and began ringing handbells when she was very young. Then, while she was in high school she directed a children's handbell choir. As is often the case, University life took her away from handbells for a while as she pursued her CPA-CGA accounting designation and began her career. A few years ago, Jennifer auditioned for the Bronze Foundation, and at about the same time, was elected to the OGEHR Board as treasurer. While Jennifer was fortunate to find an organization to volunteer with that married her musical passion and her accounting skills, it is OGEHR that was most fortunate, as she is the one who has shared her analytical skills, her unique perspective on current issues, and her passion for music at every board meeting. For the expertise, energy and enthusiasm Jennifer gave this role over the past three years, we are extremely grateful.

Margaret Merkley,
OGEHR President

Area Representatives are YOUR Connection to and from OGEHR. Please contact Joan Bolam (Area Rep Chair) at [jabo-
lam@rogers.com](mailto:jabolam@rogers.com) if you have questions, or contact your Area Rep listed below.

There are 8 OGEHR Areas within the province of Ontario and we have Area Reps in 6 of these Areas.

Help Wanted: North West Area has no registered choirs at present, though we are in contact with 2 leaders, one in Kenora and one in Thunder Bay. We have no Area Rep and would love to find someone with contacts with Handbell Ringers in that Area.

Help Wanted: South Area. At present we have no Area Rep for this area, which includes Guelph, Kitchener, Waterloo, Elora, Elmira, Burlington, Stoney Creek, Niagara Falls, Grimsby, and Brantford choirs. Consider if you can be that connection as Area Rep.

East Area. We thank Judy King for her excellent work as Area Rep during her term of service in the East Area (Ottawa, Kingston). We welcome **Janet McDonald** from Kingston as the new East Area Rep group. Janet is the director of Edith Rankin Memorial United Church handbell choir, where Marg Merkley rings, and is a friend of Judy King's, so Janet is well connected with OGEHR and with the other East Directors. Thank you, Janet, for joining the OGEHR Area Rep Team.

Contact: janartmcd@yahoo.ca

Central East Area. heather nicholson has been the CE Area Rep for this past year and is working to connect with the CE Directors and Ringers. She is a gifted solo handbell ringer, who has travelled across Canada performing at Festivals and offering workshops on solo and small group handbell activities.

Contact: hanicholson109@gmail.com

Central Area. We welcome Lisa Kyriakides as the new Central Area Rep. Lisa is well-known in the handbell world, not only for her handbell success, but as a beautiful vocalist. She performed at the OGEHR Festival in London last year and was invited to be the Canadian Conductor at the International Symposium in Hong Kong this summer, which sadly has been cancelled.

Contact: lisa@kyriakides.ca

Central West Area. Mark Matterson has completed his first term as the Central West Area Rep and has agreed to continue in this role for the next three years. Mark has developed connections with the Directors in this Area, offering gatherings and shared concerts over the past year. At present, he is finding ways to involve his ringers in virtual choirs and offering links to various handbell activities.

Contact: mmatterson@rogers.com

North East Area. Shirley Reinders has completed her term as the North East Area Rep and has also agreed to continue in this role for the next three years. Shirley has built connections with the ringers and directors of this area, offering shared opportunities for community music development and service.

Contact: reindersshirley@gmail.com

West Area. Rob Cairns is a Music and Drama teacher at the Lester B. Pearson School of the Arts in London, and is the Director of Metropolitan United Church Handbells. Rob has also joined the OGEHR Board as a Director and is taking on the role of Vice-President of the Guild. Rob is a composer/arranger and brings lots of tech savvy to engage ringers in virtual concerts and presentations.

Contact: rob.j.cairns@gmail.com

Area Representatives Chair Joan Bolam is excited to be working with such a talented and committed team of Area Reps. We will be working hard to continue to build up the Directors and Ringers within Ontario. **Joan asks for your support in finding an Area Rep for South Area**, to ensure that these Directors and Ringers continue to connect with each other and OGEHR. Please contact Joan at 519 473 7887 or [jabo-
lam@rogers.com](mailto:jabolam@rogers.com) if you have questions or suggestions about our Areas. Thank you.

