

President's Message

I hope the new year has started out well for you. I am happy that my handbells are back to regularly playing and we have been working away at our festival music. Yes! Festival Music! It seems so normal and still so strange at the same time.

I really hope that all of you are considering attending the festival this year. Our Festival Committee has been working hard to get everything in place and registrations are going quite well. It has been far too long since we have had a chance to gather and see our friends from around the

province. I do speak with people on Zoom all the time for various reasons, but it is so nice to actually see them in person.

The festival is from Thursday, June 1st to Saturday, June 3rd, 2023. We hope to see all of you there. Details are available on our website at the top of any page. Look for the green links. https://ogehr.ca/





Help us to help each other.

Rob Cairns - President OGEHR





February 2023

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

SUBMISSIONS

Clapper Chatter welcomes your submissions. All submissions must be received by the following deadlines: September 30th (October issue), January 31st (February issue), May 31st (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: Andrea Gray — Clapper Chatter Editor at clapperchatter@ogehr.ca 613-286-7495

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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 e-mailing Andrea at clapperchatter@ogehr.ca

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







June 1-3, 2023 Kingston, ON

The Festival theme is It's About Time which speaks to our Time to ring bells together again, Time signatures and changes of Time in the themes of our chosen pieces. It is also Time to think of our relations with Indigenous peoples as we spend quiet Time near the waters of Lake Ontario. Our logo designer, OGEHR member Madeline Lang, has created an image of Kingston's iconic limestone City Hall, the First Capital of Canada, with its bell tower and clock. It's About Time the bell festival returned to Kingston, The Limestone City!

Festival Registration

Registering for Festival is quite easy. Here are some tips:

Go to www.ogehr.ca/registration

- Register at our Early Bird rate before February 28
- Ringers register as part of a choir
- If you are coming on your own and need to be placed with a choir, you are a Lone Ringer
- Youth need to have a Chaperone accompany them

Determine your ringing level (Copper A, Copper B, Bronze). Read the Program options and determine which one suits you best.

Workshop Registration

Once you've finished your Program registration, you will receive an email confirmation and receipt. On the confirmation is a link to register for Workshops. First go to www.ogehr.ca/workshops and review the workshops available for your ringing level.

Workshop News

With thanks to the many talented clinicians who stepped forward to offer workshops, we have 65 workshop sessions that range in interest level and ringing abilities for Copper A, Copper B, and Bronze ringers. We also have a number of workshops specifically designed for Directors. In addition, there are general workshops that are both ringing and non-ringing.

Each ringer has three workshop electives. Make sure you register early so you are not disappointed. (Some have filled up already.) Each ringer is also assigned one break to rest or shop at the Marketplace. If you are interested in taking a workshop during this break please go to Information Central to see if there are available spots open in sessions being offered at that time.

Workshops need many sets of bells and lengths of foam. If your group has bells or foam you will not be using on the ringing floor, or if you know of a choir not attending that would be able to help us with workshop equipment, please contact me at margandpetermerkley@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Margaret Merkley

Workshop Coordinator

Con't...

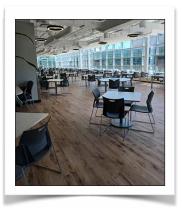


Bedroom Registration

Room accommodations must be booked directly with St. Lawrence College. Booking notes, link and descriptions of rooms can be found under the Facilities tab. Go to www.ogehr.ca/facilities-and-accommodations.

St Lawrence College is a small campus with all the facilities a short walk from the residence. There are elevators available for those who need them and all areas are air- conditioned. Here are pictures of the ringing floor, the cafeteria and single and double rooms.







Our guest conductors for It's About Time are Kath Wissinger and Lisa Kyriakides



Kath Wissinger is our guest conductor for Massed, Copper B and Bronze choirs. Known for her clear directing, creative teaching style and engaging compositions, she is a ringer, educator, director and clinician. She has directed and taught at events across the US, in Canada and even in Japan. Celebrating 16 years teaching handbell classes for 5th-8th grade students at Redeemer Classical School (Harrisonburg, VA), Kath also directs MOSAIC Handbell Ensemble (an advanced community group) and Gloria Dei (an adult church group).



Lisa is our guest conductor for Massed, Copper A and Gold Choirs. Lisa is an experienced soloist, educator, musical director, conductor and adjudicator. She is the director of the Handbell program at Aurora United Church, which includes conducting two 4-octave choirs, Faith-A-Peal and Bellissimo and is a member of the EmBellished Handbell Quartet. Lisa has been a ringer in The Bronze Foundation, an auditioned community Handbell Ensemble, since 2015.

Kath and Lisa recently attended one of OGEHR's Bell Socials to give us some information on the festival music. The link for this recording can be found here with the passcode: &Kk0?!7C

If your choir hasn't yet ordered music for the Festival, the Music List page gives all your options.

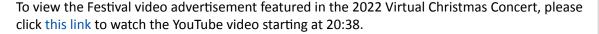
Mini Ring applications are open, for choirs wanting to perform a piece for fellow ringers, by filling out the form at the bottom of the Music page.

The tentative schedule for the Festival is located on the OGEHR website.

Con't...

The 2023 Festival Shirt

This golf shirt is True Royal, moisture wicking, antimicrobial, with UV protection, 100% polyester pique golf shirt available in sizes from XSmall to 3xLarge in Men's and Ladies sizes. It has the "It's About Time" logo on the left chest. The shirts will be \$39 and will be up soon on the OGEHR store section of the website. Shirts will not be available at the Festival. They must be pre-ordered via the OGEHR website.





Marketplace

An important highlight of previous Festivals has been the Marketplace where choirs are able to enhance their music repertoire and purchase bell related items. In addition, we like to offer ringers an eclectic array of crafts and products to purchase. While we have many interested vendors we are still looking. If you know vendors we should contact to be part of the 2023 Festival Marketplace, please contact Marketplace Coordinator, Margaret Merkley at margandpetermerkley @gmail.com or telephone 613-532-8490. Vendors will be listed on the OGEHR website as confirmed.

Volunteers Needed

Many hands make light work at the Festival, so a list of volunteers is needed. If you or someone travelling with you has some time to spare, please contact Volunteer coordinator, Lynne at lynnecurrent@sympatico.ca.

Festival Podium

The festival podium needs a new home when it is taken down after the festival in June. While it is a large structure when assembled, it only requires a space approximately 5 x 9 x 3 feet high when disassembled. If anyone has a spot where it could be stored, or knows of a suitable place, please contact Margaret Merkley at margandpetermerkley@gmail.com.

The Bell Forest is Back

Bell Forest returns to the 2023 Festival with a Scottish bell tree solo piece: Brethren, We Have Met to Worship. This piece can be purchased from Hope Publishing. For those new to the bell tree world, the Bell Forest is made up of multiple bell trees played by ringers who have practiced the piece at home, brought their bell trees to Kingston and met at the Festival for a rehearsal or two before playing at a Mini Ring. For questions please e-mail Cheryl McFarlane at oliver.mcfarlanec@gmail.com.

Silent Auction

Corporate And Business Gift Certificates

If you have a business contact willing to donate something for the Silent Auction table, we can provide a letter for you to give to the business, to enable them to use their contribution as a charitable donation. All proceeds from the sale of corporate and business contributions will go to OGEHR.

Gift Baskets

Would your choir be interested in creating a gift basket? If so, you are encouraged to put together a gift basket for inclusion in the Silent Auction. Possible themes include: bath, tea, foods, bells, music, cooking, baking, sports, travel, auto, gardening, etc. The minimum suggested retail value should be \$30. The basket should be delivered in 'sale-ready' mode, in a basket or fancy decorated box, with excelsior filler and cellophane wrap, to the auction receiving table near the Registration Desk at St. Lawrence College on Thursday, June 1st and clearly marked with contents, value and contributing choir.

Handmade Crafts

If you are one of the many OGEHR members with hand-crafting talents and skills, you are invited to donate quality hand-crafted items to the Silent Auction. Family and friends are also welcome to contribute. Item suggestions include: handmade cards, placemats, knitted items, woodcrafts, quilts, etc. with a minimum value of \$20.00. Please indicate the value/suggested price of each item.

Con't...

Con't...

General Sales Info

Some need-to-know auction details:

Payment will be accepted by cash or cheque only. A minimum bid will be placed on each item.

For more information, or to have questions answered, contact Gail Bowes at festivalauction@ogehr.ca.

Bursary and Scholarship Committee

OGEHR is pleased to announce that the two ringers who applied for a bursary for the 2023 Festival were approved by consensus at the last Board Meeting. These bursaries cover registration and accommodation for both of these successful applicants.