Greetings from Your New Area Reps!

Janet McDonald



"It will be a new venture for me to be an Eastern Area rep for OGEHR. I have a BA in music from Mt. A, a BMusEd from U of T, and a Masters in choral conducting from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. I taught piano, conducted choirs, and had a children's Kindermusik program in Kingston. For many years I have been directing the Limestone Ringers and A Pealing Sound at Edith Rankin Memorial United Church in Kingston. Now I want to be more involved with OGEHR.

I have heard that there are many more hand bells choirs in the Eastern Ontario, and I would like to learn more about them and invite them to be a part of the handbell community. OGEHR is a vital group of ringers, and it would be wonderful to have more bell ringers in the OGEHR family.

There can be an opportunity, even with COVID19, to reach out and learn more about the bell ringers in the area. I will try to contact them and compile a list for future invitations to OGEHR."

Lisa Kyriakides



"Hi everyone. I am the Handbell director at Aurora United Church. We have 2 three-octave choirs as well as a quartet. I am also a member of Bronze Foundation. During this pandemic I have been zooming with my handbell ringers each week – on rehearsal night – keeping our connection alive. Our church is creating wonderful online services, and I have been sending videos of our handbell groups performing (recorded pre-COVID) to use in these virtual services. I spend my COVID days working part-time (my day job), knitting prayer shawls for my church (just finished number 6), doing jigsaw puzzles (working on number 12), reading books, and making meals for my husband and 2 teenage daughters (anyone else tired of making dinner night after night? 😊). Looking forward to working with the other Central Area conductors."

OGEHR Honorary Member Series

By Mary Loree

January 2020

OGEHR recognizes distinguished individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of handbells in Ontario either through outstanding personal participation or through exceptional leadership in OGEHR. In the early years of the Guild, members achieving this honour were named 'Honorary President'. The change to 'Honorary Member' occurred around 1990.

This article is the first in a series intended to highlight and honour each OGEHR member who has earned this prestigious distinction. Those very special people are: Vera Diamond (1985), June Somerville (1988), Donald E. Allured (probably 1991), Stuart C. Belson (2007), Barbara Plante (2013), Sylvia Carscadden (2015), Marjorie Slinn (2015), and Cathie Banks (2019). Any information about Vera Diamond that members could supply would be appreciated. (Mary Loree, secretary@ogehr.ca)



June Somerville

OGEHR Honorary President (1988)

Records indicate that June Somerville's handbell directing began in 1963. In 1978, she became the handbell director at Ryerson United Church, a position that she held for almost twenty-five years.

During her time at Ryerson, June was involved with the formation of our provincial guild and assumed the position of secretary on the first OGEHR Board in 1985. When June was named 'Honorary President' in 1988, she noted in her thank you note that this year also marked her 25th year of directing handbell choirs.

Throughout her life, June was also very active as a carillonneur. In 1976 she began a 16 year tenure playing the 55-bell carillon at the Rainbow Bridge Tower in Niagara Falls, creating music that rang above the Falls. In addition to her 12-piece performance at the tower bells four days each week and daily evening recitals for the Christmas "Panorama of Lights" in the park, she directed a handbell choir, and played the carillon at Cathedral of Christ the King in Hamilton, ON for 13 years.

In 2003, June was named citizen of the year by Simcoe, ON for playing the Norfolk Soldiers War Memorial Carillon in Simcoe for 20 years, teaching carillon classes, and giving carillon recitals on summer Sunday afternoons.

June held both Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Science degrees as well as a Master's in Education. She passed away February 22, 2009

References:

1. Conversation of Gillian Street with J.-C. Coolen July 12, 2006
2. OGEHR Newsletter #8, January 1988
3. June's response to Gerry Ziegler after reading the preceding article.
4. The Diapason Magazine, March 19, 2003 (<https://www.thediapason.com/carillon-news-20>).
Clippings of the Niagara Falls Review taken from the Niagara Falls Library



AREA EAST: AMIDST PANDEMIC!

It is difficult not to feel doom and gloom when our bells are locked up, the churches and concert halls are closed, and Ringers are scattered. We are all still in relative isolation as Ontario is opening up very slowly. Many of our churches are in lock-down—no one allowed in and nothing can come out. So I asked around to see what was happening these days in the Area East handbell world. I received some interesting notes.

Olive O'May: Gloucester Presbyterian “Gloucester Ringers”

Olive is lucky. She is one of the few who has access to the bells in her church. She plans to have them all polished by the time they can get back together. And because her choir is small, she is hoping that they might be able to ring sooner than later, as social distancing will be easy.

Jan Haskin: Portland UC “Portland Pealers”

Jan’s church is locked up tight. She and her Ringers have been keeping in touch by sharing funny stories, YouTube clips, and virtual choir videos.

Emily Beedell: MacKay UC (Ottawa) “Rowdy Ringers”

This choir was just ready to return from their ‘Christmas to March Break’ break, when everything closed down. Her choir has been hit by a double whammy as Emily is a hospital worker and on the front line. There is not much time left over for bells for her!

Ann Frederking: Emmanuel UC (Ottawa) “Emmanubells”

This church is closed to all but the five who are streaming the service on Sundays. She is trying to negotiate a time when she can pick up the bells from the church to give them a good polish during the summer. Ann has been keeping in touch with her Ringers with a weekly update email.

Reg Harden: Knox Presbyterian (Vankleek Hill) “Acquire for Bells”

His church is closed as well, but he has found the most creative ways to keep bells in everyone’s mind! Reg initiated *The Bells of Vankleek Hill*—all of the Churches plus the Town Hall agreed to ring their bells from 12 noon to 12:15 pm every Sunday morning for the first four lockdown Sundays. He was also able to take 6 bells from his church and he and his wife Rosemary walked around the town ringing their handbells with the Churches & Town Hall. Now the bells ring on the first Sunday of every month. Reg says “this activity keeps us connected in our small town and definitely shouts hope and resilience”

He also arranged a socially distanced outdoor service to acknowledge those who were killed in Nova Scotia. While everyone lined Main Street, Reg tolled the C4 bell to pay homage to the 22 people who had been killed.

Verne Palmer: Rothwell UC (Gloucester) “Rothwell Ringers”

Verne’s bells are also quiet from no access. His last contact had him handing out ‘Who’ll Be My Witness’ to his Ringers. No one knows when they will be able to get back together to ring this beautiful piece.

Gordon Dewis: Rideau Park UC (Ottawa) “Touch of Brass”

“The bells have gone dark. All five choirs!” Gordon sits on the Worship & Music Committee and is able to pull some of their handbell archived music to run with their weekly webcast services. There is also a weekly social zoom gathering for their adult Ringers. At this point, the bells and music are not accessible.

Janet McDonald: The Limestone Ringers (Kingston)

The Limestone Ringers met on our regular rehearsal night on Ring Central (Zoom) a couple of times to keep in touch and catch up (hair comments were out of bounds). I investigated a virtual performance of the Limestone Ringers for a church service, but it was too complicated. With help from Craig Pettis, a previously filmed video from a church performance last year was included in our May 31 virtual church service at Edith Rankin church. This can be the plan for future virtual services. Hopefully we can get back together for regular rehearsals in the fall.

Earnest Vinson: Who rings with the “Emmanubells”, “St Andrew’s Ringers”, and the “Hilltop Ringers” (Trinity Presbyterian, Carp) runs a zoom meeting Thursday at 7 pm for any East Area Ringer. You never know who is going to show up, or what topic comes up next 😊. It has turned out to be a great way to get to know Ringers in the other choirs in town, and to keep in touch with those we know.