Submitted by

Sona Khachikyan, Bursary and Scholarship Chair





The Limestone Ringers from Kingston have been enjoying performing the festival music for over a year and want to welcome you back to our wonderful city and It's About Time everyone came back here!



Ottawa Handbell Director's Round Table Workshop

On Saturday, October 22nd the Ottawa Handbell Director's Round Table sponsored a workshop that attracted 70 Bell ringers from Ottawa and area. A year in the planning, it was a major success after more than two years of pandemic angst. Guest artist, Lisa Kyriakides did a fine job directing the Bronze choir as well as sharing her incredible talents and ideas with local directors. There were two R & R sessions, one for small groups for four to six ringers, and an R & R for festival pieces in preparation for "It's About Time" in Kingston this year. We all came away with a continuing love of handbells and a "whack load" of new ideas and techniques.

A generous lunch was enjoyed by all, and the camaraderie was heartwarming. Is this not what Handbells are all about?

PASSION /SHARING / EDUCATION /JOYFUL REUNIONS!

Submitted by, Reg Harden







OGEHR Instrument Loan Program

Thank you to the OGEHR Handbell Loaner Program!!

Russell, Ontario is a small, vibrant community close to Ottawa with a village feel. It is expanding quickly with new homes and the area is working hard to help newcomers immerse themselves into the culture of Russell.

Creating a Community Handbell Choir in Russell will add to this culture of Russell and enhance the social fabric. Being engaged and active are all important ingredients in a healthy lifestyle. With hard work and lots of fun, the Russell Village Ringers have a full choir complement with a great vision of playing at community events. So far we have played at the intermission of a local play, walked

the Christmas parade playing Jingle Bells and played at our Christmas Market.

We have been invited to our local retirement home.

Having the loaner bells from OGEHR has made this vision possible. Thank you OGEHR for this program.

Debra Bourne



St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, is searching for a new handbell director! Handbell Director position for St. Andrews Ringers, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Ottawa St. Andrew's Ringers have 5 octaves of Schulmerich bells and chimes, and enthusiastic ringers. The position is available immediately.

For responsibilities and benefits, refer to the church website: www.standrewsottawa.ca/handbell-director-position
To apply e-mail: Peter Lamont at lamontpeter455@gmail.com



Marjorie Slinn

Marjorie Slinn

OGEHR Honorary Member by Mary Loree

Marjorie Slinn was honoured as the seventh OGEHR Honorary Member in 2015. This distinction acknowledged her exemplary service to handbell ringing in Ontario including her active participation in OGEHR.

Marjorie has had what she describes as a good life, but the beginning was rough. She was born on November 20, 1932 in Bradford, Yorkshire, England into a family that included two brothers. Sadly, her birth mother died when Marjorie was just three weeks old and her

grandmother, who stepped in to care for her, died seven years later. Fortunately, a loving paternal uncle and his wife adopted Marjorie at this point and her life settled.

Marjorie and her parents moved to Canada in 1947, where a job opportunity for her father led the family to Niagara Falls. Marjorie and husband, Bob, who were married on New Year's Eve in 1953, maintained Niagara Falls as their home and raised four children, three sons and a daughter there.

Marjorie's formal music education included childhood piano lessons, which she took to easily, organ lessons as an adult, and vocal instruction through Chorister Guild festival workshops. Her music abilities and directing skills led to organist positions at Stamford Presbyterian and All Saints Anglican before becoming Organist and Music Director of Stamford United Church in Niagara Falls in 1970. At Stamford UC, she led three vocal choirs – an adult choir of 50 singers, a teen choir of 40 and a children's' choir of 20.

During summers at this time, Marje attended week long Choristers Guild festivals across North America. In 1980 she was 'hooked right away' at her first bell workshop, and immediately planned a bell group for Stamford. Her teen vocal choir contributed \$2500 US from money earned through choir appearances, to buy two octaves of bells. Once the church heard two of Marjorie's children play 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today' on the newly acquired bells, enthusiasm mushroomed and everyone – adults, teens and children – wanted to join in. The Rainbow Ringers were born!!