The East Area Directors Roundtable aka, The Roundtable: A networking group for all the Handbell Director’s in the East Area. We have learned to meet through zoom. Who knew! We are still in the strategic planning stage for our *Fall Workshop October 24th*. At this point, we have no idea if it will be able to go ahead, but we are optimistic, and don’t want to be caught unprepared.

Lynn Boothroyd: St Andrew’s Presbyterian (Ottawa) “St Andrew’s Ringers” and the “Belsons Ringers” ONLY while Director Ros Lees is on maternity leave 😊.

I was on the Indian Ocean when Ontario locked down. By the time I returned home, and isolated for two weeks, it seemed like I hadn’t seen my choir forever. Some of my Ringers have asked for zoom practices, but in my church, no one is allowed in or to take anything out, and my bell/chimes and music are all locked away. And, I admit, I don’t have the talent or the equipment to run one. I do send out a weekly newsletter *Ringin’ Matters* with anything I can find that is interesting in the handbell world, along with a weekly check-in for all. My Ringers pass around news and pictures of the ‘family’, music videos, and fun stuff. Many of us check into Earnest’s zoom chat.

Summer is coming. Most of us would have packed away our bells by now. None of us know what the future holds, but I have booked the practice nights for the coming year at my church, and I have my Director’s Music binder at home to plan the music for the coming year. This week I attended a webinar by Tim Waugh that was positive and seeded with great ideas for choirs getting back together again in a safe and healthy way, as the province begins to open up slowly. It definitely looks like I will have to rethink how choir practice will be this coming year, but the summer gives me time to think, plan, and be creative.

Just remember small in number is beautiful too. There is lots of music out there for small ensembles. And small can always grow! I have attached a link that I hope you will enjoy, and that will give you hope and joy. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJeOP2_eDf8

Stay safe & well
Lynn Boothroyd



BELLS@HOME

Rob Cairns

The shutdown due to the 2020 pandemic has affected all of our handbell programs. We are all hopeful that we will be able to return to working with our groups soon, but in the meantime, here is one unique interim program that is being tried at Metropolitan United Church in London, Ontario.

During our time away from being able to rehearse, I had been giving some thought as to what we might be able to do to still play handbells. I decided to deliver handbells to each person's home and then provide some music and recordings to use to rehearse.

Here is how I set up the program:

Although a number of people in our group do move around for different pieces, for this program they would have to stay on the same bells, as those are ones they would have available at home.

I delivered the following to each person: Handbells, chimes, their music, a bell pad, and the handbell music stand.

We have both handbells and chimes, so for the accidentals needed I gave each person the flat notes with their bells and the sharp notes with their chimes. We are lucky to have both, so between the two they have all the accidentals they would need for any piece. (Sometimes they might have to rehearse on bells and sometimes on chimes, depending on the key signature.)

I use Finale for my compositions, so I started to produce more arrangements that we could use to rehearse.

I have also produced recordings of some of the music we have been playing. We enjoyed "Joyance" from the last OGEHR Festival, so we have kept that in our repertoire. I have produced three rehearsal recordings: "Rehearsal Speed", "Performance", "Our Speed". We were also getting ready to play for a wedding in September so I have done recordings of "Trumpet Voluntary". If you were at the last OGEHR Festival you should have the music for "Joyance", and "Trumpet Voluntary" is a reasonably common piece that many bell choirs have.

I have started to do more arrangements of hymns and other pieces so that people may keep up their skills.

Use the recordings and play along. As we all know, rehearsing handbells at home is rather difficult as you don't have your neighbours to work with, but the recordings do provide something to work with.

I will try to keep adding new material to these pages for my own group and for anyone else who follows this project. If you would like to see the material available and/or try to do this with your handbell group, you are welcome to do so. All the music on the website is covered by a Creative Commons license, so you are welcome to download anything at no cost.

To see all of the materials, please visit the link below:

robjcairns.ca

Solo Ringing

I became director of Knox Bells of Praise in Meaford in 1984, and as a beginning choir, we started with the basics. There is something quite unique about ringing bells with a group, and in order to progress, we attended workshops and I also subscribed to various publications that I felt would be helpful. In the late 1990's I attended Presbyterian Music Camp and that was the first time I saw Heather Nicholson perform a solo on handbells. Wow! I thought that was the most amazing thing, so I invited her to come to Meaford for one of our services, and she was gracious enough to accept that invitation. After her performance at our church, I thought to myself "I want to do that!"

Some members of our choir attended a workshop in Kitchener and soloist, Susan Carscadden-Mifsud performed a solo Christmas piece. It was also mesmerizing and so beautiful. Again, I was inspired to pursue solo ringing, so I purchased some music with instructions, and I was on my way! Over the years, I have been coached and assisted by both Heather and Susan at various workshops and festivals, and have valued their expertise and suggestions that have helped me develop my skills as a soloist. Their coaching has enabled me to better assist my choir, and as a result we have some ringers that have performed solos, and others that are involved in small ensembles. For me, it takes many hours of practice and lots of repetition, but the end result is very rewarding, and I am happy (though nervous) to share my pieces with my congregation and sometimes at other community events. I remember the first instruction in the manual: "Memorize your music". I think that is the challenge for many, but you just can't skip that one.

At festival mini-ring concerts, I am impressed by the many ringers that perform solos, and it is encouraging to see progress in this area of performance.

Thanks again to Heather and Susan and to my own choir and congregation for support, assistance, and encouragement in my solo endeavours.

Eleanor McDougall, Director

Knox Bells of Praise, Meaford



Virtual "Bell Drop-ins"

At OGEHR festivals, bell ringing events and area workshops, bell ringers have an opportunity to reconnect with each other and make new acquaintances. In the midst of COVID-19, we do not have an opportunity to meet in person—and we are all missing both the music and the people! However, prompted by a suggestion made by a couple of ringers to create an online forum, we have decided to host virtual "Bell Drop-ins".

We have been delighted to have members attend each of the meetings that have been hosted. It has been great to see each other, share stories, learn from each other—and even meet new bell ringers!

We will continue to host these events on a weekly basis and send the link to them via our weekly e-mail tree. In an attempt to meet the schedules of our members, the day and time will vary from week to week. Please join us for all or one of these "drop-ins" to reconnect and make new friends.

Check Out OGEHR's Facebook page!

Randy Mills

Looking for something new to try during our social isolation?

Have a look at OGEHR's *Facebook* page, and consider sharing with us some of your bell group's photos or videos!

During the past weeks of isolation, I have enjoyed viewing many of the pages belonging to our members' home organizations. It seemed like a good time to search and then 'like' the home institution's page of every one of our choirs.

Of course, not every group has a *Facebook* page, but the overwhelming majority of our choirs are indeed represented on *Facebook* in some way!

Most of our members belong to choirs ringing in local churches, and when 'liking' a page as 'OGEHR', I have been fortunate to see a rich collection of bell choir photos on many of these church pages.

Some choirs also have short videos available on *Facebook* – and these have been great to watch.

You can help! Please consider checking to see if **your group** does indeed have a presence on *Facebook* (usually this will be on your church/home institution's page). Is there a **recent photo** included on the page? Perhaps you have a video that could be shared on your page?

Even better, post your group's photo/video on OGEHR's *Facebook* page. Posts are sometimes held for review, but I always see updates, and will be happy to arrange for more of our members' photos/videos to be available for others to enjoy.



From Barbara: One of the hazards of trying to record at home! Anne reports the cat is not a good director – tends to knock over the music!

Music Review from Music Lending Library

The handbell choir I direct, Sounds of Simon, at St Simon's Church in Oakville, played at the funeral of Sonya Smye earlier this year. Sonya was the catalyst for acquiring bells at St Simon's and directed the choir for a number of years. Many people in the choir today were recruited by Sonya. Considering that Sonya's name is synonymous with handbells, we were all eager to participate when asked. And I believe we did her proud!