In 1985, just five years after Marjorie was introduced to bells, OGEHR came into being. She enthusiastically attended the organizational meeting in London and came away, along with Isobel Olsen, one of her bell ringers, as co-editor of the Guild newsletter. Without a budget, the two alternated paying postage for the first editions. Marjorie takes pride that several years later one of her ringers, Marie Crawford, originated the name 'Clapper Chatter' for the newsletter. Further OGEHR executive positions followed sequentially over the next ten years: Recording and Corresponding Secretary (1987-89), Vice President (1989-91), President (1991-93), and Past President (1993-95). Marjorie returned to the Board in 2013 to 2016 as Director-at-large.

The Rainbow Ringers, with Marjorie as Director, participated in every OGEHR Festival from 1985 to 2015. They had fun at the Festivals and loved meeting other ringers. Marjorie was the Canadian representative at the 11th International Symposium in Toronto in 2004 and also attended an International Symposium in the US and the 15th International Symposium in Liverpool, England in 2012.

Whether as soloist, choir member or ensemble ringer – personal ringing has been an important part of Marjorie's bell experience. As a solo performer, she has played for churches, community events, service groups and more. As a choir ringer, she played for several years with The Bronze Foundation, Greater Toronto's advanced level, auditioned community handbell choir.

Marjorie played for 5-6 years in the quintet, Foundations Five, with fellow ringers Barb Neal, Debi Sproule, Sandra Jean Bedford and Judy Queen. The group attended HMA National Seminars in Rochester and Grand Rapids and played many gigs around the Hamilton/Guelph/Cambridge/Niagara area – including weddings (most notably in front of a barn on a farm), ladies teas, church services, and Christmas parties.

Con't...

A memorable Marjorie story from quintet member Barb Neal:

Marjorie drove each week from Niagara Falls to Burlington for practice. One day she did not show and we were concerned as we were playing for a ladies tea in two days. Later in the afternoon we had a call from her son to say she had been in an accident on the QEW, she was okay (she walked away with minor scratches) but her car was totaled and she had to stay home. She coerced her daughter-in-law to drive her to our event two days later and she played with a big smile on her face! Marjorie was always happy and smiling!

More stories, from Debi Sproule:

Marjorie is a very funny person and often had the quintet laughing. At one point she suggested we ring a particular piece. In it, Marjorie played the person who just couldn't get it right. Over and over she plays the same wrong note until the very end when she finally rings the correct bell. Marjorie really knows how to ham it up. We performed this piece a number of times and Marjorie's antics always put the audience in stitches. In fact, David Harris, Director of Raleigh Ringers handbell choir, was the guest conductor at one of the Ontario Festivals and commented about what a funny woman Marjorie is.

When I was ringing with Marjorie, I was always impressed with her energy level and zest for going places. She loves cruising and has been on a number of interesting trips. She thought nothing of driving from Niagara Falls around southern Ontario for bell practices and concerts. In her small car equipped with GPS she managed to get wherever she needed to go in order to play bells. That is, except the time the quintet had a concert in Brantford. Marjorie entered the name of the church where we were performing into her GPS but her car took her to Brampton instead of Brantford and she totally missed our concert!

Marjorie retired from Stamford United Church in October 2018, after 49 years of service, and moved into the Queenston Place Retirement Residence later that year. True to her passion for bells, her willingness to share, and her belief in the benefits of team effort, Marjorie began a bell group with other residents two years ago. The group of 5-6 ringers play on smaller, lighter school bells. They have played several times at the residence, including at a carol sing. Always the consummate director and teacher, Marjorie prints the melody on a large chart that hangs in front of the choir to accommodate ringers who cannot read music. The choir will begin adding harmonies next season.

OGEHR is proud of Marjorie's handbell endeavours and accomplishments, and thanks her for past and continued contributions to bell ringing in Ontario!



Please Nominate an Honorary Member!



Honorary Membership is open to 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.

We are looking for OGEHR members to nominate candidates for consideration as Honorary Members. Successful nominees will be introduced and will receive their Honorary Membership Certificate at the 2023 It's About Time, Festival.

Please forward your recommendations to Margaret Merkley at margandpetermerkley@gmail.com by Thursday, March 31, 2023

Please provide a statement indicating why this person is being nominated for Honorary Membership to OGEHR.

Thank you for taking time to consider and nominate someone who is deserving.