One of the pieces we played is All Night, All Day, a traditional spiritual arranged by Kathleen Wissinger. It is a level 2 piece for either 3, 4, or 5 octaves of bells, plus an optional 2 octaves of chimes.

We have 10 ringers in the choir with no one playing 4ih. However, our bass player rings from C4 to F4 so we are able to cover 3 octaves. In this music, many of the bass notes are malleted and with some displacement of bells, it is possible for 1 person to cover these 2 positions with no problems.

The piece is in G Major and no accidentals. It is quite straightforward with malleting, thump damps, shakes, and marts as techniques. Toward the end of the piece, the chimes are added as chordal harmony while the treble and bass alternate with the melody. This is a fun piece to play and an interesting one to listen to.

The Music Lending Library owns 10 copies of All Night, All Day.

Submitted by Debi Sproule, Coordinator Music Lending Library.

Feel free to contact me with any questions at debisproule@gmail.com.



The Roundtable of Handbell
Directors of Eastern Ontario
Are pleased to offer a
Handbell Workshop

Friday Evening, October 23, 2020

and

Saturday, October 24, 2020

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Carp, Ontario



**More information will be coming on this fun
handbell experience once we are sure the
Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.**

In the meantime, we hope you will

SAVE THE DATE!

OGEHR Board of Directors

As of May 23, 2020 (after Annual Meeting)

Directors (Year of Term Expiry*)

Officer Position(s)

*Terms expire at the adjournment of the Annual Meeting

Committee Chairships; Guild Representatives to external committees

President Directors

Margaret Merkley ('21) <i>President ('21)</i> <i>Chair: Board ('21); Chair Programs ('22); Chair Nominations ('21)</i> <i>Honorary Membership</i>	(613) 532-8490 margandpetermerkley@gmail.com	53 Shieling Crescent Kingston, ON K7M 4M7
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Rob Cairns ('21) <i>Vice-President ('21); Chair Education</i>	(519) 672-6841 rob.j.cairns@gmail.com	11 McKenzie Ave London, ON N6C1V1
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<<vacant>>

Past President ('21)

Officer Directors

Mary Loree ('21) <i>Corresponding and Recording Secretary ('21)</i>	(905) 637-0105 mary@loree.mygbiz.com	701 George Street Burlington, ON L7R 2V8
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Helen Coxon ('22) <i>Membership Secretary ('22)</i>	(416) 420-9660 hcoxon@sympatico.ca	61 Wheatfield Road Etobicoke, ON M8V 2P5
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Sona Khachikyan ('23) <i>Treasurer ('23)</i>	(647) 299 0156 sona_khachikyan@yahoo.com	80 Queens Wharf Road Toronto, ON M5V 0J3
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Directors

Nancy Bell ('21) <i>Chair: Governance ('21)</i>	R : (905) 271-6697 C: (416) 500-6697 nancybell@rogers.com	2108 Kawartha Cres Mississauga, ON L5H 3P9
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Joan Bolam ('23) <i>Chair: Area Representatives ('20)</i>	(519) 473-7887 jabolam@rogers.com	32-681 Commissioners Road London, ON N6K 4T9
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Janis Cowie ('23) <i>Chair: 2021 Festival ('22)</i> <i>Vice-Chair Nominations ('21)</i>	(905) 891-1650 jlcowie@rogers.com	1406 Saginaw Crescent Mississauga, ON L5H 1X5
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Kim Leitch ('22) <i>Chair: Communications ('22)</i>	(905) 830-5723 kimleitch@sympatico.ca	56 Dutch Settlers Court Holland Landing, ON L9N 1L9
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<<vacant>> ('21)

<<vacant>> ('22)

OGEHR Board Appointed Positions

May 23, 2020 as of Annual Meeting

Name

Position (Year of Term Expiry*, where applicable)

*Terms expire at the adjournment of the Annual Meeting, except as otherwise noted

Area Representatives

Janet McDonald

East Representative ('23)

heather nicholson

Central East Representative ('22)

C (647) 230-2254 H (905) 686-5676

hanicholson109@gmail.com

62 Dooley Crescent

Ajax, ON L1T 4J2

Lisa Kyriakides

Central Representative ('21)

Mark Matterson

Central West Representative ('23)

(647) 927-4337

mmatterson@rogers.com

2338 Brookhurst Road

Mississauga, ON L5J 1R2

<<vacant>>

South Representative ('22)

Rob Cairns

West Representative ('21)

C (519) 670.0525 H (519) 672-6841

rob.j.cairns@gmail.com

11 McKenzie Ave

London, ON N6C 1V1

Shirley Reinders

North East Representative ('23)

(519) 538-3641

reindersshirley@gmail.com

077797 11th Line R.R.1

Meaford, ON N4L 1W5

<<vacant>>

North West Representative ('21)

Communications

Man-Yee Sun

Email Coordinator ('21)

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manyee.sun@gmail.com

267 Mary Street

Waterloo, ON N2J 1S5

Randy Mills

Social Media Coordinator ('22)

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Cobourg, ON K7A 1C9

Simon Spencer

Newsletter Editor ('22)

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61 Wheatfield Road

Etobicoke, ON M8V 2P5

Kim Leitch

Webmaster ('21)

(905) 830-5723

kimleitch@sympatico.ca

56 Dutch Settlers Crt

Holland Landing, On L9N 1L9

Festival Coordinators

Gail Bowes

2021 Festival Coordinator ('22)

(613) 565-4972

125 Blackburn Avenue

Programs

Barbara Peaker

Instrument Loan Program Coordinator ('22)

(519) 940-1862

barbara_musicchild@yahoo.ca

7 Trillium Trail

Everett, ON L0M 1J0

Debi Sproule

Music Lending Coordinator ('22)

(905) 634-4589

debisproule@gmail.com

2-1275 Stephenson Drive

Burlington, ON L7S 2M2

Standing Committees as of April 18 2020 – to be up-dated June 27 2020

Member Terms: Generally, one year, ending at first Board meeting after Annual Meeting

Area Representatives

ToR: 110416-12; 180113-07

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

ToR: 110219-05; 110416-07; 120421-12

Kim Leitch (Chair)

Newsletter Editor
Webmaster
Email Coordinator
Social Media Coordinator
Members-at-large:
1. Janis Cowie
2. Vacant
3. Vacant
President

Development

ToR: 170930-04

Vacant (Chair)

Members-at-large:
1. Vacant
2. Vacant

3. Vacant

President

Education

ToR: 111014-10; 130209-07; 160624-08

Rob Cairns (Chair)

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

Governance

ToR: 111014-12

Nancy Bell (Chair)

Members-at-large:
1. Linda Wilson
2. Lloyd Winfield
3. Vacant
President

Honorary Membership

ToR: 2007-02-17; 190622-08

Vice President (Chair)
Past President
President

Nominating

ToR: 160409-11

Janis Cowie (Chair)

Terry Head (Vice-Chair)
Central West Area Rep.
East Area Representative
North East Area Rep.
President

Programs (2 year terms)

ToR: 120421-05; 160624-08; 190622-10

Marg Merkley

(Acting Chair)

Instrument Loan Program
Coordinator
Music Lending Library
Coordinator
Members-at-large:
1. Lloyd Winfield
2. Vacant
President

Ad Hoc Committees as of April 18 2020

Member Terms: Generally, for the life of the Committee

(Highlighting indicates up-dates)

2021 Festival

ToR: 2019-06-22

Janis Cowie (Chair & Registrar) P

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

Terry Head Memorial Committee

2004- 04-18

Rob Cairns (Chair)

KC Cann

Susan Carscadden Mifsud

Janis Cowie

Judy McKnight

Barb Plante

President

Working Groups

Member Terms: Generally, for the life of the Working Group