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 Board of Directors as of June 25, 2022

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

President Directors

Rob Cairns ('23) president@ogehr.ca President ('23); Chair: Board ('23); Development ('25)

Lisa Kyriakides ('23) vice-president@ogehr.ca Vice-President ('23); Chair Programs (23); Nominations (23)

Margaret Merkley ('23) past-president@ogehr.ca Past President ('23)

Officer Directors

Mary Loree ('24) secretary@ogehr.ca Corresponding and Recording Secretary ('24)

Helen Coxon ('25) membership@ogehr.ca Membership Secretary ('25)

Sona Khachikyan ('23) treasurer@ogehr.ca Treasurer ('23), Chair Bursary and Scholarship

Directors

Nancy Bell ('24) governance@ogehr.ca

Chair: Governance ('24)

Joan Bolam ('23) areareps@ogehr.ca

Chair: Area Representatives ('23)

Janis Cowie ('23) festivalchair@ogehr.ca

Chair: 2023 Festival ('24)

Joanne Gray ('25)

Director-at-Large

Kim Leitch ('22) communications@ogehr.ca

Chair: Communications ('25)

Dominique Moreau ('24) director24@ogehr.ca

Chair: Education ('24)

OGEHR Board Appointed Positions

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

Janet McDonald East Representative ('23)

Vacant South Representative ('22)

Heather Nicholson Central East Representative ('25)

Vacant West Representative ('24)

Jennifer Schafer Central Representative ('24)

Shirley Reinders North East Representative ('23)

Mark Matterson Central West Representative ('23) Inactive North West Representative ('24)

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

Man-Yee Sun E-mail Coordinator ('23)

Andrea Gray Newsletter Editor ('24)

Randy Mills Social Media Coordinator ('24) Kim Leitch Webmaster ('23)

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

Gail Bowes 2021/22 Festival Coordinator ('24)

Programs – please contact Lisa Kyriakides (programs@ogehr.ca) for contact information

Barbara Peaker Instrument Loan Program Coordinator ('24) (instrumentloan@ogehr.ca)

Debi Sproule Music Lending Coordinator ('24) (musiclending@ogehr.ca)

Committees

Standing Committees

Area Representatives

Joan Bolam (Chair)

East AR

Central East AR

Central AR Vacant

Central West AR

South AR Vacant

West AR Vacant

North East AR

North West AR Inactive

President

Bursary and Scholarship

Treasurer (S. Khachikyan) Chair

Joan Bolam

Barbara Neal

Joan Plume

President

Communications

Kim Leitch (Chair)

Newsletter Editor

E-mail Coordinator

Social Media Coordinator

Webmaster

Members-at-large:

- 1. Janis Cowie
- 2. Norma Draper
- 3. Maddy Lang

President

Development

Rob Cairns (Chair)

Members-at-large:

- 1. Lisa Kyriakides
- 2. Maddy Lang
- 3. Joan Bolam

President

Education

Dominique Moreau (Chair)

Members-at-large:

- 1. Peggy David
- 2. Joyce Hagarty
- 3. Mackenzie Malarczyk
- 3. Debbie McMackin
- 5. Randy Mills

President

Governance

Nancy Bell (Chair)

Members-at-large:

- 1. Linda Wilson
- 2. Lloyd Winfield
- 3. Vacant

President

Honorary Membership

President (Chair)

Past President

President

Nominating

Lisa Kyriakides (Chair)

Vacant (Vice-Chair)

Central West (Mark Matterson)

North East (Janet McDonald)

President

Programs

Lisa Kyriakides (Chair)

Instrument Loan Program Coordinator Music Lending Library Coordinator

Members-at-large:

- 1. Matthew Boutda
- 2. Sue Linley
- 3. Lloyd Winfield
- 4. Vacant

President

Ad Hoc Committee

2023 Festival

Janis Cowie Chair, (Registrar)

Gail Bowes 2021/22 Festival Coordinator,

(Auction & Communications)

Amy Baker (Facilities)

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 and Website)

President

Working Groups

Membership

Helen Coxon (Chair)

Joan Bolam

Kim Leitch

Norma Draper

Shirley Reinders

OTF Resilient Communities Fund -Grant (RF118638)

2022-04-09

Rob Cairns, Chair

Sona Khachikyan

Lisa Kyriakides

Maddy Lang

Mary Loree

Marg Merkley

Barbara Peaker

OGEHR Store

2022-04-09 to 2023-04

Rob Cairns, Chair

Joan Bolam, Festival Liaison

Janis Cowie

Kim Leitch